



TX Agriculturalist
Native Texans Travis and Rebekah McPhaul, owners of Bucking Goat Farm, bring a variety of farm fresh goodies to farmers markets.



Pumpkin Patches
Find a pumpkin patch near you to kick off all of your fall festivities this year!



TDA Updates
Imported Fire Ants, Farm Fresh Initiative, Texas Agriculture Matters Season Two and more!



TEXAS AGRICULTURE *Matters!*

Your monthly connection to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Volume 1
Issue 9
September 2020



Howdy Neighbors!

Welcome to the Texas Agriculture Matters newsletter, your monthly connection to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

We are closely watching the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff members at TDA have transitioned to working remotely for the time being. Rest assured we are hard at work everyday to support farmers, ranchers and Texans with their agriculture endeavors.

Our operations will continue to serve you and we have plenty of opportunities available. Whether you're a young farmer, want to learn how to get a hemp license or need to read something that brings you joy, this newsletter will serve you well.

Remember friends, Texas Agriculture Matters!

Sid Miller
Texas Agriculture Commissioner

Texas: One Big Pumpkin Patch

It's that time of year again— everything is going pumpkin! The bright orange icon is a sign of decreasing temperatures, which has been much anticipated in Texas this year, especially with the record setting 100-degree heat streak. Pumpkin spice cereal, salsa and everything between is hitting the shelves in stores and the colors of fall are making their way into homes across the state.

Did you know pumpkins are considered a fruit? The seed-bearing structure of this flowering plant categorizes the squash as a fruit but because of its less sweet and more savory flavor many confuse it with being a vegetable. This versatile squash is famously used for decorating porches and mantles, baking sweet treats and savory meals alike.

Texas is the 4th leading state in pumpkin production and generates



nearly \$8 million to the Texas economy. Each year 5,000-8,000 acres are planted with yields of 20,000 to 33,000 pounds per acre and almost 90% are grown in the High Plains region.

One city in Texas “produces the world’s finest pumpkins and a lot of them” and “have the know how and desire to raise the best and widest variety of pumpkins anywhere.” Floydada, Texas is



claimed to be Pumpkin Capital, USA. The history of pumpkins in Floydada go back to 1841 when a Santa Fe expedition passing through this area came upon a group of Native Americans, who were so startled they left behind a patch of pumpkins, that were quickly eaten up by members of



the expedition, according to the [Floydada Pumpkins website](#).

Years later, B.A. (Uncle Slim) Robertson of Floydada began farming a small plot of pumpkins, harvested them and began selling his crop on a simple roadside stand. His pumpkin operation grew and he soon started shipping truckloads all over the state. His legacy has created a tight knit community that celebrates pride and enthusiasm as the Pumpkin Capital, USA and the annual Punkin Days Festival.

Floydada has long been known for agricultural production for economic sustenance. Cotton, corn, milo, onions and other farming operations can be found in Floydada but the most publicized crop is the pumpkin. "Although only about 1200 to 1400 acres of the crop are grown annually in this county, pumpkins produce about 20,000 to 50,000 pounds per

acre. That's approximately 15 to 20 million pumpkins".

Pumpkins are also one of the few crops that require hand picking to loading onto trucks. Varieties of pumpkins grown in Floydada include: Jack-O'-Laterns (10-50 pounds), Pie Pumpkins (2-8 pounds), Big Maxx or Prizewinners (50 to a few hundred pounds), Atlantic Giants (several hundred pounds), Fairytales, Cinderellas, Lumina, Casper and Ghost, and Mini Pumpkins.

Most of our GO TEXAN growers supply pumpkins to agri-tourism sites like pumpkin patches that are prevalent this time of year. Pumpkin patches allow families an opportunity to experience the season in ways that are more than carving a jack-o-lantern from a pumpkin bought at the grocery store. Chances are, though, that the pumpkin from the store came from one of our GO TEXAN members like Lusk Onion.

TEXAS AGRICULTURE *Matters!*



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

*Produced by the Office of Communications
Editor, Katlyn Gast*


www.TexasAgriculture.gov
(800) TELL-TDA



ABOUT COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Sid Miller is an eighth generation farmer and rancher and the 12th Commissioner of Agriculture for the great State of Texas. Commissioner Miller has devoted his life to the agriculture industry, and supporting Texas producers and the communities they call home. He is a businessman, rancher, community leader, former ag teacher and former school board member. Commissioner Miller is a rodeo cowboy and holds 12 world championship titles. He is an honors graduate of Tarleton State University in Stephenville, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Vocational Agriculture Education.

