Texas

Farms Under Threat: The State of the States mapped agricultural land conversion and evaluated state policy responses. The spatial analysis identified the extent, diversity, and quality of each state's agricultural land—and where this land has been converted to both urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) land uses.

AGRICULTURAL LAND CONVERSION 2001-2016
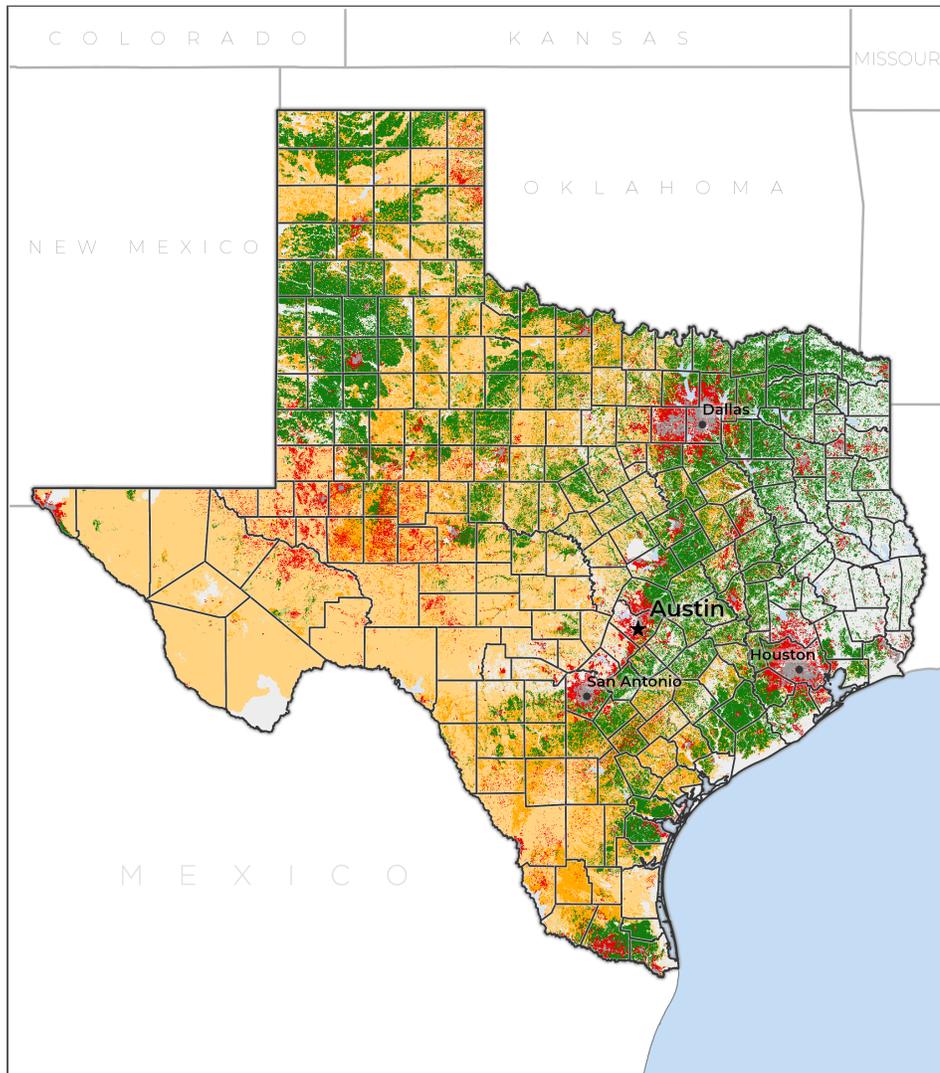
Conversion of non-federal farmland and rangeland to UHD and LDR land uses from 2001-2016. The threat to working farms and ranches is pervasive, often claiming the most productive, versatile, and resilient lands.

Legend:
- Conversion of agricultural land to UHD and LDR land uses
- Above state median PVR*
- Below state median PVR
- Farmland** / Rangeland
- Urban areas
- Federal, forest, and other lands

RELATIVE CONVERSION THREAT

HIGH

Texas scored among the top states for the conversion of agricultural land to urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) uses.

RELATIVE POLICY RESPONSE

LOW

Texas scored among the lowest states for policies and programs that protect agricultural land from development, promote farm viability, and facilitate the transfer of agricultural land.

