May 2026 E-Harvest Newsletter

A Message from Commissioner Sid Miller

Howdy Neighbors! Welcome to Your E-Harvest Newsletter.

Texas Agriculture Commissioner

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2025 Farm Fresh Challenge a Texas-sized success. About 2.4 million Texas children attend school districts or childcare centers that took the Challenge. That's a lot of children getting real opportunities to learn more about local food. A total of 149 school districts and childcare centers earned recognition in the Challenge, and they spent $23.5 million on Texas products in October. Especially impressive is the fact that 82 percent of those who pledged to participate achieved recognition, a 12 percent increase over 2024.

I'm encouraging all my child nutrition partners in the National School Lunch Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program to pledge their participation when the 2026 Challenge opens. Look for information about pledging at SquareMeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge starting in July. I know it will be another great year for my Farm Fresh Challenge, and I appreciate all the E-Harvest readers helping me make sure Texas children can be homegrown and healthy.

Harvest of the Month

May's Harvest of the Month is blueberries. **This recipe from the Institute of Child Nutrition** can be made with Texas products.

Farm Fresh Sharing - Recipes

This month's Farm Fresh Sharing features Sharyland ISD. Child Nutrition Director Iris Perez shared this recipe for Carne Guisada, using stew meat purchased from Farm Fresh Network producer 2F Akaushi Beef. The recipe was such a hit with students that Iris was invited to present at the Rio Grande Valley Food Summit at the end of April to discuss the benefits of purchasing Texas foods for school meals. As always, please ensure all recipes served are menu-compliant.

Find Texas producers to source your ingredients on the **Farm Fresh Network map**.

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

Farm Fresh Learning

Call for Recipes

TDA invites Texas school districts and childcare providers to submit go-to recipes they would like to share with TDA and E-Harvest readers. If you have recipes your students love that you'd like to share, **please submit them and a photo here**.

Farm Fresh Producer

Learning and Networking Opportunities

TDA has partnered with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to provide training for selling to child nutrition operators. Producers looking for more information can find FRESH TRAYS sessions available at locations across the state **here**.

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:

Ewe Turn Farms	Jonesboro	Protein	Vanessa Roer	info@eweturnfarms.com

Blue Creek Rice Mill LLC	El Campo	Grain	Shellie Colvin	bluecreekricemill@gmail.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.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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