

# texas neighbors

WINTER 2022



2022

## PHOTO CONTEST

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# OPINION

## Taking the farm to the classroom in innovative ways



**By Russell Boening**  
President  
Texas Farm Bureau

Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) prioritizes educational efforts each year. In 2020, our professional staff began brainstorming new ways to reach students with in-classroom programming.

Knowing many students are several generations removed from agriculture and often don't get an opportunity to visit a farm, we looked for a way to bring the farm to the students. We created the Farm From School (FFS) program. It brings the farm to students in the school through live, virtual visits with farmers and ranchers.

The live opportunity allows teachers to submit questions from their students. The questions are answered by the farmers and ranchers. This approach adds more value than a playback video, because it allows the students and teachers to make a real connection with the farmer.

The unique program aims to connect kindergarten through fifth grade students with Texas farmers and ranchers to see and learn firsthand where and how food is grown and raised.

FFS rolled out in Spring 2021. The program's early success and positive feedback from teachers convinced us to continue the effort.

Some of the comments from teachers included:

*"Great! Was so neat to see the entire process from planting seeds to harvesting fruit that was containing a seed. LIFE CYCLE!!!"*

*"I like how the technology was linked into the lesson. Was able to tie into our social studies lesson."*

*"Good questions from students. Lots of good content for us to continue our learning. Good for kids to see ladybugs in the field. We have tons at our school! They want to know all about their purpose in the ecosystem now."*

*"Thank you for creating this opportunity to allow our students to have these experiences when they wouldn't otherwise have the opportunities to see the things that we are able to learn about and see through this program as far as farm-to-table, co-dependency, life cycle of plants and insects, habitats and so much more beyond the surface of what we initially signed up for."*

In the Fall 2021 semester, students learned about growing pumpkins, peanuts and Christmas trees and about raising chickens. Each month, they visited with a different farmer to better understand how farmers plant, fertilize and harvest some of the foods they see on the grocery store shelves.

The program is popular in Texas schools. More than 440 teachers and 10,600 students participated in the monthly visits during the fall semester.

It's a way for students to be present in the field with farmers and ranchers to see what's growing in the fields and what livestock eat. Getting to know the farmers and ranchers personalizes the learning experience for students.

Sign up for the Spring 2022 Farm From School program was recently completed, and interest among teachers is very high.

The launch of this program opened doors to increase our reach and the presence of agriculture in classrooms across the state. Farmers and ranchers are passionate about teaching the next generation about how agriculture is science, social studies, math, technology and so much more.

It also allowed further promotion of additional Ag in the Classroom resources available from TFB, including lesson plans, commodity-specific publications, videos and professional development opportunities for educators.

Additional program details and resources are available online at [texasfarmbureau.org/aitc](https://www.texasfarmbureau.org/aitc) under the Farm From School section.



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# McBrides excel in agriculture, local business

Heston and Stevie McBride are growing their future in ag

**By Jennifer Whitlock  
Field Editor**

Heston and Stevie McBride are booth rooted in agriculture. They are third-generation ranchers who have a passion for the land, cattle and running successful businesses.

They raise cattle and are the owners and operators of AgroTech, an agricultural service business that provides liquid feed, dyed diesel, fertilizer, herbicides, agricultural equipment rentals and more to farmers and ranchers in the Lampasas area.

“Heston and I both come from long-time ranching families. We met in college at Tarleton State University, and we found we both shared a love for cattle and ranching. So, we pursued that when we graduated by moving to East Texas, where he took a ranch management job,” Stevie said. “We ended up moving back closer to his hometown when we had an opportunity to, along with a couple of partners, acquire AgroTech.”

Stevie oversees the administrative aspects of AgroTech—paperwork, accounting and other jobs that need to be managed at the office.

Heston handles the operational side of the business. He directs the employees on jobs, handles customer inquiries and helps clients decide which fertilizers or herbicides they may need or what equipment to rent.

“We specialize in fertilizer and herbicide applications for hay and forage production. Our cli-

ents are mainly landowners in Lampasas, Llano and Mills counties,” he said. “We try to tailor our business, so we have something to offer operations of all sizes.”

