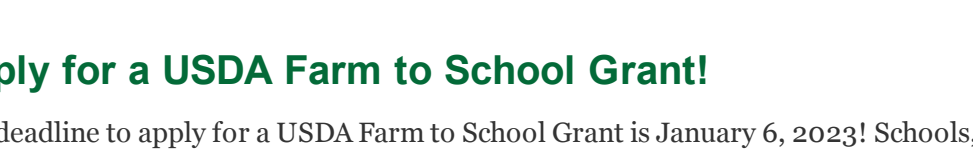




December 2022 E-Harvest Newsletter

Farm to School Spotlight



Apply for a USDA Farm to School Grant!

The deadline to apply for a USDA Farm to School Grant is January 6, 2023! Schools, farmers, and other organizations that help produce or serve meals for kids through USDA's child nutrition programs can [apply using this link](#)! The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has committed to award approximately \$12 million in grants in 2023 through a competitive application process. Bonus points in their scoring will be prioritized for projects operated by and serving communities that are underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected by poverty and inequality. If you need guidance on creating and submitting a competitive application, or want more information on the programming, check out USDA's webinar recordings and other program resources [here](#).



Elementary Educators' Guide & Webinar for Container Gardening

Growing foods and plants outside is limited in the fall and winter months. However, container gardening can still be a fun option for educating youth on gardening principles and perhaps grow something festive for the holiday season. It is also a great way to get started with a school gardening program in general!

If you've been thinking about where your school can start or would just like a refresher, these resources can help you plant now and/or plan for springtime:

- [Elementary Educators' Guide to Container Gardening](#) was developed in collaboration by KidsGardening and Crescent Garden

- [KidsGardening Webinar](#) with tips and best practices for establishing a container garden at your school

Farm to Child Care Spotlight



Upcoming Workshops from National CACFP Association!

Join the national CACFP association for two upcoming events. These workshops can provide a great opportunity to start thinking about how to incorporate Texas-grown food in your meal program and make your Texas-grown recipes creditable!

December 7th: the Power of the Food Program - Learn how the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) contributes to food and nutrition security! The training will focus on serving healthy meals, meal pattern concepts, tips for program implementation, and resources you can use in your program immediately. [Register here](#).

December 15th: How to Credit Recipes in the CACFP - Do you love developing recipes with local ingredients but are unsure about how to make them CACFP creditable? In this training, learn key tips and methods on how to evaluate recipes to ensure they meet CACFP regulations. [Register here](#).

CACFP Operators - Apply for USDA Farm to School Grant!

Don't forget, 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. Interested organizations should [apply](#) by **January 6, 2023**! Webinars covering how to apply are available to view [here](#)!

Producer Spotlight

Open Enrollment for TDA's Young Farmer Interest Rate Reduction Program

The Young Farmer Interest Rate Reduction (YFIRR) Program is intended to facilitate a lower interest rate for agricultural producers or agribusiness owners who are between 18 and 46 years of age and working through a commercial lender.

Loan proceeds may be used for any agriculture-related operating expense, including the following:

- The purchase or lease of land
- Fixed asset acquisition or improvement
- Any enterprise based on agriculture, as identified in the application

A loan under this program may be applied to existing debt only when required by the lender to finance the expansion of an eligible project.

For more information on this and other loan and grant programs offered by TDA, visit the [grants and services webpage](#).



Risk Management Agency (RMA) Roadshow Continues!

Developed for specialty crop, organic, urban, and direct market producers and stakeholders, these virtual and in-person workshops are offered throughout the fall and winter and will provide the latest updates and improvements to the [Whole-Farm Revenue Protection](#) (WFRP) and the [Micro Farm](#) insurance options. One virtual workshop is scheduled in December as well as an in-person workshop at the Texas A&M University Citrus Center. Click [here](#) for full details on each workshop!



Welcome to the Farm Fresh Network!

The Texas Farm Fresh Network has welcomed more than 30 new members over the past few months! A full list of our network members and a map of their location can be found on our Farm Fresh webpage, [here](#).

Happy Holidays to all our network members this holiday season!

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:

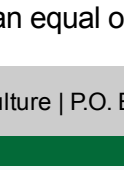
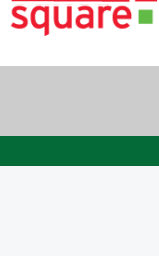
Use this tool to connect with Texas food companies that currently sell or are interested in selling to schools, child care centers, adult care centers and summer meal programs. Company listings include contact information, product availability and distribution radius

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.

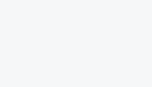
Interested in learning more about Texas products?

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



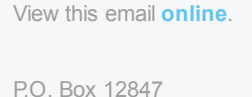
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