Lusk Onion provides pumpkins to retailers like Wal-Mart in Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Mexico.

Be sure to take a look at our pumpkin patch page to find a patch near you! 



Pumpkin Fun Facts!

- October 26 is National Pumpkin Day
- Pumpkins are about 90% water
- The Irish introduced pumpkin carving to the U.S. It started with carving turnips in Ireland and when they immigrated here they found pumpkins were much easier to carve
- Pumpkins are part of the Cucurbita family which includes squashes and cucumbers
- The average pumpkin contains about 1 cup of seeds
- The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds

COVID-19

The Texas Department of Agriculture is committed to providing the same high level of service to our customers during the COVID-19 emergency as they've come to expect. Whether we're helping Texas farmers and ranchers continue to provide a safe and dependable food supply, ensuring Texas school children continue to have access to regular, healthy meals or supporting our vital rural hospitals and clinics, the Texas Department of Agriculture is here for Texans.

Due to the Coronavirus emergency, the Texas Department of Agriculture is now working remotely and will continue to do so until directed to return to state offices by agency leadership. As a result, we are asking all constituents, customers, licensees and others to contact TDA by email, as there will be limited staff in the office answering the phones. Additionally, TDA is not accepting external visitors in the office during this time. If you need to make a payment, you may do so online or via USPS.

Please visit our [website](#) for updated information or view our [COVID-19 Resource Guide](#) for additional resources and information.

ABOUT TDA

The Texas Legislature established the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) in 1907. The agency's key objectives are to promote production agriculture, consumer protection, economic development and healthy living. The agriculture commissioner oversees the agency and is elected every four years. The current commissioner, Sid Miller, was elected in 2014. TDA is a diversified state agency that provides value-added services through our regulatory and marketing and initiatives. TDA is headquartered in Austin and has five regional service offices, two sub-offices, three laboratories and five livestock export facilities.

Mission:

TDA's mission is to partner with all Texans to make Texas the nation's leader in agriculture, fortify our economy, empower rural communities, promote healthy lifestyles, and cultivate winning strategies for rural, suburban and urban Texas through exceptional service and the common threads of agriculture in our daily lives.

Texas Agriculture Profile

Bucking Goat Farm Paige, Texas

Travis and Rebekah McPhaul, owners of Bucking Goat Farm in Paige, are two small farmers with the passion to live off the land and bring fresh, seasonal goodies to their community. Both Native Texans, the two met taking small-scale farming entrepreneurship classes at the Austin Community College Campus in Elgin. They were the first two students to graduate from the program in 2017, and have pursued their dream of owning their own business and working for themselves ever since.

On the farm you'll find a small herd of Nubian goats which are used for their milk and are incorporated into their popular goat milk soap products. The herd is closely guarded by Hank and Drover, the livestock guardian dogs who were raised from puppies with the goat herd and are quick to sound the alarm when danger nears. A garden with a variety of veggies supplies the couple's love for fresh vegetables, while okra and green beans provide them with their favorite snack.



Their pickled veggies like squash and okra are a popular pick for farmers market visitors. "Pickling is so much fun! I never thought I would be pickling as much as we do. However, people are loving our different recipes and keep coming back for more. Once we pack jars with whatever we are pickling that day, we pour hot brine over them before 'hot packing' the jars, so they are shelf




stable." Though most of their garden crop right now includes summer plants they will soon transition into fall varieties. "There is something very satisfying about growing your own food," believe the two.

In addition to offering fresh vegetables and pickled favorites, Travis and Rebekah also offer up their luscious goat milk soap, bath products, sauerkrauts, jams, and more!

