

2007 Census of Agriculture Follow-on Surveys

2008 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey

The Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey (FRIS) expanded upon the basic irrigation data collected in the Census of Agriculture. FRIS is the most comprehensive source of information on irrigation water use throughout the agricultural industry and results are reported not only on the national and state levels, but by water resources regions. The following are highlights of the 2008 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey conducted in Texas:

- In 2008, 12,673 farms irrigated 5.36 million acres, approximately 4 percent of the total land in farms.
- Texas ranks third in the area of irrigated land, behind only Nebraska and California.
- There were 454 farms in the State which had 2,000 or more acres irrigated, accounting for 28 percent of the acres irrigated.
- Seventy-eight percent of irrigated acres used sprinkler systems, while 19 percent were irrigated using gravity systems.
- The total quantity of water applied during 2008 was 6.82 million acre-feet, averaging 1.3 acre-feet per acre.
- Cotton was the state's leading irrigated crop with 1.33 million irrigated acres harvested, followed by corn and wheat.
- Wells provided the largest percentage of irrigation water applied in 2008. The number of wells capable of being used for irrigation was 79,671, but only 77,389 were used.
- Farmers and ranchers spent \$259 million on expenses related to irrigation equipment, facilities, land improvements and computer technology in 2008.

2008 Organic Production Survey

As a follow-on to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducted the USDA's first in-depth survey of organic farming in the United States. NASS collected 2008 data from operators of farms that were either USDA certified organic, were making the transition to organic production, or were exempt from certification because of sales totaling less than \$5,000. The following are Texas highlights of the 2008 Organic Production Survey:

- The survey counted 372 organic farms and ranches (185 certified, 187 exempt).
- There were 314,279 organic acres in the state, over three-fourths of which were pasture and rangeland.
- Texas ranked 13th in the number of organic farms in the U.S, but third in the number of organic acres.
- Texas organic sales totaled \$149 million in 2008 with \$106 million coming from the sale of livestock, poultry and products and \$43 million from organic crop sales.
- Livestock products, primarily milk and eggs, accounted for 61 percent of all organic sales, and vegetables and food crops grown under protection accounted for 8 percent of sales.
- Average sales per farm were \$448,432 for Texas, compared with an average of \$229,747 for U.S. farms.
- Seven percent of operations reported value-added organic sales totaling \$79.0 million.
- Production expenses in 2008 totaled \$121 million, averaging \$330,157 per farm.
- Top expenses were feed, \$51.1 million, and labor, \$15.7 million.