

# Texas Top Ten

**Skills:** Social Studies grades 3rd, 4th, 5th

**Objective:** Students will understand the economic importance of agriculture in Texas and be able to list the top ten crops and livestock grown by Texas farmers and ranchers.

**Background:** Texas Top Ten deals with the economic impact of Texas Agriculture. Most Texans know our ranchers herd more cattle and farmers grow more cotton than those in any other state. But, here's a few fun facts you may not know.

- 19 percent of all the agri-tourism dollars in the US flow through Texas. That's a lot of hunting, fishing, and other experiences.
- Women operate greater than 38,500 farms and ranches in Texas. That's more than the total number of farms and ranches in 28 other states.
- Texas agriculture is diverse. We've got conventional, organic, local, grain-fed, grass-fed, grains, vegetables, fruits, cattle, sheep and goats. You want it? Texas farmers and ranchers grow it.
- We're also number one in sheep and goats, farm-raised deer, and even llamas!

Source: Morning Ag Clips, Nov. 16, 2014

**Procedures:** Complete procedures are listed on the first page of the following lesson plan. Students will be completing a chart with three columns-1st guess, 2nd guess, and the correct answer.

1st guess-completed after class discussion, either alone or with a partner

2nd guess-completed after the random page is passed out

3rd guess-completed after the data page is passed out

Cattle's importance to the impact of Texas can be used to spark a discussion about Charles Goodnight for 4th grade, TEKS 4B.

The impact of such innovators as Eli Whitney, Cyrus McCormick, and John Deere can be also be discussed in relation to Texas Agriculture for 5th grade TEKS 23A. TFB's videos provide real introductions to those involved in Texas agriculture.

Texas Top Ten is adapted from National Ag in the Classroom.

## Materials:

Texas Top Ten Commodity Chart

Texas Top Ten Random Order Page

Texas Agricultural Cash Receipts by commodity

Texas Farm Bureau Videos at [www.texasfarmbureau.org](http://www.texasfarmbureau.org) via Vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/channels/txfbaitc>

## TEKS

### Third Grade

4 A&E, 7 C, 11 A, 16 B, 17 E&F

### Fourth Grade

4 B, 7 A-C, 8 C, 9 A&B, 11B, 13 C,  
20 B & C, 21 C&E

### Fifth Grade

4 C, 9 B, 12 B, 23 A



## **Introduction to Texas Agriculture Texas Top Ten**

**Objective:** Students will understand the economic importance of agriculture in Texas and be able to list the top ten crops and livestock grown by Texas farmers and ranchers.

**Procedure:** Hand out ***Texas Top Ten*** chart and read directions to students. Instruct students to work with a partner to list and rank (based on cash receipts) the top ten crops and/or livestock in the column labeled "1<sup>st</sup> Guess". After students have had an appropriate amount of time ask them to tell what they listed and in what order.

Next, hand out the ***Texas Top Ten*** sheet that shows the top ten commodities randomly pictured on the page. Now instruct the students to rank those based on cash receipts, in the column marked "2<sup>nd</sup> Guess". Compare the two columns and discuss the differences.

Next, either have students write the correct answers in the last column as the teacher reads off the ***Texas Agricultural Cash Receipts by Commodity***, or hand out a copy of the sheet to each student and have them read the table and write the correct answers.

Discuss how farmers and ranchers make their living by selling agricultural commodities they raise on their farm or ranch. Those commodities are then processed and shipped to a grocery store or other retail outlet where we purchase them as food, clothing and other products we use every day.

**Material:** Texas Top Ten Commodity Chart  
Texas Top Ten Random Order Page  
Texas Agricultural Cash Receipts by Commodity

# Texas Top Ten

Texas farmers grow a wide variety of agricultural commodities. Let's see how many of them you know! Try to list the top ten agricultural commodities (ranked by cash receipts). They may be crops (plants) or livestock (animals).



