



November 2022 E-Harvest Newsletter

Farm to School Spotlight



Congratulations to All Farm Fresh Challenge Participants!

Throughout the month of October, nearly 3,000 campuses at 152 Texas school districts took the pledge to Eat Local, Teach Local, and Be Social! School nutrition teams served local foods, provided fun and educational activities including garden-based learning, and shared their success stories with TDA and their communities throughout the Challenge! Congratulations to all districts that participated for their commitment to building the next Farm Fresh generation!

USDA Farm to School Grant - Application Open!

Schools, farmers, and eligible organizations that contribute to serving meals to kids through USDA's child nutrition programs can [apply now for a USDA Farm to School Grant](#). In 2023, USDA will award approximately \$12 million in grants through a competitive process that provides bonus points to projects operated by and serving communities that are underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected by poverty and inequality. Interested and eligible organizations must apply by January 6, 2023. More information on the program, webinar series details, and other resources for applicants can be found [here](#).

Other Funding Opportunities

- There is still time to apply for the [Reaching for Excellence \(RFE\) in Texas School Health Grant!](#) The RFE grant is a Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) program, which can help fund school garden program development. The maximum award amount is \$10,000. Apply by November 14, 2022.

- The Kids Gardening [Youth Garden Grant](#) application is due December 2nd! Any organization in the United States or US Territories planning a new or improving an existing garden program that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 0 and 18 is eligible to apply. In early 2023, fifty organizations will be awarded \$500.

Farm to Child Care Spotlight



POWER of the FOOD PROGRAM
Wednesday, December 7 - 11:00 am - 4:30 pm ET

Ensuring food access, nutrition security and financial reimbursement for child and adult care providers serving healthy foods.

Power of the Food Program!

Join the National CACFP Association on **December 7, 2022** to learn how the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) contributes to food and nutrition security, get practical training on serving healthy meals, discover ideas and resources you can use in your program immediately, and earn up to six hours of continuing education. The sessions on menu planning, meal pattern, and preparing snacks are a great opportunity to start thinking about how to incorporate Texas-grown food in your meal program. For a full list of topics covered, event schedule breakdown, and to register for the training program, visit [here](#).

Local Food Purchasing Resource for Child Care Providers

As your CACFP program seeks to incorporate more local foods, check out this quick resource to help you develop a plan and engage in purchasing local:

- Farm to School Network's [Local Purchasing Quick Guide](#).

USDA Farm to School Grant - Open to CACFP Operators!

Although the title "Farm to School" can give one the impression that this grant program is only for K-12 school facilities, the [USDA's Farm to School Grant](#) is available to eligible child care institutions, including non-school based institutions that have an agreement with TDA to operate CACFP. These organizations can apply and get awarded these federal grants! The deadline to [apply](#) is January 6, 2023.

Producer Spotlight



USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) Roadshow - Virtual Workshops

Developed for specialty crop, organic, urban, and direct market producers and stakeholders, these virtual workshops offered throughout the fall will provide the latest updates and improvements to the [Whole-Farm Revenue Protection](#) (WFRP) and the [Micro Farm](#) insurance options. For scheduled dates and meeting links to attend a workshop, click [here](#)!

Funding Opportunity!

American Farmland Trust's (AFT) annual "Brighter Future Fund" grant opportunity is still open for applications. AFT is focused on providing resources to beginning, women and veteran farmers, as well as those historically resilient farmers identifying as socially disadvantaged in alignment with the USDA. The Brighter Future Fund grant can be used for improving farm infrastructure, accessing land, securing land tenure, addressing heirs' property, and more. A project may involve one or more individual farmers or farm families, however, only one grant can be awarded per farmer/farm family. Apply [here](#) for up to \$5,000 by **November, 15th!**

Selling Local Food to Schools Fact Sheet and Resources

For agricultural producers starting on their journey selling their products to schools, this [fact sheet](#) is a great resource. Covering the four paths to partner with schools, connecting with schools, and how schools buy food, this USDA fact sheet is a great place to start for the basics.

Supplement the USDA fact sheet linked above with our [TDA resources for producers](#), including the selling to schools [Decision Tool](#) and [Producer Checklist](#).



Welcome to the Farm Fresh Network!

- The Texas Farm Fresh Network welcomes six new members!

Half Calf LLC in Stonewall specializes in beef year-round.

VvT Ventures in Navasota specializes in providing a variety of vegetables throughout the year.

Fruitful Hill Farm LLC in Smithville specializes in chemical-free non-GMO sweet potatoes and gold potatoes in late fall and winter.

Vermillion Farms in Coupland specializes in bell peppers, cucumbers, lettuce, spinach, and tomatoes year-round.

Moringa of America in Kerens specializes in moringa production and moringa powder year-round.

Floreli Foods LLC in Austin specializes in sunflower seed humus year-round.

Panhandle Meat Processing in Amarillo specializes in beef year-round.

- To learn more about the Farm Fresh Network members interested in selling their products to schools or child care centers in your area, visit [www.FarmFreshNetwork.org](#).

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, child care 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.

Interested in learning more about Texas products?

Read the latest [GO TEXAN E-Zine](#) today.