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Texas A&M University

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A HISTORICAL LOOK AT TEXAS CRP PARTICIPATION: TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION DISTRICT 11



AFPC

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**Agricultural and Food Policy Center
The Texas A&M University System**

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Texas AgriLife Extension Districts

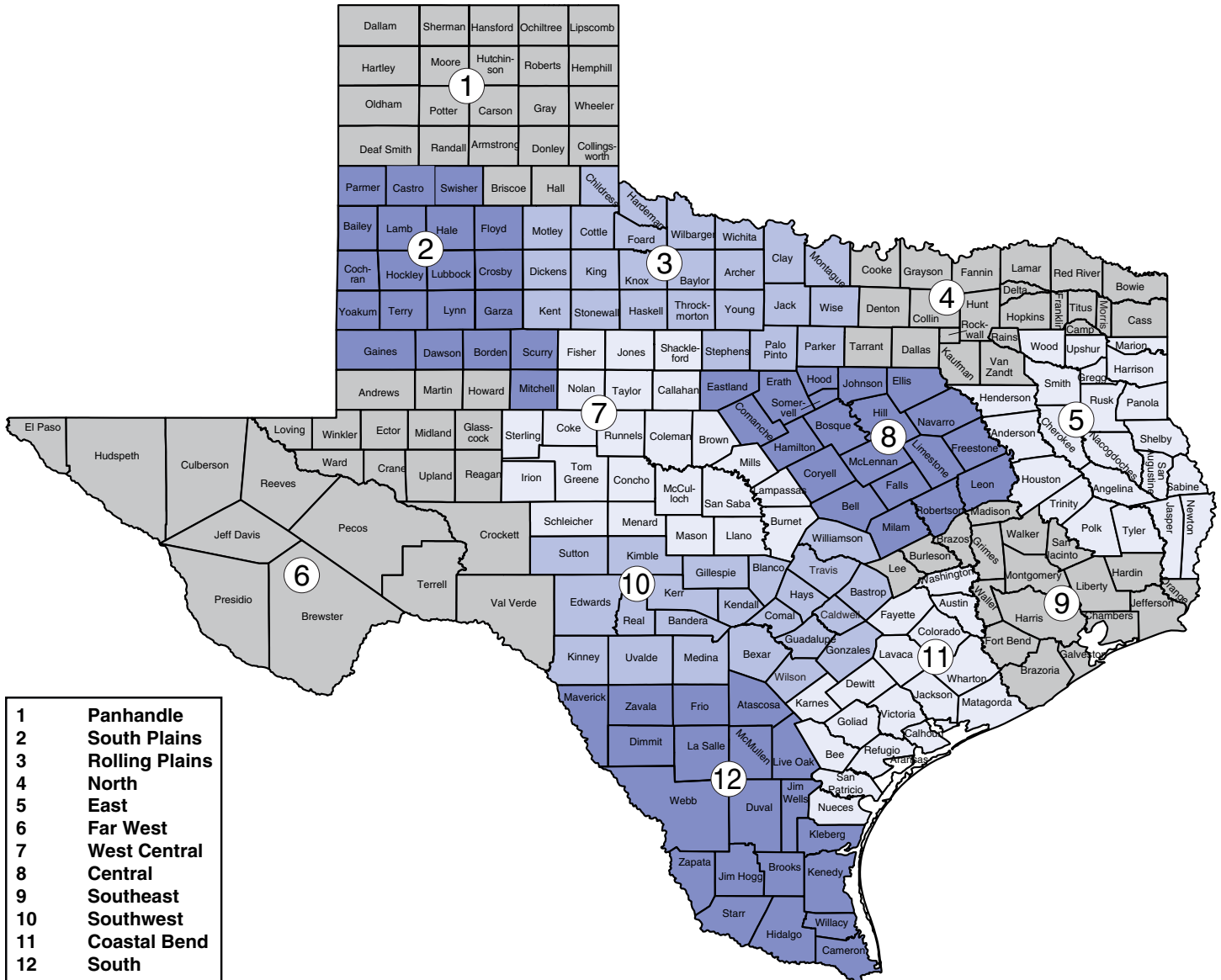


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Texas Counties by Texas AgriLife Extension Districts

Anderson	District 5	Dickens.....	District 3
Andrews.....	District 6	Dimmitt.....	District 12
Angelina.....	District 5	Donley	District 1
Aransas	District 11	Duval	District 12
Archer	District 3	Eastland	District 8
Armstrong.....	District 1	Ector	District 6
Atascosa	District 12	Edwards.....	District 10
Austin	District 11	El Paso	District 6
Bailey.....	District 2	Ellis	District 8
Bandera	District 10	Erath.....	District 8
Bastrop.....	District 10	Falls.....	District 8
Baylor	District 3	Fannin.....	District 4
Bee	District 11	Fayette	District 11
Bell	District 8	Fisher.....	District 7
Bexar.....	District 10	Floyd.....	District 2
Blanco.....	District 10	Foard.....	District 3
Borden.....	District 2	Fort Bend	District 9
Bosque.....	District 8	Franklin	District 4
Bowie.....	District 4	Freestone	District 8
Brazoria.....	District 9	Frio	District 12
Brazos.....	District 9	Gaines	District 2
Briscoe	District 1	Galveston	District 9
Brooks	District 12	Garza	District 2
Brown.....	District 7	Gillespie.....	District 10
Brewster	District 6	Glasscock.....	District 6
Burleson.....	District 9	Goliad	District 11
Burnet	District 7	Gonzales.....	District 10
Caldwell.....	District 10	Gray	District 1
Calhoun.....	District 11	Grayson	District 4
Callahan.....	District 7	Gregg	District 5
Cameron	District 12	Grimes.....	District 9
Camp.....	District 4	Guadalupe.....	District 10
Carson.....	District 1	Hale	District 2
Cass.....	District 4	Hall.....	District 3
Castro.....	District 2	Hamilton.....	District 8
Chambers	District 9	Hansford	District 1
Cherokee	District 5	Hardeman.....	District 3
Childress.....	District 3	Hardin.....	District 9
Clay.....	District 3	Harris.....	District 9
Cochran	District 2	Harrison.....	District 5
Coke	District 7	Hartley.....	District 1
Coleman.....	District 7	Haskell.....	District 3
Collin.....	District 4	Hays	District 10
Collingsworth.....	District 1	Hemphill.....	District 1
Colorado.....	District 11	Henderson	District 5
Comal.....	District 10	Hidalgo.....	District 12
Comanche.....	District 8	Hill.....	District 8
Concho	District 7	Hockley.....	District 2
Cooke.....	District 4	Hood.....	District 8
Coryell.....	District 8	Hopkins.....	District 4
Cottle	District 3	Houston.....	District 5
Crane.....	District 6	Howard.....	District 6
Crockett.....	District 6	Hudspeth.....	District 6
Crosby	District 2	Hunt.....	District 4
Culberson	District 6	Hutchinson	District 1
Dallam	District 1	Irion	District 7
Dallas.....	District 4	Jack	District 3
Dawson	District 2	Jackson.....	District 11
Deaf Smith	District 1	Jasper.....	District 5
Delta	District 4	Jeff Davis.....	District 6
Denton.....	District 4	Jefferson	District 9
Dewitt.....	District 11	Jim Hogg.....	District 12