"At the market, our soap sells well, and people love to try the different canned goods." Rebekah shares more about her goat milk soap process, "the goat milk soap will always have a special place in my heart. Soap making was my hobby long before I ever farmed for a living. I learned from a homesteading mom of three in Spicewood where I interned for a year, right after high school. Here I am, 7 years later, still making old fashion soap. Soap making is really a labor of love. I like to set aside a day and make 15 to 25 pounds at a time. Seems like a lot, but I can hardly keep up with the demand! My recipe and process is simple. I have my lye and milk mixture and my oils and fats mixture. Once everything is mixed up and at the correct temperature we add it all together and blend it before pouring into the handmade soap molds my dad helped me make. The goat milk soap gently cleans and helps supports a healthy skin barrier. The fat from the milk hydrates and helps balance the pH of your skin!"

Travis and Rebekah both agree that farming is something they love even though it takes hard work and dedication to make a living from it.

"Farming is not exactly the easiest way to make a living. It is very romanticized and often more difficult than people realize, yet somehow, we would not have it any other way. We have met many great people, dare I say friends, working the farmers markets around town. It is always refreshing to meet like-minded individuals who are looking for the same kind of quality when it comes to what they consume. We love seeing the same faces week to week, new ones too, but it always makes my day when someone comes up and says they tried our product last week and are back for more!"

They have big plans for Bucking Goat Farm and hope to one day host events, classes and tours of the farm. But for now, you can find them at the farmers market in Elgin, Taylor and sometimes Pflugerville. You can find them on Facebook or Instagram @buckinggoatfarm or take a peek at their website, www.buckinggoatfarm.com. 



Pumpkin Patches IN TEXAS THIS FALL



Fiddlesticks Farms – Midland

www.fiddlesticksfarms.com (432) 687-6293
Pumpkin Patch, Corn Maze, Campfire and more!



Love Creek Orchards – Medina

www.lovecreekorchards.com (830) 200-0302
Great Hill Country Pumpkin Patch - pumpkin patch, scarecrow building and more!



Old Time Christmas Tree Farm – Spring

www.oldtimechristmastree.com/pumpkinpatch
(281) 370-9141
Pumpkins, Train Ride, Hay Ride, Petting Zoo, Corn Maze & More!

Barton Hill Farms – Bastrop

www.bartonhillfarms.com/austin-pumpkin-patch/

At'l Do Farms – Lubbock

www.atldofarms.com/the-maze/
Corn Maze, Pumpkin Patch and more

Sweet Berry Farms – Marble Falls

www.sweetberryfarm.com (830) 798-1462
Pumpkin Patch, Maze, Hayrides, Wildflowers

Sweet Eats Fruit Farm – Georgetown

www.sweeteats.com (512) 766-3276
Pumpkin Patch, Hay Maze, Petting Zoo

Devine Acres Farms – Devine

www.devineacresfrm.com/fall-season/
(830) 665-9730
Pumpkin patch, Hayride, Spider-web maze, Campfire and much more!

Yesterland Farm – Canton

www.yesterlandfarm.com/fallfestival
Pumpkin Patch, Corn Maze, Amusement rides and more!

Mainstay Farm Park – Cleburne

www.mainstayfarm.com/pumpkindays (817) 295-6772
Pumpkin patch, Slides, Hayride, Sheep Races and more!

Elves Farm – Denison

www.elvesfarm.com (903) 463-7260
Pumpkin Patch, Maze, Hayrides, Farm Zoo and more

Elgin Christmas Tree Farm – Elgin

www.elginchristmastreefarm.com/fall-fun-2/
(512) 281-5016
Pumpkin Photo Ops, Corn Maze, Hayride, Train Ride





Farm Fresh Initiative Supports

National Farm to School Month

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) invites everyone to join us in recognizing National Farm to School Month in October. Commissioner Miller's Farm Fresh Initiative will champion Farm to School Month to highlight the importance of Texas agriculture for students. Schools have ordered TDA materials they can easily use to increase awareness of local foods and Texas agriculture while maintaining their focus on safe meal service during COVID-19.

Before the pandemic, many Texas schools regularly participated in TDA's Farm Fresh Challenge in October where they could earn recognition for serving local foods and teaching children about Texas agriculture. TDA postponed its October Farm Fresh Challenge knowing that school nutrition teams are working hard to implement new meal-service models. TDA will continue supporting schools able to include Texas agriculture in their

programs by offering resources such as the Farm Fresh Network, Farm Fresh videos, a seasonal cookbook, and other learning materials. To help put the focus on Farm to School Month in October, TDA developed Texas Proud stickers for students and buttons that recognize child nutrition professionals as Local Food Heroes. TDA also created Farm to School Month classroom stickers that have scannable codes for viewing educational videos about Texas agriculture. These resources give schools the opportunity to provide everyone with a reminder of how local foods help healthy young Texans grow and learn.

