

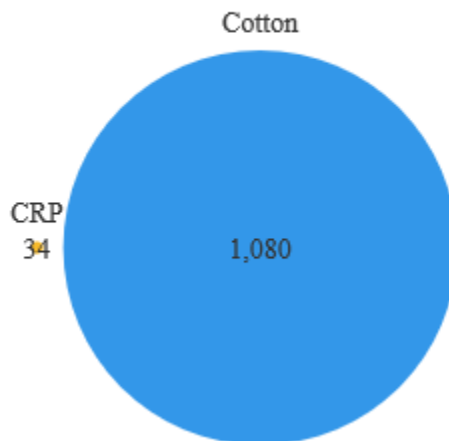


CRP in Dawson County, Texas

In Dawson County, Texas, cotton farming alone contributed more than [\\$352 million](#) to the local economy in 2015. The majority of that economic activity – about \$214 million -- came from the inputs and services that contribute to cotton production, including seed, fertilizer, labor, fuel, repairs and land rent.

The 92,600 acres enrolled in the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contributed about [\\$3 million](#) to the county's economy that year. The government paid \$34 for an acre in CRP in 2015, but an acre planted to cotton had the potential to generate \$1,080 of economic activity (including expenses and revenue).

Comparison of Dawson County TX Direct Economic Activity for CRP vs. Cotton (\$/Acre)



Even though CRP acres contribute far less to the local economy, in 2016, CRP claimed the second largest chunk of land use in the county.

Landowners find that signing a CRP rental contract with the USDA is far more personally profitable than renting that land out to a farmer. The government's [CRP rental rates](#) consistently trump the local cash rental rates. In 2010, the county's local rate per acre was \$28, while the government's CRP rate was \$35.

NGFA has recommended that USDA target less productive soils and smaller tracts for CRP enrollment to help alleviate the perceived need for high CRP rental rates; landowners are more likely to accept lower CRP rental rates on the least productive portions of their farms.

The NGFA advocates for conservation practices that improve the resources needed for an agricultural economy to thrive – principally, soil and water. However, none of the CRP acres in Dawson County are maintained with practices meant to directly improve soil and water quality.

In 2016, all [92,900 acres](#) of CRP land in the county were idled primarily for wildlife habitat.



While restoring wildlife habitat is an important aspect of conservation, there are already several USDA programs assisting the practice, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Moreover, Dawson County already dedicates more than 70,600 acres to native grassland.

If CRP operated as a program that truly targeted the most environmentally sensitive land, Dawson County would be allowed to more fully reap the economic benefits of its productive farmland while also conserving natural resources.

View more information about the NGFA and CRP at <http://www.ngfa.org/farm-bill/>

***Information last updated January 25, 2017**

Dawson County TX Land Use in 2016 (In Acres)

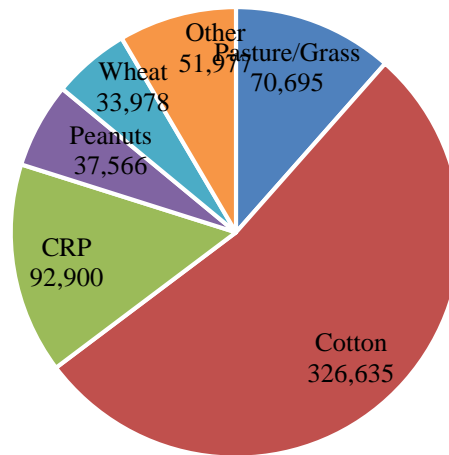


Table 1: Dawson County Texas: Population, CRP Acres, CRP Rents, and Cash Rents

Year	Population 1/	CRP Acres 2/	Avg. Gov't Paid CRP Rental Rate 2/	Avg. Farmer-Paid Cash Rental Rate 3/
1980	16,184	0	NA	NA
1990	14,349	100,570	\$39.95	NA
2000	14,985	95,612	\$35.22	NA
2010	13,833	90,887	\$35.07	\$28.00
2015	13,520	92,603	\$33.65	NA
2016		92,900	NA	\$28.50

1/ Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

2/ Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.

3/ Source: USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This is the average rate paid by farmers to rent non-irrigated cropland.



Table 2: Dawson County Texas CRP Practices in 2016

Primary Focus on Soil Erosion & Water Quality	Acres
None	0
Subtotal	0
Primary Focus on Wildlife or Other	Acres
CP1 Introduced Grass and Legume Establishment	21,463
CP2 Native Grass, Forb and Legume Establishment	49,220
CP10 Veg Cover, Grass Already Est	18,895
CP12 Wildlife Food Plot	152
CP38E State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Grass	3,159
CP42 Pollinator Habitat	11
Subtotal	92,900
Total	92,900

Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.

Table 3: Dawson County Texas Top CRP Payment Recipients in 2014

Rank	Residence of CRP Payment Recipient	CRP Payment
1	Local	\$94,676
2	Local	\$48,481
3	Local	\$48,283
4	Non-local	\$47,182
5	Local	\$47,022
6	Non-local	\$45,908
7	Local	\$44,448
8	Local	\$42,213
9	Local	\$38,576
10	Local	\$37,885



Table 4: Dawson County Texas Direct Economic Activity for Cotton in 2015

Item	Per Acre of Cotton 1/	Cotton Acres in Dawson County 2/	Direct Economic Activity for Cotton
Cotton	\$322.56		
Cottonseed	\$102.41		
Total Value of Production	\$424.97	326,635	\$138,810,246
Seed	\$81.49		
Fertilizer	\$50.92		
Chemicals	\$43.75		
Custom operations	\$16.39		
Fuel, lube, and electricity	\$42.53		
Repairs	\$35.33		
Ginning	\$111.32		
Interest on operating inputs	\$0.32		
Hired labor	\$13.64		
Opportunity cost of unpaid labor	\$33.38		
Capital recovery of machinery and equipment	\$147.60		
Opportunity cost of land (rental rate)	\$56.76		
Taxes and insurance	\$8.48		
General farm overhead	\$13.56		
Total Cost	\$655.47	326,635	\$214,099,706
Total Value of Production and Cost	\$1,080.44	326,635	\$352,909,952

1/ Source: USDA's Economic Research Service.

2/ Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.

Table 5: Dawson County Texas Direct Economic Activity for CRP in 2015

Item	Per Acre 1/	CRP Acres 1/	Direct Economic Activity
CRP Payments	\$33.65	92,603	\$3,116,115

Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.