

TEXAS FARM FRESH E-HARVEST

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

June 2019

Farm Fresh Spotlight Story

Congratulations 2019 Grantees!

Congratulations to all Expanding the 3E's Grant (X3E) awardees for 2019! This competitive grant was awarded to seven schools in 2019.

- Waco Independent School District (ISD)
- Coppell ISD
- Robstown ISD
- Sheldon ISD
- Canutillo ISD
- Frisco ISD
- YES Prep Public Schools

This year's grants will help these schools connect students to local agriculture through gardens, outdoor learning programs, meet-the-farmer days and much more! The grants reinforce the 3E's of Healthy Living - Education, Exercise and Eating Right.

Awarded schools represent school districts across Texas that want to take their engagement in the Farm Fresh Initiative to the next level.

The X3E grant is an annual grant program available through the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Applications open each October and are due in December. To learn more about the grant program visit Texasagriculture.gov



Contact TDA

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[Email](#) us or call
(877) TEX-MEAL

Connect with Others

Texas Statewide Network

This [LinkedIn Group](#) is an online network connecting schools, child and adult care centers, producers, support organizations and community members with important information about expanding local food efforts in Texas.

[Join Today!](#)

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 and summer meal programs. Company listings include contact information, product availability and distribution radius.

Funding Opportunities

Farm to School Spotlight



STUDENTS ARE LEARNING
TO LOVE LOCAL

School Spotlight

The nutrition team from Coppell ISD has found that the Farm Fresh Challenge supports and enhances the things the

district does year-round to encourage healthy eating habits for students.

"We love taking advantage of the Farm Fresh Challenge to really showcase what we serve to both our students and parents," said Alicia Braun, registered dietician with Coppell ISD. "We feel like our students are more appreciative of their food when they know where it comes from. This is especially true when we serve items that they grew themselves from the school gardens! It gives them a sense of pride and ownership."

The district was able to increase its participation and usage of the school gardens after receiving the [Expanding the 3E's Grant](#) in 2018.

This was the sixth year that the district participated in the Farm Fresh Challenge, and Braun said she appreciates the new elements introduced to extend the impact of participation. "I love the new requirement to provide agricultural-based learning activities and share communications via social media," she said.

They also found the TDA resources helpful.

"The buttons and static clings are a great way to showcase which products are locally grown," Braun said. "In addition, the students enjoy being able to make their own [seasonality wheels](#)!"

Coppell ISD used local products from multiple sources including a local farm, a school food distributor, school gardens and the USDA DoD Farm to School program. Great work Coppell ISD!

Pledge participation today to take the Farm Fresh Challenge and earn recognition for your efforts just like Coppell ISD!

Registration is now open for the 2019 Farm Fresh Challenge!

Eat Local, Teach Local, and Be Social this October along with other schools across the state. In 2018, over 232 districts took the challenge! Students, faculty and staff will have fun and earn recognition for efforts to serve more local foods and teach students the importance of Texas agriculture.

This will be the 6th year schools have partnered with TDA in the Farm Fresh challenge and there are some exciting changes for 2019 such as:

- Printable resources available on [Squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge](#)
- A streamlined Jot Form process at the end of the Challenge period
- and more!

See what's new and complete the short pledge form for the 2019 Farm Fresh Challenge.

PLEDGE NOW

Tools provided to help each school celebrate

Participating schools will receive a toolkit of Farm Fresh materials, including a choice of buttons, stickers, or static clings for the celebration in October.

View all of the print ready files for bookmarks, posters, banners, stickers, and much more at [Squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge](#)

Register by

July 15th to guarantee on-time delivery of Farm Fresh support materials

Farm to Summer Spotlight

Eat Local. Teach Local. Be Social.

More than 50 of TDA's Summer Meals Program partners have pledged their participation in the [2019 Farm Fresh Challenge](#). To help sponsors celebrate the challenge, TDA provides the following support materials:

- "I Tried Local" stickers for students
- "We Serve Local" buttons
- Social media support tools
- Template promotional materials
- Access to various nutrition education resources that can be downloaded on [Squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge](#)



The pledge period ends June 10, 2019. Pledge participation today and plan your celebration of local foods during the summer months!

Financial support from organizations may help establish or advance local Farm Fresh initiatives.

[Go here](#) for a list of opportunities from TDA, USDA and other organizations.

Stay Connected



Interested in learning more about Texas products?

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

Welcome to the Farm Fresh Network!

Two Texas agriculture businesses recently joined the TDA Farm Fresh Network - BTB Hot Sauce and Pioneer Farms.

Pioneer Farms' community gardener Michael McKee is passionate about connecting all people, including students, to high quality fruits and vegetables.

BTB is short for [Better Than ... Brand](#) and BTB Hot Sauce promises to tickle your taste buds with their picante sauces. Visit [Squaremeals.org/FarmFreshNetwork](https://squaremeals.org/FarmFreshNetwork) for more information about TDA's Farm Fresh Network.



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