

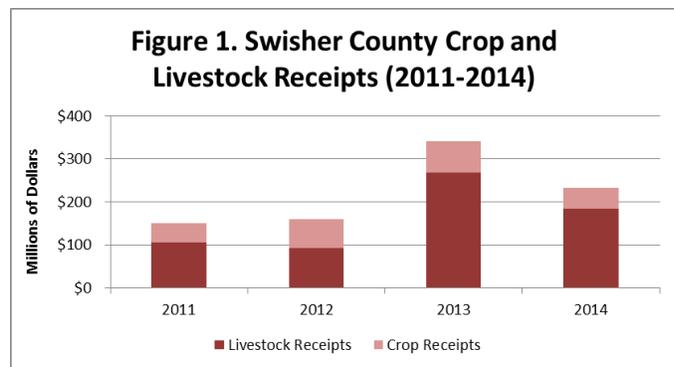
**AT A GLANCE**

- *Swisher County's agricultural value exceeded \$233.2 million in 2014 (Figure 1).*
- *The 822 agricultural-related employees account for an estimated payroll of \$20.2 million in 2013 (Table 2).*
- *Swisher County ranks 7th in fed-beef, 17th in ensilage, 20th in sorghum and 30th in cotton sales among all Texas counties.*
- *Swisher County from 2011-2014 averaged \$220.9 million in total agricultural receipts generating county- and statewide-level impacts of \$258.4 million and \$441.6 million, respectively (Table 1).*
- *Swisher County ranks 16th nationwide in value of cattle and calves sold, 35th in cotton acreage and 38th in the value of livestock products.*
- *This analysis does not include the impact of agriculturally related public sector employees or the 565 farm and ranch operators.*

## The Impact of Agribusiness SWISHER COUNTY 2015

Most of Swisher County's 890-square-mile land area is used for agricultural purposes, with 351,061 acres in cropland of which 65,328 acres are irrigated and another 194,521 acres is in permanent pasture. Crop production is an important part of the local economy, generating an average of \$58.2

million annually in the 2011-2014 time period (Table 1). Cotton is the most important cash crop in Swisher County with average annual cash receipts of \$25 million. The county ranks 30th among



Texas counties in cotton production. Cash receipts for corn total \$10.4 million annually, making the county the 31st highest in corn production among Texas counties. Swisher County sorghum production ranks 20th with average annual receipts of \$9.9 million. Other crops produced in the county include wheat, ensilage, hay and vegetables (included in Other Crops).

Livestock production contributed \$162.6 million in value-added sales

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

|  | Value<br>(\$1,000,000) | State Rank | County<br>Economic Impact*<br>(\$1,000,000) | State<br>Economic Impact*<br>(\$1,000,000) |
|--|------------------------|------------|---|--|
| <b>Crops:</b>                            |                        |            |   |  |
| Corn                                     | \$10.4                 | 31         | \$13.5                                      | \$23.9                                     |
| Wheat                                    | \$5.5                  | 35         | \$7.1                                       | \$12.6                                     |
| Cotton                                   | \$25.0                 | 30         | \$31.2                                      | \$45.5                                     |
| Sorghum                                  | \$9.9                  | 20         | \$12.9                                      | \$22.8                                     |
| Ensilage                                 | \$2.8                  | 17         | \$3.5                                       | \$5.2                                      |
| Hay                                      | \$1.6                  | 137        | \$2.0                                       | \$3.1                                      |
| Other Crops                              | \$3.1                  | 113        | \$3.9                                       | \$5.9                                      |
| <b>Total Crop Receipts</b>               | <b>\$58.2</b>          | <b>50</b>  | <b>\$74.1</b>                               | <b>\$119.0</b>                             |
| <b>Livestock and Livestock Products:</b> |                        |            |   |  |
| Fed Beef - Value Added                   | \$157.7                | 7          | \$178.7                                     | \$312.9                                    |
| Cow-calf and Stockers                    | \$4.6                  | 211        | \$5.3                                       | \$9.2                                      |
| Hogs                                     | \$0.1                  | 32         | \$0.1                                       | \$0.1                                      |
| Dairy                                    | \$0.0                  |            | \$0.0                                       | \$0.0                                      |
| Other                                    | \$0.2                  | 145        | \$0.2                                       | \$0.3                                      |
| <b>Total L &amp; LP</b>                  | <b>\$162.6</b>         | <b>20</b>  | <b>\$184.2</b>                              | <b>\$322.5</b>                             |
| <b>Other Ag-Related</b>                  | <b>\$0.1</b>           | <b>244</b> | <b>\$0.1</b>                                | <b>\$0.1</b>                               |
| <b>Total Agricultural Receipts**</b>     | <b>\$220.9</b>         | <b>22</b>  | <b>\$258.4</b>                              | <b>\$441.6</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.

annually from 2011 to 2014. Almost all livestock receipts are from cattle sales. Fed beef is the primary component of livestock production in the county and generated cash receipts of \$157.7 million annually. Swisher County is ranked 7th among Texas counties in fed-beef production. The county also ranked 16th nationally in cattle and calf sales, according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Cow-calf and stocker operations contributed another \$4.6 million in value-added production.



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 \$220.9 million in cash receipts from farm and ranch production to a total county-level economic output contribution of \$258.4 million. A good deal of the money that is spent outside Swisher County is still spent in Texas, so the farm-level production leads to a larger state-level output of \$441.6 million.

|                           | <b>Number of<br/>Employees</b> | <b>Annual Payroll<br/>\$1,000,000</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Private Sector</b>     | <b>321</b>                     | <b>\$8.30</b>                         |
| <b>Farm and<br/>Ranch</b> | <b>501</b>                     | <b>\$11.92</b>                        |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>822</b>                     | <b>\$20.22</b>                        |

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

Agribusinesses take many forms including: manufacturing, retail trade and food service, wholesale trade, agricultural services and transportation. A total of 321 people were employed in Swisher County agribusinesses during 2013, with an associated payroll of \$8.3 million, according to the publication 2013 County Business Patterns. In addition, 501 people were either employed full- or part-time on local farms, ranches and confined livestock operations, earning \$11.9 million annually. It should be noted that the impact of agriculture on the Swisher County economy is underestimated since the economic contributions of public sector employees working in agriculture and the 565 farm and ranch operators are not considered in this analysis.



*(AgEco-FS-25: Dr. Rebekka Dudensing, Ruoxi Lu and Jonathan Ellison, College Station; Dr. Steve Amosson, Kay Ledbetter and Michelle Jones, Amarillo; Dr. Bridget Guerrero, Canyon; and John Villalba, Swisher County. Revised August 2015).*