

*AT A GLANCE*

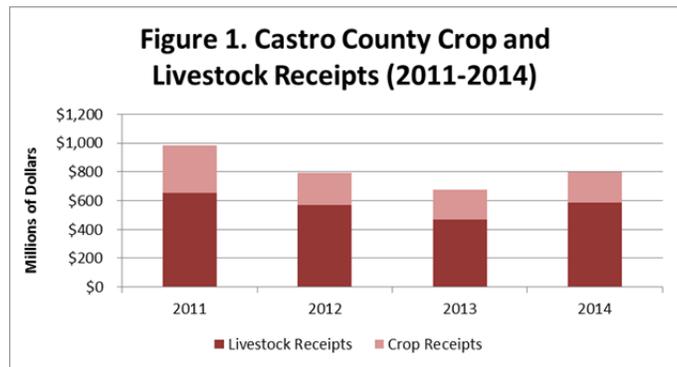
- *Castro County's agricultural value was nearly \$800 million in 2014 (Figure 1).*
- *Castro County ranks 1st in ensilage sales, 2nd in fed beef, hay and corn sales, and 4th in dairy sales among all Texas counties (Table 1).*
- *Castro ranked 1st among Texas counties in agricultural receipts from 2011-2014, averaging \$812.8 million and generating county- and statewide-level impacts of \$1.1 billion and \$1.6 billion, respectively (Table 1).*
- *Castro ranks 4th in total cattle sales, 5th in cattle and livestock inventory, 10th in value of livestock, poultry and their products, and 19th in total value of agricultural products sold nationally, according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture.*
- *This analysis does not include the impact of agriculturally related public sector employees or the 532 farm and ranch operators.*

## The Impact of Agribusiness CASTRO COUNTY 2015

Most of Castro County's 894-square-mile land area is used for agricultural purposes, with 410,979 acres in cropland and another 137,163 acres in pasture. Crop production is an important part of the local economy, generating an average of \$242.2 million annually in the 2011-2014 time period (Table 1).

Approximately 155,000 irrigated acres provide flexibility with respect to the type of crops that can be

grown in the county. Castro County ranks 1st among the state's 254 counties in ensilage production with \$49.5 million in sales. The county also ranks 2nd in corn and hay sales at \$92.2 million and \$53 million, respectively. Cotton sales averaged \$26.7 million and wheat sales \$13.1 million. Castro County is ranked 1st among Texas counties in agricultural receipts.



	Value (\$1,000,000)	State Rank	County Economic Impact* (\$1,000,000)	State Economic Impact* (\$1,000,000)
<b>Crops:</b>				
Corn	\$92.2	2	\$113.8	\$212.8
Wheat	\$13.1	11	\$16.1	\$30.1
Cotton	\$26.7	26	\$31.4	\$48.6
Sorghum	\$5.4	43	\$6.7	\$12.5
Ensilage	\$49.5	1	\$58.1	\$92.9
Hay	\$53.0	2	\$62.2	\$99.4
Other Crops	\$2.3	195	\$2.7	\$4.3
<b>Total Crop Receipts</b>	<b>\$242.2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$291.0</b>	<b>\$500.6</b>
<b>Livestock and Livestock Products:</b>				
Fed Beef - Value Added	\$380.7	2	\$535.5	\$755.5
Cow-calf and Stockers	\$23.1	83	\$32.5	\$45.8
Hogs	\$0.0		\$0.0	\$0.0
Dairy	\$166.1	4	\$196.2	\$306.3
Other	\$0.2	152	\$0.2	\$0.2
<b>Total L &amp; LP</b>	<b>\$570.1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$764.4</b>	<b>\$1,107.8</b>
<b>Other Ag-Related</b>	<b>\$0.6</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>\$0.6</b>	<b>\$0.8</b>
<b>Total Agricultural Receipts**</b>	<b>\$812.8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$1,056.0</b>	<b>\$1,609.3</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.

The county has three times as many acres in cropland than in pasture, but the value of livestock sales is greater than crop receipts. More than half (\$380.7 million) of the \$570.1 million in livestock receipts are from fed beef. In fact, Castro County ranked 2nd in cash receipts from fed beef among Texas counties from 2011 to 2014 and 4th in cattle sales nationally, according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture. The county's dairy industry also ranked 4th among the 254 Texas counties with \$166.1 million in receipts. Cow-calf and stocker operations contributed \$23.1 million in agricultural receipts (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 \$812.8 million in cash receipts from farm and ranch production to a total county-level economic output contribution of \$1.1 billion. A good deal of the money that is spent outside Castro County is still spent

in Texas, so the farm-level production leads to a larger state-level output of \$1.6 billion.

	<b>Number of Employees</b>	<b>Annual Payroll \$1,000,000</b>
<b>Private Sector</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>
<b>Farm and Ranch</b>	<b>1,301</b>	<b>\$36.58</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>\$48.58</b>

Agribusinesses take many forms including: manufacturing, retail trade and food service, wholesale trade, agricultural services and transportation. A total of 388 people were employed in Castro County agribusinesses during 2013 with an associated payroll of \$12 million, according to the 2013 Texas County Business Patterns publication. In addition,

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

1,301 people were either employed full- or part-time on local farms, ranches and confined livestock operations earning \$36.6 million annually (2012 Census of Agriculture). It should be noted that the impact of agriculture on the Castro County economy is underestimated since the economic contributions of public sector employees working in agriculture and the 532 farm and ranch operators are not considered in this analysis.



*(AgEco-FS-4: Dr. Rebekka Dudensing, Ruoxi Lu and Jonathan Ellison, College Station; Dr. Steve Amosson, Kay Ledbetter and Michelle Jones, Amarillo; Dr. Bridget Guerrero, Canyon; and Nancy Andersen, Castro County. Revised August 2015)*