



TX Agriculturalist
Meet Erika, a native Texan with a passion for rescuing honey bees!



Fall Planting Season
Now is the time to start planting your cool weather crops!



TDA Updates
Texas Farm Profile, Blast off With a Healthy School Lunch, Young Farmer Grant Recipient and more!



TEXAS AGRICULTURE Matters!

Your monthly connection to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Volume 1
Issue 10
October 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

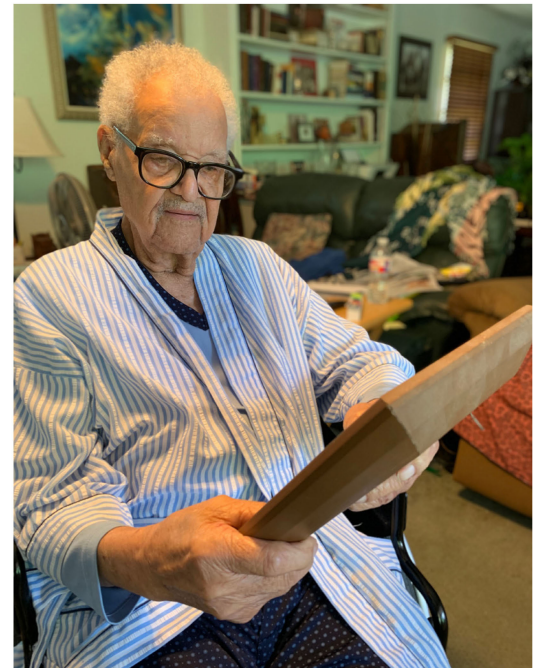
Texans Feeding Texans

Texas veteran Leonard shares his story and his thanks to TDA for home-delivered meals

Story by Jordan Lyle,
Marketing and public relations specialist for Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County.

In an effort to address the threat of hunger facing more than 18 percent of our state's elderly population, the 86th Texas Legislature has continued funding the Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). The 2021 application year will mark the 14th cycle for the program, which provides funding to home-delivered meal providers that serve nearly 14 million meals annually to elderly and disabled Texans.

We must do everything in our power to make sure our seniors and Texans with special needs never go hungry. This funding will help fill the stomachs and hearts of people who need it most. We're giving them a helping hand, not a handout.



Texan and veteran, Leonard, shares his story and thankfulness of the grant provided by TDA.

The home-delivered meal program keeps people out of institutional care and in the comfort of their own homes, which ultimately benefits everyone. It also provides seniors and those with special needs with the opportunity to live where they are in a secure, happy and healthy environment.

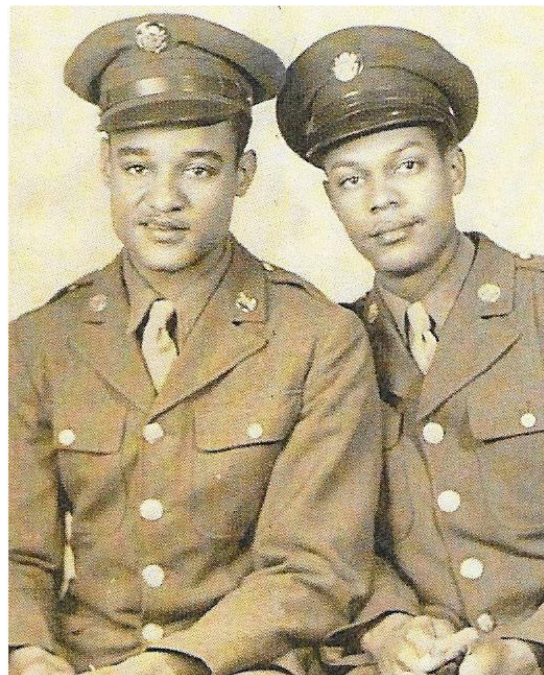
At the age of 98, Leonard is just now adjusting to a slower pace of life. He worked until he was 80 years old, managing his own construction business despite very humble beginnings and opposition. He eagerly agreed to sit down and share his story with me. Born in 1921, Leonard was one of five children born to two Waxahachie educators. His parents taught him the value of a good education and hard work. However, achieving these things would be rather difficult as a young black man growing up prior to the civil rights movement. Leonard began working on his grandfather's farm at the age of six. As a little boy, he was tasked with big jobs like picking cotton, feeding hogs and eventually plowing fields behind a rather stubborn mule. The memory of the mule makes Leonard stop and chuckle. "That old mule would work alright 'till he got tired," Leonard



recalled, "and then he'd lie down. I couldn't get him up, so I'd have to sit there and wait 'till he was ready to start working again."

