EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUSTIN, TEXAS

EXECUTIVE ORDER
WPC-88-6

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE
ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, Texas farmers and ranchers are the backbone of Texas' economy; and

WHEREAS, Texas leads the nation in the number of farms and ranches; and

WHEREAS, Texas is the number-one producer of cattle, sheep, goats, wool, mohair, and cotton; and

WHEREAS, Texas leads the nation with 133.2 million acres used in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Texas ranks first among the states in the value of farm assets located in the state with nearly 73.1 billion dollars in assets; and

WHEREAS, Texas consistently ranks among the top three states in total cash receipts realized from agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, production agriculture and agribusiness constitute the second largest industry in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the continued development of improved technology and dissemination of information is crucial to Texas' farm programs; and

WHEREAS, the current economic conditions in Texas accentuate the importance of agriculture to the economy of the State;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William P. Clements, Jr., Governor of Texas, under the authority vested in me do hereby create and establish the GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, hereinafter referred to as the TASK FORCE.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the TASK FORCE is to bring leaders from Texas commodity groups, agricultural organizations, private agribusiness, education, and state government together to address common issues and help develop specific recommendations for action at both the state and national levels.

II. ORGANIZATION

1. The TASK FORCE shall consist of 26 members appointed by the Governor.

2. The Governor shall appoint the Chairman of the TASK FORCE.
3. The Chairman shall designate members to serve on one of the five following committees and shall designate a chairman for each committee subject to the approval of the Governor: the Rural Economic Development Committee; the Agriculture Research and Technology Committee; the Taxation and Finance Committee; the State Planning Committee; and the Federal Issues Committee.

4. TASK FORCE members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

III. FUNCTIONS

The TASK FORCE shall:

(1) examine the recommendations included in the report of the Agribusiness Committee of the Business Development and Jobs Creation Task Force and the recommendations of other previous task forces and committees on agriculture to develop an outline for discussion and further study by the TASK FORCE;

(2) develop proposals for legislation for the next session of the Legislature and assist the Legislature in developing, evaluating and implementing a comprehensive agriculture program; and

(3) study policy alternatives and issues important to Texas agriculture prior to Congressional consideration of the next federal farm bill.

IV. MEETINGS

The TASK FORCE shall meet at the call of the Chairman. The committees shall meet at the call of the individual committee chairmen.

V. REPORTS

On or before September 30, 1988, the TASK FORCE shall submit to the Governor a report of its activities, findings, and recommendations regarding the vital state and federal issues affecting Texas agriculture.

All agencies of State and Local governments are hereby directed to cooperate with and assist the Task Force in the performance of its duties.

This Executive Order shall become effective on this 21st day of April, 1988, and shall remain in effect until amended, modified, or rescinded by me.

Given under my hand this 21st day of April, 1988.

[Signature]
William P. Clements,
Governor of Texas

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[Signature]
Jack M. Rains
Secretary of State