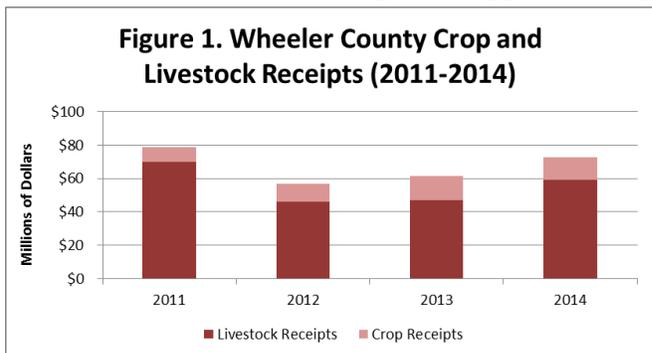


**AT A GLANCE**

- *Wheeler County's agricultural value exceeded \$72.8 million in 2014 (Figure 1).*
- *Wheeler County ranks 18th in fed-beef value-added production among the counties of Texas (Table 1).*
- *Wheeler County from 2011-2014 averaged in total agricultural receipts \$69 million, generating county- and state-level impacts of \$99.7 million and \$136.2 million, respectively (Table 1).*
- *The 790 agricultural-related employees account for 40.5 percent of all private-sector employment (Table 2).*
- *This analysis does not include the impact of agriculturally related public sector employees or the 551 farm and ranch operators*

## The Impact of Agribusiness WHEELER COUNTY 2015

Wheeler County's 915-square-mile land area consists of 419,570 permanent pasture acres and 99,647 acres in cropland, approximately 11,200 of which are irrigated. The drought of 2011 and 2012 had a major impact on agricultural receipts lowering crop production while increasing livestock receipts especially in 2011 due to forced herd liquidations (Figure 1). Thanks to subsiding drought conditions and higher cattle prices, agricultural receipts are starting to approach pre drought levels.



The cropland generated an average of \$12.1 million annually in the 2011-2014 time period (Table 1). Cotton and hay production have annual sales of \$5.9 million and \$3.4 million, respectively. Overall, Wheeler County ranks 31st in ensilage production among the state's 254 counties with \$800,000 in average annual ensilage sales.

Livestock production is an important part of the local economy, contributing a total of \$55.4 million in value-added sales annually. Fed

Table 1. Average Annual Agricultural Cash Receipts, Wheeler 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	\$1.0	85	\$1.4	\$2.3
Wheat	\$0.8	93	\$1.2	\$1.9
Cotton	\$5.9	75	\$7.8	\$10.7
Sorghum	\$0.2	130	\$0.2	\$0.4
Ensilage	\$0.8	31	\$1.0	\$1.5
Hay	\$3.4	98	\$4.2	\$6.3
Other Crops	\$0.0		\$0.1	\$0.1
<b>Total Crop Receipts</b>	<b>\$12.1</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>\$15.9</b>	<b>\$23.2</b>
<b>Livestock and Livestock Products:</b>				
Fed Beef - Value Added	\$43.8	18	\$64.6	\$86.8
Cow-calf and Stockers	\$11.7	149	\$17.2	\$23.2
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>\$55.4</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>\$81.8</b>	<b>\$110.0</b>
<b>Other Ag-Related</b>	<b>\$1.5</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>\$2.0</b>	<b>\$3.0</b>
<b>Total Agricultural Receipts**</b>	<b>\$69.0</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>\$99.7</b>	<b>\$136.2</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.

beef is the primary component of livestock production in the county, providing value-added sales of \$43.8 million annually, in the 2011-2014 time period. Wheeler County is ranked 18th among Texas counties in fed-beef production. Cow-calf and stocker operations also contributed significantly to the economy, adding \$11.7 million in cash receipts. The county ranks 47th in total livestock product sales among Texas counties (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. Money is multiplied as it circulates through the economy. The original \$69 million in cash receipts from farm,

ranch and confined-livestock operations leads to a total county-level economic output contribution of \$99.7 million. Some money does leave the region as people and businesses purchase goods and services outside the county or state. However, a good deal of the money that is spent outside Wheeler County is still spent in Texas, so farm-level production leads to a larger state-level output of \$136.2 million (Table 1).

	<b>Number of Employees</b>	<b>Annual Payroll \$1,000,000</b>
<b>Private Sector</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>\$11.90</b>
<b>Farm and Ranch</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>\$3.50</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>\$15.40</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 514 people were employed in Wheeler County agribusinesses during 2013, with an associated payroll of \$11.9 million, according to the 2013 Texas County Business Patterns publication (Table 2). In addition, 276 people were either employed full- or part-time on local farms, ranches and confined livestock operations, earning \$3.5 million annually. It should be noted that the impact of agriculture on the Wheeler County economy is underestimated, since the economic contributions of public sector employees working in agriculture and the 551 farm and ranch operators are not considered in this analysis.



*(AgEco-FS-26: Dr. Steve Amosson, Kay Ledbetter and Michelle Jones, Amarillo; Dr. Rebekka Dudensing, Ruoxi Lu and Jonathan Ellison, College Station; Dr. Bridget Guerrero, Canyon; and Dale Dunlap, Wheeler County. Revised August 2015)*