By 17, Leonard traded in his plow for a sponge and soap, working as a dishwasher in a local restaurant. He worked 11-hour days, seven days a week for just \$6 dollars a week. If math isn't your thing, that's just 8¢ per hour! "It wasn't a good job, but it was something that was available," he said.

Life continued to come rushing toward Leonard and he was drafted into the U.S. Army as America entered WWII in 1941. Despite being declared "limited service" due to a vision impairment, he was dispatched overseas to work for the Army's engineering department doing clerical work in Sipan. Leonard humbly shakes his head when I thank him for his bravery and service, and quickly shifts the focus of the conversation to his older brother who also served in active combat in Europe. He hands me a picture of the two of them in their uniforms. It is chilling for me to see such young men dressed for war, but Leonard shows no signs of anything other than pride and the joy of being able to serve his country. It's clear he has a deep love for his siblings. The face of his brother, now passed, brings a large smile across his face. His humility makes him even more honorable, but perhaps his biggest act of heroism came when he returned to civilian life. At the



Leonard and his older brother in uniform.

time, the U.S. was racially divided and many freedoms were not available to black citizens. Leonard decided to be an advocate for civil rights in his community and formed a group called Citizens for Progress. "People told me I better be careful or I'd be killed, but that didn't bother me. When I think things are wrong, I speak out," he said. That drive and concern for others is what led him to his first official construction project when he offered to help his older sister build a home. He says nobody would approve her due to the color of her skin.

"I told my sister I could build her a house for \$5,000, but no bank in Waxahachie would lend her the

TEXAS AGRICULTURE *Matters!*

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Produced by the Office of Communications
Editor, Katlyn Gast

www.TexasAgriculture.gov
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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.


money. She had perfect credit and a job. The banks just wouldn't finance things for black people." Leonard would not take no for an answer. "I went to Dallas and found Trinity Valley Building Center and they financed it, so I built her a house. It's still around now. I bought it from her son and gave it to my daughter." After that, Leonard committed himself to providing affordable housing to as many people as possible. He also took great pride in building many local churches, constructing beautiful facilities for people to gather, worship and pray. Overall, he says he built nearly 100 homes and over 50 churches. "That's probably what I'm most proud of in my life," he said. Leonard built his last church when he was 80. Now he is adjusting to surrendering some of his independence and receiving services from Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County. "I really appreciate it. My volunteers take good care of me. They check on me five days a week and the food is good," he said, "but I'd rather be working."

Sometimes we come across people who are just ingrained with the desire to serve others. They want to feel they are making a positive impact on the world around them. It's a way to feel important; like they matter.

At Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County, we know Leonard is just one of many of our clients who have bravely served, selflessly given and never asked for anything in return. However, as age sneaks up on them,

we get the pleasure of letting them know someone else is willing to take the wheel. They're still important. They still matter. And we intend to show it each time we show up at their door with a warm meal and a friendly smile.

We are truly grateful for the support we receive from Texas Department of Agriculture. Because of their commitment to our frailest citizens, we can serve 120,465 additional meals this year. That equates to 463 lives that have been changed for the better. Together, we are making Tarrant County a caring place to grow old.

If you are a non-profit, faith-based organizations and local governmental agencies that delivers meals to the homebound elderly and disabled, check out this program. The application period for the Texans Feeding Texans – Home-Delivered Meals Grant Program opened September 1, 2020 and applications must be received by November 2, 2020. This is a non-competitive grant, and all eligible entities receive an award based on a formula to determine award amounts. 