TDA is also working to say thank you for the outstanding child nutrition efforts displayed by so many Texans this year. Commissioner Miller recently completed production on a video that is part of a 2020 Farm Fresh Initiative campaign. The theme *Because of You* provides a message

of thanks and praise that will be shared with child nutrition directors and Texas farmers and ranchers in emails, radio ads, and on social media. Please join us during Farm to School Month and throughout the year in thanking all the local food heroes in Texas working to teach children lifelong lessons about healthy lifestyles and Texas agriculture. For more information, please visit FarmFreshFriday.org. 🇹🇽



TEXAS AGRICULTURE MATTERS PREMIERES SEASON TWO

Season two of Commissioner Miller's weekly television show *Texas Agriculture Matters* aired to 52 million viewers nationwide on the RFD-TV network on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 7pm ET / 6pm CT. *Texas Agriculture Matters* spotlights Texas agriculture through feature segments, one-on-one interviews and eye-catching infographics, all with equal doses of ag policy, local products, western heritage and rural lifestyle. From horses to hogs and fairs to forestry, *Texas Agriculture Matters* is a fun, informative look at the role of agriculture in our daily lives.

"I am thrilled to announce we're launching another season of *Texas Agriculture Matters*," Commissioner Miller said. "After receiving awesome feedback on the first eight episodes, we're returning to viewers nationwide. I can't thank Patrick Gottsch and his entire team at RFD-TV enough for dedicating their time and energy to showing people around

the country just why Texas agriculture matters. Here's to another fantastic season."

Whether on horseback roping a calf, or at his desk running the Texas Department of Agriculture, eighth generation farmer and rancher and 12-time world champion rodeo cowboy Commissioner Miller has dedicated his life to Texas agriculture. Miller has previously hosted his own radio show and currently voices the TDA Daily Market Roundup heard statewide. This is his first turn as television host.

"The real stars of this show are our Texas farmers and ranchers," Miller said. "My hat's off to these hardworking men and women who work the soil, feed the livestock and in the process, feed and clothe our country. Each episode validates their commitment to Texas agriculture, and I am honored to showcase the folks that make all the difference in our industry."

Texas Agriculture Matters is produced entirely by RFD-TV in agreement with the Texas Department of Agriculture and recorded at the RFD-TV/The Cowboy Channel studio in the historic Fort Worth Stockyards. Commissioner Miller hosts the show in his capacity as Texas Agriculture Commissioner and receives no compensation for his participation.

