



## October 2022 E-Harvest Newsletter

### Farm to School Spotlight



**Eat Local. Teach Local. Be Social.**

Eat Local.	
<b>1st Tier: Best of the Bunch</b> <b>What to Serve:</b> 3 or more Texas Foods representing 3 different meal components. <b>How Often:</b> A minimum of once a week each week of the challenge.	<b>2nd Tier: Prime Participant</b> <b>What to Serve:</b> 3 or more Texas Foods representing 3 different meal components. <b>How Often:</b> Anytime during the challenge period.

**Teach Local.**

Host at least 1 educational opportunity during each full week of the challenge.

**Be Social.**

Share at least 1 social media post on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using #FarmFreshTexas or #FarmFreshChallenge.

### October Farm Fresh Challenge Kick-Off!

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Farm Fresh Challenge is underway! Hundreds of school districts throughout the state have pledged participation this year. Many will earn TDA recognition for being Best of the Bunch or Prime Participants as they champion "Eat Local, Teach Local, Be Social" on campus this October!

### Farm to School Funding Opportunities

[Budding Botanist Grant](#) – A collaborative program from Kids Gardening and the Klorane Botanical Foundation awards \$1,000 grants to schools to support youth garden programs. Apply by October 14th.

[Reaching for Excellence \(RFE\) in Texas School Health Grant](#) – A Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) program awards grants to inspire students to live healthier lives. The program awards up to \$10,000 for school garden program development. Apply by November 14th.

[Healthy Choices Grants](#) – The Oliver Foundation grants require a nutrition and physical activity education component to be funded. Grants range from \$750 to \$5,000, which can fund school garden program initiatives but will not fund the construction of a garden. Apply by October 15th.



### October is National Farm to School Month!

Throughout the month of October, TDA invites all Texas schools to celebrate **Farm to School Month**. Farm to School Month is a time to highlight the connections happening across Texas between schools, food, and local farmers and ranchers. A great way to celebrate Farm to School Month is by participating in TDA's [Farm Fresh Challenge](#)! For additional ways to get involved, use the links below to access other Farm to School resources such as toolkits, downloads for stickers, buttons, posters, logos, and more!

[TDA's Farm to School resources](#)

[National Farm to School Network resources](#)

### Farm to Child Care Spotlight



#### Happy Autumn Activity Page!

TDA's Harvest of the Month for October features Apples. Celebrate the season through this [activity page for fall fun](#)! Have an Apple Relay, Circle Time Sing-a-Long, and cap it all off with some peanut butter and apple wraps!

For more on TDA's Harvest of the Month, visit

[here](#).

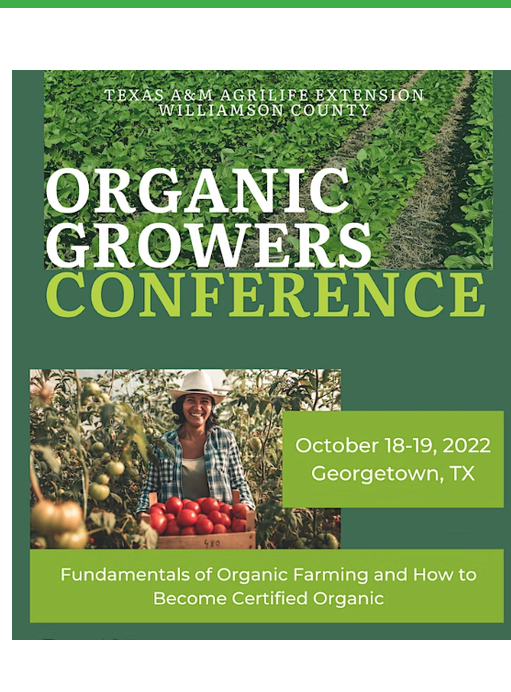
### CACFP Saturday Summit

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Sponsors Association will host a one-day summit on Saturday, October 15. Topics include Meal Service Made Fun; Connecting Nutrition with Family Engagement; Straw Bales: A New Way to Garden; and more! Sponsors at childcare centers, adult care centers, and Head Start communities can earn up to 5.5 hours of continuing education credit. Register [here](#).

### Producer Spotlight

#### Organic Growers Conference

A two-day event on **October 18 and 19, 2022, in Georgetown**, will focus on the fundamentals of organic farming. TDA's Brandi Chandler will explain how to grow certified organic food in Texas. The conference is hosted by Williamson County AgriLife Extension. Register [here](#)!



### Future Funding Opportunities

The following TDA programs have released applications in October.

- [Organic Cost Share Reimbursement Program](#) apply by November 1st
- [Young Farmer Grant Program](#) apply by November 3rd.

Click on the links above to learn more about the goals and requirements for each program. You can also be notified when further information and opportunities are released by subscribing to all TDA e-publications, [here](#).

### Welcome to the Farm Fresh Network!

- The Texas Farm Fresh Network welcomes eight new members!

**Storehouse Gardens** in Cameron specializes in leafy greens year-round, especially salad mixes and kale.

**Green Bexar Farms** in Saint Hedwig specializes in varied garden vegetable production throughout the year; they also offer eggs and turkey.

**El Rucio Properties LLC** in Linn specializes in beef year-round.

**Rio Casado Farm** in Rio Hondo specializes in carrots from January through June as well as green leafy vegetables in fall, winter, and spring.

**The Farmery** in Temple specializes in diversified vegetable production March through June.

**Weise Farms** in Serbin specializes in leafy greens year-round, especially salad mixes and kale.

**Foxglove Grove** in Caldwell specializes in cucumber seasonally, chicken in October, and eggs year-round.

**Hackamore Ranch** in Thorndale specializes in beef and lamb 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](mailto:FarmFresh@TexasAgriculture.gov)

Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL

## Connect with Others

### Texas Farm Fresh Network:

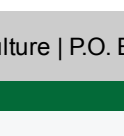
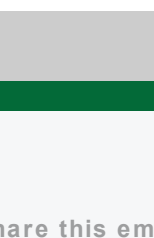
Use this tool to connect with Texas food companies that currently sell or are interested in selling to schools, child care centers, adult care centers and summer meal programs. Company listings include contact information, product availability and distribution radius

### Funding Opportunities:

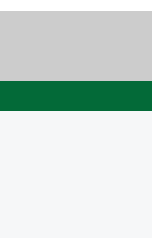
Financial support from organizations may help establish or advance local Farm Fresh initiatives. This list includes opportunities from TDA, USDA and other organizations.

### Interested in learning more about Texas products?

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

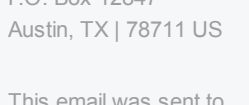


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**COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**  
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