



The Impact of Agribusiness CARSON COUNTY 2009

Highlights

- Carson County's agricultural value exceeds \$71.1 million (Figure 1).
- Carson County ranks 10th in wheat sales and 15th in corn sales among all Texas counties (Table 1).
- The county ranks 35th in fed-beef production among Texas counties (Table 1).
- Total agricultural receipts of \$57.2 million generate county- and statewide-level impacts of \$69.6 million and \$102.8 million, respectively (Table 1).
- This analysis does not include the impact of agriculturally related public sector employees or the 653 farm and ranch operators.

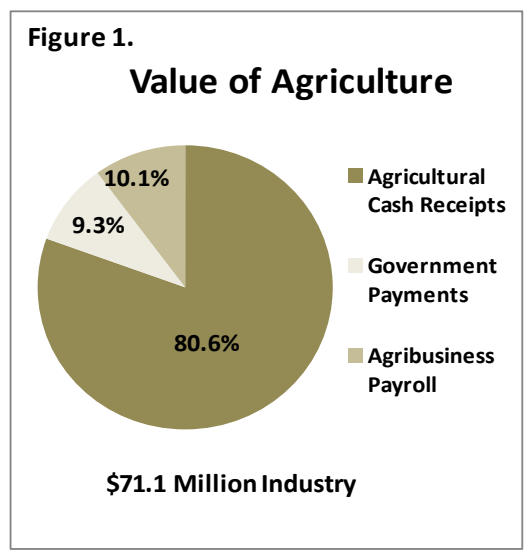


Table 1. Average Annual Agricultural Cash Receipts, Carson County, 2005-2008.

	Value (\$1,000,000)	State Rank	County Economic Impact* (\$1,000,000)	State Economic Impact (\$1,000,000)
Crops:				
Corn	\$10.7	15	\$12.6	\$18.0
Wheat	\$9.6	10	\$11.3	\$16.1
Cotton	\$16.4	34	\$18.9	\$26.1
Sorghum	\$3.4	54	\$4.1	\$5.8
Ensilage	\$0.0	61	\$0.1	\$0.1
Hay	\$0.6	168	\$0.8	\$1.1
Other Crops	\$1.2		\$1.5	\$2.2
Total Crop Receipts	\$41.9		\$49.3	\$69.4
Livestock and Livestock Products:				
Fed Beef: Value-Added	\$7.1	35	\$9.4	\$15.5
Cow-calf and Stockers	\$8.2	180	\$10.8	\$17.8
Hogs	\$0.0	147	\$0.0	\$0.0
Dairy	\$0.0		\$0.0	\$0.0
Other	\$0.0		\$0.0	\$0.0
Total L & LP	\$15.3		\$20.2	\$33.3
Other Ag-Related	\$0.0		\$0.1	\$0.1
Total Agricultural Receipts	\$57.2	83	\$69.6	\$102.8

* Does not include direct impacts or payroll from local agribusinesses whose inputs are not directly tied to agricultural commodities produced in the county.

Table 2. Carson County Ag-Related Employment		
	Number of Employees	Annual Payroll \$1,000,000
Private Sector	232	\$4.7
Farm and Ranch	238	\$2.5
Total	470	\$7.2

*Employment estimates do not include ag-related public sector/government employees



Most of Carson County's 923-square-mile land area is used for agricultural purposes with 331,000 acres under cultivation and another 206,000 acres in pasture. Crop production is an important part of the local economy, generating an average of \$41.9 million annually in the 2005-2008 time period (Table 1). More than 85 percent of Carson County cropland is dryland, but 42,000 irrigated acres provide flexibility with respect to the type of crops that can be grown. Cotton, corn and wheat dominate crop production with average annual sales of \$16.4 million, \$10.7 million and \$9.6 million, respectively, between 2005 and 2008. Carson County ranks 10th in wheat receipts and 15th in corn receipts among the state's 254 counties. The county also raises \$3.4 million in sorghum.

Almost all of Carson County's \$15.3 million in livestock receipts is attributable to the beef industry. Cow-calf and stocker operations contributed \$8.2 million in agricultural receipts, and the fed-beef industry contributed another \$7.1 million. In fact, the county ranked 35th in cash receipts from fed beef among Texas counties from 2005 to 2008. The county also has limited hog production (Table 1).

Of course, the direct value of agricultural production is not the only benefit to the local economy. Many production expenses are paid to local suppliers. Farmers and ranchers also spend part of their wages and profits in the county - eating at local restaurants and buying groceries, clothing, etc. In turn, the employees of these businesses purchase supplies and spend wages at local businesses. As money circulates through the economy, it multiplies the original \$57.2 million economic contribution from farm and ranch production to a total county-level economic output of \$69.6 million. A good deal of the money that is spent outside Carson County is still spent in Texas, so the farm-level production leads to a larger state-level output of \$102.8 million.



Agribusinesses take many forms including: manufacturing, retail trade and food service, wholesale trade, agricultural services and transportation. A total of 232 people were employed in Carson County agribusinesses during 2007 with an associated payroll of \$4.7 million, according to the 2007 Texas County Business Patterns publication. In addition, 238 people were either employed full- or part-time on local farms and ranches earning \$2.5 million annually. It should be noted that the impact of agriculture on the Carson County economy is underestimated since the economic contributions of public sector employees working in agriculture and the 653 farm and ranch operators are not considered in this analysis.

(AgEco-FS-3: Dr. Rebekka Dudensing, College Station; Dr. Steve Amosson, Natalia Bernard, Kay Ledbetter and Fran Bretz, all of Amarillo; Bridget Guerrero, Lubbock; and Jody Bradford, Carson County. Dec. 2009)