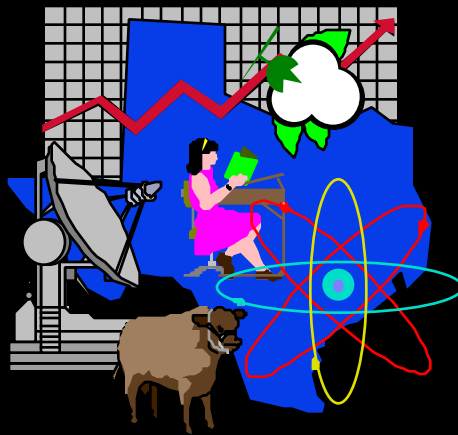


What's Great About Texas Agriculture?



A Special Publication Of
The Center for Agricultural
Technology Transfer
Texas Tech University

Prepared for the Texas Governor's
Science & Technology Council

March 12, 1997

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What's Great About Texas Agriculture?

Education

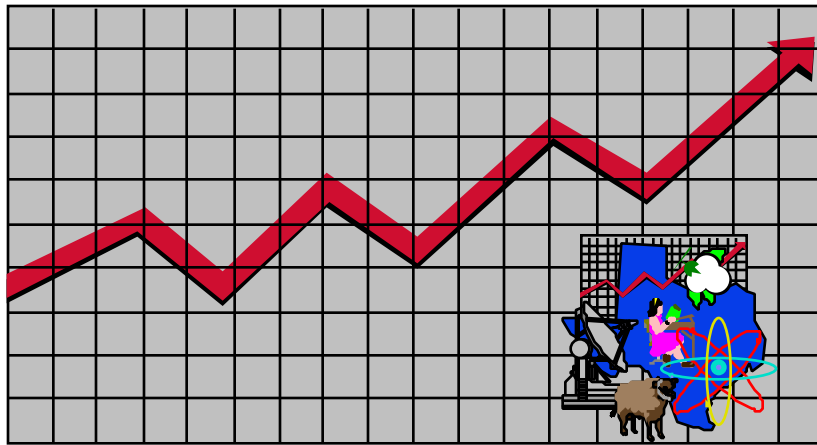
- Y Texas is the **LEADING STATE IN THE U.S. IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS STUDYING AGRICULTURE**—9% of university students; 19% of university job placement; over 14% of FFA students.
- Y Texas has the **LARGEST ENROLLMENT IN HIGH SCHOOL AGRISCIENCE COURSES** in the nation! Nearly 100,000 high school students are enrolled in Agricultural Science and Technology in approximately 1,000 school districts across the state. Texas also has the largest number of agriscience teachers in the nation.
- Y Texas has the **LARGEST ENROLLMENT IN THE NATION IN FFA**—the youth organization for high school agriculture students. There are over 60,000 Texas FFA members. This number represents nearly 1/7 of total membership in the United States!
- Y Texas excels in **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP**. Corey Rosenbusch from Glen Rose is currently serving as national president of the FFA. Pam Scott from Idalou is national president of Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT).



What's Great About Texas Agriculture?

