



HEALTHY  
COMMUNITY  
network

# SPRING BULLETIN

## SUPPORT TEXAS AGRICULTURE WITH COMMISSIONER SID MILLER'S TEXAS FARM FRESH INITIATIVE

**Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller's Farm Fresh Initiative** connects Texans with healthy local foods and the agricultural producers behind it. This connection is a triple win. Farmers gain access to new markets. Students are exposed to healthy, local food in their meals. Schools and child care centers develop new partnerships with farmers and ranchers.

The Texas Farm Fresh Initiative is good for the Texas economy and good for Texas kids. Want to advance this movement in your community?

### **TEXAS FARM FRESH NETWORK:**

Texas farmers and ranchers who join the network gain access to no-cost resources, including opportunities to sell directly to schools and child care centers. Producers in your area can register at [SquareMeals.org/FarmFreshNetwork](http://SquareMeals.org/FarmFreshNetwork).

There is no obligation for our members just improved access to local markets and information.

### **TEXAS FARM FRESH CHALLENGE:**

This April, over 5,000 Texas schools and child care locations pledged to serve more Texas foods and teach children about the importance of Texas agriculture. Want to know if programs in your community participated? Visit [Squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge](http://Squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge).

Registration is currently open for the next Farm Fresh Challenge this October. Encourage your local schools to take the Farm Fresh Challenge this fall! So many great resources, helpful menus and tips are available at no cost.



The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) administers federal nutrition programs serving every community in Texas. The Healthy Community Network provides you opportunities to enhance the positive impacts these programs can bring to schools, Food Banks, child care centers and community organizations to build a healthier community and state. Information will be provided on how to ensure your community is not left behind in bringing these programs to citizens.

# NO COST MEALS ALL SUMMER LONG!

# HEALTHY SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS

As a local elected official, you play an important role in increasing awareness of the Summer Meal Programs. After schools close for summer, Children 18 and younger and enrolled students with disabilities up to age 21 in low-income areas can access these no-cost meals during the summer months.

Follow these steps to help families find a healthy summer meal:

**1** Beginning June 1, share these three meal site locator tools:

- Dial **211** to speak to a live operator
- Visit [www.SummerFood.org](http://www.SummerFood.org) for an interactive site locator map
- Text **FOODTX** or **COMIDA** to **877-877**

**2** Order or download no-cost promotional materials at [SummerFood.org/OutreachTools](http://SummerFood.org/OutreachTools). Share the materials directly with your community or through local media to spread the word about summer meals.

**3** **Attend a special event!** Speak with a local school district about upcoming events and promotional celebrations to raise awareness of summer meal sites in your community.

Want to receive regular updates about the Summer Meal Programs? Register for the Summer Breeze Newsletter at [Bit.ly/SummerBreezeNewsletter](http://Bit.ly/SummerBreezeNewsletter).



## TEXAS OPEN DATA PORTAL

The Open Data Portal at [Data.Texas.gov](http://Data.Texas.gov) gives everyone access to local data about federal nutrition programs in your community.

From the Texas Open Data Portal, you can learn:

- summer meal site locations;
- contact information for meal sites; and
- local participation levels in nutrition programs

Use this data to get to know your school districts, child care providers, summer programs and adult day care centers to promote their missions to serve nutritious foods and improve access to those in need. Help increase awareness of these programs to make sure all eligible Texans know about the nutrition options available to them.

To learn more visit [SquareMeals.org/FandNResources/OpenDataPortal](http://SquareMeals.org/FandNResources/OpenDataPortal)



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)

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[www.SquareMeals.org](http://www.SquareMeals.org)