



# Fact Sheet

---

## Estate Tax

*Revised June 8, 2010*

The Estate Tax, also known as the Death Tax, is one of the leading causes of the breakup of multi-generation family ranches.

A 10-year phase out of the Estate Tax to full repeal took effect in January 2010, but without further action by Congress and the Administration, the tax is scheduled to be reinstated next year at the 2001 levels. The 2001 levels range from 37 percent to 55 percent with a \$1 million per spouse exemption. This tax structure is detrimental to family ranches.

A variety of legislation has been filed that would provide relief in the tax code from the estate tax for family ranches, property owners and small business owners, such as making the repeal permanent, raising exemption levels, lowering the tax rate, and providing an exemption for agriculture production assets. On the contrary, legislation has also been filed that would permanently freeze the estate tax and exemptions at levels harmful to family ranches.

### **What is TSCRA doing?**

TSCRA has been a very strong opponent of the estate tax and has worked for a full repeal of the estate tax for many years. TSCRA continues to strongly support the full and final repeal of the estate tax.

However, until the estate tax is fully and finally repealed, TSCRA supports the passage of estate tax legislation which will eliminate or significantly reduce the burden of estate taxes on family ranching operations and provide certainty to dedicated ranching families who continue to work to preserve the land. TSCRA supports lowering the tax rate, raising the exemption level per spouse and/or exempting agriculture production assets from the tax.

TSCRA continues to meet with lawmakers and their staffs to discuss our position, and communicate our support for legislation that would provide relief and certainty to Texas ranchers.

Jason Skaggs  
Exec. Director of Government & Public Affairs  
jskaggs@texascattleraisers.org

**TSCRA Austin Office**  
**512-469-0171**  
**[www.texascattleraisers.org](http://www.texascattleraisers.org)**

Carmen Fenton  
Director of Public Affairs  
cfenton@texascattleraisers.org