Education

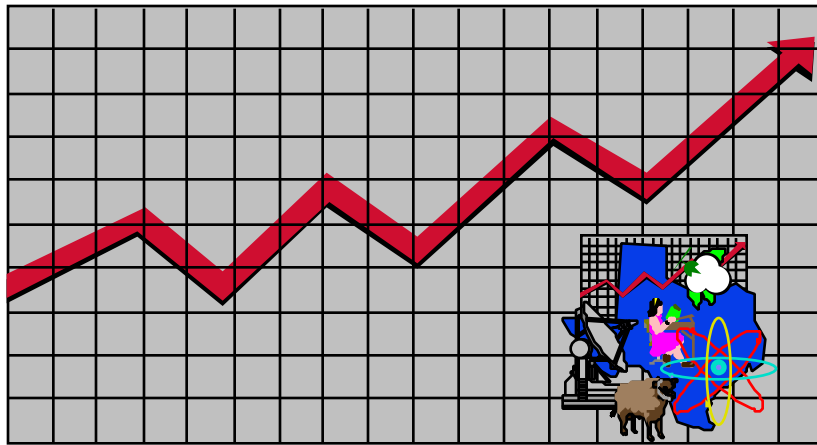
- Y Texas is considered the leader in the nation in **MODERNIZING ITS CURRICULUM** to meet the needs of high school students studying agricultural science and technology.
- Y Texas A&M has the largest **GRADUATE ENROLLMENT** in agricultural sciences and natural resources in the nation. Texas Tech University has the largest graduate enrollment **AMONG NON-LAND GRANT UNIVERSITIES**.
- Y Texas A&M University has the largest **UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT** in agricultural sciences and natural resources in the nation. Texas Tech University has the **SECOND LARGEST UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT** among non-land grant universities.
- Y Texas Tech University has the largest enrollment in **AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS** in the nation.
- Y Texas **HAS THE TWO LARGEST YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW PROGRAMS IN THE NATION**—provided by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Association and the San Antonio Livestock Exposition.
- Y **TEXAS LEADS THE NATION IN 4-H PARTICIPATION**. Nationwide, over 1.7 million 4-H youngsters had animal or poultry projects in 1994.



What's Great About Texas Agriculture?

Economic Benefits

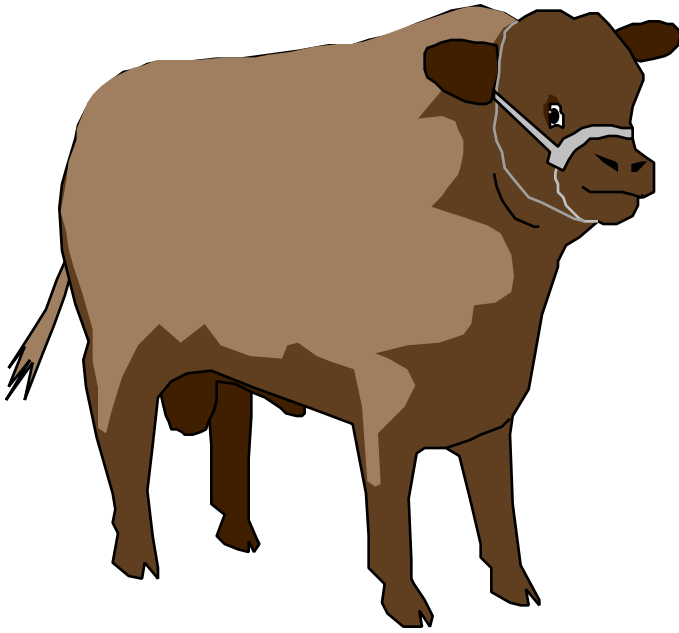
- Y** Agriculture is **THE NATION'S LARGEST EMPLOYER**, with more than 21 million people working in some phase of agricultural production and marketing—from growing food and fiber to selling it at the market. **TEXAS AND CALIFORNIA LEAD THE NATION IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND MARKETING.**
- Y** The **AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEM IN TEXAS** is estimated to have an average **ECONOMIC IMPACT OF \$45 BILLION.**
- Y** Texas ranks consistently as one of the top two states every year in total dollar sales of agriculture products. Cash receipts for **TEXAS CROPS, FRUITS, AND VEGETABLES** is nearly \$5 billion each year. Cash receipts from **TEXAS LIVESTOCK** alone totals **OVER \$8 BILLION ANNUALLY.**
- Y** Texas has **THE LARGEST AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE NATION.** Nationwide, agricultural research and extension has allowed producers to increase the average per acre yield of their land 4 percent every year and provided a 30 percent to 50 percent rate of return on taxpayer investment—keeping food prices low and quality high.
- Y** Texas ranks **FIRST AMONG STATES IN NUMBER OF FARMS AND RANCHES** with over 200,000. Total farm and ranch land in the state is also first with over 129 million acres being utilized for agricultural purposes.



