January 2026 E-Harvest Newsletter

A Message from Commissioner Sid Miller

Texas Agriculture Commissioner

Howdy Neighbors! Welcome to Your E-Harvest Newsletter.

This month I'm issuing Farm Fresh Student Engagement Grants to 35 Texas school districts. The grant amounts range from $5,000 to $15,000 and will help pay for school gardens, field trips, and more. All awarded projects feature practical strategies for giving children hands-on experiences with Texas agriculture. Participating students will learn about real Texas food through activities that can forge a lifetime of healthy eating and appreciation for the hard work of farmers and ranchers. These grants will support my Farm Fresh Initiative and keep Texas leading the way in local food promotion and farm-to-school programs. I congratulate the grant recipients and encourage E-Harvest readers to continue introducing Texas children to all the beef, dairy, poultry, fruits, vegetables, and whole grains grown and raised right here in the Lone Star State.

Harvest of the Month

January's Harvest of the Month is red grapefruit. This **LunchBox.org recipe** features Texas products and a different citrus–orange juice concentrate. Combine Texas-raised chicken with locally grown brown rice, carrots, and bell peppers, along with orange juice concentrate to create delicious Orange Chicken. It's also menu compliant.

Farm Fresh Sharing

This month's Farm Fresh Sharing features Lumberton ISD and Moore Honey Farm.

"Thanks to the support of the Local Food for Schools (LFS) Grant, Moore Honey Farm had the unique opportunity to bring the buzz of the hive directly into the classroom. We hosted an interactive educational demo at a local school (Lumberton ISD), showcasing a live observation hive that allowed students to safely experience the fascinating world of honey bees up close. Alongside the hive, we presented a short video about beekeeping and the critical role pollinators play in food production. The students were captivated—many had never seen bees so close before, and their questions reflected a genuine curiosity about agriculture, sustainability, and the environment.

To sweeten the experience, each student received a honey straw to sample real Texas honey, connecting the lesson to taste and memory. In the cafeteria, the school used our honey to prepare fresh honey butter, offering a tangible example of local food integration into daily meals. The LFS Grant made all of this possible. It helped us strengthen community ties, educate future generations about pollination and food sources, and showcase the importance of sourcing locally. The enthusiasm from both students and staff was overwhelming—and left us feeling inspired to continue these educational partnerships."

- Will Gallagher (Moore Honey Farm)

For current grant opportunities, visit our Funding Opportunities page **here**.

Farm Fresh Learning

Call for Recipes

TDA is seeking recipe submissions from Texas school districts and childcare providers to share. If you have recipes your students love that you'd like to share, **please submit them and a photo here**.

Farm Fresh Producer

Funding Opportunities

Find current funding opportunities for Texas farmers, ranchers, and producers by visiting TDA's **Grants & Services page**.

Texas Farm Fresh Network

TDA is excited to welcome the following producers to the Farm Fresh Network:

Goodman Food Products (Don Lee Farms	Mansfield	Other	Tracy DeSmit	Tracy.Desmit@donleefarms.com

Contact TDA

Email: FarmFresh@TexasAgriculture.gov

Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL

Connect with Others

Texas Farm Fresh Network:

Use this tool to connect with Texas food companies that currently sell or are interested in selling to schools, childcare centers, adult care centers and summer meal programs. Company listings include contact information, product availability and distribution radius.

Funding Opportunities:

Financial support from organizations may help establish or advance local Farm Fresh initiatives. This list includes opportunities from TDA, USDA and other organizations.

Interested in learning more about Texas products?

Sign up for the *Go Local. GO TEXAN E-zine* today.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711
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