If you have questions on whether your organization is eligible or need assistance with your application, please contact the Grants Office by emailing grants@texasagriculture.gov or calling 512 463-4406.

If you are in need of meals services, Texans can dial 2-1-1 (option 6) for information on COVID-19 and local resources on health care, utilities, food, housing and more.



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

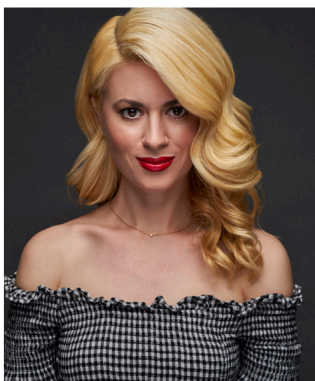
The Texas Legislature established the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) in 1907. The agency's key objectives are to promote production agriculture, consumer protection, economic development and healthy living. The agriculture commissioner oversees the agency and is elected every four years. The current 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

TEXAS BEEWORKS



Erika Thompson is a native Texan, born in Houston and after attending the University of Texas at Austin she decided to make the

Austin area her permanent home. She currently manages over 150 bee colonies in five counties across Central Texas. Being a bug lover her entire life helped form her future and current career. "As a kid, I was always in my backyard collecting insects and putting them in jars or reading bug books," says Thompson. Her adoration for bugs encouraged her to take a beekeeping class 10 years ago and she walked away from this class confident that she would start her own beehive. Even though Erika had no intention of becoming a beekeeper, it was obvious her calling had pulled her into the exact spot she needed to be. The following spring, she started her first hive in her backyard. "I quickly became obsessed with bees and as my obsession grew, so did my hive count when a friend kindly offered a spot on their property to me to keep bees."

After a few years of her practicing

her beekeeping hobby, and while working a full-time office job as a Communications Director, Erika started her business Texas Beeworks. Keeping her mission close at heart, to help bees and beekeepers thrive, her business grew organically by accepting every beekeeping task that came her way. "I just started

saying 'yes' to everything so that I could keep more bees and start more hives in places all around Austin." Texas Beeworks eventually became Erika's full-time career and with the help of social media her passion has been viewed by millions of people across the globe. "My most recent bee removal video went mega viral and





These tiny workhorses that often go unnoticed, unless they're buzzing around your flower beds or iced tea, teach Erika something new every day. But the bees don't just pollinate your average everyday rosebush for the fun of it. Honeybees play a vital role in agriculture and are responsible for pollinating

one third of all the food we eat. Commercial production of more than 90 crops rely on the bees for pollination. They also help produce alfalfa, which is important for beef, dairy and even the horse industry.

and healthy so they can do the work they do naturally. You can't be a good beekeeper if you don't understand the behavior and needs of a colony," says Erika. She doesn't recommend anyone attempt a bee removal or rescue unless you have at least 5 years of experiences keeping multiple colonies.

If you are in need of hive removal in Central Texas, or if you want to learn more about Erika, visit her website www.texasbeeworks.com. Her social media pages are a great place to learn more about bees and get a visual of what her average day of beekeeping and bee rescue looks like. Follow her on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and Tiktok @texasbeeworks. 🇺🇸

had over 24 million views in 24 hours which is just mind blowing to me that so many people are interested to see what is really just an average day on the job for me."

As her beekeeping career grew Erika

Check out Erika's mega-viral bee removal TikTok video below!

"I feel a huge sense of responsibility to bees and beekeepers everywhere to be the best advocate I can be."

also had many opportunities to teach others about these small insects that do so much for us. One of which was working with the gameshow Jeopardy! to create an entire clue category about bees. They named the category, 'The Secret Life of Bees' and the gameshow's crew visited Austin to film video clues at one of her apiaries. "It was an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience that I'll always be grateful for."

Ultimately, the bees themselves keep Erika moving forward in her journey with beekeeping.

"As a beekeeper, I feel like it's my job to be a steward and an advocate for these tiny creatures who do so much for us."