Jim Wells..... District 12
 Johnson..... District 8
 Jones..... District 7
 Karnes..... District 11
 Kaufman..... District 4
 Kendall..... District 10
 Kenedy..... District 12
 Kent..... District 3
 Kerr..... District 10
 Kimble..... District 10
 King..... District 3
 Kinney..... District 10
 Kleberg..... District 12
 Knox..... District 3
 Lamar..... District 4
 Lamb..... District 2
 Lampasas..... District 7
 Lasalle..... District 12
 Lavaca..... District 11
 Lee..... District 9
 Leon..... District 8
 Liberty..... District 9
 Limestone..... District 8
 Lipscomb..... District 1
 Live Oak..... District 12
 Llano..... District 7
 Loving..... District 6
 Lubbock..... District 2
 Lynn..... District 2
 Madison..... District 9
 Marion..... District 5
 Martin..... District 6
 Mason..... District 7
 Matagorda..... District 11
 Maverick..... District 12
 McCulloch..... District 7
 McLennan..... District 8
 McMullen..... District 12
 Medina..... District 10
 Menard..... District 7
 Midland..... District 6
 Milam..... District 8
 Mills..... District 7
 Mitchell..... District 2
 Montague..... District 3
 Montgomery..... District 9
 Moore..... District 1
 Morris..... District 4
 Motley..... District 3
 Nacogdoches..... District 5
 Navarro..... District 8
 Newton..... District 5
 Nolan..... District 7
 Nueces..... District 11
 Ochiltree..... District 1
 Oldham..... District 1
 Orange..... District 9
 Palo Pinto..... District 3
 Panola..... District 5
 Parker..... District 3
 Parmer..... District 2
 Pecos..... District 6
 Polk..... District 5
 Potter..... District 1
 Presidio..... District 6

Rains..... District 4
 Randall..... District 1
 Reagan..... District 6
 Real..... District 10
 Red River..... District 4
 Reeves..... District 6
 Refugio..... District 11
 Roberts..... District 1
 Robertson..... District 8
 Rockwall..... District 4
 Runnels..... District 7
 Rusk..... District 5
 Sabine..... District 5
 San Augustine..... District 5
 San Jacinto..... District 9
 San Patricio..... District 11
 San Saba..... District 7
 Schleicher..... District 7
 Scurry..... District 2
 Shackelford..... District 7
 Shelby..... District 5
 Sherman..... District 1
 Smith..... District 5
 Somervell..... District 8
 Starr..... District 12
 Stephens..... District 3
 Sterling..... District 7
 Stonewall..... District 3
 Sutton..... District 10
 Swisher..... District 2
 Tarrant..... District 4
 Taylor..... District 7
 Terrell..... District 6
 Terry..... District 2
 Throckmorton..... District 3
 Titus..... District 4
 Tom Green..... District 7
 Travis..... District 10
 Trinity..... District 5
 Tyler..... District 5
 Upshur..... District 5
 Upton..... District 6
 Uvalde..... District 10
 Val Verde..... District 6
 Van Zandt..... District 4
 Victoria..... District 11
 Walker..... District 9
 Waller..... District 9
 Ward..... District 6
 Washington..... District 11
 Webb..... District 12
 Wharton..... District 11
 Wheeler..... District 1
 Wichita..... District 3
 Wilbarger..... District 3
 Willacy..... District 12
 Williamson..... District 8
 Wilson..... District 10
 Winkler..... District 6
 Wise..... District 3
 Wood..... District 5
 Yoakum..... District 2
 Young..... District 3
 Zapata..... District 12
 Zavala..... District 12

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 re-enrolled. 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 11, 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 11 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:

O'Brien, Doug. "Conservation Reserve Program." Summary and Evolution of U.S. Farm Bill Conservation Titles – Expanded Discussions. Fayetteville, AR: The National Agricultural Law Center. [Accessed April 2010]. Available online at <http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/assets/farmbills/conservation-expanded.html#reserve-90>

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Report Data 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.] Available online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=rns-css>

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Figure 1: Texas Conservation Reserve Program Signups 1-12

