Wheat is the primary grain in U.S. grain products - more foods are made with wheat than any other cereal grain. Wheat is vital to both the nation and the state of Texas.

**Modern Agriculture**
A modern combine can harvest **1,000** bushels of wheat per hour.

**The Cycle of Wheat**
- Farmers plant wheat in the fall months.
- Farmers harvest wheat in late spring through the summer.

**Six Classes of U.S. Wheat**
Wheat varieties are divided among classes:
- Hard Red Winter (HRW)
- Hard Red Spring
- Soft Red Winter (SRW)
- Hard White
- Soft White
- Durum

**Texas Wheat Production**
Texas farmers produce both Hard Red Winter and Soft Red Winter wheat, but the majority of wheat grown is hard red winter.

**U.S. Wheat Production**
The wheat industry in the U.S. is worth more than **$10 billion**
- 1/2 of the wheat grown in the U.S. is used domestically.
- 1/2 of wheat grown is exported to overseas markets.

**Bushel Statistics**
Wheat is measured in a term called a bushel.
- 1 bushel of wheat equals:
  - 60lbs. of wheat
  - 42lbs. of wheat flour
  - 90 one-pound loaves of whole wheat bread
  - 60lbs. of whole wheat flour

**Other Uses for Wheat**
In addition to food products, wheat can be used to make a variety of consumer goods for people and animals.
- Dog treats
- Adhesives on postage stamps
- Shampoo/conditioners
- Hand cleaner
- ... and hundreds of more products
HISTORY OF WHEAT

Wheat is a staple crop across the globe and has a long history in the development of society and cultures. Today, wheat is grown in 128 countries around the world.

Early Beginnings

• Archaeologists have found evidence of wheat in the Fertile Crescent from 9,600 BC.
• Ancient Egyptians were the first to use yeast to make their loaves of bread rise and the first to use a bread oven.

Coming to America

• Wheat arrived in the U.S. after Christopher Columbus’ early voyages.
• American colonists began planting wheat in 1777, but only as a hobby crop.

19th Century

• 1831: Cyrus McCormick invents the mechanical reaper. Cutting increases from 2 acres per day to 8 acres per day.
• 1841: The first grain drill is patented by Jethro Tull.
• 1842: The first grain elevator is established in Buffalo, NY.
• 1892: John Froelich invents the first gasoline powered tractor.

20th Century

• Yields increase due to advances in mechanization and the use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.
• 1950: The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) is founded.
• 1970: Norman Bourlog, father of the “Green Revolution,” wins the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in wheat breeding.

21st Century

• Advances in wheat breeding create higher yielding varieties with more resistance to external threats.
• Precision agriculture allows for production to be specialized and more efficient.
• “Digital farming” gives farmers instant information on crops and allows for more precise production decisions.

Changes in Production

How many hours of labor needed to produce 100 bushels of wheat:
1830: 250-300 hours
1890: 40-50 hours
1930: 15-20 hours
1955: 6.5 hours
1965: 5 hours
1975: 3.75 hours
1987: 3 hours

Source: briandcalwell.com, 2016