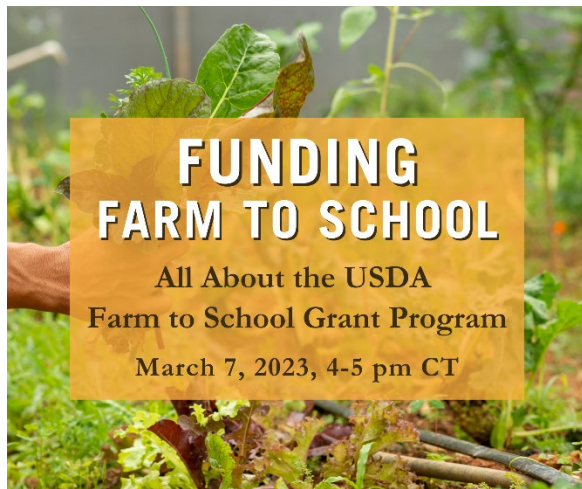




February 2023 E-Harvest Newsletter

Farm to School Spotlight

Webinar: USDA Farm to School Grant



Join representatives from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Farm Fresh Initiative and the Sustainable Food Center on **Tuesday, March 7, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.** to learn more about USDA's Farm to School Grant!

If your organization is interested in establishing a Farm to School project but needs guidance on where and how to start, be sure to attend this free webinar event using the registration link below:



TEXAS FARM TO SCHOOL
LEARNING COLLABORATIVE



[Register Now](#)

Funding Opportunities

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants

[Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production \(UAIP\) competitive grants](#) initiate or expand efforts for urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural practices, including:

- community gardens and farms
- rooftop farms, outdoor vertical production, and green walls
- indoor farms, greenhouses, and high-tech vertical technology farms
- hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic farm facilities

School districts and non-profit organizations serving children K-12 are eligible and must apply by **March 27, 2023!**

Whole Kids Foundation – Garden Grant

As a friendly reminder, the [Whole Kids Foundation's Garden Grant](#) application deadline is **March 1, 2023!** The Garden Grant supports new or existing edible educational gardens located at either a K–12 school or a nonprofit whose work serves school aged children K-12.

Farm to Child Care Spotlight



Farm to Child Care On-demand Course!

The Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service has an online, on-demand course for Farm to Early Child Care, entitled, “[Farm to ECE: A Texas Healthy Building Blocks Training!](#)”

This one-hour course reviews key practices for early childhood educators implementing farm-to-table strategies and educational opportunities around locally produced food.

NFSN Resources for Farm to Child Care!

As your CACFP program seeks to incorporate more local foods, check out these quick reference guides from the National Farm to School Network to help you get your farm to childcare program started or develop a plan to engage in local procurement:

[Getting Started with Farm to Early Care and Education](#)

[Local Procurement for Child Care Centers](#)

For more Farm to Child Care resources from the National Farm to School Network, [start here!](#)

Producer Spotlight

TDA Young Farmer Grant Application

Texas agricultural producers are encouraged to apply for the 2023 Young Farmer Grant (YFG) program. This program provides financial assistance to individuals who are engaged or will be engaged in creating or expanding an agricultural business in Texas. Recipients must be at least 18 years old, but younger than 46 years of age at the time of the grant application submission deadline. Financial assistance is provided in the form of dollar-for-dollar matching grant funds. The 2023 application must be completed online. Additional details, instructions, and application materials can be [found here](#). Applications must be received by **March 29, 2023**.



Young Farmer and Rancher Spring Conference

The Texas Farm Bureau is hosting its annual Young Farmer and Rancher Spring Conference March 31 - April 2 in Grapevine. **Register by March 3!**

Interactive breakout sessions and lectures will cover agricultural advocacy, new industry trends, engagement with consumers, and much more!

Texas Farm Fresh Network



To learn more about Farm Fresh Network members selling their products to schools, childcare centers, or summer meal sites 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.

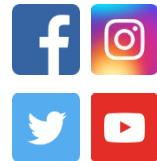
Interested in learning more about Texas products?

Sign up for the [Go Local. GO TEXAN E-zine](#) today.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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Texas Department of Agriculture | P.O. Box 12847, Austin, TX 78711