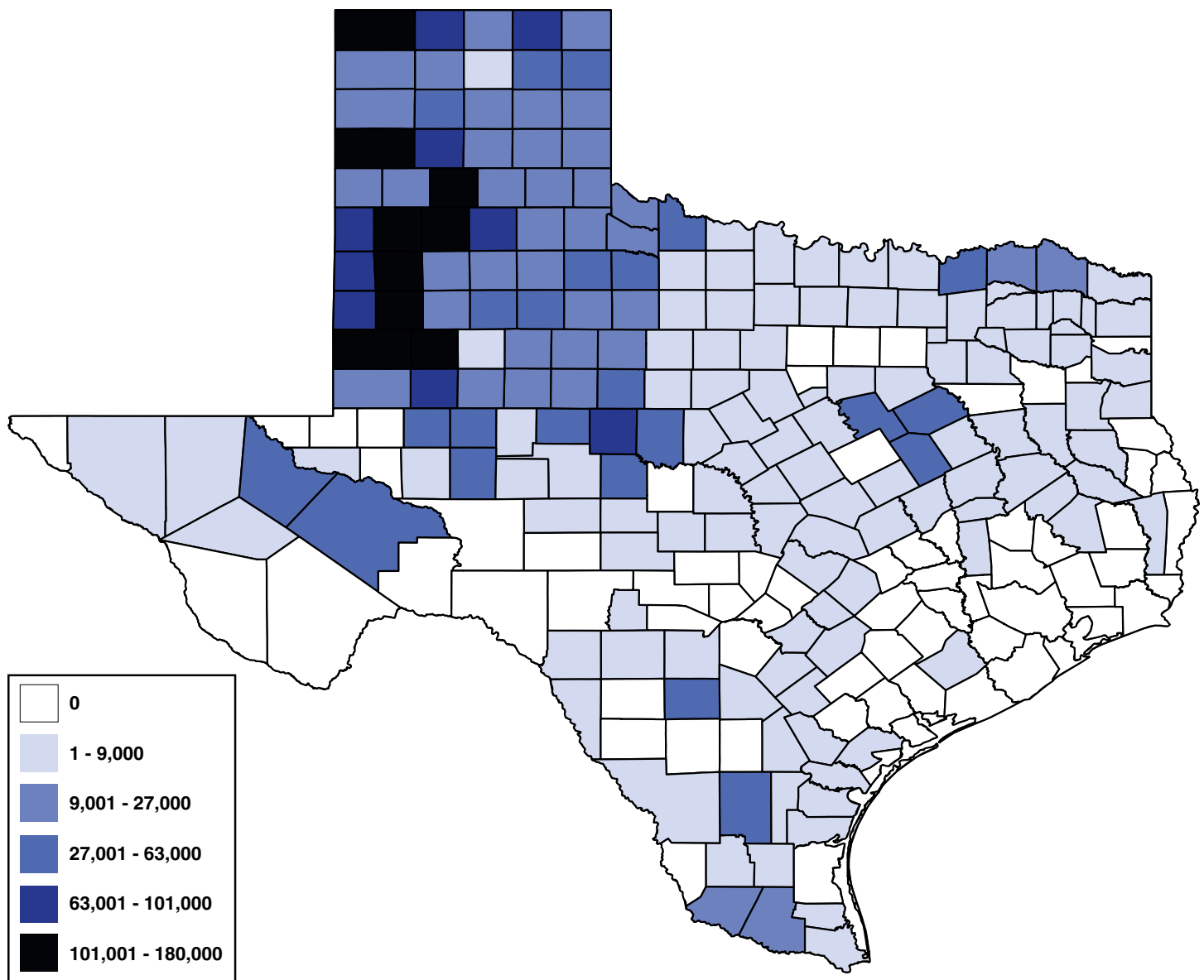


Figure 2: Texas Conservation Reserve Program Signups 13-38

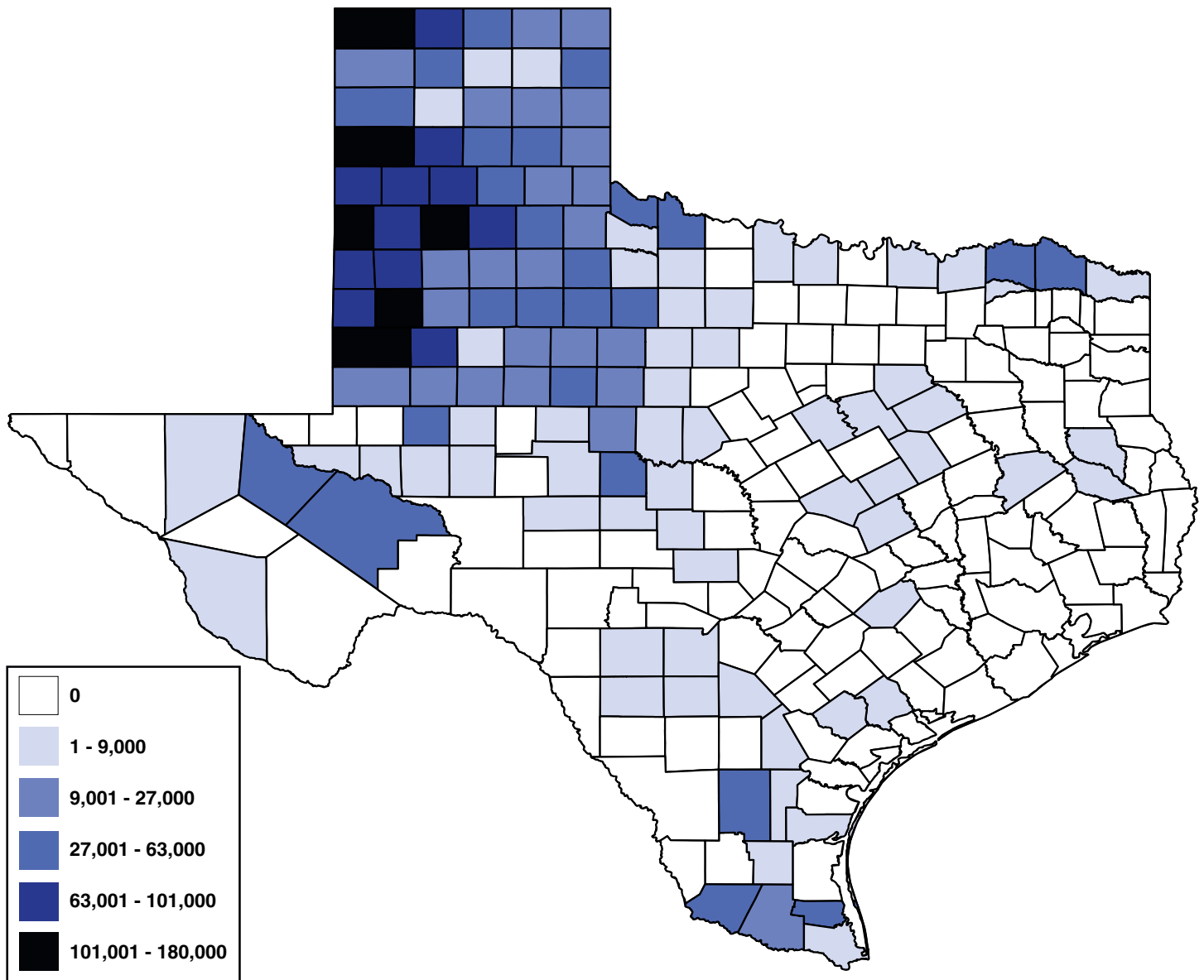


Figure 3: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2010

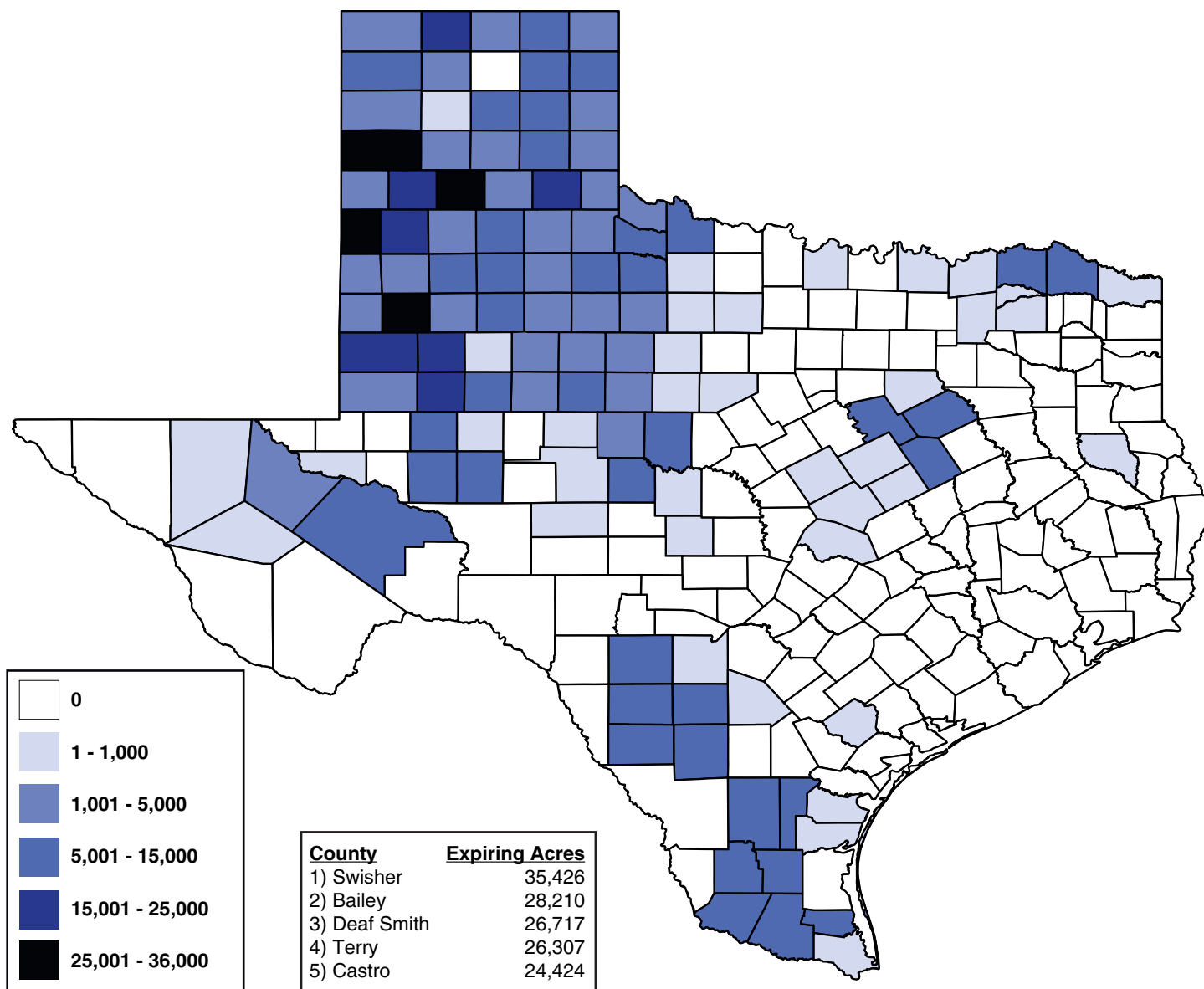