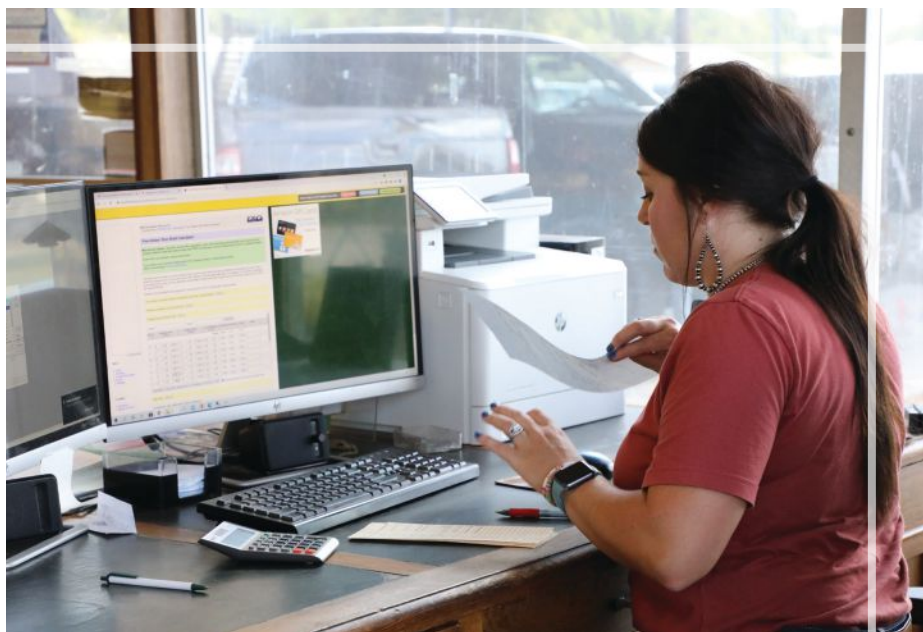
Many of their clients are first-time landowners or people who have moved from larger cities to the more suburban or rural setting of Lampasas and the surrounding areas. That’s changed how the McBrides approach customer interactions.

Heston noted he spends more time on education and assisting them in making appropriate land management decisions.

The couple also manages a small commercial cow-calf herd through leasing several properties across two counties.

Raising cattle is something both of their families were involved in as they were growing up, and it’s a venture they wanted





to continue as adults.

Working alongside the love of her life can be fun, Stevie said. It's also tough to manage the work-life balance, however.

"I don't really get to say, 'Hey, when you get home, you take care of the baby while I go do this,' because we work together all the time, and we do everything else together, too. We both have to load up and feed cows after work or go fix fences or do whatever needs to be done. We have a business, a cattle herd and a family," she said.

Managing a business and a cattle herd takes many hours during the day.

"There's a lot of struggle that goes on behind the scenes. We deal with a lot of things that, typically, most people don't experience or would never understand. So, sometimes there's a lot of

heartache involved. But we always, always try to remain positive. And we love our lives," Stevie said. "We like to stay busy, and we get to do everything together, so it works for us."

In the future, they'd like to expand their cow-calf herd and get more involved in working cow-horse shows. They hope to see their son, Hetch, involved with the horses and cattle, too.

For now, they're enjoying their time as a busy, young family.

It's challenging sometimes to own and operate a small business in a small town and manage their cattle herd. But Heston said there are many rewards, too.

"There's a lot of freedom that comes with owning and operating your own business," he said. "We felt like this was something we wanted to pursue, and we've both been really happy and are

glad we chose this path."

And there's nothing like an agricultural community in which to raise a family, Stevie added.

"Agriculture has always been near and dear to my heart. I grew

up that way. Heston grew up that way," she said. "The people are great, and we definitely want to continue on that path and raise our son in the same kind of community we grew up in."





2022 Texas Farm Bureau

# PHOTO CONTEST

It's time once again for the annual Texas Farm Bureau photography contest, when you or someone you know can share your best photo with the entire Lone Star State and maybe even win a cash prize.

The contest is open to Texas Farm Bureau members or an immediate family member (i.e., spouse, child, sibling, or parent).

Rural settings and rural lifestyles are the preferred themes for all submissions, and contestants are limited to one entry per person. Four top winners will be selected and published in the July edition of *Texas Agriculture* and the summer edition of *Texas Neighbors*.

**FIRST PLACE**

**\$250 cash prize**

**SECOND PLACE**

**\$200 cash prize**

**2 HONORABLE MENTIONS**

**\$100 cash prize each**

Visit [texasfarmbureau.org/photo-contest](https://www.texasfarmbureau.org/photo-contest) for complete contest rules.

