April 2026 E-Harvest Newsletter

A Message from Commissioner Sid Miller

Texas Agriculture Commissioner

Howdy Neighbors! Welcome to Your E-Harvest Newsletter.

Thank you to all the agricultural producers who joined us for Farm Fresh Connections at TDA's MegaCon nutrition conference. The event was held in Waco earlier this month and offered leaders from schools, childcare centers, and food banks a chance to meet face-to-face with farmers and ranchers interested in selling Texas foods to nutrition programs.

The 43 producers and 700- plus nutrition program leaders gained valuable insights into how to connect with each other to provide more local food for Texas children. I also introduced new branding that better reflects the significance of my Farm Fresh Initiative. Everyone enjoyed their time in Waco and appreciated the opportunity to make new agricultural connections. Remember, Texas Agriculture matters.

FARM FRESH
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Harvest of the Month

April's Harvest of the Month is broccoli. **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 Collinsville ISD, and another success story from the Local Food for Schools grant.

"Collinsville ISD is committed to purchasing all beef through Carney Cattle Company for the SY 24/25," said Child Nutrition Director Amber Henderson. "The product was used in recipes for:

- Beefy Mac & Cheese
- Frito Chili Pie
- Nachos
- Tacos
- Spaghetti
- Taco Salads

We are also excited for a new recipe. The Texas created recipe for *Texas Beef and* ***Chimichurri Rice Bowl***. We purchased top sirloin from Carney Cattle Company to be used in this recipe. I have included the recipe and the menus for this year, showing our commitment to this project. Carney Cattle Company is a Texas Farm Fresh Network member."

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:

Diamond A Ranch Beef, LLC.	Dime Box	Protein	Michael Reyes	michael@diamondaranchbeef.com
NatureBest Pre-Cut & Produce	Missouri City	Fruit/Vegetable	Troy Riegel	troyr@naturebestprecut.com
Mustard Seed Farm Texas, LLC	Axtell	Fruit/Vegetable	Amanda Crawford	acraw2003@yahoo.com
Herzog Beef LLC	Chilton	Protein	Natalie Herzog	HC.herzogcattle@gmail.com
Texas Forest Farm Inc.	Allen	Other	Ellen Leng	ellen.y.leng@gmail.com

(DBA: Wagyu, No Argue)				

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

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