Those interested in becoming future beekeepers should start learning about bee behavior and what it means to keep bees. Erika recommends reading *The Practical Beekeeper* by Michael Bush, *Honeybee Democracy* by Dr. Thomas Seeley, and *The Backyard Beekeeper* by Kim Flottum. "In my opinion, the role of a beekeeper is to give bees the resources they need to stay happy



Schools Look Forward to National School Lunch Week with TDA

Like many things in this academic year, the annual National School Lunch Week celebrations may look a little different for Texas schools. School nutrition teams have new priorities as they focus on safety for students and new meal-service models for unconventional learning environments. Still, many schools plan to recognize National School Lunch Week, October 12-16, 2020, with practical and easy-to-use resources from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).

Schools have placed orders for more than 1 million pieces featuring TDA's space-exploration theme Blast Off with a Healthy School Lunch. Resources include social-distancing floor decals, display-sized participation charts, buttons, stickers, and more. School nutrition teams can display materials in meal-service areas, whether that be the cafeteria, classroom or other location on campus, and distribute other items to staff and students to wear and use. All the materials feature artwork inspired by the winners of TDA's You Art What You Eat statewide student art contest where students illustrated their interpretations of Blast Off with a Healthy School Lunch.

National School Lunch Week and the student art contest promote healthy school meals and engage K-12 students in learning more about the nutritious foods that will help them achieve their goals. Increased school-meal participation ensures that these nutrition programs thrive and continue providing excellent customer service. When students share in the school-meal experience, nutrition teams also get the feedback they need to serve foods that children want to eat at school.

Many school nutrition teams will highlight local foods and Texas agriculture during National School Lunch Week, which coincides with October's Farm to School Month. TDA developed special National School Lunch Week menus that feature recipes with Texas agricultural products such as October's Harvest of the Month, apples. The National School Lunch Week menu includes recipes such as Southwest Buffalo Wraps, Southwest Mac and Cheese, and Cilantro Lime Rice, all of which can be found in TDA's Cooking for the Seasons.



Providing TDA-produced resources for National School Lunch Week and Farm to School Month helps schools promote healthy lifestyles and teach children about Texas agriculture. Buttons, stickers and other Farm to School materials also encourage students to try a school lunch whether they are learning in the classroom or in their homes. TDA is committed to these efforts and our nutrition program partnerships offer unique opportunities for ensuring the future leaders of Texas understand that eating healthy meals and learning about good nutrition can be fun and exciting. For more information about these efforts, visit [SquareMeals.org](https://www.SquareMeals.org). 🇺🇸



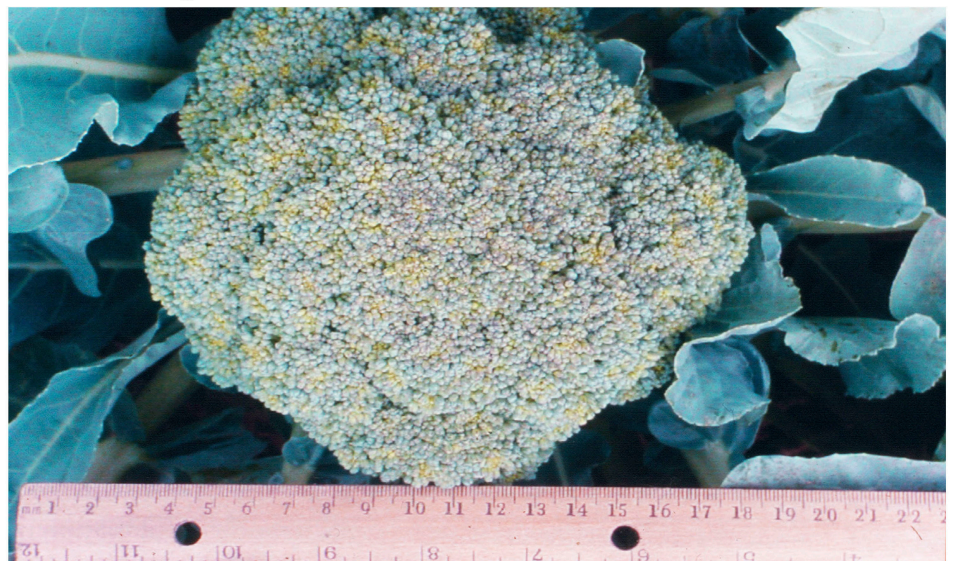
Fall Vegetable Planting: *Green Magic Broccoli*

