Agricultural and Food Policy Center Texas A&M University

April 2010

A HISTORICAL LOOK AT TEXAS CRP PARTICIPATION: TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION DISTRICT 5







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 $^{\circ}$ 2010 by the Agricultural and Food Policy Center

Research Report 10-1.5

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Texas AgriLife Research
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Texas A&M University

Excerpts from APFC Research Report 10-1

April 2010

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Texas AgriLife Extension Districts

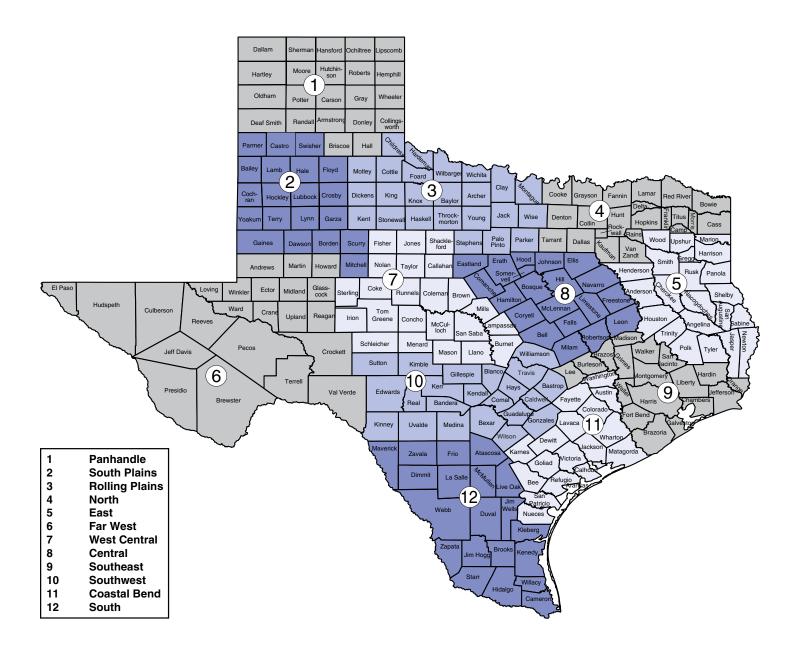


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Texas Counties by Texas AgriLife Extension Districts

Anderson	District E
Andrews	
Angelina	
Aransas	
Archer	
Armstrong	
Attascosa	
Austin	
Bailey	
Bandera	
Bastrop	
Baylor	District 3
Bee	
Bell	
Bexar	
Blanco	
Borden	
Bosque	
Bowie	District 4
Brazoria	
Brazos	
Briscoe	
Brooks	
Brown	
Brewster	
Burleson	
Burnet	
Caldwell	
Calhoun	
Callahan	
Cameron	
Camp	
Carson	
Cass	
Castro	
Chambers	
Cherokee	
Childress	
Clay	
Cochran	
Coke	
Coleman	
Collin	
Collingsworth	District 1
Colorado	District 11
Comal	District 10
Comanche	
Concho	
Cooke	
Coryell	
Cottle	District 3
Crane	
Crockett	
Crosby	
Culberson	
Dallam	
Dallas	
Dawson	
Deaf Smith	
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Denton	
Dewitt	
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Dickens	District 3
Dimmitt	District 12
Donley	
Duval	District 12
Eastland	District 8
Ector	
Edwards	District 10
El Paso	District 6
Ellis	
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Falls	District 8
Fannin	
Fayette	District 11
Fisher	District 7
ISHC	District /
Floyd	
Foard	District 3
Fort Bend	
Franklin	
Freestone	District 8
Frio	
Gaines	District 2
Galveston	District 9
Garza	
Gillespie	
Glasscock	District 6
Goliad	
Gonzales	District 10
Gray	District 1
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Grayson	District 4
Gregg	District 5
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Karnes		Real	
Kaufman		Red River	
Kendall		Reeves	
Kenedy		Refugio	
Kent		Roberts	
Kerr		Robertson	
Kimble	District 10	Rockwall	
King	District 3	Runnels	District 7
Kinney		Rusk	District 5
Kleberg	District 12	Sabine	
Knox	District 3	San Augustine	District 5
Lamar		San Jacinto	
Lamb		San Patricio	
Lampasas		San Saba	
Lasalle		Schleicher	
Lavaca		Scurry	
Lee		Shackelford	
Leon		Shelby	
Liberty		Sherman	
Limestone		Smith	
Lipscomb		Somervell	
Live Oak		Starr	
Llano		Stephens	
Loving		Sterling	District /
Lubbock		Stonewall	
Lynn		Sutton Swisher	
Madison Marion		Tarrant	
Martin		Taylor	
Mason		Terrell	
Matagorda	District 11	Terry	
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Introduction

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is one of the most successful Federal agricultural programs. While the program has been adjusted over time, for more than 30 years the primary emphasis has been to protect environmentally sensitive land while providing farmers with annual rental payments.

Texas has historically had the highest number of acres enrolled in the CRP. In any given year, 3 to 4 million of the slightly more than 30 million acres nationally have been enrolled in Texas.

