

A cooperative is a user owned and controlled business from which benefits are distributed on the basis of use.

Texas is home to more than 200 cooperatives that provide needed goods and services for rural Texans and improve the overall vitality of their communities.

A cooperative allows agricultural producers to reduce costs, to secure market access, and to enjoy a competitive marketplace.

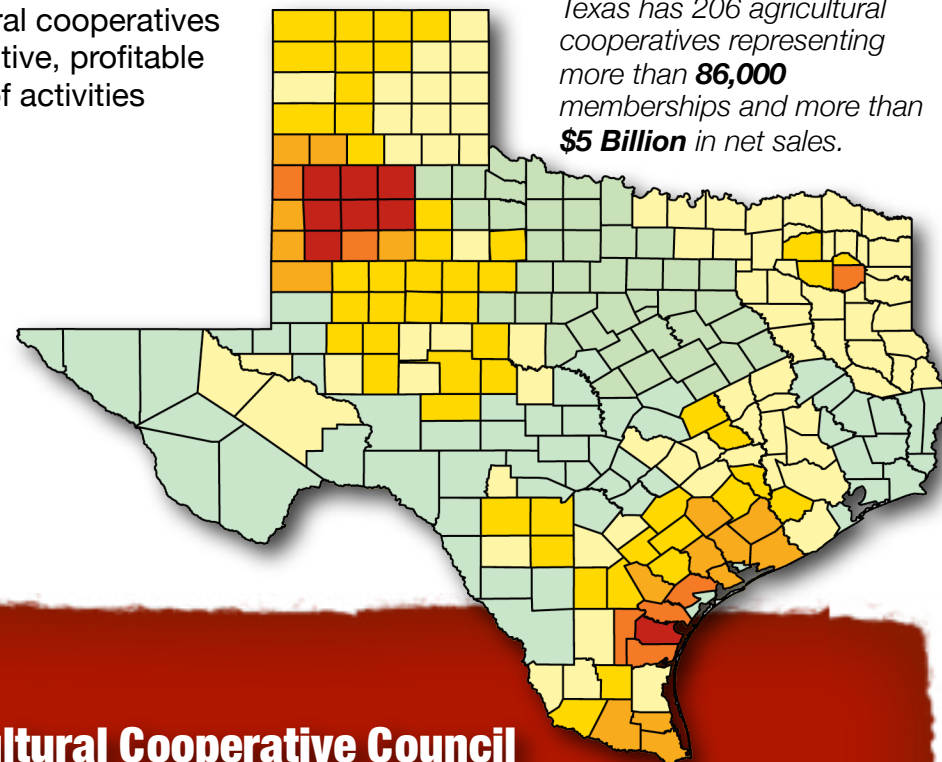
## Agricultural Cooperatives Across Texas

Located mainly around Lubbock and Corpus Christi, agricultural cooperatives in Texas provide competitive, profitable business in a multitude of activities including:

- Cotton ginning,
- Cotton warehousing,
- Cotton marketing,
- Oilseed processing,
- Grain marketing,
- Feed and farm supply,
- Home garden centers,
- Fruit processing and marketing,
- Fuel and biofuels,

...and much more.

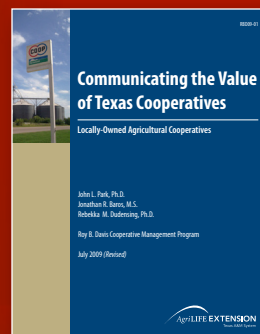
Cooperative presence by county



*Texas has 206 agricultural cooperatives representing more than **86,000** memberships and more than **\$5 Billion** in net sales.*

## Case Study: The Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

A recent study by Texas AgriLife Extension evaluated the economic contribution of a subset of cooperatives that are members of the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council. The study demonstrated the importance of locally owned agricultural cooperatives to the rural Texas economy. It was found that these cooperatives served an area larger than the state of Montana, and served communities whose populations amount to **1 out of every 3 Texans**.



The study estimated that these businesses contributed to **\$826 Million** of the Texas GDP and more than **20,000 jobs** in the Texas economy. Furthermore, because of the cooperative structure of these businesses, their contribution to household incomes was **83% higher** than if they were structured as traditional corporations.

## Cooperatives are Important to Texas

Recent estimates from the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council indicate the value of Texas cooperatives.

Employees	7,500
Employee Compensation	\$250 Million
Total Sales	\$5 Billion
Annual Bales of Cotton Ginned	3.2 Million
Annual Bushels of Grain handled	90 Million

## Cooperation is an Investment in Texas

Many Texas cooperatives report that they are investing in their communities as the leading property tax paying entity within their county.

In addition, cooperative businesses distribute their profits to their **member-owners**. This means that the local money spent at the cooperative **stays local**. Support of cooperative business is a great investment in the rural Texas economy.



Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Roy B. Davis Cooperative Management Program

2124 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-2124

(979) 845-1751  
<http://cooperatives.tamu.edu>

Photo: Krystle Fleming, <http://www.sxc.hu/profile/KFleming>

# TEXANS IMPROVING TEXAS!

## THROUGH AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION



February 2011

John L. Park  
Rebekka M. Dudensing  
Matthew P. Murch