Texas Top Ten Commodities			
Rank	1 <sup>st</sup> guess	2 <sup>nd</sup> guess	Correct answer
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

(When making your 2<sup>nd</sup> guess, keep in mind 2 commodities tied for 10<sup>th</sup> place)

Texas Farm Bureau's Educational Outreach  
Agriculture in the Classroom  
[www.texasfarmbureau.org](http://www.texasfarmbureau.org)

# Texas Top Ten

Wheat



Broilers



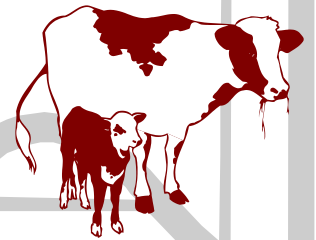
Forestry



Eggs



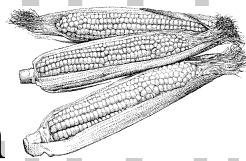
Cattle and Calves



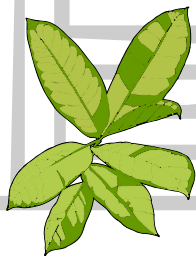
Cotton/Lint and Seed



Corn



Grain Sorghum



Greenhouse and Nursery



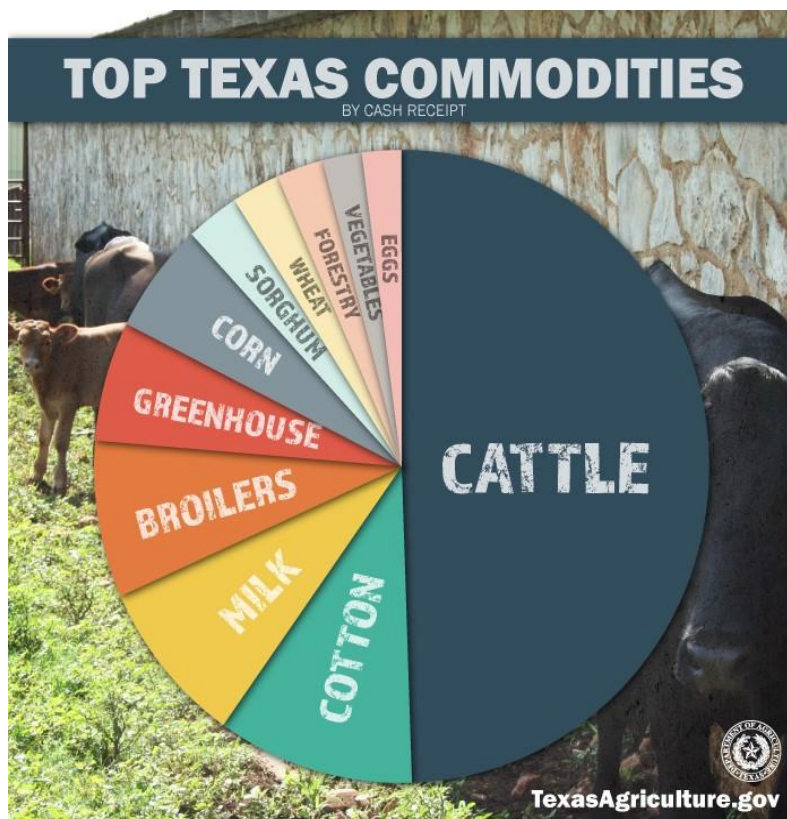
Vegetables



Dairy Products



# Texas Ag Stats



Top 10 commodities in terms of cash receipts:

- Cattle, \$10.5 billion
- Cotton, \$2.2 billion
- Milk, \$1.8 billion
- Broilers, \$1.7 billion
- Greenhouse & nursery, \$1.3 billion
- Corn, \$1.2 billion
- Grain Sorghum, \$594 million
- Wheat, \$538 million
- Forestry, \$520 million
- Vegetables, \$439 million
- Eggs, \$439 million (Vegetables and Eggs tied for 10<sup>th</sup> place)

<https://www.texasagriculture.gov/About/TexasAgStats.aspx>