Figure 4: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2011

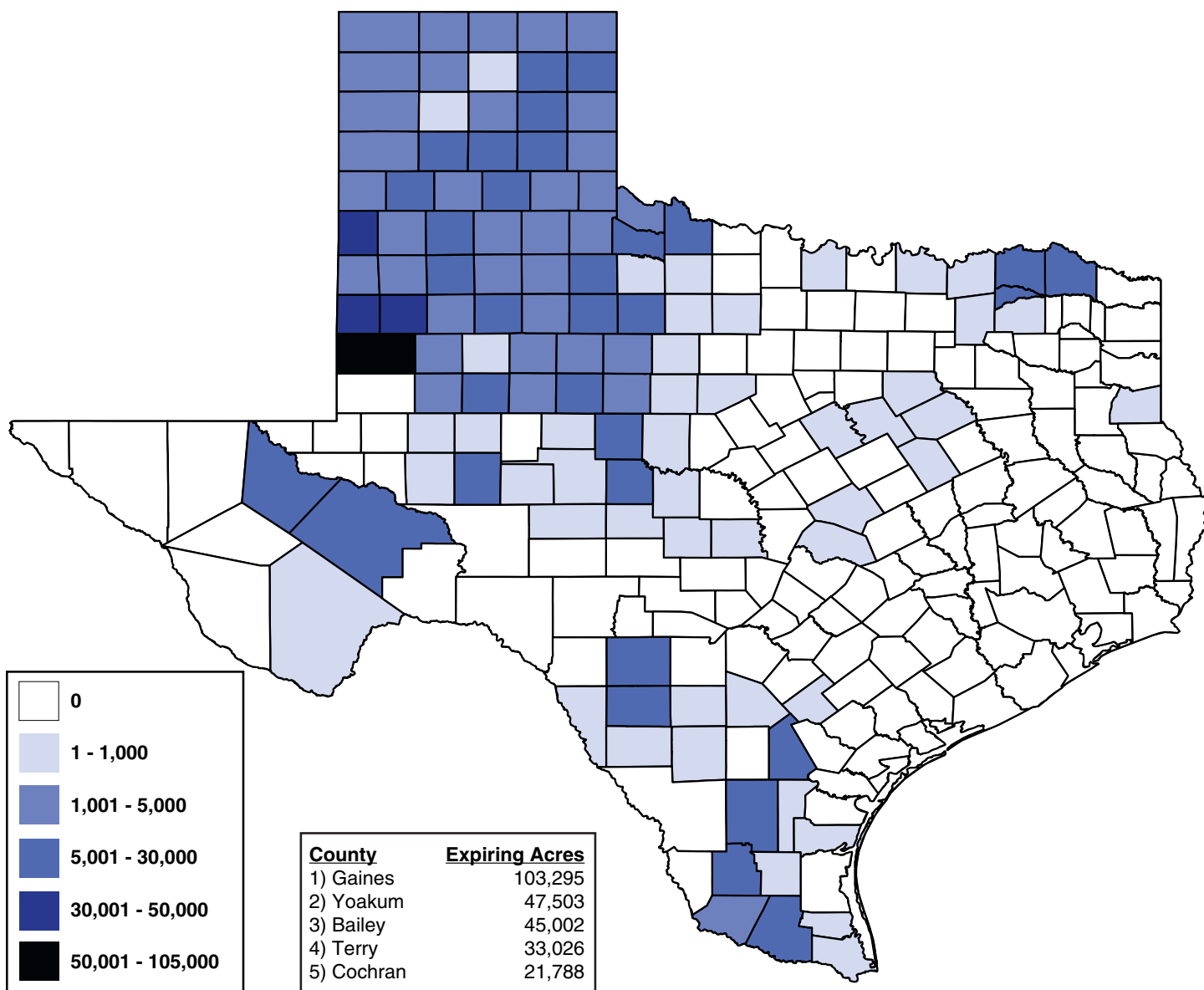


Figure 5: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2012

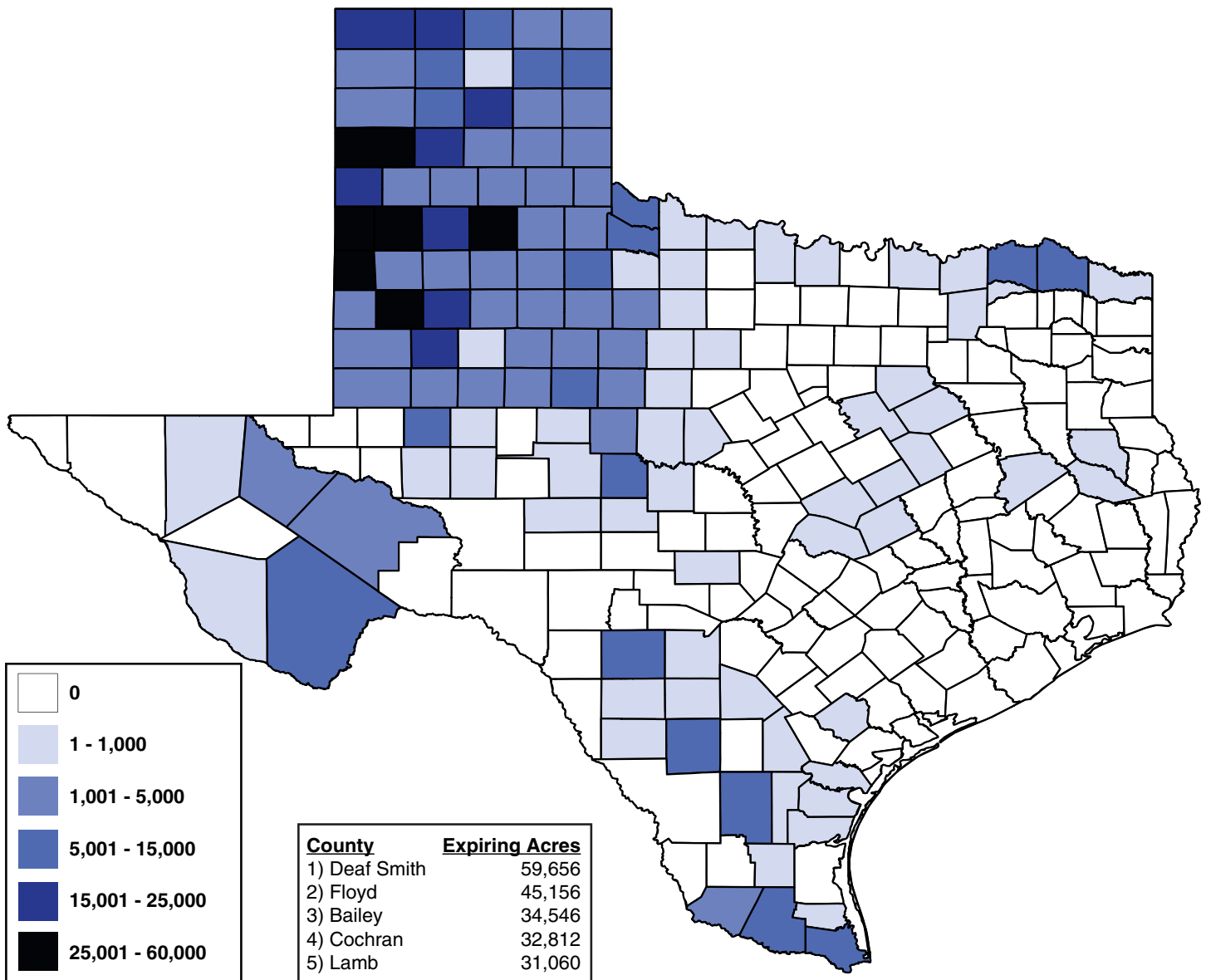


