



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

TEXAS

Texas Fast Facts - 2015

State's Child Poverty Rate:	25.6%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	17.2%
StrikeForce State Since:	2012
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	96
Total Outreach Events:	96
Number of Community Partners:	32
Total USDA Projects:	1,348
Total USDA Investments:	\$462 million

Contacts

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Some of Our StrikeForce Community Partners

Casa del Llano
Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley
IDEA Public Charter Schools
Latinos in Agriculture Organization
National Center of Appropriate Technology
Rio Bravo Resource Conservation & Development Area
Texas Agri-Life Extension
Texas Hunger Initiative
Texas Mexico Border Coalition
Texas Rural Cooperative Center
Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers

Currently, 85 percent of our country's persistent poverty counties are in rural America. More than one third of rural Americans, and one in four rural children live in poverty. Kids growing up in families earning twice the poverty threshold are nearly three times as likely as other children to have poor health, are more likely to finish two fewer years of school, and are more likely to earn half as much money in their adult lives.

Growing the economy by investing in rural communities and increasing opportunities for families is key to our Nation's future. In 2010, Secretary Vilsack established USDA's StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity to address the specific challenges associated with rural poverty. Since then, StrikeForce teams have collaborated with more than 1,500 community partners and public entities to bring targeted assistance to rural areas experiencing chronic poverty.

These efforts have invested more than \$23.5 billion to create jobs, build homes, feed kids, assist farmers and conserve natural resources across more than twenty states. In 2016, StrikeForce expanded to include Florida, Missouri, Montana, and Ohio. Now, USDA StrikeForce teams will operate in 970 counties in 25 states and Puerto Rico. Each StrikeForce project is a commitment to America's economic future.

StrikeForce At Work

It was a modern-day barn raising. When word got around that Falls County ranchers Billy and Marilyn Wright were going to be putting up a seasonal high tunnel as a demonstration site on their property, friends, neighbors and even strangers showed up to help assemble it.

The event was the second day of a two-day Minority Landowner Workshop hosted by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Minority Landowner magazine.

Over 100 producers from as far away as Dallas, Abilene, Houston and Kenedy attended the first day of the workshop filled with informative presentations from NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Rural Development (RD), AgriLife Extension, Puckett Greenhouses, and Baylor Law School.

Many of the producers that attended the workshop hadn't ever worked with USDA agencies but were there thanks to extensive outreach efforts from local NRCS personnel and the Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers Community Based Organization. Longtime Falls County NRCS District Conservationist Brian Bailey and Milam County NRCS District Conservationist Todnechia Mitchell, a lifelong Marlin resident, were key in getting the information out about the workshop. The Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers CBO, led by rancher Wade Ross, also spread the word through their far-reaching network of minority producers.

"It doesn't matter what color we are, we all have one thing in common: we all eat," said Ross. "And regardless of race, all of us are farmers and our job is to feed America. We all want to learn all we can about the best way to do that."

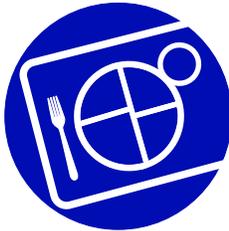
StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity in Texas

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1,348 Projects in 2015 = \$462 Million Invested



94
Jobs Created
or Saved



19,968,842
Summer
Meals for Kids



1,085
Farmers
Assisted



8,845
Home
Investments

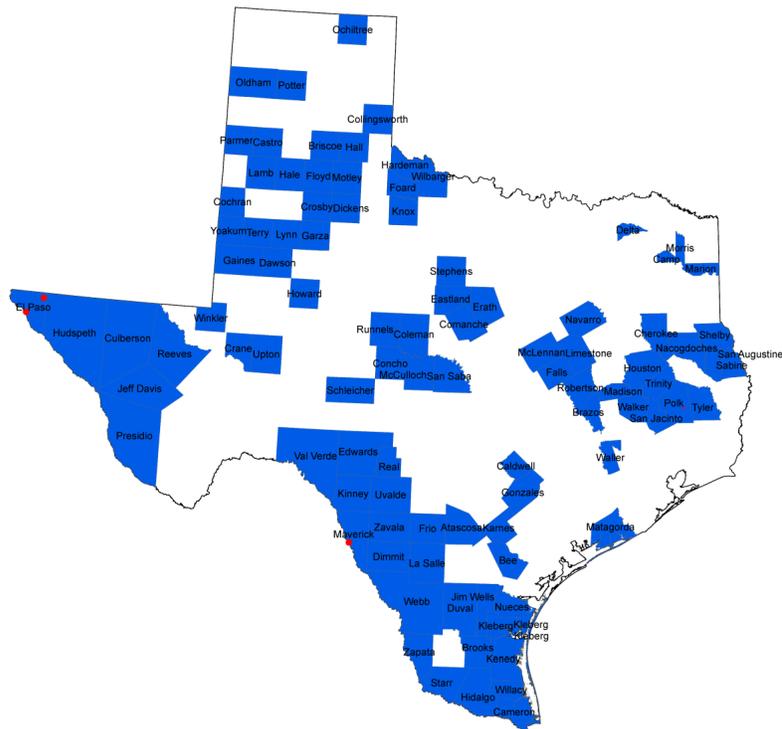


1,348
Conservation
Efforts



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STRIKEFORCE MAP SERIES FINAL: Texas Persistent Poverty StrikeForce Counties with overlay of Native American Reservations



Legend

- Small tribal area (not to scale)
- Tribal Reservations and Pueblos
- Counties
- State

Data Sources May Contain Data From The Following Sources:
ESRI World Physical Map Base Data Layers
2000 CENSUS TIGER Data - CENSUS_Tiger.gdb
2010 CENSUS TIGER Data - CENSUS_Tiger.gdb
USGS National State Boundaries data set
NCEIS - ESEA F2010 School Lunch Participation CORE Data
From U.S. Department of Education National Center For Education Statistics
USDA/ARS, RBS, RHL, OI/MC/OJ Data Sources
USDA/OCE/EMO Departmental Data Resources
Environmental Protection Agency Data
Tale Atlas 2008

This map includes Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas as delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau. Although these areas are associated with particular tribes and tribes have certain jurisdictional authority and treaty rights in these areas, many Rural Development investments in these areas only in part benefit American Indians. Rural Development investments in Oklahoma to verify whether or not particular investments within Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas are indeed investments benefiting American Indians.

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