

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL SCHOOL

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

Lunch Program

April 19, 2021

Embedded attachments with this issue

Refer to the COVID Page for Updates

Your Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) newsletter has returned, but [SquareMeals.org/CVNSLP](https://squaremeals.org/cvnslp) will still be your source for all COVID-19-related regulatory information. The most current information regarding program operations that has been modified due to COVID-19 will continue to be found on our Coronavirus page to ensure that TDA shares updates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in a way that is timely and consistent.

Opportunities

Health Ambassadors for a Ready Texas (HART) Application Deadline Extended

The application deadline for the HART initiative has been extended through **April 30th**. TDA is seeking high-school student leaders to help promote child nutrition programs and Texas agriculture for the 2021-22 school year. Students enrolled in 9th, 10th or 11th grade in a school participating in the National School Lunch Program are eligible to apply. Applications and more information available at [SquareMeals.com/HART](https://squaremeals.com/HART). Please share with any students or staff who may be interested!



Resources

New Feature Alert for the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!

A new feature is now available on the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT). Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your comments on the PSTTT and works continuously to enhance the user experience. You can now conveniently log training and access the Training Title list all from the **Trainings** tab on the toolbar. In addition, Manager and Director users can view logged trainings for employees from the same tab. All users can access their own training history under the **Welcome** tab. And, in response to your feedback, Team Nutrition has improved the Reports feature to now allow the option to include those employees with zero logged training hours in the Summary Report.

Track your professional standards required training hours today using USDA's free [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!](#)



Urban Schools Agricultural Grant Program

Urban public school districts with student populations of 49,000 or more are encouraged to apply for Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Urban Schools Agricultural Grants. The program provides up to \$2,500 each for elementary and middle schools' agricultural projects. Awarded funds must be used to establish demonstration projects or other projects designed to foster education, awareness, and appreciation of agriculture. Eligibility is also open to non-profits that have the support of a Texas public elementary or middle school in an eligible district. To learn more about this opportunity, visit the [grant webpage](#). Applications must be received by **April 29, 2021**.

Training Reminder

Visit [TDA's online training page](#) for the latest updates in web based trainings accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Texas Farm Fresh Initiative

Farm Fresh Webinar Series Continues with Florence ISD and Bouldin Food Forest

Join the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Farm Fresh Initiative on Monday, April 26 at 1:00pm Central Time for the second webinar in a series highlighting successful farm to school programs across Texas. The goal of this series is to increase opportunities to build partnerships between child nutrition departments and local food producers and food distributors.

Presenters from **Florence Independent School District (ISD)** and **Bouldin Food Forest** in Rogers, Texas, will join TDA to share their experiences working together to bring fresh and unique local produce to Florence ISD students. This webinar is relevant to Texas producers interested in working with schools, distributors, child nutrition professionals, and community members. Register using this [link](#).



Texas Farm Fresh Survey Closes April 30

TDA is collecting information from NSLP contracting entities regarding participation in the Farm Fresh Initiative. Information gathered in this survey will be used to guide program staff in developing resources helpful to Texas CEs, as well as help Texas farmers and ranchers interested in selling products to schools. Survey results will be made public in the coming months. All child nutrition directors that typically participate in NSLP have received an email invitation to participate. For the purchasing questions asked in the survey, participants should use 2019-2020 budget data. As you work with districts during the upcoming weeks, please encourage them to complete the survey by **April 30, 2021**. Thank you in advance for your assistance! To view the survey and to share it with districts in your region, click this [link](#).



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