Over time, as contracts have expired, most of the land that had been enrolled in the program was reenrolled. However, due to funding limitations, the acreage cap has been reduced which will likely mean that many Texas farmers and landowners will not be able to re-enroll this land in the CRP. This publication, focusing on Texas AgriLife Extension District 5, is excerpted from a larger work and is part of a planned series of publications designed to provide farmers and landowners statewide with additional information regarding their options as their contracts begin to expire. This publication addresses where the CRP acreage is in Texas AgriLife Extension District 5 and when contracts will be expiring, as well as providing a historical view of how important the CRP program has been over the past 30 years. If you wish to see the larger report, it is available on the AFPC website at http://www.afpc.tamu.edu/pubs/2/541/RR-10-01%20-%20for%20web.pdf

Conservation Reserve Program Legislative History

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was first established by the Food Security Act of 1985 with the purpose of removing up to 45 million acres from production and reducing damage to highly erodible soils and environmentally sensitive land. Patterned after the conservation reserve part of the Soil Bank Program that was initiated during the 1950s, the program offered annual rental payments and cost-share assistance up to 50% of expenses to producers for taking their land out of production and establishing long-term conserving covers. Landowners could enter into contracts for a minimum of 10 years or a maximum of 15 years. A county could not enroll more than 25% of its cropland unless the Secretary of Agriculture determined that doing so would not have an adverse economic impact. In its early years, CRP eligibility was limited to land with highly erodible soils, and, during the first nine signups, 34 million acres were enrolled.

The Food, Conservation, Agriculture, and Trade Act of 1990 (1990 Farm Bill) extended CRP land eligibility beyond highly erodible soils to include state water quality priority areas, plots of land that adopted high priority conservation practices, and "Conservation Priority Areas" (Chesapeake Bay, Long Island Sound, and the Great Lakes watershed). Producers were given the option to participate in limited fall and winter grazing or cropping between trees on CRP land in exchange for reduced rental rates. The 1990 Farm Bill also made changes to the way CRP contracts were ranked and annual rental rates were applied. The Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) was created as a way to rank offers based on water quality, air quality, and soil erodibility concerns. Maximum soil specific rental rates were also set allowing producers with highly productive and highly erodible soils to enter into contracts.

The Federal Agricultural Improvement Reform Act of 1996 capped CRP enrollment at 36.4 million acres. Wildlife habitat was also added to the EBI. CRP continuous sign-up was created to allow environmentally desirable land devoted to specific conservation practices to be enrolled in CRP at any time. Eligible conservation practices included riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, wetland buffers, filter strips, wetland restoration, grass waterways, shelterbelts, living snow fences, contour grass strips, salt tolerant vegetation, and shallow water areas for wildlife. Continuous sign-up contracts were not subject to competitive bidding. The USDA allowed some producers an early out option to modify or end their CRP contracts after 5 years of the program. During 1997 – 2002, many of the early CRP contracts began to expire and approximately 22 million acres were enrolled. The

expiring contracts were not automatically renewed. There was increased competition because bids were ranked by the EBI.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 made a few minor changes to CRP. It increased the acreage cap to 39.2 million acres. Cropping history requirements were changed to four of the last six years. CRP enrollment began to shift geographically. The Northern Great Plains region gained slightly at the expense of the Heartland and the Southern Seaboard. The Plains were able to offer land at a lower rental rate to increase the attractiveness of their offers.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 capped CRP at 32 million acres beginning on October 1, 2009. Eligibility requirements were modified to land cropped in four of six years prior to 2008 rather than 2002. Alfalfa, legumes, and multi-year grasses in a rotation practice with an annual commodity could be used to meet the cropping history requirement. A local preference criterion was also added in determining the acceptability of CRP offers. In previous bills the Secretary used different criteria for different States and regions to determine acceptability. No more than 25% of a county's cropland could be enrolled in CRP; however, exceptions were created to waive this limit in the case of continuous or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) enrollment. A provision was also added for beginning or socially disadvantaged producers to help them make the transition from CRP land to production or other conservation programs; \$25 million in funding was authorized for these transitions.

About 75% of CRP contracts (28 million acres) are scheduled to expire between 2007 and 2010. During 2006, in an attempt to distribute the upcoming administrative burden, holders of expiring contracts were allowed to re-enroll or extend their contracts, and 82% of contract holders chose to do this. Over the next five years, 3.9 – 5.6 million acres are scheduled to expire annually.

Background Sources:

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- USDA Farm Service Agency. "Contract Extension, Expirations and Enrollment Update, CRP Contract Summary and Statistics." Conservation Programs. Washington, DC: USDA Farm Service Agency. [Accessed February 2010.]

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- USDA Farm Service Agency. "Monthly Active CRP Contract Reports." Conservation Programs. Washington, DC: USDA Farm Service Agency. [Accessed February 2010.] Available online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/weba pp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=rns-crt

