February 2026 E-Harvest Newsletter

A Message from Commissioner Sid Miller

Texas Agriculture Commissioner

Howdy Neighbors! Welcome to Your E-Harvest Newsletter.

This month my FRESH TRAYS team offered our first local food procurement training for Child Nutrition Program operators. More than 20 nutrition professionals joined TDA at the Region 6 Education Service Center in Huntsville to learn more about how to identify and source local products while ensuring compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. The training is designed to provide the knowledge and skills needed to increase the number of local foods purchased and enhance agricultural education for program participants.

There are 20 of these training events scheduled for future dates across Texas. In your December E-Harvest I told you about the FRESH TRAYS training for agricultural producers launched in collaboration with Texas A&M AgriLife. These training opportunities are integral to my Farm Fresh Initiative and will keep Texas leading the way in connecting nutrition programs and agriculture.

Harvest of the Month

February's Harvest of the Month is red leaf lettuce. The **Cobb Salad recipe** is from TDA's Farm Fresh Cooking for the Seasons and can be made with Texas products. You can find this recipe on page 26.

Farm Fresh Sharing

This month's Farm Fresh Sharing features Crawford ISD and Barnard Beef.

"McGregor ISD Nutrition Specialist Lisa May connected Crawford ISD's Anna Criss with Barnard Beef as good source of local meat. Anna purchased all of the school's ground beef and burger patties from the local ranch run by Blayr Barnard. It was delivered on a weekly or month basis depending on what the school needed. It was used in all of the Crawford ISD beef meals for the 2024-2025 school year. It was so well received by the kids, specifically the burgers, that the school changed their burger supplier for their football games. Barnard Beef also donated beef to both the Parent Teacher Organization cookoff fundraiser and the band's Taco Day as well as various other fundraisers. "

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:

Livingood Cattle Co LLC	Krum	Protein	Brennan Palmiter	Brennan@LivingoodCattle.com
SK Prime Pastures	Grapeland	Protein	Kristin Whitmire	kirstin@skprimepastures.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.

Manage your preferences | Opt Out using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.
View this email online.

1700 North Congress 11th Floor | Austin, TX 78701 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

Subscribe to our email list.