Figure 6: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2013

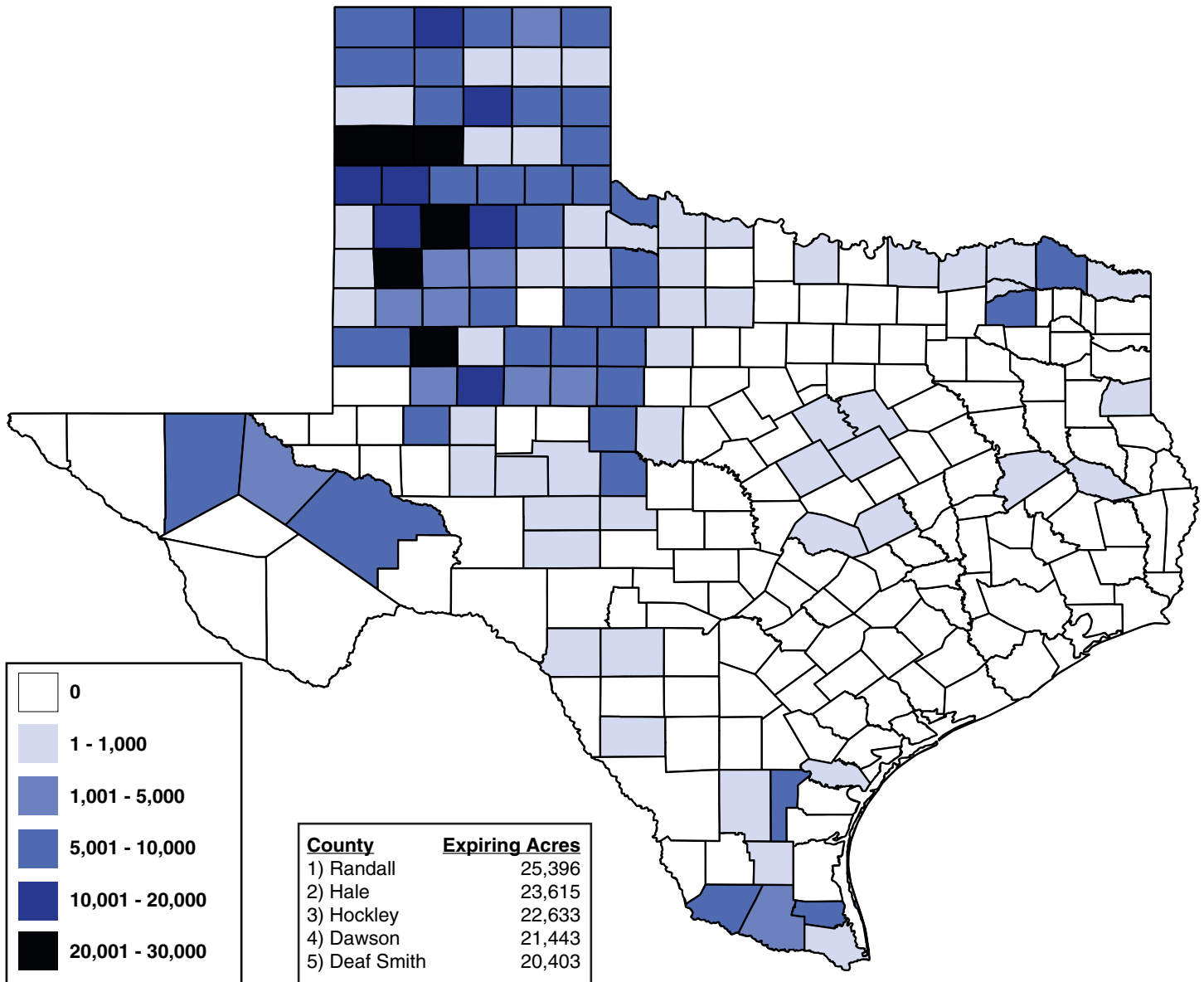


Figure 7: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2014

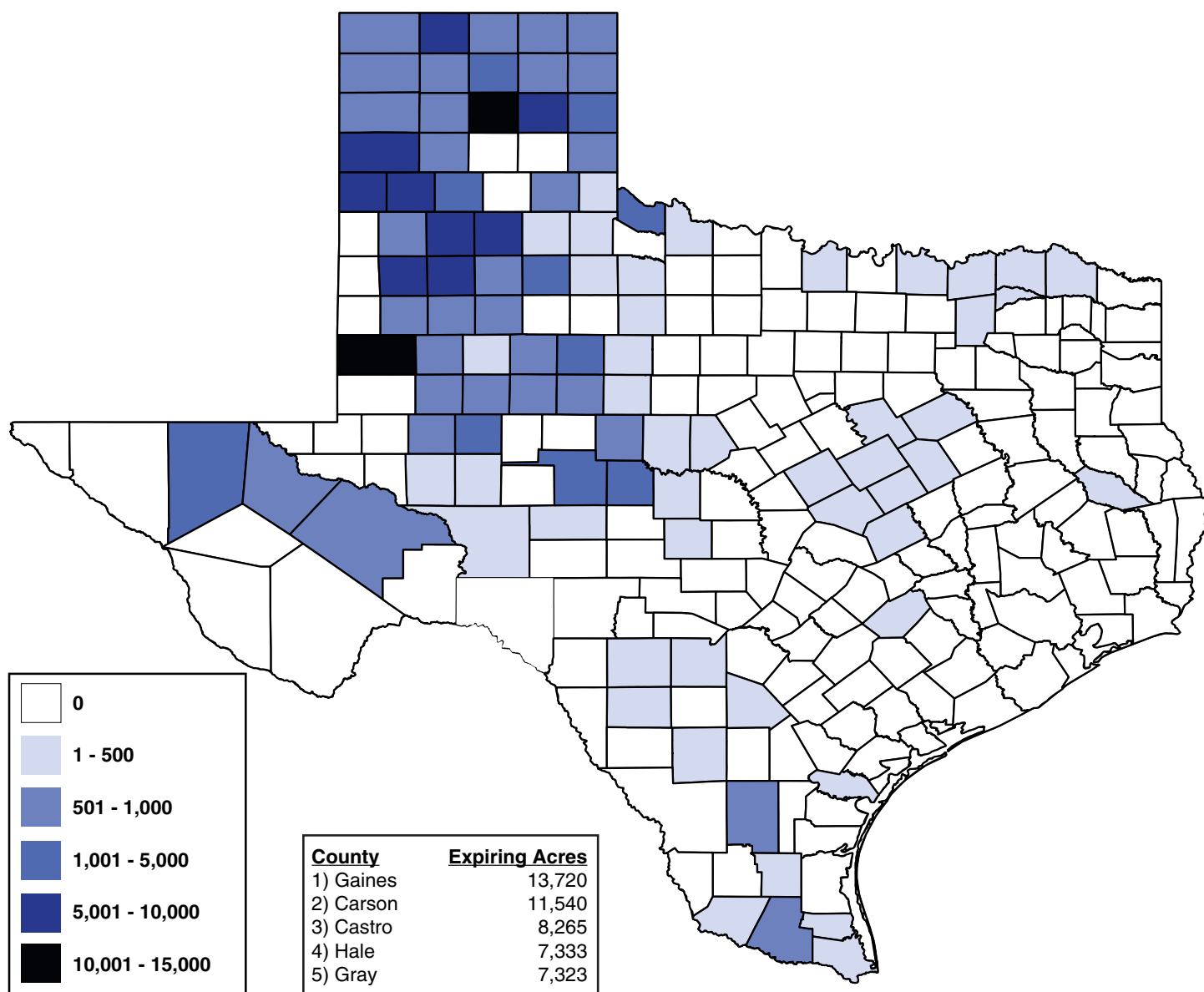


Figure 8: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2015

