

Since 1950, shortly before the nuclear weapons activities at Pantex Plant began, the value of crops grown and sold in the ROI has increased by 151 percent, relative to the 142 percent increase in the Producer Price Index for Crude Foodstuffs and Feedstuffs during this period. Cattle and calf sales in the ROI have increased by 2,007 percent since 1950, relative to a 153-percent increase in the Producer Price Index for Slaughter Livestock during this period. Details of the growth of the agriculture industry in the ROI are presented in Table 4.11.1.5–2.

Corn and sorghum grown for grain or seed and wheat grown for grain are the major cash crops of the four-county ROI. The number of bushels of each of the crops harvested in 1992 is depicted in Table 4.11.1.5–3. Corn production is significantly less than sorgham or wheat

because extensive irrigation is needed for corn maturation. About half of the crops grown in the local area are strictly dryland because of the high cost of pumping water from the Ogallala aquifer (Pantex 1996:10.2).

In addition to agriculture, the economic activity in the ROI has historically depended on mining (oil and gas). Growth in manufacturing, distribution, food processing, and medical services has provided further diversification to the economy. In the 1960's, Amarillo Air Force Base, with a direct employment of approximately 4,000 military and civilian employees, was a dominant force in the Amarillo economy. With the closing of the Base in 1968, approximately 9,000 persons left the Amarillo area within a two-year period. The City of Amarillo, however, took immediate

**TABLE 4.11.1.5–2.—*Characteristics of Farms in the Pantex Plant Region of Influence***

CHARACTERISTIC	1950	1959	1969	1978	1987	1992
Number of Farms	1,864	1,607	1,619	1,313	1,353	1,296
Acres in Farms (1,000's)	2,534.9	2,746.7	2,229.8	2,218.6	2,124.2	2,021.9
Average Acreage per Farm	1,359.0	1,709.0	1,377.0	1,690.0	1,570.0	1,560.1
Market Value All Crops Sold (\$1,000's) <sup>1</sup>	\$17,431.0	\$14,456.9	\$15,127.0	\$26,078.0	\$32,317.0	\$43,801.0
Average Crops Sold Market Value per Farm	\$9,351.3	\$8,996.0	\$9,343.0	\$19,861	\$23,885	\$33,797.0
Number of Farms Reporting Cattle/Calves	1,475	1,115	1,163	915	868	804
Number of Cattle/Calves	125,693	100,390	329,867	290,213	293,850	281,551
Value of Cattle/Calves Sold (\$1,000's) <sup>2</sup>	\$12,057.2	\$16,798.2	\$79,521.9	\$185,019.0	\$233,268.0	\$254,033.0
Total Value of Crops Plus Cattle (\$1,000's)	\$29,488.2	\$31,255.1	\$94,648.9	\$211,097.0	\$265,585.0	\$297,834.0

<sup>1</sup>The total market value of all crops sold in 1992 was 151 percent over the total for 1950, not adjusted for inflation (see note 3 below).

<sup>2</sup>The total market value for all cattle and calves sold in 1992 was 2,007 percent over the total for 1950, not adjusted for inflation (see note 4 below).

<sup>3</sup>From 1950 through 1992, the Producer Price Index for Crude Foodstuffs and Feedstuffs increased by 142 percent, relative to the 151-percent increase in sales in the ROI during this time period.

<sup>4</sup>From 1950 through 1992, the Producer Price Index for Slaughter Livestock increased by 153 percent, relative to the 2,007-percent increase in cattle sales in the ROI during this time period.

Sources: DOL nd.; TX Cen 1952, 1967, 1972, 1981, 1989, 1994