

Local Food for Schools Office Hours

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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Updated 3/13/2024
www.SquareMeals.org



Food and Nutrition Division
Nutrition Assistance Programs

Meeting Agenda

01

**Grant
Updates**

02

Resources

03

FAQs

04

Questions

A collage of fresh produce. The top left shows sliced and whole apples on a dark wooden surface. The top right shows several white mushrooms with dark spots on a dark background. The bottom left shows several ripe peaches, some whole and some sliced, with green leaves on a wooden surface.

Grant Updates

Reimbursement Process Updates

Important Deadlines

1. Deadline to make LFS Purchases – **March 31, 2025**
2. Deadline to submit LFS Reimbursement Requests – **May 9, 2025**

Invoice Date Range for Reimbursement Request Form

Date Range for Multiple Invoices

If you are attaching multiple invoices for the same vendor, please enter the date range for those invoices.

If not applicable, please leave blank, and enter the invoice date for the single invoice below.

Review Reimbursement Process at
www.squaremeals.org/LFS



Fostering Eco Literacy
 with Amy Milliron
 Wed. March 27, 3-4 PM (Zoom)

TEXAS FARM-TO-SCHOOL
 LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

Fostering Eco Literacy
 Wed. March 27, 3-4 PM (Zoom)

Join the Texas Farm to School Learning Collaborative to learn how to foster youth Eco Literacy. Hear from Amy Milliron, founder of Fearless Farmer and get inspired by real people who are transforming the local food system.

TEXAS FARM-TO-SCHOOL
 LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

Farm Fresh Survey

TDA is kindly asking NSLP & CACFP Operators to respond to the Farm Fresh Survey 2024!

- **What is it?**
 - 5–10 minute survey for NSLP & CACFP CN Directors
- **What does it do?**
 - Informs TDA about Farm Fresh activities across the state
 - Provides feedback on the Farm Fresh programs and resources provided by TDA
- **Why should I take it?**
 - Helps guide TDA's Farm Fresh Initiative direction and resource development
 - Supports future Farm Fresh programming in Texas schools and childcare settings

Click [HERE](#) to complete this important survey.



A collage of fresh produce. The top left shows sliced and whole apples on a wooden surface. The top right shows several white mushrooms. The bottom left shows several ripe peaches, some whole and some sliced, with green leaves. The background is a dark gradient with a red horizontal band across the middle.

Poll Questions

A collage of fresh produce. The top left shows sliced and whole apples on a dark wooden surface. The top right shows several white mushrooms on a dark background. The bottom left shows several ripe peaches, some whole and some sliced, with green leaves on a wooden surface. The word "Resources" is written in white on a red background that spans the middle of the collage.

Resources

NEW! LFS Resources

- Additional LFS Resources for Schools: www.squaremeals.org/LFS
- **LFS Vendor Resource List:**
Contains list of vendors previously used by grant recipients for reimbursement of LFS funds. It is not required to use these vendors; however, if interested in pursuing procurement from any of the vendors listed, you must follow all federal, state, and local procurement regulations and processes.
- **National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)**
 - Resource to locate Texas Agricultural producers
 - Contact: Robert Maggiani, Sustainable Ag Specialist, robertm@ncat.org

Additional LFS Resources for Schools

The LFS Grant Team is continually adding resources to support grant recipients. See below for helpful information and tools to guide you through the LFS program.

1. Visit **USDA's Procuring Local Foods page** to access the USDA Procuring Local Foods Guidebook, Serving Local Foods Webinar Series, **Farm to School Fact Sheets**, Policy and Regulations, and more.
2. Review state procurement policies here: **TDA ARM Section 17 and 17a-17c**
3. Find Texas Farm to School ready producers on **TDA's Farm Fresh Network Map**
4. Look at the **TDA Farmer Profiles** to see Texas farmers currently working with schools across Texas to provide local foods for school meals.
5. Looking for Texas products? Visit TDA's **GO TEXAN** Program website.
6. Use the **Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) Directory Search** to find potential farm to school providers.
7. Use the **Texas Chamber of Commerce Directory** to identify your local office and businesses in your area.
8. Contact the local cooperative extension agent or educators to learn more about Texas local products. A list of Texas extension institutes can be found **here**.
9. **Texas Center for Local Food** resources
10. TDA Trainings:
 - i. **Basics of the Procurement Processes for NSLP**
 - ii. **Procurement & Reviews, Bridging the Gap ARM Section 17**
 - iii. **Farm Fresh Introduction to Farm to School**
11. ICN Trainings:
 - i. **"Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs" Training**
 - ii. **STAR: Farm to School: Procuring Local Foods**
12. CICN Trainings:
 - i. **"Produce Procurement: Understanding Availability and Specs, Determining What You Want, and the Importance of a Collaborative Relationship with Your Produce Distributor" Training**
 - ii. **Farm to School: Tips and Strategies for Purchasing Directly from Local Producers**
 - iii. **Farm to School Success Stories: Buying from Local Growers, Producers, and Processors**
13. Urban School Food Alliance's – Farm to School **Procurement Miniseries**
14. National Farm to School Network – **Farm to School Resource Database**