Figure 1: Texas Conservation Reserve Program Signups 1-12

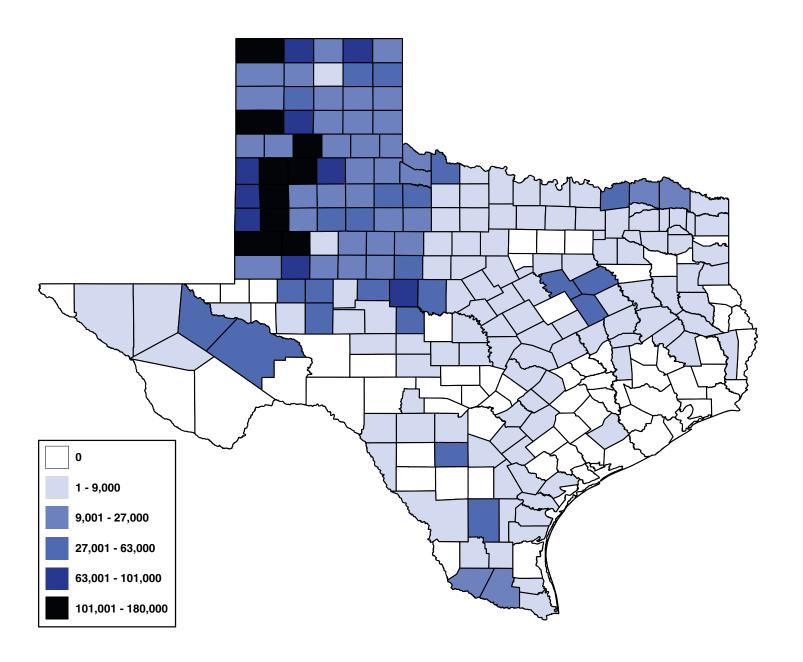


Figure 2: Texas Conservation Reserve Program Signups 13-38

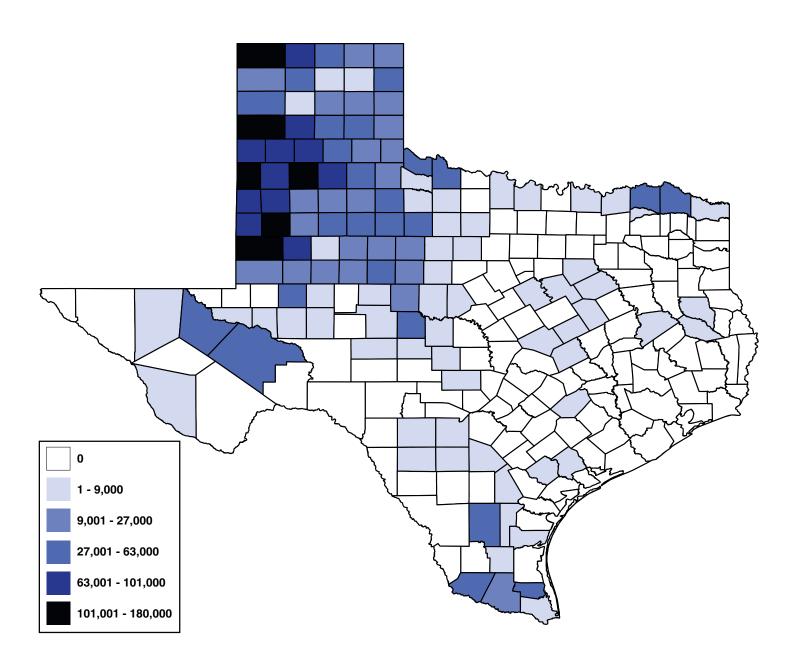


Figure 3: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2010

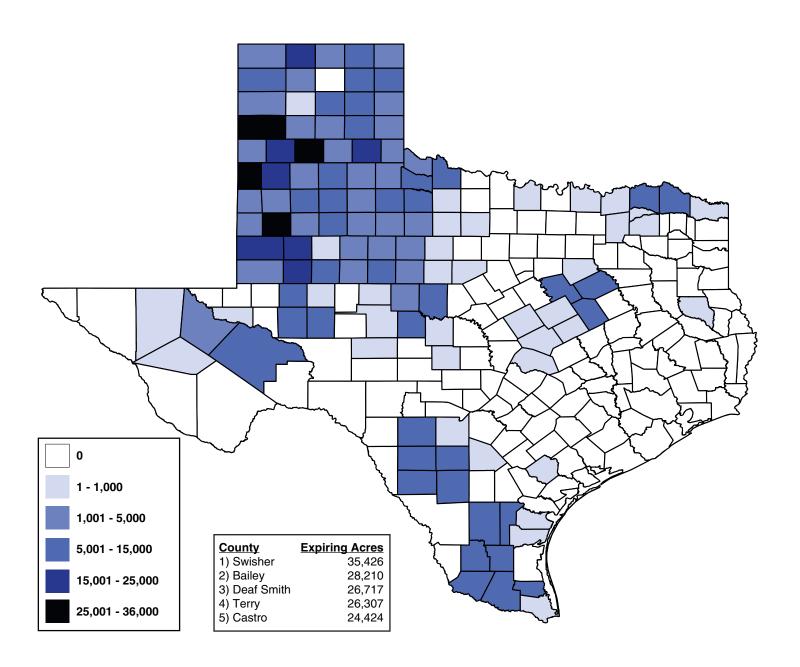


Figure 4: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2011