What's Great About Texas Agriculture?

Economic Benefits

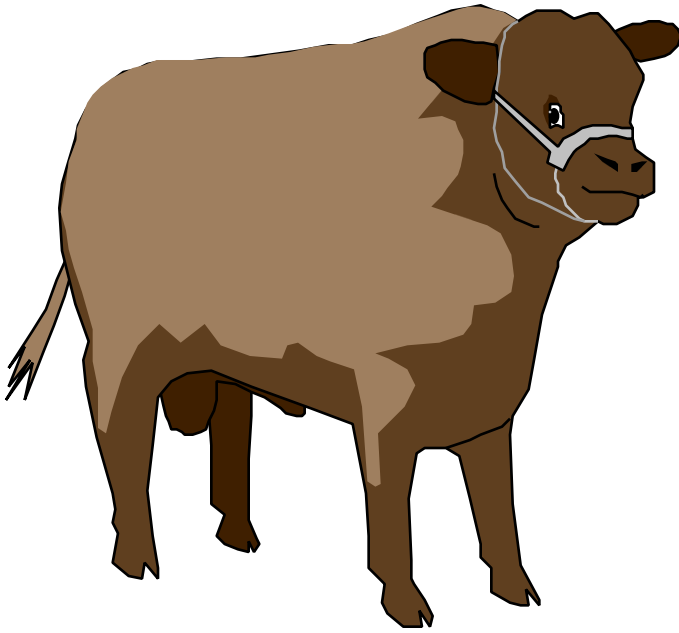
- Y The total **VALUE OF FARM REAL ESTATE IN TEXAS IS NEARLY \$71 BILLION**—another first among the states!
- Y The impact of a specialized industry in agriculture can have a tremendous impact on a state's economy. For example, The **TEXAS WINE AND GRAPE INDUSTRY GENERATED AN ESTIMATED TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OVER \$104 MILLION** in 1996! The industry directly and indirectly supported an estimated 2,220 Texas jobs and contributed an estimated \$19.2 million to Texas paychecks!
- Y Each Texas (and U.S.) farmer produces enough food and fiber to sustain 129 other people—101 in the United States and 28 abroad.
- Y For every dollar spent on groceries, the Texas (and U.S.) farmer receives approximately 22 cents. The rest goes to labor (36 cents), packaging (8 cents), advertising (4 cents) and other costs (30 cents).
- Y U.S. (and Texas) farmers are the world's most productive, and U.S. consumers benefit from the most affordable and nutritious food supply in the world. Americans spend nearly a tenth of their food for income as compared to 16.3% for France and 19.1 % for Japan.



What's Great About Texas Agriculture?

