

Food inflation slowed down, fuel and fertilizer prices leveled out, and farmers and ranchers were able to catch a breath in 2010. But as always, agriculture was a mixed bag for the state, despite overall strong crops and continuing high demand. Oklahoma farmers planted the fewest acres of crops in two decades as farmers reacted to volatile prices and input costs during 2008 and 2009. Of course that led to higher crop prices late in the year as the rest of the country followed the same trend. Oklahoma finished 2010 in drought conditions as much of the state suffered from paltry rainfall from August through December. However, dry conditions only affected a few crops such as row vegetables and pecans. Oklahoma's winter wheat crop was strong in 2010, nearly doubling the haul from the year before. In the northeastern part of the state, pecans also enjoyed a good year because of high prices, even though a lack of rain kept quality low. For consumers, food inflation was a modest 1.5 percent; prices even fell for some goods, such as dairy products. Kyle Arnold 581-8380 [Subscribe to Daily Headlines](#) Sign up! \* I understand and agree that registration on or use of this site constitutes agreement to its user agreement and privacy policy.