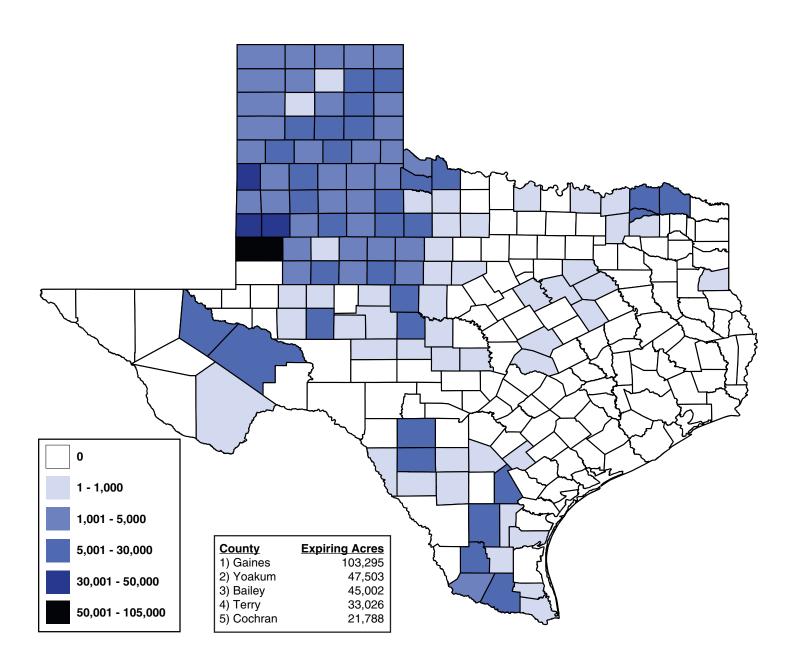


Figure 5: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2012

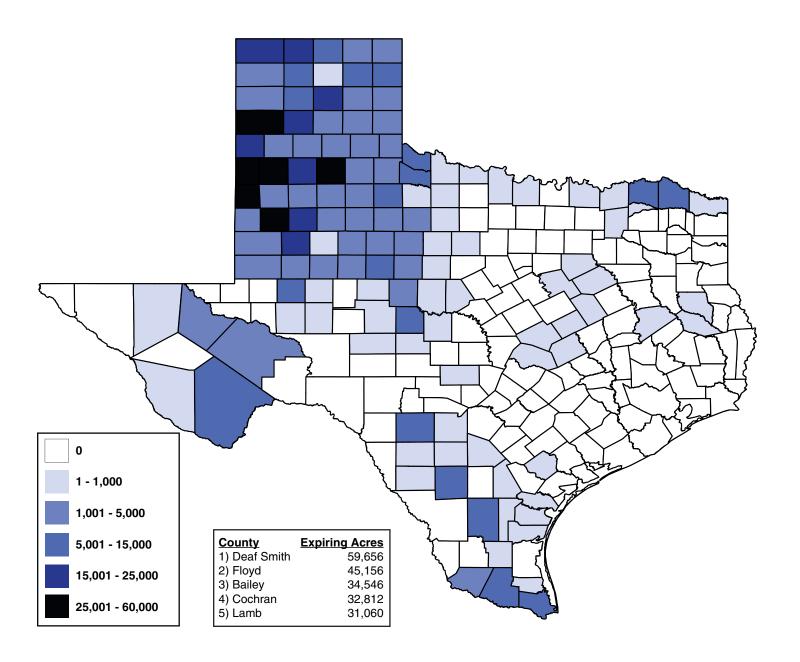


Figure 6: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2013

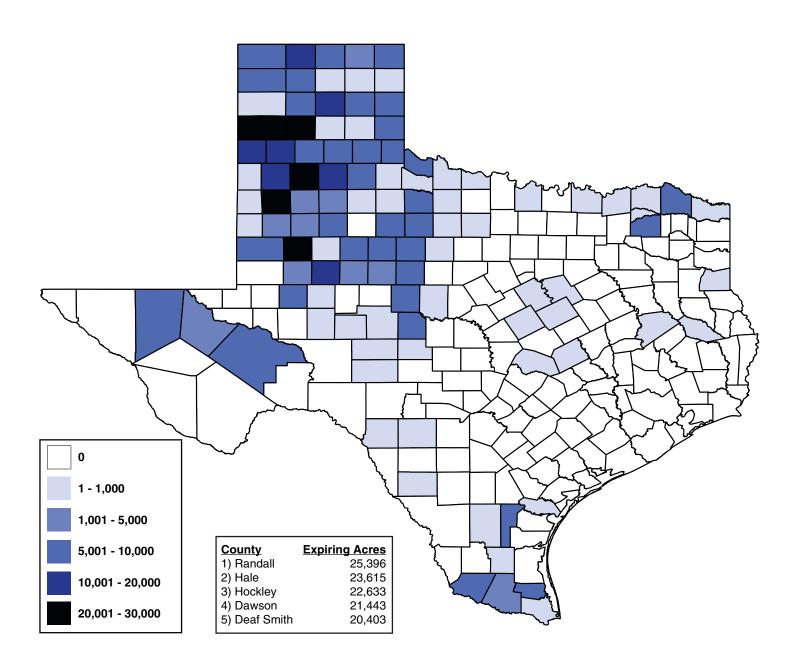


Figure 7: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2014

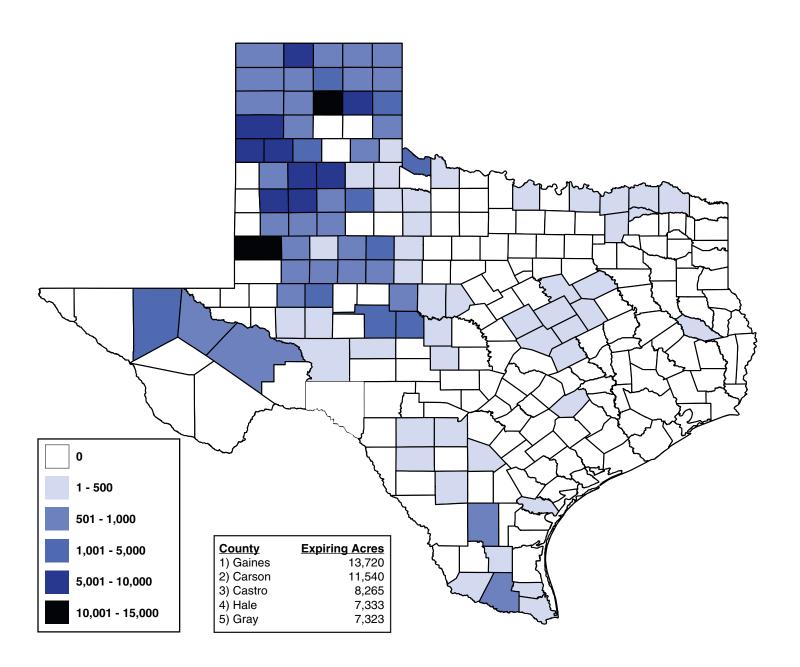


Figure 8: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2015