**ENTRY DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2022**



# One ACRE of LAND

One acre of land can produce many different types of crops, depending on the fertility and type of soil, how much rain falls and how much the sun shines.

An acre of land is about the size of a football field.

## LOOK AT HOW MUCH CAN GROW ON ONE ACRE

### COTTON: 821 pounds

A bale of cotton weighs about 480 pounds.

It can be used to make:

- **215** pairs of jeans
- **249** bed sheets
- **690** bath towels
- **1,256** pillowcases
- **1,217** men's t-shirts

### WHEAT: 3,054 pounds

One bushel of wheat weighs about

60 pounds. It can be used to make:

- **90** one-pound loaves of whole wheat bread
- **72** pounds of flour tortillas
- About **210** servings of spaghetti
- Fill **53** boxes of cereal

### STRAWBERRIES: 50,500 pounds

Americans eat over 8 pounds of fresh strawberries per person each year. Because they're so *berry* tasty!



# Texas Farm Bureau names 2022 garden grant recipients

By Julie Tomascik  
Editor

Texas Farm Bureau named the recipients of the Learning From the Ground Up garden grants for 2022.

Thirty-nine grants were awarded to schools and educational programs across the Lone Star State for their projects that help increase agricultural literacy and awareness.

“Helping students grow an understanding of

agriculture and food production while connecting the information to concepts taught in the classroom is a win-win,” said Jordan Bartels, TFB associate director of Organization Division, Educational Outreach. “From the school garden to the farm, Farm Bureau can help students connect with agriculture, because food production and learning truly happens anywhere.”

Projects include establishing or improving school gardens, raised beds, greenhouses and

outdoor classrooms that provide students with hands-on experiential learning about agriculture and food production.

The next application process will open in fall 2022, and Bartels encourages schools and educational programs to consider applying.

For more information about garden grants, other educational opportunities and Ag in the Classroom materials, visit [texasfarmbureau.org/aitc](http://texasfarmbureau.org/aitc) or email [edoutreach@txfb.org](mailto:edoutreach@txfb.org).

