

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# CHILD AND ADULT CARE

3E'S OF HEALTHY LIVING  
EDUCATION, EXERCISE AND EATING RIGHT

## Food Program

## March 2026 Monthly Newsletter

---

### [Get Ready for MegaCon 2026!](#)

Commissioner Sid Miller and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) invite you to attend MegaCon 2026 — in Waco, Texas, April 6–8, 2026.

With a new location, a new layout, and a new emphasis on networking with Texas agricultural producers, MegaCon 2026 brings new connections and new opportunities for a Texas-sized Farm Fresh experience.

Organizations participating in the TDA-administered federal nutrition programs and TDA's Farm Fresh initiatives will join us for three days of collaboration, learning, and engagement.

Make plans now to connect with TDA and your colleagues from across the state! For registration details and access to group GSA hotel rates, please visit the [official MegaCon website](#).

Click the headline to view the [full article](#).

---

### [New Guidance and Resources on Incorporating Local Beef into Meals](#)

USDA Food and Nutrition Service has issued new memo SP 03-2026, CACFP 02-2026, SFSP 02-2026, Incorporating Local Beef into Child Nutrition Program Meals, which provides helpful resources and strategies for Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators and ranchers to incorporate local beef into meals. Resource topics cover procurement, funding resources, food safety, crediting, and technical assistance contacts from the Farm to School Program.

Click [here](#) to view the full memo.

---

# [USDA Releases New Guidance on New Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030](#)

On January 7, 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030 (Guidelines). USDA strongly encourages child nutrition program operators to familiarize themselves with the key recommendations and consider how these Guidelines can be incorporated into program meals and snacks to promote healthy outcomes and healthy families.

Click the headline to view the [full article](#).

---

## [FRESH TRAYS Local Procurement Training](#)

This advanced training is designed for child nutrition program operators participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Summer Meals Program (SMP), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) who are interested in purchasing local foods and supporting Texas agriculture. This in-person training will be held at your Education Service Centers - Visit [SquareMeals](#) for upcoming trainings.

---

## [CACFP Quick Bites Training](#)

Join us for a live, interactive training session designed specifically for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) personnel. This webinar will highlight training strategies that strengthen understanding and retention. We will share practical techniques and show what they may look like in everyday training scenarios.

### **Dates & Registration:**

March 11, 2026: [Register Here](#)

March 18, 2026: [Register Here](#)

[Download handout](#)

All AI-powered chatbots must be fully disabled and not utilized during sessions with TDA.

**Time:** 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Central Time) via ZOOM

**Presenter:** Stephanie Parrott, TDA Training & Development Specialist

**USDA Training Code:** 3000

Participants will receive an official TDA Training Certificate upon completion.

For questions or additional information, please contact: [FND.Training@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:FND.Training@TexasAgriculture.gov)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details on how to join the webinar.

---

# Join Us for the March TANS Talk!

**Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 12 from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. (CDT)!**

TANS Talk is an office hours session that will allow Organizations (formally known as CEs) to review TANS related updates. We are excited to share all of the new updates about this platform and answer any questions.

## **How to Participate in TANS Talk:**

Use this [TANS Talk Feedback Form](#) to submit any TANS questions you would like to see reviewed during the call. We will cover questions received at least 48 hours prior to the call, allowing our team time to prepare for the meeting. Visit the [TANS homepage](#) and [Resources page](#) for access to past TANS Talks, updates, trainings, and more.



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  
Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL | For the hearing impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)

This product was funded by USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



[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.