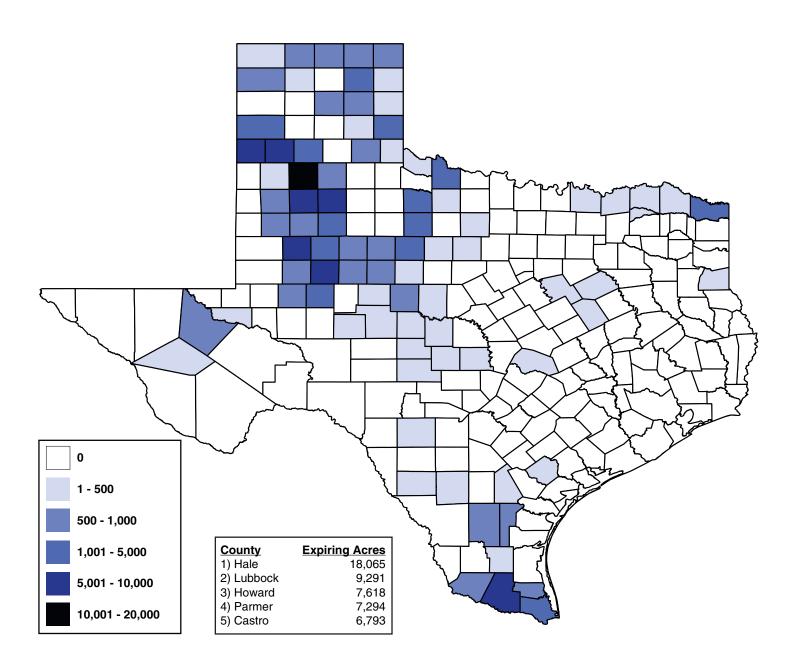


Figure 9: Top Ten Texas Counties in Acres Enrolled in CRP (Signups 13-38)

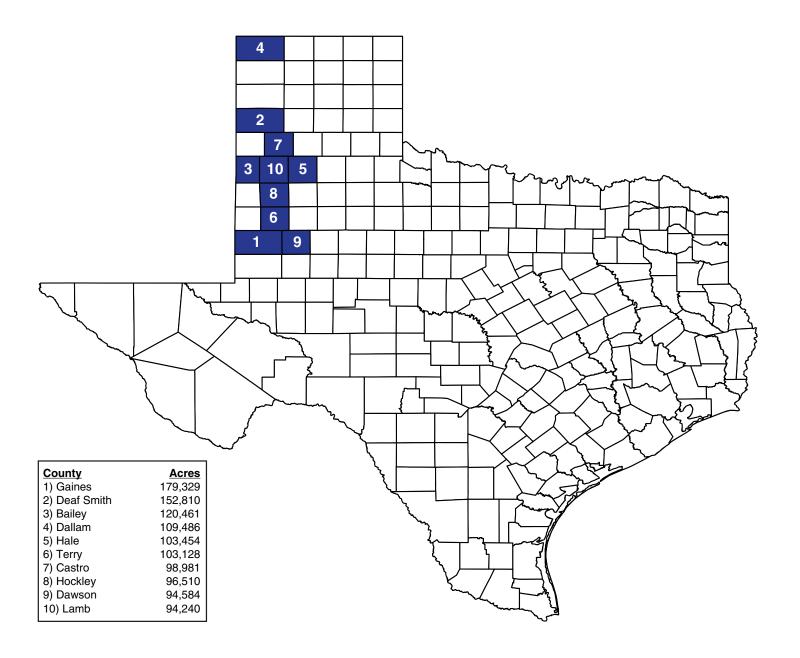


Figure 10: Top Ten Texas Counties in Number of CRP Contracts (Signups 13-38)

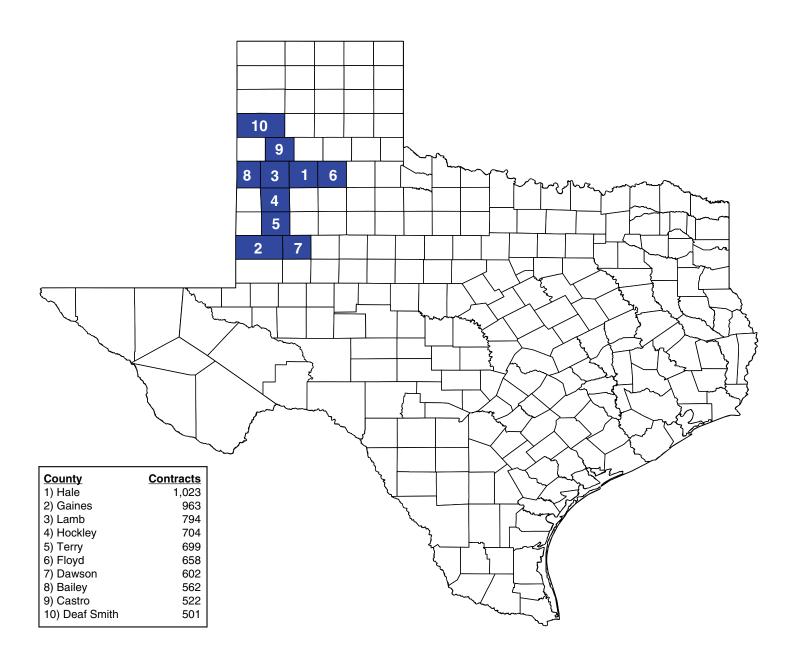


Figure 11: Top Ten Texas Counties in Average Acres per CRP Contract (Signups 13-38)