Catch new episodes each Tuesday on the RFD-TV network at 7pm ET/6pm CT! 🇹🇽



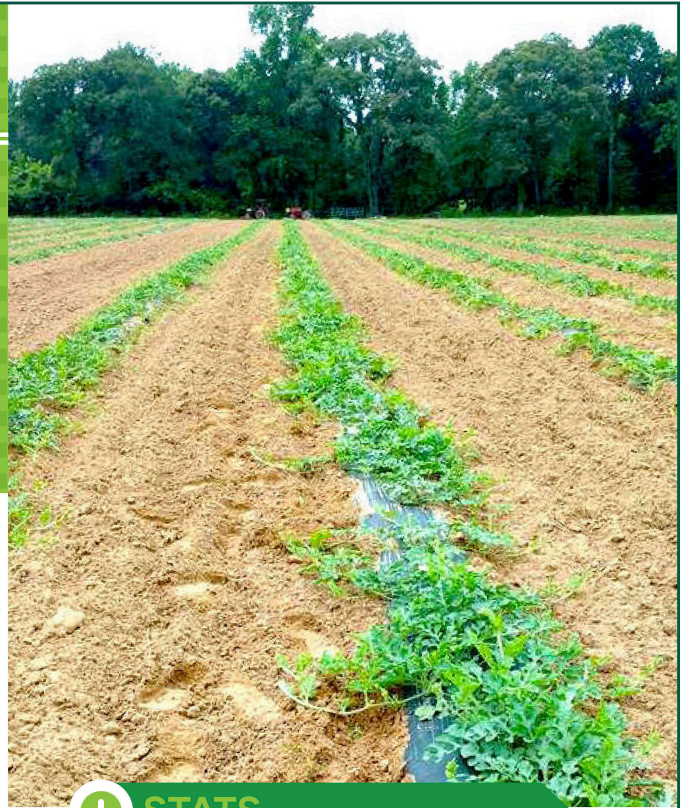
GREG GREEN FARMS

FARM PROFILE

This month's featured farm comes from Henderson, in northeast Texas. Rusk County, where Henderson is located, has a long history of growing some of our nation's best watermelons because the viney watermelons love the region's sandy soil. Greg Green Farms started as a small family farm growing watermelons around 1915. During the early days, watermelons were delivered one wagon at a time. As years went by, the farming business grew and packing and shipping methods improved. These changes helped Greg Green Farms grow, and it became one of the biggest watermelon growers in the United States.

In the 1980s, Green Farms decided to refocus on their local consumers. Today, Green Farms continues to use innovative approaches to growing Watermelon for Texas and Louisiana.

Watermelon fields at Greg Green Farm



+ STATS

Owner: Greg Green

Founded: 1915

Location: Henderson, Texas

Specialty: Watermelons



HENDERSON,
TEXAS

© tchara / Adobe Stock



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This product was funded by USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.





THE IMPORTED FIRE ANT:

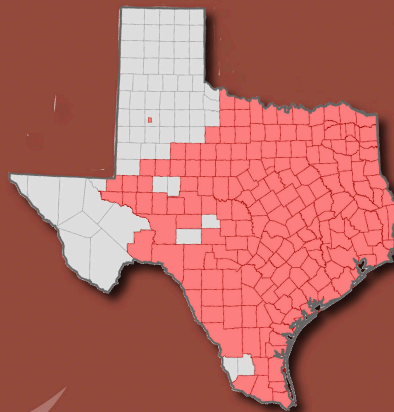
A THREAT TO TEXANS & TEXAS AGRICULTURE

Two species of imported fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta* Buren, *S. richteri* Forel) were unintentionally introduced from South America into the port of Mobile, Alabama, almost 100 years ago. The black imported fire ant arrived around 1918 and the red fire ant in the late 1930s. Both species probably came in soil used as ballast in cargo ships.

Imported fire ants will feed on the buds and fruits of numerous crop plants, especially corn, soybean, okra, and citrus. They can also girdle young trees. Large nests located in fields interfere with and damage equipment during cultivation and harvesting. Imported fire ants respond rapidly and aggressively to disturbances, and ant attacks inhibit field-worker activities. A single fire ant can sting its target repeatedly. Young and newborn animals are especially susceptible to the stings' venom. These pests can damage the environment by displacing native ant species and reducing food sources for wildlife.

They commonly move to new, non-infested areas either by naturally colonies spreading or by hitchhiking on agricultural commodities, including baled hay.

IFA have an impact on agriculture and natural resources by damaging crops, agricultural equipment, and impacting wildlife. As an urban pest, IFA are a nuisance pest and can cause allergic reactions including rare instances of anaphylactic shock in humans.



Imported Fire Ant Quarantine Map of Texas

stings can produce shock or cause death.

🔥 Hard, mound-shaped nests that can get quite large, posing risks to field workers and farm equipment.

APHIS works to prevent artificial (human assisted) spread of IFA by enforcing the Federal Quarantine (7 CFR 301.81) and works with State cooperators to regulate high risk commodities, such as nursery stock, hay and soil-moving equipment. Also, APHIS works with states, industry, and other Federal agencies to develop and evaluate the efficacy of regulatory treatments for high risk commodities, and revises regulations and procedures as necessary.

If you spot these Imported Fire Ants in your area, please email PlantQuality@TexasAgriculture.gov or call (512) 463-7660 to report your findings to the TDA. 📍

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- 🔥 Ants are 1/8" to 1/4" long and reddish-brown or black in color.
- 🔥 Ants that respond rapidly and aggressively when disturbed.
- 🔥 They clamp onto their victims with powerful jaws and sting repeatedly while injecting painful venom.
- 🔥 The stings cause a burning sensation and itching blisters that can become infected. Although very uncommon, in severe cases, the



Credit: USDA APHIS PPQ Archive, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance in the form of dollar-for-dollar matching grant funds to young agricultural producers that are engaged or will be engaged in creating or expanding an agricultural business in Texas.

