



THE FARM FRESH INITIATIVE

September 2022 E-Harvest Newsletter

Farm to School Spotlight

Growing School Gardens Summit | Webinar Series

The School Garden Support Organization (SGSO) Network is launching a six-month webinar series on September 21, 2022, as an extension of their 2022 Growing School Gardens Summit in April 2022. Whether you were unable to make the summit, or simply want to take advantage of the variety of topics being presented on in this training series, [registration for the fall webinars](#) is available now!



2022-2023 USDA Farm to School Grant Awardees

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) congratulates the following Texas organizations that were awarded a USDA Farm to School Grant!

- Lubbock ISD – Lubbock, TX
- San Antonio ISD – San Antonio, TX
- Grow North Texas – Dallas, TX
- Condra School – Lubbock, TX

To learn more about their projects, and for a comprehensive list of awardees across the nation, visit the USDA webpage [here](#).



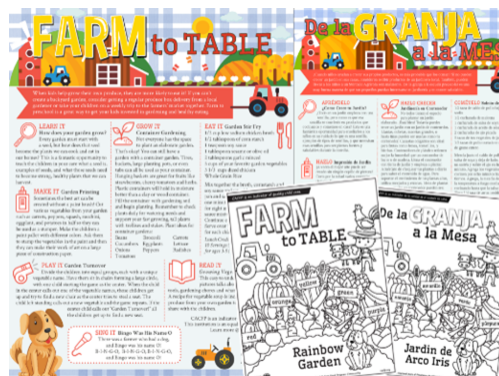
Register for the Farm Fresh Challenge!

There's still time to pledge participation in this year's Farm Fresh Challenge! Participating in the Challenge is easier than you may think, as some of the foods you already serve could be Texas products. Pledge to gain access to our network of participating farmers, ranchers, and producers! Learn more [here](#)!

Farm to Child Care Spotlight

Farm to Table Activity Page

Growing healthy food on-site in engaging and creative ways can get kids more excited to try new fruits and vegetables. [Download this free activity page](#) for ideas on teaching kids how their food is grown, a recipe for a tasty garden stir fry, and instructions on how to build your own container garden.



How many Texas fruits and veggies that are in-season can your program participants find on the coloring sheet? Color them in as you find and match them with the TDA [Seasonality Wheel](#)!

Producer Spotlight



11th Annual Texas Fruit Conference

Hosted and sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas Fruit Conference will be held **September 26-27, 2022**, at the Civic and Convention Center in New Braunfels. Registration for both in-person and virtual attendance options is available [here](#). The event will offer basic and advanced educational seminars on perennial fruit crops, and participants can earn four TDA continuing education units in

integrated pest management! To learn more about the full conference programs, schedule, and attendance details, visit the conference [webpage](#).

Welcome to the Farm Fresh Network!

The Texas Farm Fresh Network welcomes seven new members!

- **JMZ Farms** in Cedar Hill specializes in eggs available from September through December.
- **Sweet Roots Hydroponic Farm** in Anthony specializes in herbs and leafy green vegetables year-round.
- **Yoakum Packing Co** in Yoakum specializes in smoked bacon, beef brisket, sausage, and turkey legs year-round.
- **Ribbonwire Ranch** in Dalhart specializes in beef year-round.
- **Hardies Fresh Foods** in Austin specializes in mushrooms year-round.
- **Palo Blanco Farm and Ranch** in Laredo specializes in alfalfa sprouts and microgreens year-round.
- **Red River Pumpkin Patch** in Davidson, OK, specializes in seasonal cucurbits and offers 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.

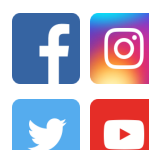
Interested in learning more about Texas products?

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



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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