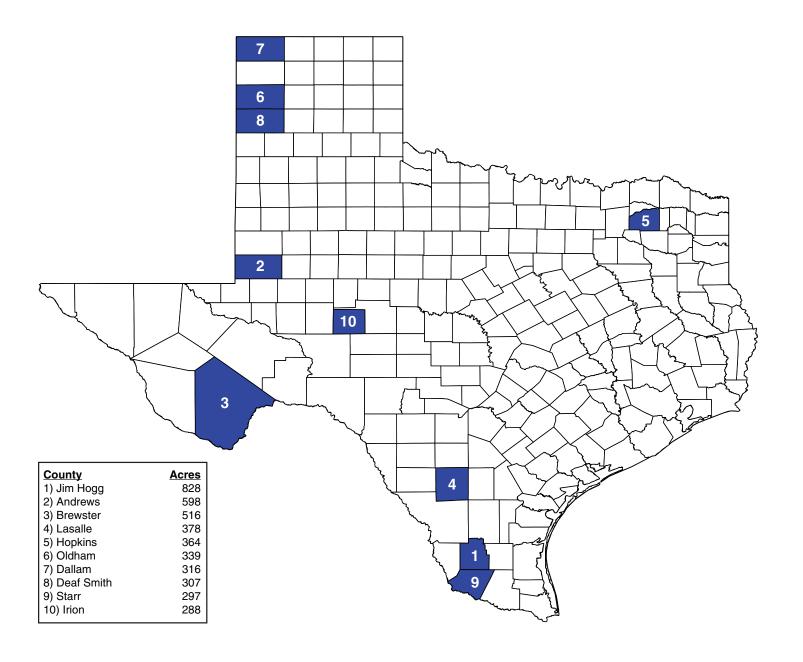
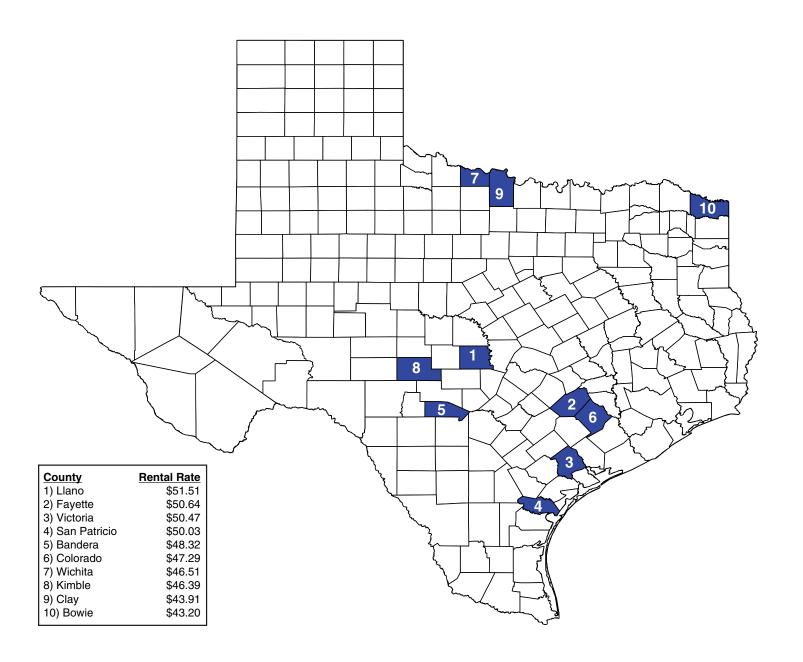


Figure 12: Top Ten Texas Counties in Average Rental per Acre Enrolled in CRP (Signups 13-38)



			Average	Average Rental		Land Class [‡]	lass†	
	Total Acres*	Contracts	Acres/Contract	Rate	1 and 2	3	4	5 through 7
Texas	4,138,160	19,707	210	\$39.54	695,438	2,533,753	702,565	192,764
District 1	1,119,507	4,119	272	\$39.15	101,871	914,546	92,770	7,118
District 2	1,614,575	7,262	222	\$39.30	178,463	927,887	423,647	965'08
District 3	473,579	2,556	185	\$39.24	136,764	271,008	49,563	16,109
District 4	161'96	815	118	\$39.39	39,407	34,082	14,158	7,457
District 5	0/00/2	74	96	\$39.14	1,501	2,802	1,331	1,436
District 6	250,786	937	268	\$39.56	30,545	100,149	66,534	53,346
District 7	308,261	2,281	135	\$39.04	140,710	150,717	6,528	7,019
District 8	77,402	763	101	839.09	16,531	41,386	12,840	266'9
District 9	371	4	63	\$39.82		69	302	
District 10	12,271	89	212	\$39.43	3,587	4,217	711	3,757
District 11	22,317	145	154	\$48.55	12,558	9,152	94	513
District 12	155,829	869	225	\$45.62	33,502	77,738	34,087	9,415
* General signup ac	res only. Continuous sign	* General signup acres only. Continuous signup did not begin until Signup	gnup 14.					
+ In later signings th	e land class was replaced	† In later signing the land class was replaced with an environmental benefits	snefits index.					
11 1 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	ייייין ייייין ייייין אוואן ייייין	A VICI α < < < < < < <						

