

# TEXAS

## FARM FRESH E-HARVEST

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

### August 2019

#### Farm Fresh Spotlight Story

#### Prepare Now for USDA's Upcoming Farm to School Census

USDA will conduct the Farm to School Census next month. By taking the survey, you help us assess the growth of farm to school across the nation. This is the first survey since 2015 and USDA has put together the [Census preparation survey](#) to help contracting entities (CEs) prepare their survey answers.

The 2019 Census will ask questions similar to those asked in the past, including the following:

- What is the CE's definition of local?
- How much money is spent on local food purchases annually?
- What local products are most commonly purchased?
- Where are the local foods from?
- What are the biggest challenges and benefits of engaging in farm to school?
- How many edible school gardens are in the district?
- How many salad bars are in the district?

All answers will be publicly available in 2020. View previous Farm to School Census data at [farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov](http://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov).

***Help Texas reach our goal of 80% participation in the 2019 Census!***

#### Farm to School Spotlight



STUDENTS ARE LEARNING  
TO LOVE LOCAL

#### Congratulations USDA Farm to School Grantees for 2019!

Texas schools received more than \$240,000 of the total \$9 million in grant funding awarded in the 2019 USDA Farm to School Grant cycle.



#### Contact TDA

Emilee Case  
Coordinator for Farm  
Fresh Projects

[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

Financial support from organizations may help

Congratulations to Waco ISD, Elgin ISD and Laredo ISD on receiving these grant funds for the amazing projects that support access to local foods for families and students. [Click here](#) to learn more about these projects and other funded grant projects.

### Registration is now open for the 2019 Farm Fresh Challenge!

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Farm Fresh Challenge has already received more than 120 pledges from across the state! Your schools can get in on the excitement in 2019 too. To learn more about the Farm Fresh Challenge and what's new for 2019, visit [Squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge](https://squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge) and pledge your participation today!



### Farm to Summer Spotlight

#### Congratulations to Establishing 3E's (E3E) Grantees for 2019

Recently, TDA awarded Establishing the 3E's grants to 13 outstanding child care centers in Texas. These child care programs are connecting participants to local foods, improving menus, and improving learning environments through this grant from TDA.

To learn more about the E3E Grant program and this year's recipients, visit [Squaremeals.org/HCACFPRA](https://squaremeals.org/HCACFPRA).



### Farm to Summer Spotlight

#### Summer Programs Were Super Social during the 2019 Summer Farm Fresh Challenge

While the Texas heat only seems to have just arrived, the summer of 2019 is already nearly over. This year marked the second summer that summer sponsors could take the Farm Fresh Challenge. Many programs went above and beyond and showed off their activities on social media. There were 31 sponsors that received the highest award level, Best of the Bunch, and one sponsor that received the Prime Participant award!

View the [slide show of all Be Social activities](#) in the 2019 Summer Farm Fresh Challenge.



### Producer Spotlight

#### Welcome New Farm Fresh Network Members Corazon Natural Beef, Country Boy Farms and Land of Milk and Honey Vegetable Farm LLC.

TDA's Farm Fresh Network welcomed three new members in July.

Corazon Natural Beef provides ground beef products in and around Lindale.

Country Boy Farms produces hydroponically grown butter bibb lettuce and red oakleaf lettuce at the family farm in Davy Crockett National Forest near Crockett.

Land of Milk and Honey Vegetable Farm has many seasonally available vegetables in Navasota. Welcome to the Farm Fresh Network!

View all Farm Fresh Network members [here](#).

[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.



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