The Young Farmer Grant Program aims to:

- ☆ Grow and support Texas agriculture
- ☆ Help meet a financial need that is otherwise not met
- ☆ Help grow an operation that also impacts the community

Past YFG recipient Rebecca Hume.
Photo by Scott David Gordon, The Daily Dirt Farm Blog



YOUNG FARMER GRANT *Recipient*

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Colton Castello *Vacek Farm*

Colton Castello is a 5th generation farmer and his family owns Vacek Farm, originally founded in 1899 in Fords Prairie just outside of Smithville. The Vacek's have committed their time

and energy to raising their family to be true stewards of the land and often bring together many parts of the family to help on the farm.

In 2019, Colton received a Young Farmer Grant to lease 360 acres of land from a neighboring property, initially purchase four to five heifers and later expand his herd to around 45 breeding cows and Beefmaster bulls. With the grant funds he was also able to purchase feed for his herd, a farm truck to feed with, tractor and mesquite spray to cover about 100 acres.

We asked Colton what advice he would give to other young farmers and he said, "Nobody knows what kind of programs are out there. It's hard starting when you don't have anything. I was lucky to be able to have family

property to start on but it's hard to get into ranching when you want to start a family and have a lot of other responsibilities. Make sure to do your research because there are great programs like these out there that can make all the difference." 🇹🇽



Applications for the Young Farmer Grant will be available in Fall 2020.

For more information on the grant and how to apply please visit our website, www.texasagriculture.gov



WATERMELON

HARVEST OF THE MONTH
SEPTEMBER



Watermelon has a smooth hard rind, usually green with dark green stripes or yellow spots. It also has a juicy, sweet inside that is deep red to pink, but may sometimes be orange, yellow, or white. Watermelons may have many seeds or have no seeds at all. Watermelons are mostly water—about 92 percent—and are a very good source of vitamin A and vitamin C. Watermelons also contain a high level of lycopene, which helps to protect against heart disease and cancer.

DID YOU KNOW?

Melons are the cousins of cucumbers and squash, as they are part of the large gourd family.

FUN FACT

Watermelon festivals are common in Texas, including the What-A-Melon Festival in Center, Texas; the Hempstead Watermelon Festival; and the Luling Watermelon Thump.



WATERMELON GROWING REGIONS

- 1. The High Plains
- 2. East Texas
- 3. Winter Garden
- 4. Rio Grande Valley



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This product was funded by USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.





STRAWBERRY PLANTING *Season?*

Fall has arrived. While the Fall season may be famous for everything pumpkin, there is another Texas fruit that should be on our minds, strawberries! Now, you may not think of strawberries as a fall season fruit, but now is the time to plant if you want to raise your own berries for springtime desserts and snacks. Strawberries planted in late September and October will give good yields in February through May.

When you are looking for strawberries to plant, look for the Texas Superstar® variety, “Festival.” The Festival Strawberry variety was named a 2018 Texas Superstar® plant by Texas



A&M AgriLife Research, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Tech University horticulturalists after four years of field trials around the state. The Festival strawberry is a high producing plant that has quality tasting fruit. Typical yields are about 1.5 pounds of berries per plant.

Festival strawberries prefer full sun and sandy, well-drained soils. They can be planted easily in containers including hanging baskets or in raised beds. They are very cold-hardy and can accommodate freezing

temperatures but should be protected if the weather dips into the low teens. Researchers state that it is best to prune back runners and flowers throughout the fall to help protect and shape the plant. This will also help to create a more productive plant with larger, more flavorful fruit.

So for just a little while as Fall begins, think Spring. Take some time to prepare for strawberry season. You'll be glad you did! 🇺🇸





TDA's State Trade Expansion Program Supports Virtual Markets

Since 2016, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has received the State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to increase the number of small businesses that are exporting. To encourage companies to enter new international markets, the STEP Program will provide Export Stipends of up to \$10,000 to eligible businesses for approved export activities.