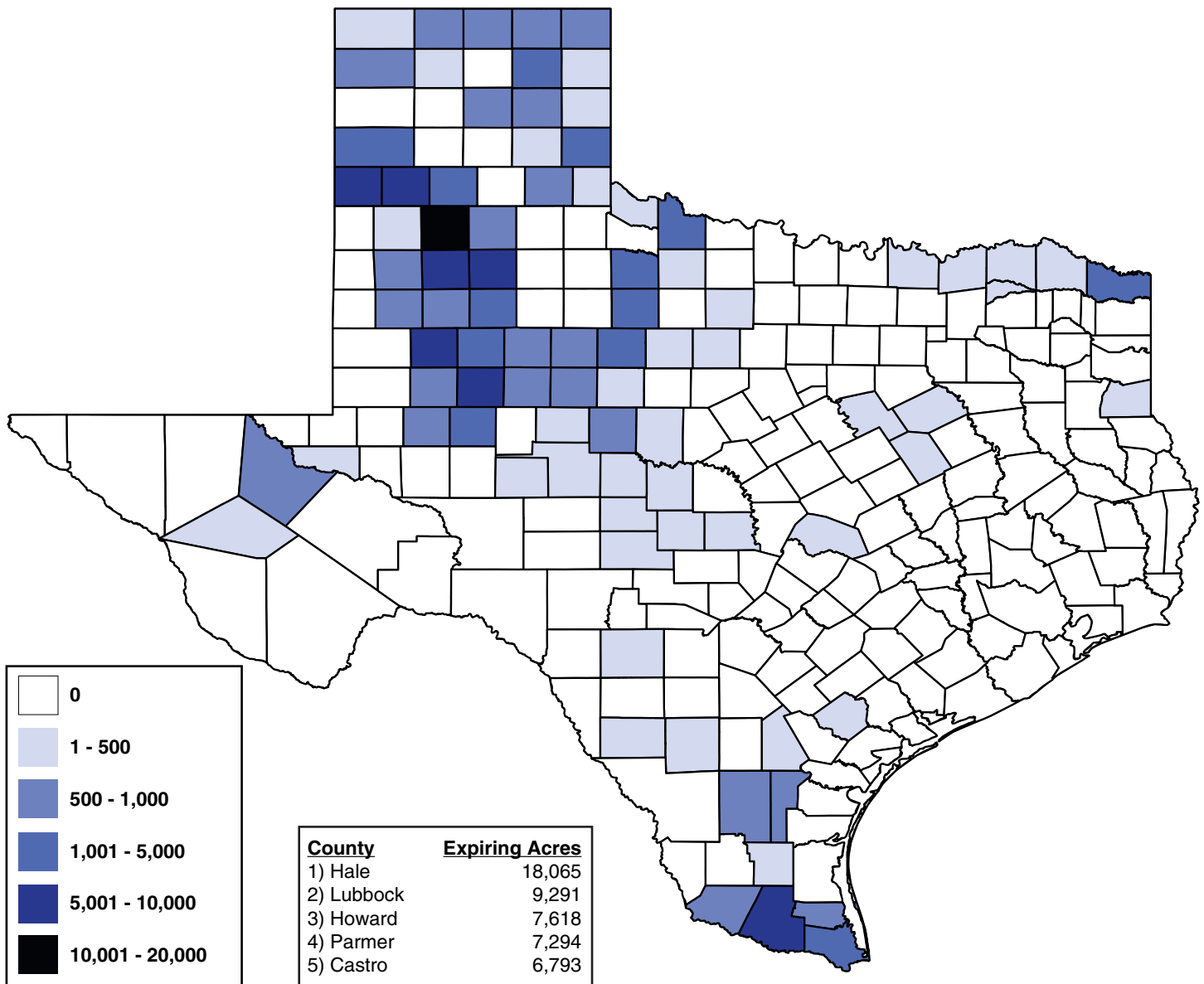


Figure 9: Top Ten Texas Counties in Acres Enrolled in CRP (Signups 13-38)

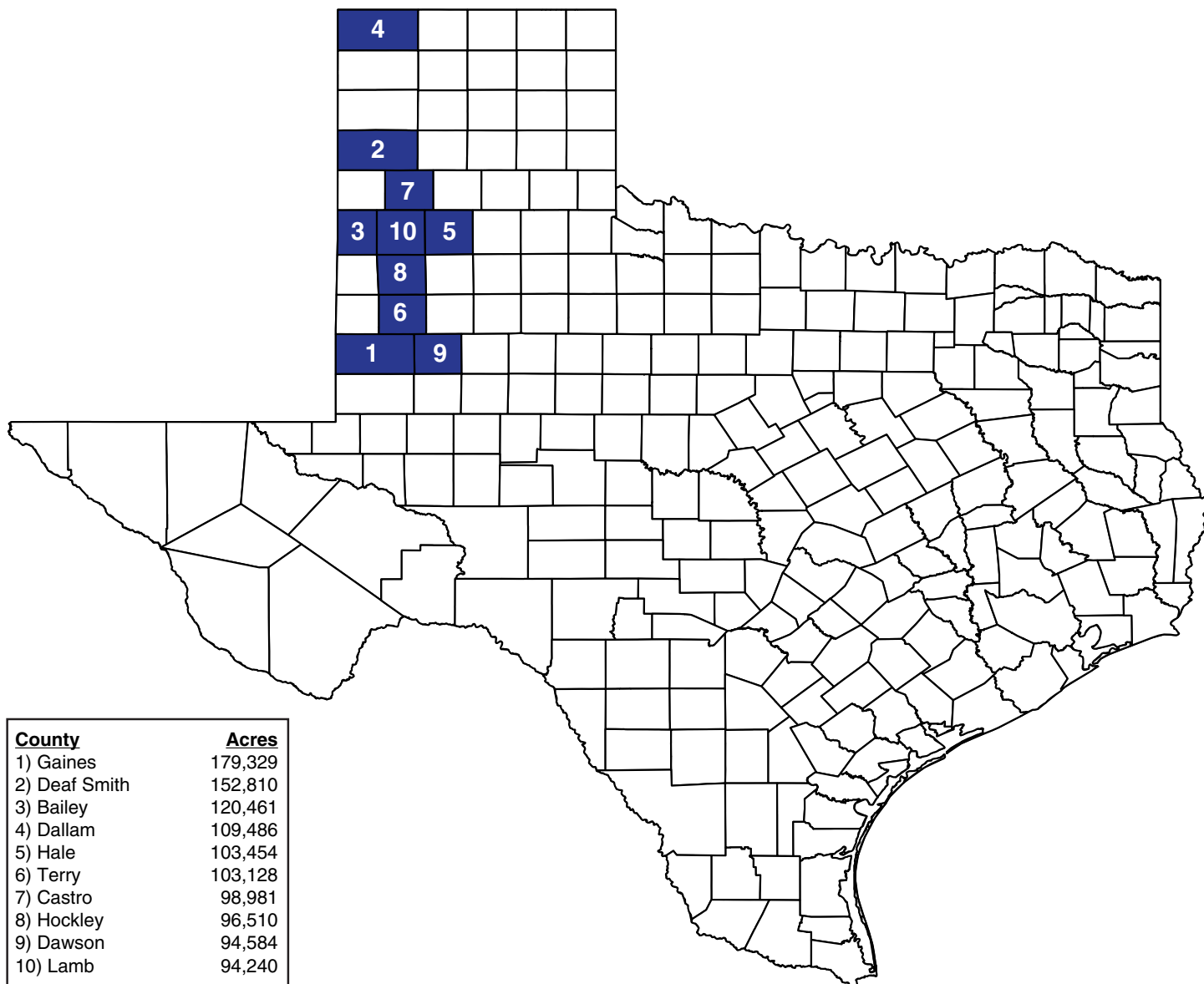


Figure 10: Top Ten Texas Counties in Number of CRP Contracts (Signups 13-38)

