

AT A GLANCE

- Carson County's agricultural value exceeded \$86.6 million in 2014 (Figure 1).
- Carson County ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in corn sales, 20<sup>th</sup> in wheat and 24<sup>th</sup> in cotton among all Texas counties (Table 1).
- The 489 agricultural-related employees receive an estimated \$10.1 million in payroll (Table 2).
- Carson County from 2011-2014 averaged in total agricultural receipts \$84.7 million, generating county- and statewide-level impacts of \$109.5 million and \$175.9 million, respectively (Table 1).
- This analysis does not include the impact of agriculturally related public sector employees or the 386 farm and ranch operators.

## The Impact of Agribusiness CARSON COUNTY 2015

Most of Carson County's 920-square-mile land area is used for agricultural purposes, with 269,801 acres in cropland and another 215,075 acres in permanent pasture. The drought of 2011 adversely affected agricultural receipts, however, receipts recovered in subsequent years as drought impacts waned and commodity prices increased (Figure 1). Crop

production is an important part of the local economy, generating an average of \$70.1 million annually in the 2011-2014 time period (Table 1). More than 80 percent of Carson County cropland is

dryland, but 49,439 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 \$27.6 million, \$24.4 million and \$9.4 million, respectively, between 2011 and 2014. Carson County ranks 16th in corn receipts and 20th in wheat receipts among the state's 254 counties. The county also raises \$5.2 million in sorghum.

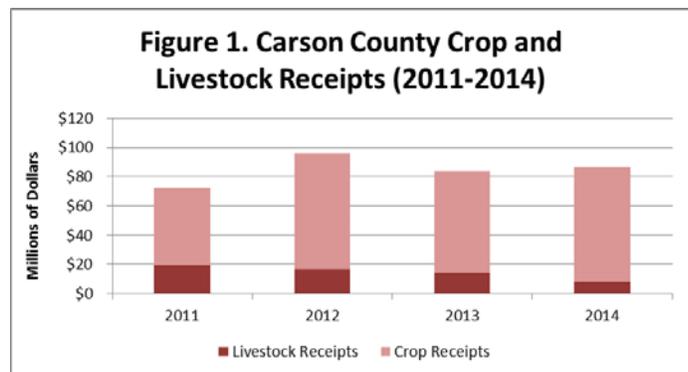


Table 1. Average Annual Agricultural Cash Receipts, Carson County, 2011-2014.

	Value (\$1,000,000)	State Rank	County Economic Impact* (\$1,000,000)	State Economic Impact* (\$1,000,000)
<b>Crops:</b>				
Corn	\$24.4	16	\$34.2	\$56.4
Wheat	\$9.4	20	\$13.1	\$21.7
Cotton	\$27.6	24	\$33.6	\$50.3
Sorghum	\$5.2	45	\$7.3	\$12.0
Ensilage	\$0.9	28	\$1.2	\$1.8
Hay	\$2.2	120	\$2.7	\$4.1
Other Crops	\$0.3	173	\$0.4	\$0.6
<b>Total Crop Receipts</b>	<b>\$70.1</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$92.4</b>	<b>\$146.8</b>
<b>Livestock and Livestock Products:</b>				
Fed Beef - Value Added	\$6.5	39	\$7.6	\$13.0
Cow-calf and Stockers	\$8.1	179	\$9.4	\$16.1
Hogs	\$0.0		\$0.0	\$0.0
Dairy	\$0.0		\$0.0	\$0.0
Other	\$0.0		\$0.0	\$0.0
<b>Total L &amp; LP</b>	<b>\$14.6</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>\$17.0</b>	<b>\$29.1</b>
<b>Other Ag-Related</b>	<b>\$0.0</b>		<b>\$0.0</b>	<b>\$0.0</b>
<b>Total Agricultural Receipts**</b>	<b>\$84.7</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>\$109.5</b>	<b>\$175.9</b>

\*Does not include impacts of forward-linkages through the processing sectors.

\*\* Rounding of numbers may affect totals and prevent some commodities with low receipts from appearing in the table.

Almost all of Carson County’s \$14.6 million in livestock receipts is attributable to the beef industry. Cow-calf and stocker operations contributed \$8.1 million in agricultural receipts, and the fed-beef industry contributed another \$6.5 million. The county ranked 39th among Texas counties in 2011-2014 cash receipts from fed beef (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 \$84.7 million in cash receipts from farm and ranch production to a total county-level economic output contribution of \$109.5 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 \$175.9 million.

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<b>Table 2. Carson County Ag-Related Employment</b>		
	<b>Number of Employees</b>	<b>Annual Payroll \$1,000,000</b>
<b>Private Sector</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>\$7.40</b>
<b>Farm and Ranch</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>\$2.67</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>\$10.07</b>

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

manufacturing, retail trade and food service, wholesale trade, agricultural services and transportation. A total of 243 people were employed in Carson County agribusinesses during 2013 with an associated payroll of \$7.4 million, according to the 2013 Texas County Business Patterns publication. In addition, 246 people were either employed full- or part-time on local farms and ranches earning \$2.7 million annually (2012 Census of Agriculture). 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 386 farm and ranch operators are not considered in this analysis.

Agribusinesses take many forms including:



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