TDA utilized a small portion the stipend program to assist with trade missions to support local agricultural businesses. In 2019, the delegation of

the Texas grain sorghum industry took a trade mission to China to help make sound business connections with a variety of importers throughout the country. Although this did not result in immediate sales, with China's recent announcement of tariff exclusions, sorghum prices have significantly increased and reached \$229 per ton in June. Due to the facilitated talks from the previous trade mission to China, Texas Grain Sorghum has made rewarding sales during the Summer of 2020 to China. The STEP stipend opportunity significantly expanded Texas sorghums presence in China and increased their sales. Additionally, Texas grain sorghum businesses have also used the STEP stipend program to facilitate meetings in Greece, Colombia, and Peru and resulting in successful sales particularly in South America.

Although the impacts of COVID-19 have put a damper on travel plans for the STEP grantee's, the SBA has recently revised some eligible expenses to help combat travel

bans. STEP grantees are now able to utilize their stipend award on website translation, design and search engine optimization. Many grantees have taken advantage of this change to assist with their online presence. Several grantees have had the ability to optimize their search engine results and translate their websites into their target market language such as Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, and Arabic. STEP can help grow your sales, brands and businesses online globally!

Additionally, many of the grantees have embraced the virtual world and have attended virtual trade shows or have used U.S. Commercial Services virtual programs to setup up business meetings. Lastly, to help broaden their knowledge, grantees have conducted market analysis for future markets and have attended financial and export training. 

For more details visit www.texasagriculture.gov/step or call 512-463-6616.



GO TEXAN.®

FIND THE MARK
that matters



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

WHAT

does it mean?

When you see the mark, you know the product or place has been proudly certified as authentically Texan.

WHERE

do you find it?

Look for the mark anywhere you shop, from local farmer's markets to national retail chains.

Support Texas.

Want to learn more?
gotexan.org

#GOTEXAN



Fresh From the Field



Even though the 2020 State Fair will not go on as we had hoped and planned, GO TEXAN is committed to marketing your product(s) online during this unique time. GO TEXAN is in the process of developing and launching a virtual GO TEXAN Pavilion website! This online experience will highlight those that would've been Sponsors and Exhibitors by giving them space to talk about their company and mission, provide pictures and/or videos, and link back to their website. For our GO TEXAN partners who were sampling and/or selling on a porch or in the GO TEXAN General Store, there will be a mini e-commerce portion to the website. GO TEXAN hopes to launch the virtual pavilion by September 25th. Stay tuned to GO TEXAN's Facebook page for updates! 🇺🇸



NEW MEMBERS! GO TEXAN.

- ★ [Alamo Remedy LLC](#)
- ★ [Mill Scale Metalworks](#)
- ★ [Texas Green Star Greenhouse](#)
- ★ [Copeland Farms](#)
- ★ [Green Zero Labs](#)
- ★ [Cockrell Vineyards](#)
- ★ [Timberfire Studio](#)
- ★ [McIntire Saddlery](#)
- ★ [Harris County General Store BBQ Company](#)
- ★ [Tejas Hemp](#)
- ★ [Lion Latch LLC](#)
- ★ [R3 Hilltop Ranch](#)
- ★ [Texas Heritage Kitchen](#)
- ★ [Rose City Growers](#)
- ★ [All We Need Farm](#)
- ★ [One Batch at a Time](#)
- ★ [Texas Foods](#)
- ★ [Third Coast Organic Foods](#)
- ★ [Absolutely World Class](#)
- ★ [Warbonnet Hat Works](#)
- ★ [Bracari Foods LLC](#)
- ★ [The Amazing Dip Company LLC](#)
- ★ [Bold MFG](#)
- ★ [Tomlinson's Feed and Pets](#)
- ★ [Texas Beef Cattle Company LLC](#)
- ★ [Twisted Arrow Goods](#)
- ★ [Inkjet Headquarters](#)
- ★ [CKL Distilling LLC](#)
- ★ [CassandraCollections LLC](#)
- ★ [VJ Farms](#)
- ★ [Integrity Made LLC](#)
- ★ [Bandera County Visitors Center](#)
- ★ [Catfish Plantation Restaurant](#)
- ★ [Lone Star Texas Pride LLC](#)
- ★ [Red River Clothing Co](#)
- ★ [Galdisa USA Inc](#)
- ★ [Moon Fairies and More](#)
- ★ [Happy Acres Ostrich Ranch](#)
- ★ [TX Q Rubs](#)
- ★ [Ranch Road Boots LLC](#)

WHERE ARE THE TDA FIELD STAFF THIS FALL?

