Agricultural Fire Losses Exceed $217 Million
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- The wildfires during 2011 have caused an estimated $217.7 million in agricultural financial losses.
- Major fires in East Texas have destroyed an estimated $111.1 million dollars in timber stumpage value. The value of destroyed timber accounts for the largest portion of agricultural losses due to the wildfires this year.
- Losses include destroyed fences and agricultural buildings, lost value of grazing, lost livestock, and the stumpage value of destroyed timber.
- These updated estimates continue to be considered preliminary due to ongoing fires.
- Damage to ranch and industry infrastructure represent the second largest portion (and largest non-timber portion) of fire costs. This infrastructure includes fences and agricultural buildings. More than 6,200 miles of fence are estimated to have been destroyed. A recent survey by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service reported 4-6 wire fences with steel posts costing an average of $10,000 per mile to build.
- Lost grazing for the year is the second largest non-timber financial loss category. More than 3 million acres have burned during the period covered by this report.
- Livestock losses are estimated using market values. Livestock losses are likely an underestimate due to later death loss from injuries incurred from the fires. More than 2,400 cattle, horses, sheep, and goats have been reported killed by this year’s fires.