

SURVEY METHODS

Objective: The 2008 Custom Rates Survey was designed to determine the rates being charged for the most common farm and ranch operations performed by custom operators.

Survey Sampling: Operators selected in the Custom Rates Survey were a subsample of respondents from the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Only those giving a positive response to the custom rates question were eligible for inclusion in the Custom Rates Survey. Positive respondents were further classified into those reporting [a] crops, [b] hay, [c] livestock, and [d] any combination. The additional screening was to assure a good cross section of farming and ranching operations in the sample and to help provide for adequate reports for all items. A total of 6,337 operators were sampled. See table below for sample counts and returns by area.

Survey Procedure: First and second request questionnaires were mailed and a telephone follow-up of a subsample of non-respondents was completed. Respondents were asked to answer only those questions with which they were familiar. After reviewing questionnaires for reasonableness, data were summarized by areas (page 2) and state level for publication. For some individual items, a minimal number of reports contributed to abnormal price variability. No attempt was made to reconcile reported data with previous survey data.

Reporting Areas: The state was divided into five areas to represent different topography, climates, and farming practices. The state's 15 crop reporting districts were combined to form the custom rate reporting areas. Data from these areas should reflect the diverse farming and ranching practices in Texas.

TEXAS CUSTOM RATES
Sample by Strata and Reports Tabulated, 2008

Area	Sample Size								Useable reports tabulated
	Crops, livestock, and hay	Crops and hay	Livestock and hay	Crops and livestock	Crops only	Livestock only	Hay only	Total sample	
Plains	590	72	129	232	292	99	48	1,462	415
Central	472	39	1,435	45	33	260	169	2,453	927
East	60	2	816	2	2	87	69	1,038	454
West and Southwest	114	11	205	31	16	129	27	533	230
Coast	90	17	381	56	112	130	65	851	222
STATE	1,326	141	2,966	366	455	705	378	6,337	2,248