Livestock

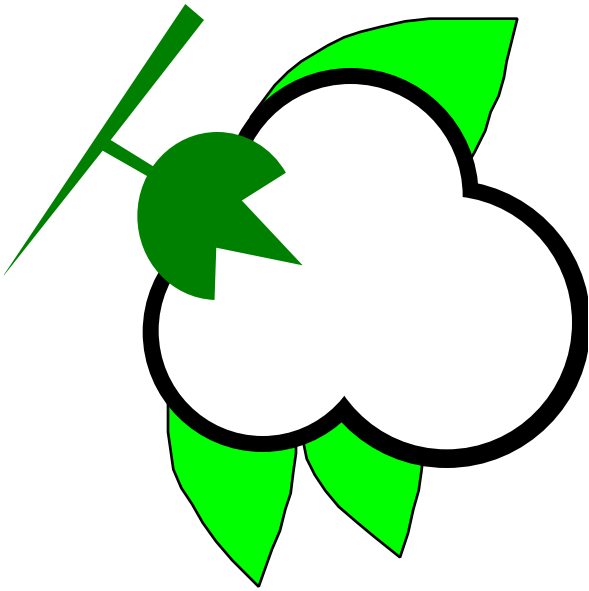
- Y Texas ranks first in the number of cattle on feed in the United States. The state **PRODUCES NEARLY 25% OF THE FED CATTLE IN THE U.S.**
- Y Texas ranks **FIRST IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALVES** with slightly over 15.1 million head and a value of \$6.3 billion!
- Y With 1.7 million head, worth \$64 million, Texas is the **NUMBER ONE STATE IN SHEEP AND GOAT PRODUCTION!**
- Y Texas is **NUMBER ONE AMONG THE STATES OF PRODUCTION OF WOOL AND MOHAIR.** The annual value of the crop is \$36.4 million from production of 24.7 million pounds.
- Y Texas has **MORE HORSES THAN ANY OTHER STATE** in the U.S.
- Y With 395 million head and a total value of \$646 million, Texas is the **SIXTH LEADING STATE IN BROILER CHICKEN PRODUCTION.**



What's Great About Texas Agriculture?

Livestock

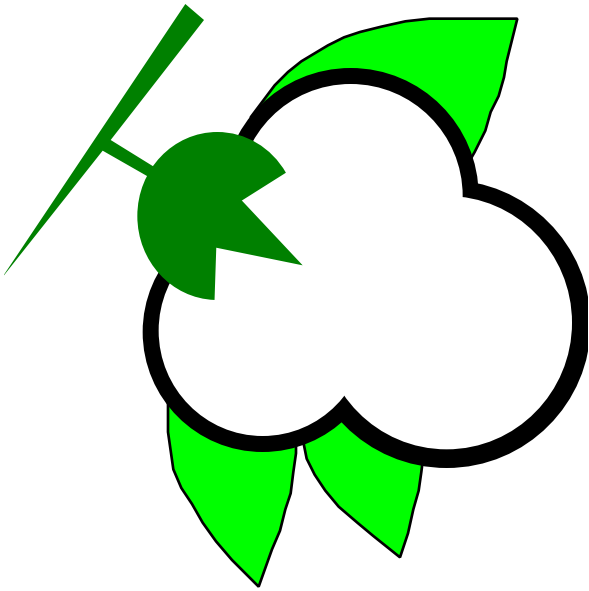
- Y Texas Dairy families **PRODUCE 6.1 MILLION POUNDS OF MILK** annually with an economic value of \$791 million.
- Y Texas **PORK PRODUCERS RAISE 500,000 HEAD** and produce an annual value of \$76. 9 million.
- Y Texas ranks **FOURTH IN THE U.S. IN PRODUCTION OF RED MEATS.**
- Y Texas is a leader in producing top breeding animals for livestock production. The state is **NUMBER ONE IN THE NATION IN BEEF COWS** with nearly 6 million females. Texas is also number one in the sheep industry with **OVER 1 MILLION EWES.**
- Y With over 16 million hens laying eggs, Texas ranks seventh in the nation in egg production.
- Y Although Texas is only ranked 20th in the nation in number of breeding swine, pork production within the state is expected to increase dramatically.



What's Great About Texas Agriculture?