Now is the time to get those cool weather vegetables growing! Lettuce and other leafy greens are always great options, and another good producing crop for home gardens would be broccoli, especially the Texas Superstar® variety Green Magic Broccoli. Green Magic is a hybrid variety and since it's a Texas Superstar® it has endured extensive field trials and proven to perform under Texas' tough growing conditions.

Green Magic is a variety that produces high-quality, attractive dome-shaped heads with tight green beads. Plants will produce heads that can weigh up to 12-14 ounces. Green Magic will mature in approximately 90 days from direct seeding or 60 days from transplanting. For Fall planting, be sure to plant at least 10-12 weeks before the first frost.

Another great benefit to Green

Magic broccoli is the foliage. Did you know that the leaves are edible? Broccoli leaves actually have more nutritional value than the heads. Try using the leaves instead of lettuce or cabbage as a wrap, or substitute broccoli leaves for kale in salads. Not only are the leaves of your Green Magic broccoli nutritious, but they are also attractive. The large showy leaves make an excellent addition in mixed-use gardens. 🇹🇽



Texas Superstar® variety Green Magic Broccoli.

BRAUNE FARMS

FARM PROFILE

This month's featured farm is Braune Farms in Seguin, Texas, not far from San Antonio, on Interstate 10. This area is known for its rich agricultural history and Seguin boasts the only pecan museum in the country! Braune Farms was founded nine years ago when the Braunes started farming wheat, corn and other crops but soon found out that row crop farming did not earn a lot of money.

After talking to a helpful neighbor, the Braunes decided to make the family garden bigger. Soon, Braune Farms was growing all kinds of vegetables, including winter squash, kale, spinach, collards and various other leafy greens. Braune Farms also has a pumpkin patch every year where visitors learn how to grow pumpkins and can take a ride on the tractor.

The Braune family



+ STATS

Owner: Jeffrey and Julia Braune

Founded: 2007

Location: Seguin, Texas

Specialty: Winter squash, kale and other leafy greens



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Photo courtesy of USDA-APHIS

Asian Citrus Psyllid: A Texas Citrus Threat

The Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri*, is a phloem-feeding hemipteran insect that feeds on citrus. While the insect causes little damage, it can carry *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas), the bacterium that causes the disease Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening. HLB is the most serious threat to U.S. citrus.

ACP probably originated in India, but it is common throughout citrus-growing regions of Asia. Host plants for ACP are Citrus species and citrus relatives including the curry tree and orange jasmine.

The best way to prevent the introduction of HLB is to prevent the introduction of ACP. Intensive chemical control of ACP is the primary management tool currently being used to reduce ACP populations, but this strategy is costly, and increasingly ineffective. Even intensive pesticide programs have little effect on the spread of HLB, and populations of ACP in Florida are becoming less susceptible to some

insecticides. The scientific community is searching aggressively for solutions, and with USDA support, has made advances toward that goal.

Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) is a small insect (2.7 mm long) with mottled brown wings. Adults have three distinct abdominal colors: blue/green, gray/brown or orange/yellow. Adults rest and feed on young citrus flush with their bodies held at a 45 degree angle from the plant surface. Females lay approximately 750 eggs over a period of two months under optimal conditions. Because ACP nymphs feed exclusively on young, new shoots, ACP populations fluctuate with the availability of new flush.

ACP cannot fly very far or sustain a long flight, and therefore spread through a series of short flights. Long distance spread of ACP occurs through human-assisted movement of this vector on people, farm equipment, and vehicles.

