

## TEXAS CUSTOM RATES - 1998

The data contained in this publication reflect the prices paid by Texas farmers and ranchers for custom work performed in 1998. The rates should be viewed in light of the number of reports received for each item. Averages may be misleading when only a few reports were tabulated. Furthermore, items may be uncharacteristically priced due to the severe drought conditions experienced during the 1998 growing season. In some cases, the drought led to alternative pricing methods for custom work. Reports with alternative pricing methods were not included unless they could be accurately converted to the conventional pricing method. Items with two reports or less are not disclosed but are indicated by an asterisk [\*]. Data provided in this publication update the 1992 survey.

Included in the reported rates are operator labor, machinery costs and fuel. Expenses for materials have been excluded except for livestock operations and fence building. Exchange work between farmers and ranchers is not considered custom work and has been excluded.

For each item in the survey, five categories have been summarized. **Number of reports** represents the number of positive responses that were summarized. **Rate per unit** is the mean of the positive responses. **Minimum** and **maximum rates** are the lowest and highest amounts summarized, reflecting the range of prices for a particular job. **Most common** refers to the rate that was reported more often than any other. Where multiple identical reports did not occur, the most common will refer to the lowest report in the data series.

For some items, flat rate and base rate plus extra charges were asked. The flat rate is a fixed rate charge per unit for that item without additional costs. The base rate plus extra charges is a base charge plus additional charges which are dependent upon work done beyond the norm. When extra charges are involved, the level at which extra charges are levied is based on reported state averages.

In order to have the most reliable estimates, the data have been summarized at regional and state levels only. The five regions: Plains, Central, East, West and Southwest, and Coast are illustrated by the map on page 2.