LFS Vendor Resource List

Food Products	Company	Texas Location	Website	Address	Phone	Email
Vegetables	Cargil Farms Produce	Uvalde	https://www.cargilfarmsproduce.com/	6868 FM 117, Uvalde, TX 78801	+1 (830) 278-5616	n/a
Vegetables	Fifth Branch Farms	Florence	No website	2450 Briggs Rd., Florence Texas 76549	+1 (512) 966-6505	fifthbranchfarms@gmail.com
Vegetables	L&L Farms	Batesville	https://www.thellfarms.com/	750 CR 1005 Batesville, Texas 78829	+1 (830) 376-8000	info@thellfarms.com
Vegetables	McNabb MicroFarm LLC	Corpus Christi	https://www.mcnabbmicrofarm.com/home	13106 Deepwater Circle, Corpus Christi, TX 78410	+1 (361) 537-8787	mcnabbmicrofarm@gmail.com
Vegetables	Rio Fresh	San Juan	https://www.riofresh.com/	6504 S Stewart Road, San Juan TX 78589	+1 (972) 322-7253	vivianmccullough@sbcglobal.net
Vegetables	Trinity Ranch Seguin	Seguin	https://trinityranchseguin.square.site/about	1431 Ilka Switch, Seguin, TX 78155	+1 (830) 491-8917	wbsdls@gmail.com
Vegetables	TrueHarvest Farms	Belton	https://trueharvestfarms.com/	111 Trueharvest Wy, Belton, TX 76513	+1 (760) 583-3362	Lexi@TrueHarvestFarms.com
Vegetables	Val Verde Vegetables Co	McAllen	https://valverdevegetable.com/	200 Trophy Dr, McAllen, TX 78504	+1 (956) 994-1310	jeffh@valverdevegetable.com
Meat	44 Farms	Cameron	https://44farms.com/	963 PR 44, Cameron, TX 76520	+1 (254) 697-4401	info@44farms.com
Meat	Barton Beef	Garrison	https://www.bartonbeef.org/	121 South Ave B, Garrison TX 75946	+1 (936) 347-2715	lanebartonfarm@yahoo.com
Meat	Greener Pastures Chicken	Elgin	https://greenerpastureschicken.com/	8MXF+XW, Elgin, TX 78621	+1 (512) 921-7315	diego@greenerpastureschicken.com
Meat	Pryor Cattle Company	Henderson	https://pryorcattlecompany.com/	2343 FM 348 South, Henderson TX 75654	+1 (903) 658-4672	pryorcattle@eastex.net
Meat	River Creek LTD	Sherman	https://rivercreekmeats.com/	PO Box 670, Sherman TX 75019	+1 (903) 815-4249	ryan@rivercreekwagyu.com
Meat	Texas Tribal Buffalo Project	Waelder	https://www.texastribalbuffaloproject.org/partnerships	2463 FM 1296, Waelder Texas 78959	+1 (512) 595-1584	lucille@texastribalbuffaloproject.org
Grains	HG Rice Mill	Markham	https://hgricemill.com/	1116 Fm 2431, Markham, TX 77456	+1 (979) 479-7857	debbiehgricemill@gmail.com

List will be sent via email after this live presentation.

A collage of fresh produce. The top section shows sliced apples and whole apples on a dark wooden surface. The middle section features a red gradient background with white text. The bottom section shows several ripe peaches, some whole and some sliced, with green leaves on a wooden surface.

FAQs

Updated FAQs available soon!

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Questions?

Contact Us



Sylvia Garrett, Grant Manager

Melinda Nguyen, Senior Nutrition Specialist

Jennifer Lengyel, Food Systems Specialist

Portal: [Reimbursement Form](#)

TDA LFS Website: www.squaremeals.org/LFS



Farm Fresh Network: www.squaremeals.org/FarmFreshNetwork

Comptroller Vendor List: <https://mycpa.cpa.state.tx.us/tpasscdblsearch/>

Food and Nutrition: www.SquareMeals.org



LocalFoodGrant@texasagriculture.gov

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- 1. mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- 2. fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. email:**
program.intake@usda.gov

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