Crops

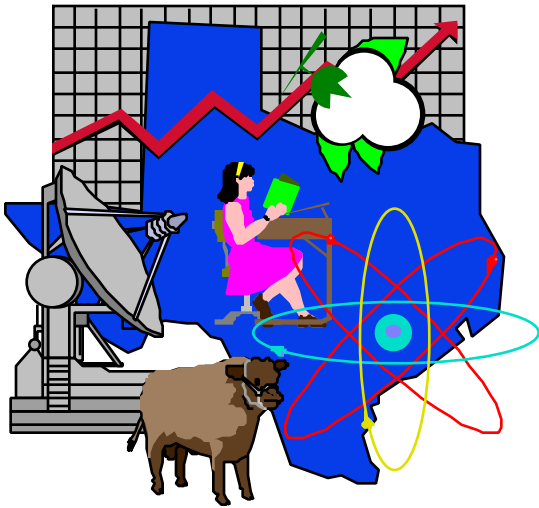
- Y Texas ranks number one in the U.S. in cotton production. The state **PRODUCES ONE-FOURTH OF ALL THE COTTON GROWN IN THE U.S.!** If it were a nation, Texas would rank fifth in the world in cotton production!
- Y Texas is the **NUMBER TWO STATE IN PRODUCTION OF SORGHUM GRAIN.** The value of this crop is \$351 million annually.
- Y With annual production of 75 million pounds and a crop value of \$59 million, Texas is **TIED AS THE NUMBER ONE PECAN PRODUCING STATE!**
- Y Texas is the **SECOND LEADING STATE IN PEANUT PRODUCTION,** with 553 million pounds in annual production and a value of \$154 million.
- Y Texas is **THIRD IN THE NATION IN GRAPEFRUIT PRODUCTION** and fourth in oranges. The value of the total citrus crop is \$28.5 million.
- Y Rice production of over 1.7 billion pounds and an annual value of \$129 million makes Texas the **FOURTH LEADING STATE IN RICE PRODUCTION.**



What's Great About Texas Agriculture?

Crops

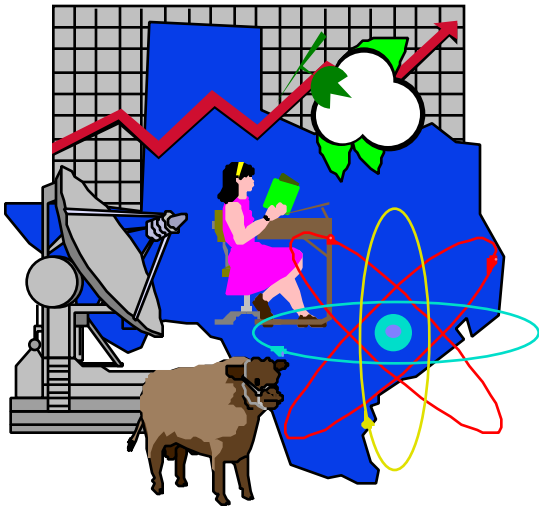
- Y Texas is the **FIFTH LEADING STATE IN PRODUCTION OF VEGETABLES**. The annual production is 2.4 billion pounds for a value of over \$492 million.
- Y With an annual production of 75.6 million bushels and a value of \$284 million, **TEXAS RANKS SIXTH IN PRODUCTION OF WINTER WHEAT**.
- Y Texas **CORN FARMERS PRODUCE OVER 200 MILLION BUSHELS** of corn each year, valued at over \$600 million.
- Y Texas produces **OVER 5 MILLION BUSHELS OF OATS YEARLY**, with an economic value of nearly \$6 million.
- Y Texas ranks **NUMBER THREE AMONG STATES IN PRODUCTION OF HAY**.
- Y Texas **IS THE FOURTH LEADING STATE IN PRODUCTION OF NURSERY PRODUCTS** like bedding plants and horticultural items. The annual value of the various crops is \$792 million.



What's Great About Texas Agriculture?

