The Dust Bowl was the region, including Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico, that was made worthless for farming by drought and dust storms during the 1930s.

The decade before the 1930s, in order to break up the grasslands and plant million acres of new farmland, farmers from Texas to North Dakota used tractors to do so.

Farmers had to plow in order to remove the thick protective layer of the prairie grasses. The farmers exhausted the land by producing too much crops, therefore the grasslands became unsuitable for farming.
During the early 1930s, a drought began to form, leaving only little grass and few trees to hold the soil down. The wind had scattered the top soil, which exposed the sand and grit from the underneath. The wind carried the dust for hundreds of miles.

Plagued by the dust storms, thousands of sharecroppers and farmers left their land behind. Many families packed up their belongings and migrated to the West to look for jobs. Some of the migrants found work as farmhands.