Iable 2. CKP	lable 2. CKP Data for lexas and extension Districts	Extension Distric	ts (Signups 13-58).).			
	Total Acres	Contracts	Average Acres/Con- tract	Average Rental Rate	General Acres	Continuous Acres	Average Erosion Index
Texas	3,305,540	21,152	156	\$35.43	3,254,107	51,296	11
District 1	824,623	3,702	223	\$34.57	824,623	3,453	6
District 2	1,524,104	816'6	154	90'98\$	1,523,821	283	11
District 3	288,870	2,174	133	\$34.71	285,199	3,672	6
District 4	25,795	452	25	\$37.30	23,577	2,219	6
District 5	2,009	29	69	\$29.82	2,009	0	7
District 6	226,570	1,272	178	\$33.38	221,072	5,498	18
District 7	191,020	2,144	68	\$34.79	182,300	8,720	6
District 8	11,087	362	18	\$35.47	658'6	1,228	10
District 9							
District 10	5,618	88	89	66'28\$	4,068	1,550	9
District 11	849	61	14	\$46.60	0	848	2
District 12	118,041	735	161	\$36.76	116,182	1,859	10
(As of February 2010)	10)						

Table 3. Acres of CRP for Texas and Extension Districts by Signup Period.	s of CRP fo	r Texas ar	nd Extensi	on Distric	ts by Sigr	up Period	j.						
	1 - 12	13	14*	15	16	17*	18	*61	20	21*	22*	23*	24*
Texas	4,138,160	955	47	1,315,036	784,654	33	403,026		188,344	333	935	1,746 9,567	6,567
District 1	111,507			274,043	273,207		97,390		37,640		229	53	
District 2	1,614,577			715,744	296,975		179,678		61,845				
District 3	473,582			134,631	80,160		40,557		16,831	36		85	50
District 4	96,192		47	088'8	3,678		7,516		2,689		172	264	426
District 5	7,071			189									
District 6	250,786			76,221	45,260		26,450		14,461				4,083
District 7	308,262			49,480	54,199		31,560		32,451			329	2,336
District 8	77,403			1,803	4,924		1,066		899		17		146
District 9	371												
District 10	12,272			814	1,434		1,821						398
District 11	22,318												53
District 12	155,830	955		40,583	18,476		8,240		9,894				663
* denotes continuous signius aumbers	duin aimais sii	Pre											

Table 4. Acres of CRP for Texas and Extension Districts by Signup Period.	s of CRP f	or Texas	and Exten	sion Dist	ricts by S	ignup Pe	riod.							
	25*	26	27*	28*	29	*08	31*	32-REX	33	34*	35*	36*	*48	38*
Texas	5,400	85,775	2,932	4,785	103,304	9,429	800'5	323,356	49,657		6,014	3,930	944	193
District 1		5,519		20	11,111			112,930	6,330		2,350	772		
District 2		42,120			62,639	120		155,485	14,336				163	
District 3	618	1,761	895	230	4,053	1,241	259	5,162	2,044		285			
District 4	289			138	145	471		929					59	
District 5								1,329						
District 6		17,910	145	38	9,238		1,174	29,788	1,744		89			
District 7	1,242	4,903	268	298	2,964	1,701	1,057	4,340	2,404		964	527		
District 8		940	122	81		217	160		464		195	252	68	
District 9														
District 10	123			718		226						84		
District 11			88	315		203	161							
District 12	284	7,785		912	10,608			7,018	12,624					
* denotes continuous signuo numbers	min alingis si	here												

Table 5. CRF	Table 5. CRP Enrollment by Year of Contract Expiration by Extension District (All Signup Types).	by Year of	Contract	xpiration	by Extension	on District	(All Signu	p Types).				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	>2019
Texas	561,330	199'029	685,133	822,585	363,052	169,686	139,748	162'19	138,557	103,951	88,943	53,561
District 1	181,665	150,588	119,958	253,369	599'26	60,110	22,346	11,317	55,294	21,968	38,504	5,419
District 2	254,062	277,812	379,397	356,682	170,640	76,534	73,313	17,966	41,987	64,050	35,822	34,391
District 3	61,904	960'56	80,825	80,930	15,344	4,395	5,322	2,502	4,296	2,438	2,342	1,424
District 4	5,741	6,937	6,272	8,159	4,247	832	1,209	827	1,343	189	298	278
District 5		11	442	258	307	42	36		1,454	68		317
District 6	18,462	48,833	21,940	50,571	40,767	15,157	15,022	5,640	20,515	800'9	6'936	998'5
District 7	21,300	53,252	48,743	46,552	19,647	6,172	6,467	956'5	5,515	4,555	1,321	2,645
District 8	1,946	5,993	2,074	2,304	1,497	202	515	402	314	308	198	234
District 9												
District 10	3,899	1,762	1,335	1,882	1,097	06	215	349	832	884	359	360
District 11	554	78	198	399	27	81	42	177	278	348	379	347
District 12	11,333	29,239	22,070	20,686	11,663	5,368	15,109	15,680	6,515	2,764	2,000	1,408
(As of February 2010)	010)											

