

TEXAS TAKES ON THE GREAT DEPRESSION

WHEN THE GREAT DEPRESSION LEFT TEXAS FARMERS,
RANCHERS AND WORKERS IN DIRE STRAITS,
THE GOVERNMENT STEPPED IN TO HELP THEM OUT.



INVESTING IN THE PEOPLE

During the Great Depression, prices fell and farmers and ranchers struggled to stay afloat. They hoped that if they produced more, they would earn more. Unfortunately, the opposite was true. Instead, they created an agricultural surplus: the more stock they produced, the lower the prices fell. This economic crisis not only affected farmers. Local businesses closed and workers lost their jobs.

Everyday workers were down on their luck and relied on work relief programs to earn a living and support their families.

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A HELPING HAND FOR THE FARMER

To help farmers like those who lived in Hamilton County, the Roosevelt Administration instituted the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA). By creating the AAA, the government hoped to help farmers learn to manage their crops more efficiently. To reduce the surplus, they asked farmers not to raise cotton and other crops. In return, farmers would be paid for their unused land. Many farmers disagreed with this plan but by December 1934 the Texas Agricultural Association voted to continue cooperating with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration's cotton production controls.



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Farmers had grown too much cotton and prices plummeted. To reduce the surplus and boost prices, the federal government paid Texas farmers not to raise the crop.

MAKING ENDS MEET

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, or FDR, cared about those who were struggling under the economic depression. In 1933, millions of Americans lived in rural areas and 20% of Americans were farmers. As such a big part of the population, they were instrumental to getting the economy back on track and hopefully ending the Great Depression. FDR knew this, and some of his first actions in office were to use government programs and funds to create jobs and invest in farms and banks.



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Despite the hardships caused by the economic crash, farmers continued to work hard maintaining their land.