White Buffalo Days in Snyder, 10/2-10/3: Featuring a GO TEXAN marketplace and GO TEXAN partner vendors. Field staff will be present at the TDA booth.

Field staff will continue to conduct site visits for the CDBG Community Development Fund. Staff visits with communities who are in the running to receive grant money.

Field staff have been attending (and are non-voting members) for the Regional Water Planning Groups through the Texas Water Development Board. Regional plans are due soon and staff have attended several meetings recently and will continue to do so until plans are finalized.

Did You Know?

TDA supports organizations across the state, serving more than 12.5 million meals a year to elderly and disabled Texans.

TDA certifies milk as organic when it is produced from cows that were not fed or administered antibiotics or growth hormones.

TDA is the lead state agency tasked with regulating the distribution and use of pesticides, as well as monitoring compliance and investigating complaints of pesticide misuse.

TDA conducts field tests to ensure seeds grow as promised on the package. Tests are conducted in fields near the W.H. Pieratt Seed Lab in Giddings.

TDA market reports provide information on livestock auction markets from across the state.



Texas Ag Stats:

- ★ Texas leads the nation in number of farms and ranches, with 248,416 farms and ranches covering 127 million acres.
- ★ For 36% of producers in Texas, farming is their primary occupation.
- ★ Of 127 million acres in farmland, 7% (176,837 acres) is dedicated to orchards.
- ★ 1 in every 7 Texans holds an agriculture related job.

Recipe of the Month

Pumpkin Bread Pudding - Texas Olive Ranch

Ingredients:

6 sweet Hawaiian rolls
1 cup half and half
1 cup pumpkin purée
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1/3 cup sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp pumpkin pie spice
(for the brown sugar sauce)
1/2 cup +2 tablespoons brown sugar
1/4 cup Texas Olive Ranch Arbequina Olive Oil
1/4 cup heavy cream

Directions:

1. Tear the Hawaiian rolls into bite-sized

chunks and throw them in a large mixing bowl.

2. In a separate mixing bowl, whisk together the half and half, pumpkin purée, eggs, and vanilla. Add white sugar, brown sugar, salt, cinnamon, and pumpkin pie spice and whisk until combined.

3. Pour the mixture over the bread pieces and fold until bread is coated. Keep in the refrigerator for at least an hour.

4. Once ready to bake, preheat the oven to 350 F and grease an 8x8 inch square pan with Texas Olive Ranch Arbequina Olive Oil.

5. Pour the bread mixture into the pan and bake uncovered for about 35 minutes.

6. To make the sauce, melt the brown sugar with the Texas Olive



Ranch Arbequina Olive Oil in a small saucepan over medium heat. Stir in the heavy cream until you have a smooth mixture is smooth. It should only take 2-3 minutes.

7. When the pudding is ready, remove everything from heat and let it all cool for a couple minutes. Pour the sauce over the bread pudding and serve warm.

Your Thoughts...

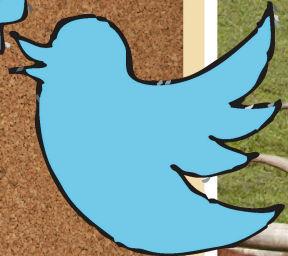
on the Dr. Pepper shortage in Texas...



KXAN.COM

Dr Pepper addresses soda shortage at grocery stores
Dr Pepper fans nationwide have struggled to find the popular so...

Tweet



Scott MacQueen

Just make sure Texas keeps the shiner going.

David Gerken

Well at least the toilet paper shortage is being held at bay for a while.

Rudy Martinez

This is not good.

Barbara Patterson Hamar

I have noticed the vacant shelves at the local stores. I hope they get it back in the stores soon! I am addicted to Dr Pepper.



SEPT. 2020

Tell Us... *will you be visiting any pumpkin patches this fall?*



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COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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Editor, Katlyn Gast

www.TexasAgriculture.gov
(800) TELL-TDA

