

Homegrown and Healthy

Creating a Texas Farm Fresh Generation



Texas is building a Farm Fresh generation by connecting schools and childcare centers with Texas agriculture. Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller's Farm Fresh Initiative cultivates an enduring mindset among new generations in which the freshest foods are chosen with the knowledge that those choices positively impact our own health and the health of the community at large.

Through the creation of the Farm Fresh Network and innovative state supports to mitigate policy and logistical challenges, the Farm Fresh Initiative is growing its track record of success.



In school year 22/23, \$257.8 million was spent by Texas schools on local foods, a 70.2% increase from the 2019 Farm to School Census.

90.9% of Texas students were reached by Farm to School programming compared to a national average of 88.6%.



73.5% of Texas schools reported participation in Farm to School activities, a 11.2% increase from the 2019 Farm to School Census.

At 60%, more Texas schools are purchasing local than the national average.



59% of Texas schools reported increased student consumption of fruits and vegetables and 27.3% increase in scratch cooking methods.

51% of Texas schools reported access to better quality food with a 27.6% reduction in food waste.



Commissioner Miller and the Texas Department of Agriculture continue working to improve the quality of food for Texas children and supporting Texas producers and local economies. Since 2022, the agency has awarded over \$22 million for local food purchases; \$5 million to improve training, resources and services, and \$14.7 million to upgrade equipment in school kitchens.

Join the Farm Fresh Initiative.



Visit [Squaremeals.org](https://squaremeals.org).



Food and Nutrition Division
www.SquareMeals.org

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711
Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL | For the hearing impaired (800) 735-2989 (TTY)

This product was funded by USDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



11/2024