HOW IS THIS STATE DOING?

POLICY RESPONSE (High / Medium / Low)
CONVERSION THREAT (Low / Medium / High)
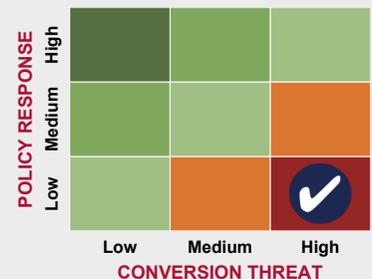
Texas is in a red box because its conversion threat is higher than its policy response, relative to other states. Learn more at www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat

*Our productivity, versatility, and resiliency (PVR) index helps identify high-quality agricultural land (see page 2).

**Farmland is composed of cropland, pastureland, and woodland associated with farms.

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DEVELOPMENT THREATENS TEXAS' AGRICULTURAL LAND

From 2001-2016, 1,373,300 acres of agricultural land were developed or compromised.

Texas' farmland and ranchland was converted to:

- **Urban and highly developed (UHD)** land use, including commercial, industrial, and moderate-to-high-density residential areas.
- **Low-density residential (LDR)** land use, where scattered large lot development fragments the agricultural land base and limits production, marketing, and management options for the working farms and ranches that remain.

LDR PAVES THE WAY FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Agricultural land in LDR areas in 2001 was

30 **TIMES MORE LIKELY**

to be converted to UHD by 2016, compared to other agricultural land.

692,300 acres

50%
of conversion was to UHD

681,000 acres

50%
of conversion was to LDR

CONVERSION AFFECTED ALL TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND
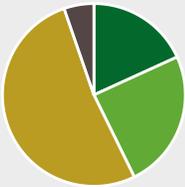
CROPLAND:	**249,700 acres**
PASTURELAND:	**336,900 acres**
RANGELAND:	**714,200 acres**
WOODLAND:	**72,500 acres**

TEXAS' BEST AGRICULTURAL LAND IS UNDER THREAT

We used our unique **PVR index**, which quantifies the productivity, versatility, and resiliency of agricultural land, to identify:

1. **Texas' best land**, which has PVR values above the state median, and
2. **Nationally Significant land**, which is the country's best land for long-term production of food and other crops. **25%** of Texas' agricultural land, or **33,398,300 acres**, falls in this category.*

Protecting high-PVR land is critical for the long-term sustainability of agriculture, yet from 2001-2016:

- **912,000 acres** of Texas' best land were converted to UHD and LDR uses.

- Texas' best land was **99% more likely** to be converted than other agricultural land.

- **554,600 acres** of Texas' Nationally Significant land were converted.

*These two categories overlap and the same land may be included in both.

What's at stake?

- **131,775,200 acres of agricultural land remain[1]**

CROPLAND:	**22,804,800 acres**
PASTURELAND:	**17,765,000 acres**
RANGELAND:	**88,815,800 acres**
WOODLAND:	**2,389,600 acres**

- **$24.9 billion earned from cash receipts in 2017[2]**
  - $267.0 million from local food[3]
  - $7.2 billion from agricultural exports[4]

- **1,373,300 acres were converted—enough land to generate $260 million in annual revenue[2]**

- **Texas' top 3 agricultural products:[2]**
  - Cattle $12.3 billion
  - Poultry and Eggs $3.0 billion
  - Cotton $2.6 billion

- **412,600 producers and 149,200 farm laborers on 248,400 farms[2]**

- **6 times as many producers over 65 as under 35 years old[2]**

1. Farms Under Threat 2016
2. National Agricultural Statistics Service 2017
3. Sold directly to consumer and intermediate outlets, NASS 2017
4. Economic Research Service 2017

FARMS UNDER THREAT

Farms Under Threat is American Farmland Trust's multi-year initiative to document the status of and threats to U.S. farmland and ranchland and to identify policy solutions to ensure the protection and conservation of America's diverse agricultural landscape. For more information about AFT, visit www.farmland.org. If you have any questions about the analysis methods or would like access to data, please contact AFT's Farmland Information Center: www.farmlandinfo.org or (800) 370-4879.

Explore our interactive maps at www.farmland.org/ farmsunderthreat