Diversity

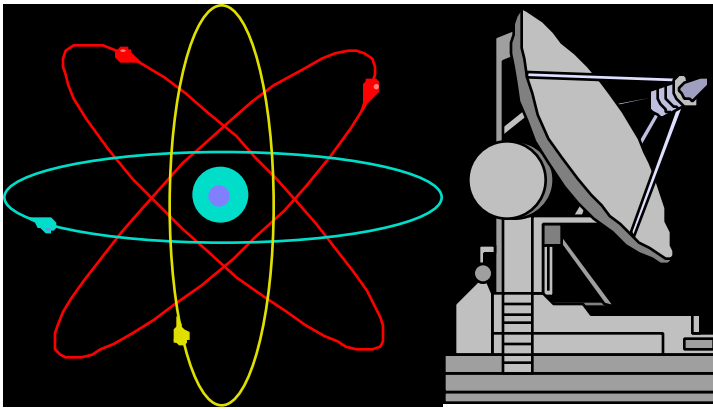
- Y **DIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE IN TEXAS ALLOWS FOR ENORMOUS PRODUCTIVITY**, with outside inputs mainly in the form of feed grains and protein supplements.
- Y One measure of the **DIVERSITY OF TEXAS AGRICULTURE CAN BE SEEN IN SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCTION**. The state ranks number one in the nation in production of spinach; number two in honeydew melons and blackeye peas; and number three in cabbage, celery, cucumbers, cantaloupes and watermelons. It ranks fourth in broccoli production, carrots, and bell peppers.
- Y Processing of food/fiber products is an important part of the Texas agriculture industry. Texas ranks **THIRD IN THE UNITED STATES IN PRODUCTION OF ICE CREAM** and in the value of manufactured feeds. The state has **THE LARGEST COTTON SEED OIL PROCESSING PLANT IN THE WORLD**.
- Y Landscape firms, wholesale nurseries, and retail outlets are an important part of the **HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRY—AN AREA IN WHICH TEXAS IS ALSO A NATIONAL LEADER**.
- Y Although no state rankings are available, **TEXAS TREE FARMERS PRODUCE OVER 700 MILLION CUBIC FEET OF TIMBER PRODUCTS EACH YEAR** for a value of more than \$900 million.



What's Great About Texas Agriculture?

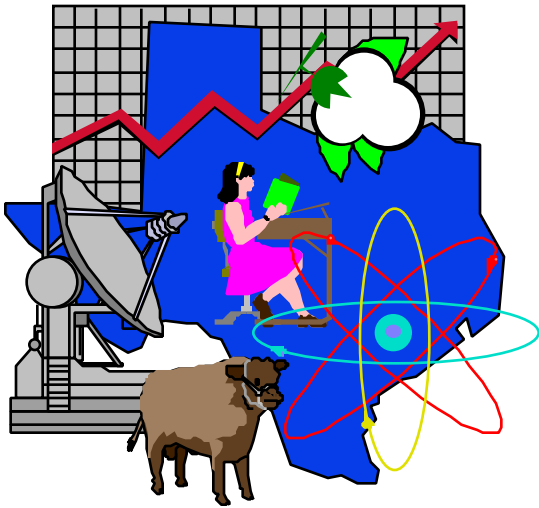
Diversity

- Y Texas is A NATIONAL LEADER IN THE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY and ranks among the top five states in production of catfish and other aquaculture products.
- Y While accurate statistics are difficult to obtain, WILDLIFE AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT in the state is an extremely important industry in the state and IS A VITAL PART OF TEXAS AGRICULTURE.
- Y Texas leads the nation in production of cattle hides that are used for leather. OVER 90% OF ALL MOHAIR PRODUCED IN THE U.S. COMES FROM TEXAS; 20% of all wool.
- Y Texas is ONE OF THE LARGEST PURCHASERS OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. The state also manufactures a variety of equipment which is used in the agricultural industry.
- Y A diverse Texas agricultural economy will help reduce the variations in annual cash receipts as agricultural producers respond to market prices in making production decisions—rather than government programs.