Table 6. CRP	Data for Texas, [Table 6. CRP Data for Texas, District 5, and District	rict Counties (Signups 1-12).	ups 1-12).				
			Average	Average Rental		Land Class†	Classt	
	Total Acres*	Contracts	Acres/Contract	Rate	1 and 2	3	4	5 through 7
Texas	4,138,160	19,707	210	\$39.54	695,438	2,533,753	702,565	192,764
District 5	0/00/2	74	96	\$39.14	1,501	2,802	1,331	1,436
Anderson	48	3	16	\$30.66		48		
Angelina	3,296	24	137	\$39.92	1,015	853	1,259	169
Cherokee	59	3	22	\$40.00		59		
Gregg								
Harrison	136	2	89	\$39.35		136		
Henderson								
Houston	637	18	52	\$37.85	586	929	72	
Jasper	08	3	27	\$38.46				80
Marion								
Nacogdoches	88	3	29	\$39.34	38	95		
Newton								
Panola	1,259	9	210	\$40.00	94	36		1,128
Polk	25	1	25	\$28.00				25
Rusk	293	2	147	\$35.50		293		
Sabine								
San Augustine								
Shelby								
Smith								
Trinity	681	3	227	\$38.77		681		
Tyler								
Upshur	46	3	15	\$36.65		46		
Wood	117	3	39	\$35.64	99	18		34
* General signup ac	res only. Continuous sig	* General signup acres only. Continuous signup did not begin until Signup	nup 14.					
† In later signups th	e land class was replacec	† In later signups the land class was replaced with an environmental benefits index.	nefits index.					

Table 7. CRP	Table 7. CRP Data for Texas, District 5, and District Counties (Signups 13-38).	strict 5, and Distri	ct Counties (Signu	ips 13-38).			
	Total Acres*	Contracts	Average Acres/Contract	Average Rental Rate	General Acres	Continuous Acres	Average Erosion Index
Texas	3,305,540	21,152	156	\$35.43	3,254,107	51,296	11
District 5	2,009	29	69	\$29.82	2,009	0	7
Anderson							
Angelina	832	11	9/	\$32.05	832		7
Cherokee							
Gregg							
Harrison							
Henderson							
Houston	1,068	13	82	\$27.85	1,068		3
Jasper							
Marion							
Nacogdoches	110	5	22	\$29.55	110		11
Newton							
Panola							
Polk							
Rusk							
Sabine							
San Augustine							
Shelby							
Smith							
Trinity							
Tyler							
Upshur							
Wood							
(As of February 2010)	(0)						

Table 8 Arres of CRP for Texas District 5 and District Counties by Signin Period	of CRP fo	r Texac	District 5	nd Distric	rt Countie	es hy Sian	un Perioc						
	1-12	13	14*	15	16	17*	18	*61	20	21*	22*	23*	24*
Texas	4,138,160	955	47	1,315,036	784,654	33	403,026		188,344	333	935	1,746	6,567
District 5	7,071			681									
Anderson	48												
Angelina	3,296			334									
Cherokee	99												
Gregg	0												
Harrison	136												
Henderson	0												
Houston	637			237									
Jasper	80												
Marion	0												
Nacogdoches	88			110									
Newton	0												
Panola	1,259												
Polk	25												
Rusk	293												
Sabine	0												
San Augustine	0												
Shelby	0												
Smith	0												
Trinity	189												
Tyler	0												
Upshur	46												
Wood	117												
* denotes continuous signup numbers	Is signup num	bers											

Table 9. Acres of CRP for Texas, District 5, and District Counties by Signup Period.	of CRP f	or Texas,	District 5	, and Dis	trict Cou	nties by	Signup Pe	eriod.						
	25*	26	27*	28*	29	30*	31*	32-REX	33	34*	35*	*98	37*	38*
Texas	5,400	85,775	2,932	4,785	103,304	9,429	5,008	323,356	49,657		6,014	3,930	944	193
District 5								1,329						
Anderson														
Angelina								498						
Cherokee														
Gregg														
Harrison														
Henderson														
Houston								831						
Jasper														
Marion														
Nacogdoches														
Newton														
Panola														
Polk														
Rusk														
Sabine														
San Augustine														
Shelby														
Smith														
Trinity														
Tyler														
Upshur														
Wood														
* denotes continuous signup numbers	ıs signup num	bers												

Table 10. CRP Enrollment by Year of Contract Expiration for District 5 Counties (All Signup Types).	Enrollmen	t by Year o	of Contract	Expiration	ո for Distri	ct 5 Counti	ies (All Sig	nup Types	Ċ.			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	>2019
Texas	561,330	199'029	685,133	822,585	363,052	169,686	139,748	168'19	138,557	103,951	88,943	53,561
District 5	0	11	442	258	307	42	36	0	1,454	68	0	317
Anderson												
Angelina				17	69	42			498			317
Cherokee												
Gregg												
Harrison												
Henderson												
Houston				142	66				742	68		
Jasper												
Marion												
Nacogdoches		11		66								
Newton												
Panola			442		143		36		214			
Polk												
Rusk												
Sabine												
San Augustine												
Shelby												
Smith												
Trinity												
Tyler												
Upshur												
Wood												
(As of February 2010)	(0											



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