The Asian Citrus Psyllid causes serious damage to citrus plants and citrus plant relatives. Burned tips

and twisted leaves result from an infestation on new growth. Psyllids are also carriers of the bacterium that causes Huanglongbing (HLB) disease, also known as citrus greening disease, spreading the disease to healthy citrus plants. Citrus greening is one of the most serious citrus plant diseases in the world. Once a tree is infected, there is no cure. 🇺🇸

Information courtesy of USDA-APHIS. For more resources, facts and data about ACP, please visit their website.



Photo courtesy of USDA-APHIS

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



Patricia Escobedo *Wonder Fruit Pomegranate Trees*

Patricia Escobedo is a 2018 recipient of the Young Farmer Grant. She owns a pomegranate farm, Wonder Fruit, with her family in El Paso, Texas. For her, discovering and applying for the Young Farmer Grant came at a perfect time

to expand their pomegranate orchard. In addition, Patricia had high hopes for creating jobs within her community by growing the farm and generating more income for her family farm.

Patricia was able to expand her pomegranate orchard from 550 trees to 800. She also installed an irrigation system for efficient watering, updated the water well system, and was able to purchase equipment needed to help her operation run smoother.

Her ultimate goal she wanted to achieve with the help of the Young Farmer Grant was to be one of the best pomegranate producers in the state. Serving Wonder Fruit pomegranates to every table and home in the region and providing one of the healthiest fruits on the planet to families is a passion of Patricia's.

We asked her if she had any advice for other young farmers and this is what she said, "Always go the extra mile and never doubt about your potential, your dreams

can become a reality if you work hard with positive attitude all the time. Educate yourself and be kind to other people and the earth." 🇺🇸



The Young Farmer Grant accepts applications in the Spring and the Fall.
For more information on the grant and how to apply please visit our website, www.texasagriculture.gov



GALA APPLES

HARVEST OF THE MONTH
OCTOBER



Gala apples come in all colors and sizes. They have stripes and are orange in color. Gala apples are sweet and can be cooked, baked in pies, or enjoyed raw as a fresh snack. They are often used to make apple sauce. Gala apples grow on trees in the Texas Hill Country and other parts of Texas. In the spring, their trees are covered in white flowers. Gala apples continue to grow throughout the summer and are ready to be picked in the autumn.

DID YOU KNOW?

Apples are the most popular fruit in the United States. Gala apples rank No. 2 out of the Top 10 apples grown in the country. Red Delicious apples are ranked No. 1.

FUN FACT

Apples float when dropped into water because they consist of 25% air.



GALA APPLES
GROWING REGIONS

1. The High Plains
2. Central Texas



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A LONE STAR TRADITION

DRINK  TEXAS WINES



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TEXAS
WINE MONTH
OCTOBER

400+
WINERIES
EIGHTEEN
WINE TRAILS
ONE
STATE

NESTLED WITHIN THE WINDING roads curving the great state of Texas, local winemakers share their annual Texas Wine Month celebration with you. Every year, this unique salute gives our Texas wineries, growers and retailers a tremendous opportunity to let the world know about the robust wines being produced in Texas. We invite you to explore the many tastings and events happening this October Wine Month and uncork the new adventures lying in your own backyard.

Visit uncorktexaswines.com for maps and more information on Texas wine, provided by the Texas Department of Agriculture.



GO TEXAN.®

FIND THE MARK
that matters

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



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Fresh From the Field



GO TEXAN!



NEW MEMBERS!

- ★ [Maslowski Co LLC](#)
- ★ [Dos Carolinas Inc](#)
- ★ [Houston Cider Co](#)
- ★ [Camden Food and Beverage](#)
- ★ [Spit N' Whittle](#)
- ★ [Seed and Petal LLC](#)
- ★ [Too Good Treats](#)
- ★ [Handy Saddles](#)
- ★ [Grandview Granary LLC](#)
- ★ [Endless Bakery](#)
- ★ [Pennridge Ranch Meats](#)
- ★ [Grandma Clede's Gourmet Candy](#)
- ★ [The Daytripper World Headquarters](#)
- ★ [Plant it Forward](#)
- ★ [Fare House Farms LLC](#)
- ★ [Conceptual Fabrications](#)
- ★ [East Line Ranch](#)
- ★ [Texas Hill Country Foods LLC](#)
- ★ [Crack Salsa](#)
- ★ [Bullard Cattle Company LLC](#)
- ★ [Bluff Creek Apiary](#)
- ★ [Richard Chestnut Woodshop](#)
- ★ [Redneck Feng Shui LLC](#)
- ★ [Wild Roosters Foods LLC](#)
- ★ [Prep ATX](#)
- ★ [Hinojosa Bros Wholesale](#)

