

# TEXAS FARM FRESH E-HARVEST

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

September 2019

## Farm Fresh Spotlight Story

### We Made it Happen: Henderson Grown

Buying direct from Texas farmers and ranchers is a great way to support the Texas economy and get students excited about eating school lunch!

Learn how one school in East Texas is making it happen in the Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA's) latest *We Made it Happen* video featuring Henderson ISD and Farm Fresh Network members Green Family Farms and Pryor Cattle Company. Click on the image below to watch the video.



## Farm to School Spotlight



STUDENTS ARE LEARNING  
TO LOVE LOCAL

Prepare Now for USDA's Upcoming Farm to School Census



### 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

USDA will conduct the Farm to School Census this 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).

## Registration for the National School Lunch Program 2019 Farm Fresh Challenge Still Open!

The TDA Farm Fresh Challenge has already received more than 210 pledges from schools across the state! Your school 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](http://Squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge) and pledge your participation today!



## Farm to Child Care Spotlight

### SeedMoney Offers Garden Project Grants through Crowdfunding Challenge

**Deadline: Nov. 12, 2019**

SeedMoney is offering 255 garden grants totaling \$40,000 to diverse food garden projects through a 30-day crowdfunding challenge running from Nov. 15 to December 15. The grants are open to all types of public food garden projects, including youth gardens, community gardens, food bank gardens, etc., regardless of their location.

Grant applications will be accepted until November 12. The size of a grant a project can receive depends on how much it is able to raise over the 30-day period compared to other projects participating in the challenge. [Learn more here](#).

### Head Start Programs Eligible for 2020 Gro More Good Garden Grants

**Deadline: Oct. 11, 2019**

Get a jump start on planning for the 2019-2020 program year! The Gro More Good Garden Grant application, a grant funded by Scotts Miracle Gro Foundation, is now open for Head Start programs.

How to apply:

Review the [FAQ](#) to learn about grant eligibility.

[Apply for the grant](#) by Oct. 11, 2019.

For grant related questions, email [gardens@nhsa.org](mailto:gardens@nhsa.org).

## Producer Spotlight

### Welcome New Farm Fresh Network Members Happy Cattle Beef, K Bar M Farms, C&J Farms, JT2 Beef, and Royalty Pecan Farms.

TDA's Farm Fresh Network welcomed five new members in August.

Happy Cattle Beef provides beef products in Ben Wheeler.

K Bar M Farms produces beef, chicken, eggs, and honey in Adkins.

C&J Farms has an extensive array of shelf stable goods, including spices, seasonings, and honey, which they produce in Corsicana.

JT2 Beef provides beef products in Grand Saline.

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.

Royalty Pecan Farms provides pecan products from their orchards in Caldwell.  
Welcome to the Farm Fresh Network!

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

### **Update from TDA's Produce Safety Division**

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is responsible for implementing Food Safety Modernization Act's Produce Safety Rule which requires on farm assessments for understanding and compliance of the Produce Safety Rule. TDA has been working on grower outreach the past three years and will continue the grower outreach program.

However, it is now time to begin the assessment and compliance phase.

Towards the end of September TDA will begin assessments for those farms growing covered produce that have \$500K and above in gross sales of covered produce.

For more information on the Produce Safety Rule and to find a Produce Safety Outreach Specialist near you please visit [www.TexasAgriculture.gov/TOPS](http://www.TexasAgriculture.gov/TOPS).

View this [flyer](#) to help you understand the scheduling process.



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