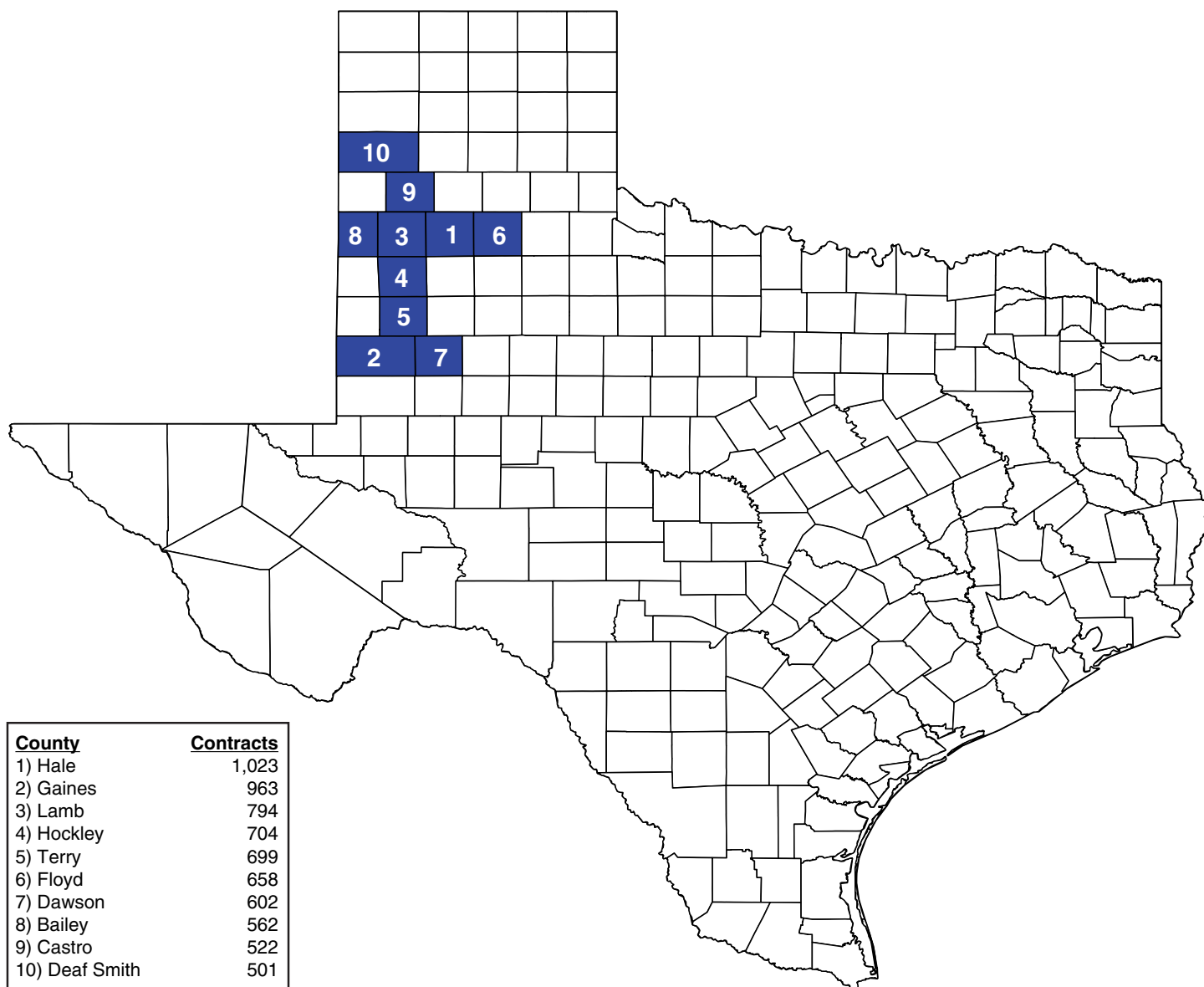


Figure 11: Top Ten Texas Counties in Average Acres per CRP Contract (Signups 13-38)

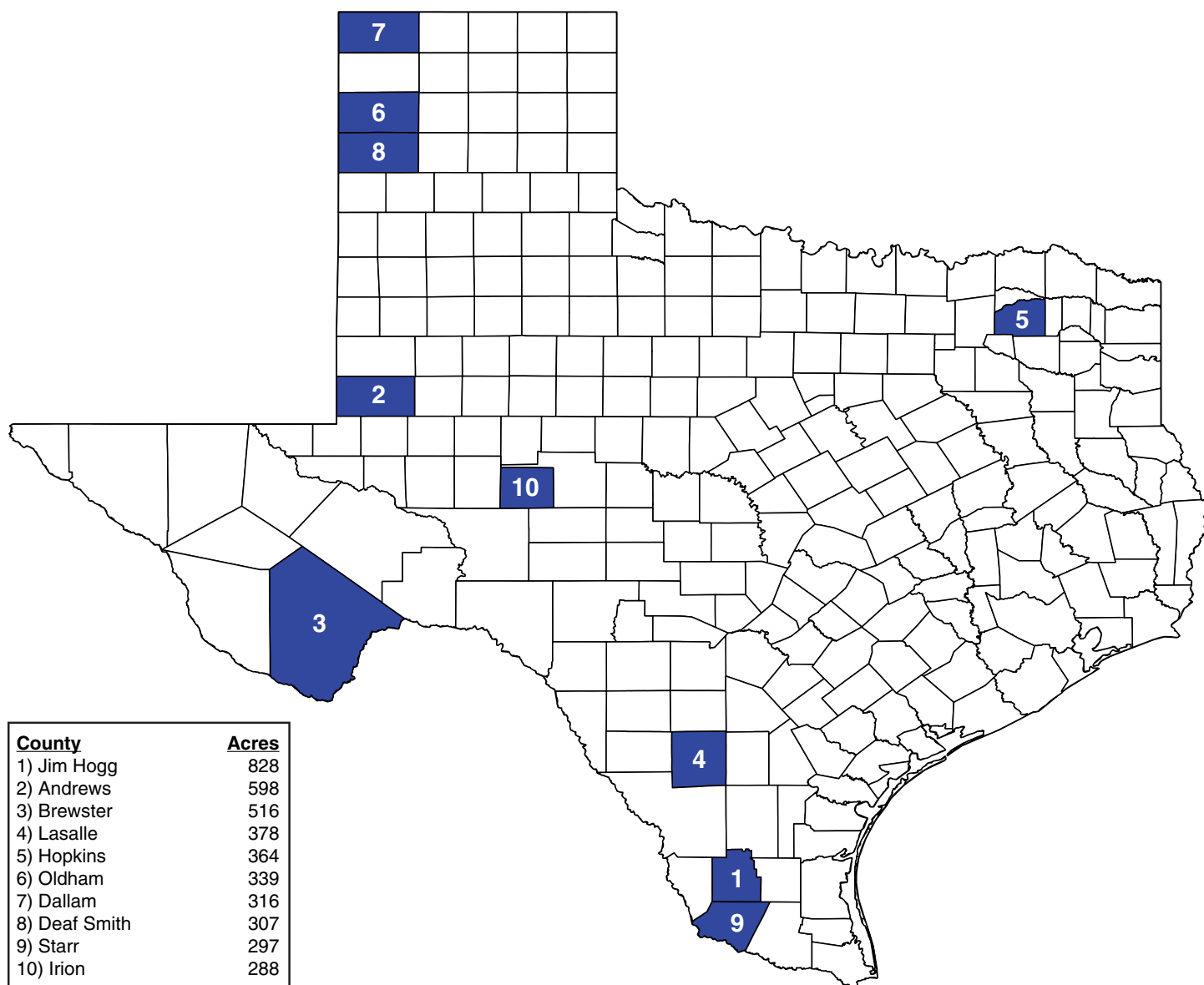


Figure 12: Top Ten Texas Counties in Average Rental per Acre Enrolled in CRP (Signups 13-38)