Even though the 2020 State Fair will not go on as we had hoped and planned, GO TEXAN is committed to marketing GO TEXAN products online during this unique time. You can now shop quality Texan made products on the GO TEXAN Pavilion website! This online experience highlights those that would've been Sponsors and Exhibitors by giving them space to talk about their company and mission, provide pictures and videos, and link back to their website. GO TEXAN partners who were sampling and/or selling on a porch or in the GO TEXAN General Store will be highlighted in a mini e-commerce portion to the website. You can now shop the GO TEXAN Pavilion website here, shop.gotexan.org.

You can also find and buy quality made Texas products directly from farmers, ranchers, crafters, wineries and more by joining TDA's Direct from Texas Facebook page. To join the page and browse today click [here](#).



Did You Know?

TDA regulates egg dealers and wholesalers but not egg farms. These farms are permitted by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) or a local retail food authority. TDA does not inspect chickens. Poultry producers must register with the Texas Animal Health Commission.

TDA inspects beehives for fireants, but bee production is regulated by the Texas Apiary Inspection Service. DSHS regulates the sale of honey.

TDA inspects trees for disease and pests. Other forestry issues are handled by the Texas A&M Forestry Service.

TDA regulates all all nursery floral licensing. However, Christmas tree sales are registered by the State Comptroller, and plants are sold for culinary use are regulated by DSHS.



Texas Ag Stats:

- ☆ Texas producers with military service accounted for 50,004 farms and 52,357 producers with an average age of 58.
- ☆ The number of female producers increased 69% in Texas compared to 2012.
- ☆ The average age of young producers (age 35 or less) was 29 and accounted for 21,304 farms.
- ☆ The average farm size of a Texas producer with military service is 358 acres.

Recipe of the Month

Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Muffins - Texas Co-Op Power

Kelly Laster | Pedernales

Ingredients:

4 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin purée
1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
3 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees and apply nonstick spray to 2 muffin pans (or line them with paper cups).

2. In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs, sugar, pumpkin and oil until smooth. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Stir the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture until just combined, then fold in chocolate chips.

3. Fill the muffin indents about 3/4 full, then bake 16–20 minutes or until golden and a toothpick inserted in the center of a muffin comes out clean. Remove from heat and cool the muffins in pans 10 minutes before transferring them to a wire rack to cool completely for a couple minutes. Pour the sauce over the bread pudding and serve warm.



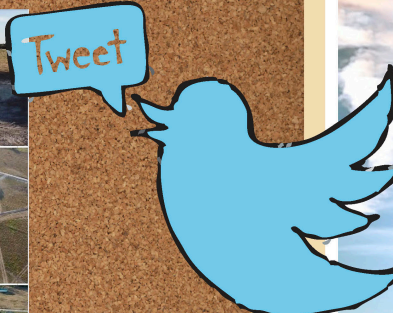
Your Thoughts...

on a Texas sized stock tank...



Deleon Land Management is in College Station, Texas.
August 21 at 8:00 AM · 🌐

Not many ppl can say they have a Texas shape pond in there pasture well the owners of JM Buildings sure can. With the help of Gessner Engineering and there team... See More



Top Fan
Mary Cantu
200 yrs from now, humans will be wondering what this symbolizes and who made it!?

Octavia Hix
Now that's awesome and Texas sized! ❤️

Lillie Suitt
How cool is that.

Richard Reid
Gotta love Texas!!!



OCTOBER 2020

Tell Us...what are you planting in your fall vegetable garden?



@TexasDepartmentofAgriculture



@TexasDeptofAg



@TexasAgriculture

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