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News Release

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Texas Cooperative Ag Statistics Program Ending

August 31, 2011 will mark the end of a 44 year cooperative agreement between the [Texas Department of Agriculture \(TDA\)](#) and the Texas Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Funding for the agreement was eliminated during the recent Texas legislative session.

The cooperative agreement provided resources to NASS for the estimation of district and county level breakouts of many Texas crop and livestock commodity estimates. The agreement also provided for the publication of a Texas Annual Statistical Bulletin and a monthly publication, Texas Ag Facts, which provides summaries of recent agricultural reports. These publications along with several special estimates will no longer be produced. However, much of the information contained in the publications will be available online: www.nass.usda.gov/tx.

Some of the losses include: Texas index of monthly prices received by farmers, Texas special April Wheat forecast, several Texas monthly crop forecasts by district for corn, cotton, sorghum and wheat, Texas hog district estimates, Texas chicken district estimates, Texas vegetable district estimates, and Texas grain stocks and grain storage capacities by district.

"The loss of the cooperative agreement with TDA is part of the new reality of the current economic times", said Doug Rundle, Director of the NASS Texas Field office. "Reduced state and federal budgets are resulting in reduced public services, including statistical information."

The Texas Field Office will continue to provide comprehensive State level statistics under the federal program, and Rundle says their office will try to maintain a few in-season crop district estimates identified as 'critical' by Texas producer and industry groups. "Our ability to continue with a few key in-season estimates is contingent on staffing and on farmer participation rates on crop surveys. With the loss of samples provided under the former agreement, response rates on the reduced survey samples will dictate which district estimates can be statistically established."

Key Texas crop estimates to be continued are: May and July wheat forecasts by district; September final wheat estimates by district; June planted acres by district for corn, cotton and sorghum; August and October forecasts by district for corn, cotton and sorghum; December cotton estimates by district; January final estimates by district for corn, cotton, and sorghum.

Key Texas livestock estimates to be maintained are: monthly Texas cattle on feed estimates by district; annual all sheep, ewes, and wool production by county; annual meat goat, milk goat, Angora goat and mohair production by county. Annual county level estimates of cattle were not in jeopardy as they are provided under the federal estimating program.

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