What's Great About Texas Agriculture? **Science & Technology**

- Y** Texas agricultural research scientists are **USING NEW TECHNIQUES IN BIOTECHNOLOGY** (such as genetic engineering) to develop disease resistant plants, control harmful insects, and enhance crop and live-stock production. These techniques will help **ENSURE THAT THE U.S. WILL HAVE A SAFE AND PLENTIFUL SUPPLY OF FOOD AND FIBER.**
- Y** When it comes to producing research scientists in agriculture, Texas leads the nation. The state **PRODUCES THE MOST PH.D. GRADUATES IN AGRICULTURE IN THE U.S.**
- Y** As a **LEADER IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**, Texas has helped the nation keep agricultural production outputs low. It is estimated that in the past 40 years, without agricultural research, consumers' food costs in the United States would have increased 23 percent—put another way, it has **SAVED THE U.S. \$196 BILLION!**
- Y** Universities in Texas are **NOW OFFERING A NUMBER OF COURSES IN AGRICULTURE VIA DISTANCE EDUCATION.** By the end of the year, over 100 sites within the state will have compressed video facilities whereby interactive instruction in agriculture can be offered.
- Y** As a group, **TEXAS FARMERS ARE AMONG THE MOST COMPUTER LITERATE PEOPLE IN SOCIETY.**
- Y** The **FIRST AGRICULTURAL LITERACY PAGE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB** was designed by faculty and students at Texas Tech University.



What's Great About Texas Agriculture?

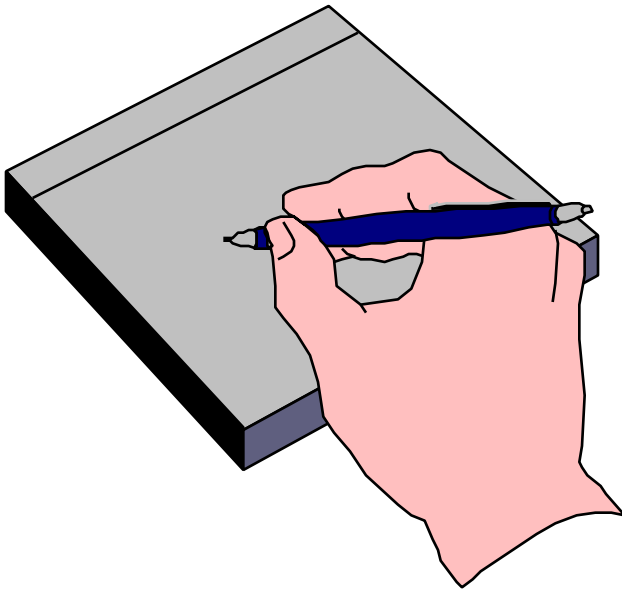
The Center for Agricultural Technology Transfer (CATT) at Texas Tech University is pleased to present you with a copy of this information. CATT is a center housed in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications at Texas Tech. It has a three-fold mission of: (1) enhancing agricultural literacy, (2) providing distance learning in agriculture, and (3) assisting with media production in agriculture.

This information is not a complete listing—by any means—of all that is great about Texas Agriculture. If you have additional information that you would like added, please contact one of the individuals at the address listed at the bottom of this page.

This particular information was developed at the request of the Texas Governor's Science and Technology Council. However, it is not restricted only for the Council's use. The information may be obtained by accessing CATT's Agricultural Literacy Web Page on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.ttu.edu/~catt/>.

Except for a publication titled *"Food: Consumers' Perceptions and Practices"* published by the Texas A&M University System Department of Agricultural Communications, most of the sources for this publication came from the Internet. Addresses for all sources are included. Unless otherwise noted, all statistics represent 1995 figures.



Sources

- Agricultural Literacy Web Page, Internet Address: <http://www.ttu.edu/~catt/>
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- National 4-H Home Page, Internet Address: <http://www.fourhcouncil.edu/>
- "A Profile of The Texas Wine and Wine Grape Industry." Texas Wine Marketing Research Institute, College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University, December, 1996
- Texas Agricultural Education Connection, Internet Address <http://www.txaged.org/>
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- Texas Farm Bureau, "Texas Agriculture By The Numbers", Internet Address: <http://www.fb.com/txfb/educate/stats.htm>.