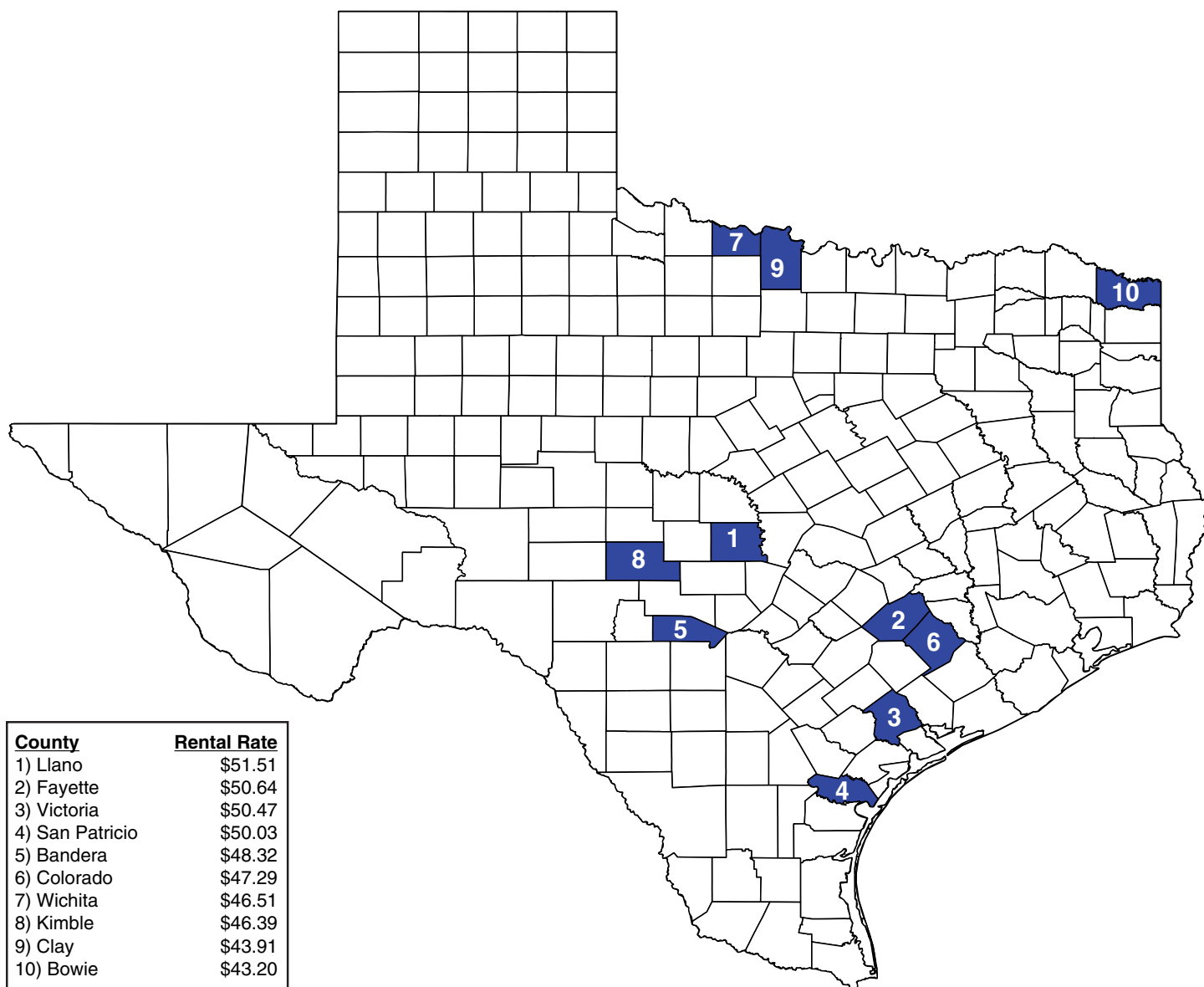


Table 1. CRP Data for Texas and Extension Districts (Signups 1-12).									
	Total Acres*	Contracts	Average Acres/Contract	Average Rental Rate	Land Class†				
					1 and 2	3	4	5 through 7	
Texas	4,138,160	19,707	210	\$39.54	695,438	2,533,753	702,565	192,764	
District 1	1,119,507	4,119	272	\$39.15	101,871	914,546	92,770	7,118	
District 2	1,614,575	7,262	222	\$39.30	178,463	927,887	423,647	80,596	
District 3	473,579	2,556	185	\$39.24	136,764	271,008	49,563	16,109	
District 4	96,191	815	118	\$39.39	39,407	34,082	14,158	7,457	
District 5	7,070	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	\$39.09	16,531	41,386	12,840	5,997	
District 9	371	4	93	\$39.82		69	302		
District 10	12,271	58	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	693	225	\$45.62	33,502	77,738	34,087	9,415	
* General signup acres only. Continuous signup did not begin until Signup 14.									
† In later signups the land class was replaced with an environmental benefits index.									

Table 2. CRP Data for Texas and Extension Districts (Signups 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 1	824,623	3,702	223	\$34.57	824,623	3,453	9
District 2	1,524,104	9,918	154	\$36.06	1,523,821	283	11
District 3	288,870	2,174	133	\$34.71	285,199	3,672	9
District 4	25,795	452	57	\$37.30	23,577	2,219	9
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	89	\$34.79	182,300	8,720	9
District 8	11,087	362	31	\$35.47	9,859	1,228	10
District 9							
District 10	5,618	89	63	\$37.99	4,068	1,550	6
District 11	849	61	14	\$46.60	0	849	2
District 12	118,041	735	161	\$36.76	116,182	1,859	10
(As of February 2010)							

Table 3. Acres of CRP for Texas and Extension Districts by Signup Period.													
	1 - 12	13	14*	15	16	17*	18	19*	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
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	8,880	3,678		7,516		2,689		172	264	426
District 5	7,071			681									
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		663		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 signup numbers													

Table 4. Acres of CRP for Texas and Extension Districts by Signup Period.														
	25*	26	27*	28*	29	30*	31*	32-REX	33	34*	35*	36*	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 1		5,519		50	11,111			112,930	9,330		2,350	772		
District 2		42,120			57,639	120		155,485	14,336				163	
District 3	618	1,761	568	230	4,053	1,241	259	5,162	2,044		585			
District 4	637			138	145	471		670					65	
District 5								1,329						
District 6		17,910	145	38	9,238		1,174	29,788	1,744		58			
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	39	
District 9														
District 10	123			718		226						84		
District 11			88	315		203	191							
District 12	284	7,785		912	10,608			7,018	12,624					

* denotes continuous signup numbers

Table 5. CRP Enrollment by Year of Contract Expiration by Extension District (All Signup Types).												
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	>2019
Texas	561,330	670,661	685,133	822,585	363,052	169,686	139,748	61,391	138,557	103,951	88,943	53,561
District 1	181,665	150,588	119,958	253,369	97,665	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	95,096	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	598	278
District 5		11	442	258	307	42	36		1,454	89		317
District 6	18,462	48,833	21,940	50,571	40,767	15,157	15,022	5,640	20,515	6,008	6,939	5,866
District 7	21,300	53,252	48,743	46,552	19,647	6,172	6,467	5,956	5,515	4,555	1,321	2,645
District 8	1,946	5,993	2,074	2,304	1,497	507	515	709	314	308	198	234
District 9												
District 10	3,899	1,762	1,335	1,882	1,097	90	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)												

Table 6. CRP Data for Texas, District 11, and District Counties (Signups 1-12).									
	Total Acres*	Contracts	Average Acres/Contract	Average Rental 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 11	22,317	145	154	\$48.55	12,558	9,152	94	513	
Aransas									
Austin									
Bee	5,889	31	190	\$40.92	548	5,341			
Calhoun									
Colorado									
Dewitt									
Fayette									
Goliad									
Jackson									
Karnes	2,751	23	120	\$37.14	1,022	1,728			
Lavaca									
Matagorda									
Nueces	6,583	53	124	\$54.35	5,027	1,462	94		
Refugio	4,780	20	239	\$54.05	4,260	7		513	
San Patricio	2,085	16	130	\$54.18	1,701	384			
Victoria									
Washington									
Wharton	230	2	115	\$49.41		230			
* General signup acres only. Continuous signup did not begin until Signup 14.									
† In later signups the land class was replaced with an environmental benefits index.									

Table 7. CRP Data for Texas, District 11, and District Counties (Signups 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 11	849	61	14	\$46.60	0	849	2
Aransas							
Austin							
Bee							
Calhoun							
Colorado							
Dewitt							
Fayette	658	36	18	\$50.64		658	1
Goliad	116	16	7	\$38.69		116	3
Jackson							
Karnes							
Lavaca							
Matagorda							
Nueces							
Refugio							
San Patricio							
Victoria	75	9	8	\$50.47		75	
Washington							
Wharton							
(As of February 2010)							

Table 8. Acres of CRP for Texas, District 11, and District Counties by Signup Period.													
	1 - 12	13	14*	15	16	17*	18	19*	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
District 11	22,318												53
Aransas													
Austin													
Bee	5,889												
Calhoun													
Colorado													
Dewitt													
Fayette													53
Goliad													
Jackson													
Karnes	2,751												
Lavaca													
Matagorda													
Nueces	6,583												
Refugio	4,780												
San Patricio	2,085												
Victoria													
Washington													
Wharton	230												
* denotes continuous signup numbers													

Table 9. Acres of CRP for Texas, District 11, and District Counties by Signup Period.														
	25*	26	27*	28*	29	30*	31*	32-REX	33	34*	35*	36*	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 11			88	315		203	191							
Aransas														
Austin														
Bee														
Calhoun														
Colorado														
Dewitt														
Fayette			88	315		203								
Goliad							116							
Jackson														
Karnes														
Lavaca														
Matagorda														
Nueces														
Refugio														
San Patricio														
Victoria							75							
Washington														
Wharton														
* denotes continuous signup numbers														

Table 10. CRP Enrollment by Year of Contract Expiration for District 11 Counties (All Signup Types).												
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	>2019
Texas	561,330	670,661	685,133	822,585	363,052	169,686	139,748	61,391	138,557	103,951	88,943	53,561
District 11	554	78	198	399	27	81	42	177	278	348	379	347
Aransas												
Austin												
Bee												
Calhoun												
Colorado								24	91	26		
Dewitt												
Fayette												
Goliad		65		84		16		59	78	273	253	191
Jackson								94	8	22	43	49
Karnes	554		198								19	31
Lavaca												
Matagorda												
Nueces		14		311					27			
Refugio												
San Patricio				3	27	66			49			
Victoria									25	27	65	75
Washington												
Wharton												
(As of February 2010)												

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