

# Texas Parks Department Gives A Report On Hunting In The State

**By Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

Texas has always been a state that was known for good hunting, whether it is deer, waterfowl, or quail.

Previous surveys show some very interesting and important facts about hunters and hunting in Texas.

Most probably think that hunting is mainly for rural folks, while many rural folks do hunt, over 70 percent of the hunters in Texas now reside in metropolitan areas.

Residents of Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, San Antonio, Austin, and San Marcos account for 47 percent of the hunters in Texas.

These same urban areas account for 59 percent of the population.

85 percent of hunters fall into the classification of white/ non-Hispanic (this same group comprises 53 percent of the population) and 93 percent of hunters are males.

According to a 2001 survey, hunting is one of the least participated in outdoor recreational activities among the general population of Texas.

As for types of hunting participation, 77 percent of surveyed hunters hunted whitetail deer, 38 percent hunted dove, 1 percent rabbits, 4 percent squirrel, and 5 percent Rio Grande turkey.

Frequency of hunting varied among hunting type.

While just a small percentage hunted squirrel and turkey, the individuals were committed.

Both squirrel and RG turkey hunters averaged 20 days a year hunting while whitetail deer hunters averaged 15.

Surprisingly, feral hog hunters averaged 19 days a field.

Additionally, 87 percent of hunters used private lands and 21 percent had hunted on Texas Parks and Wildlife properties such as Wildlife Management Areas or dove lease areas.

The 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-

Associated Recreation which is conducted periodically by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows just how important hunting is to the Texas economy.

Even though hunting may be one of the least participated outdoor recreation activities among the general population, it is a tremendous business.

The survey (which is a snapshot of 2006 only) indicated that Texas had 1.1 million hunters and spent over 14 million dollars hunting.

Total expenditures were over 2.2 billion dollars.

Even though both of these surveys show some interesting numbers and the importance of hunting to Texas, there are concerns about the future of hunting in Texas.

As previously stated, 85 percent of the hunters are white and 93 percent of the hunters are males.

And the average age of hunters is gradually increasing to about 45 years of age.

So what is the worry?

The answer is recruitment and retention.

It seems that the youth of today are not as involved in hunting as they were 20-30 years ago.

This can probably be blamed on many different issues, not just one.

Some issues include the disconnect between youth and access to property (most of us remember as kids going to grandparents farms, etc, for many this is no longer the case).

Cost may be an issue, many folks feel that cost have gotten out of reach and can no longer participate.

Other activities come into play, now day's youth (four - 18 years) can participate in just about any sport or function throughout the year, thus limiting time.

What is the solution?

Once again there is not just one.

Some future articles will address possible solutions.

Texas Parks and Wildlife has created special youth seasons for various species, chance are

youth seasons will be expanded in the future to hopefully increase opportunity.

Additionally, TPWD owns and leases property for different types of hunting.

Whether it is drawn hunts for deer or dove hunting on leased property.

Hopefully this will ease some of the burdens of 'not enough property or no access'.

And lastly, it is up to you as a hunter to recruit and mentor the next generation of hunters.

Take head to the saying, 'if you don't use it, you will lose it'.





## EAGLE LAKE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1969 40TH REUNION

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009

**E-MAIL GARDNER SEAHOLM**  
**Drgas@earthlink.net**

**OR ROBERT LOCKLIER:**  
**robertlocklier@yahoo.com**

**FOR DETAILS**

## Texas Crop Weather Report

The Texas Field Office released the following report regarding Texas agriculture for the week of August 10 to 16.

**Agricultural Summary**  
 The Plains observed up to 6 inches of rainfall while the Trans-Pecos and Upper Coast observed up to 3 inches of rainfall.

The central and southern parts of the state received a trace to 2 inches of moisture.

Producers prepared to plant wheat and oat fields in the northern part of the state.

Corn progressed well in the Northern High Plains.

Sorghum continued to mature in the Northern Low Plains.

Cotton was blooming and setting bolls in the Plains.

Grain Sorghum suffered due to the hot, dry condition in the Southern Low Plains.

Grain sorghum and soybeans neared harvest while corn harvest was active in the Blacklands.

Corn harvest was active in North East Texas.

Cotton bolls were beginning to open, producers began to cultivate fields in preparation for wheat and oat planting, and peanuts continued to be irrigated in South Texas.

Supplemental feeding of livestock was ongoing across most of the state.

Recent rainfall improved range and pasture conditions in the northern and central part of the state.

Topsoil moisture was mostly very short to adequate across the state.

**Small Grains**  
 Producers prepared to plant wheat and oat fields in the northern part of the state.

Producers began to cultivate fields in preparation for wheat and oat planting in South Texas, however, soil moisture was needed.

**Cotton**  
 In the Northern High Plains, cotton progressed well; however, the crop was in need of heat units.

Cotton was setting bolls in the Plains and bolls were beginning to open in South Texas.

In the Trans-Pecos, cotton progressed well.

In the Edwards Plateau hot and dry conditions caused cotton to suffer.

Cotton condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

**Corn**  
 Corn progressed well in the Northern High Plains due to light insect activity and recent rainfall.

Armyworms caused stress on corn in the Northern Low Plains.

Corn harvest was active in the Blacklands and North East Texas.

Corn condition was mostly very poor to good statewide.

**Sorghum**  
 Grain sorghum progressed well due to the recent rainfall in parts of the Northern High Plains.

Grain Sorghum suffered due to the hot, dry condition in the Southern Low Plains.

Sorghum continued to mature in the Northern Low Plains.

Sorghum progressed well in the Edwards Plateau; however, the crop was in need of moisture.

Sorghum continued to suffer in South Texas due to drought conditions.

Sorghum condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide.

**Peanuts**  
 Diseases caused stress on peanuts in the Southern High Plains.

Producers sprayed for leaf spot in the Northern Low Plains.

Wild hogs caused damage to peanuts in the Southern Low Plains.

In South Texas, peanuts continued to develop with irrigation.

Peanut condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

**Rice**  
 Rice condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

**Soybeans**  
 Soybeans progressed well in the Blacklands due to the recent rainfall.

Soybean condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

**Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**  
 Sunflowers progressed well in the Southern High Plains.

Chilies were in full bloom in the Trans-Pecos and progressed well.

Pecan  
 Pecans continued to progress well in the Cross Timbers, however, pecans suffered in areas affected by the late freeze.

Irrigation was active in the Edwards Plateau while producers sprayed for shuck worm and pecan weevil.

Livestock, Range and Pasture Report  
 Supplemental feeding of livestock was ongoing across most of the state.

Stock tank levels across the state remained low.

Weaning of lambs and goats began in the Edwards Plateau.


Livestock herd liquidation continued in localized parts of the state.

Recent rainfall improved range and pasture conditions in the northern and central part of the state.

Range and pastures in the southern part of the state continued to remain dry.

Range and pasture condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide.

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