

Preliminary Estimates of Agricultural Fire Losses, Jan. 1- May 17, 2011

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- The fires during the January 1 – May 17, 2011 have caused an estimated \$51.3 million in agricultural financial losses. Losses include destroyed fences and agricultural buildings, lost value of grazing, and lost livestock.
- These updated estimates continue to be considered preliminary due to ongoing fires.
- Damage to ranch and industry infrastructure represent the largest portion of fire costs. This infrastructure includes fences and agricultural buildings. Almost 3500 miles of fence are estimated to have been destroyed. A recent survey by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service reported 4-6 wire fences with steel posts costing an average of \$10,000 per mile to build.
- Lost grazing for the year is the second largest financial loss category. Almost 2 million acres of grasslands have burned during the period covered by this report.
- Livestock losses are estimated using market values. Livestock losses are expected to be an underestimate due to later death loss from injuries incurred from the fires. More than 800 cattle, horses, sheep, and goats have been reported killed by this spring's fires.