## Garden grant recipients include:

**Dalhart Elementary School**  
Hartley County

**Groom ISD**  
Carson County

**Caprock,**  
Randall County

**Spur Secondary**  
Dickens County

**Cotton Center Elementary**  
Hale County

**Primrose School of Lubbock South**  
Lubbock County

**Vernon High School**  
Wilbarger County

**Woodson School**  
Young County

**Donna Zimmerer Licensed Daycare LLC.,** Cooke County

**Alma Martinez Intermediate School STEM Academy**  
Johnson County

**Coppell High School**  
Dallas County

**Duncanville High school**  
Dallas County

**Alba-Golden Elementary**  
Wood County

**Mt. Vernon High School**  
Franklin County

**Morris Upchurch Middle School**  
Cass County

**Roscoe Elementary School**  
Nolan County

**Roscoe Montessori Early Childhood Center**  
Nolan County

**Snyder High School,**  
Scurry County

**Clyde Jr. High**  
Callahan County

**Lingleville High School**  
Erath County

**Brady High School**  
McCulloch County

**Caldwell Elementary School**  
Burleson County

**Liberty Hill Middle School**  
Williamson County

**Crestview Elementary School**  
McLennan County

**Elkhart Intermediate**  
Anderson County

**Eastside Elementary**  
Liberty County

**Grapeland Elementary**  
Houston County

**Comfort Elementary**  
Kendall County

**Bracken Christian School of Bulverde**  
Comal County

**Lytle Elementary School**  
Atascosa County

**James Reese Career and Technical Education Center**  
Fort Bend County

**Bellaire High School**  
Harris County

**Forest Ridge Elementary**  
Brazos County

**Travis Middle School**  
Calhoun County

**Yorktown High School**  
Dewitt County

**4-H Activity Center**  
Victoria County

**Capt. J. Castro Elementary**  
Hidalgo County

**Palacios Elementary**  
Hidalgo County

**Alton Elementary**  
Hidalgo County







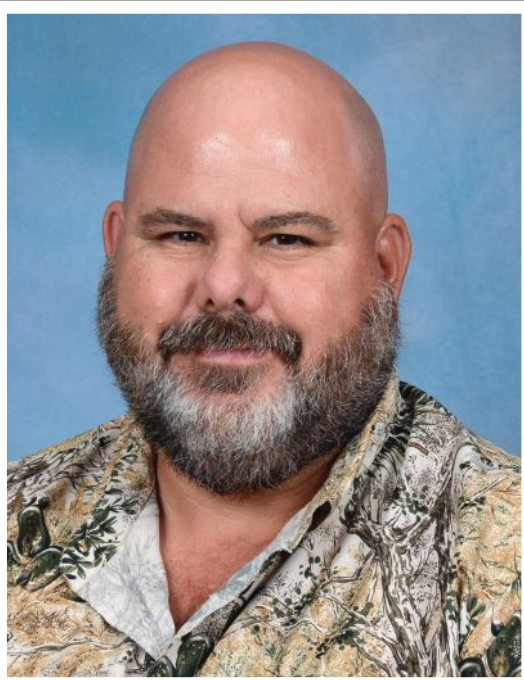
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Dale is a great example of the difference a teacher can make in a student's life, Regardless of the circumstances, Dale aims to bring agricultural experiences and information to his students, helping them make a connection between farmers and ranchers and our food, clothes, fuel and natural resources.

— TFB President Russell Boening

# Hrabovsky brings ag to life through science lessons

By Julie Tomascik  
Editor

One Texas teacher's passion for agriculture and science has earned him recognition from the state's largest general farm and ranch organization.

Dale Hrabovsky was named Texas Farm Bureau's (TFB) 2021 Agriculture in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher award winner. Hrabovsky was recognized during TFB's 88th Annual Meeting Dec. 4 in Corpus Christi.

Hrabovsky teaches biology, IPC, chemistry and animal science at CATS and PACE Academy in Angleton.

Hrabovsky, who has been in the classroom for 21 years, teaches at an alternative campus, where the students are assigned for disciplinary reasons. Although the students are only in his classroom for an average of 25 days, Hrabovsky uses that short time period to bring agriculture to life through his science lessons.

He was nominated by Brazoria-Galveston County Farm Bureau.

"Mr. Hrabovsky's dedication to his students is something to be honored. His situation is challenging, because the students he teaches are not able to go off campus and are under stricter guidelines in every aspect of their school day," Tom Ferguson, Brazoria-Galveston County Farm Bureau president, said. "Mr. Hrabovsky has to constantly be looking for inventive ways to incorporate agricultural concepts into his classroom, but we believe his students need that understanding of agriculture even more and our county Farm Bureau welcomes any opportunity to work with him and his students."

Hrabovsky started a campus garden to help get students involved in outdoor activities and hands-on lessons. The garden recently received the Outdoor Program of the Year Award from the Texas Outdoor Education Association.

He was also awarded a Scoping Out Ag in the Classroom Microscope Grant and a Learning from the Ground Up Garden Grant from TFB.

"Dale is a great example of the difference a teacher can make in a student's life," TFB President Russell Boening said. "Regardless of the circumstances, Dale aims to bring agricultural experiences and information to his students, helping them make a connection between farmers and ranchers and our food, clothes, fuel and natural resources."

Hrabovsky graduated with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology from Texas A&M University, where he also received his Secondary Science Teacher Certification.

He and his wife, Traci, have two daughters and live in Friendswood.

In recognition of his accomplishment, Hrabovsky received a \$600 cash award, as well as an expense-paid trip to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference next summer. Brazoria-Galveston County Farm Bureau received a \$400 cash award for the nomination.

Hrabovsky also will be nominated for the National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award.

Visit TFB's [Ag in the Classroom webpage](#) for classroom resources and professional development opportunities for teachers.



*Photos courtesy Dale Hrabovsky.*

# Scholarship opportunities help Texas Farm Bureau members

By Julie Tomascik  
Editor

Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) continues to invest in youth, devoting large amounts of money and time to help students develop leadership skills.

That investment comes through scholarships at the state and county levels. Each year, TFB awards more than \$200,000 in scholarships, and over \$350,000 in schol-

arships is given through county Farm Bureaus.

And this year, TFB is adding another collegiate scholarship opportunity—the Rural Veterinary Scholarship.

“Our scholarship program continues to grow and adapt to meet the future needs of agriculture and our youth who are furthering their education. High school seniors, enrolled college students

and students pursuing technical degrees can apply for a variety of Farm Bureau scholarships,” McKenna Bush, TFB youth coordinator, said. “These scholarships and awards are another way that Texas Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureaus invest in the future of our communities, state and agriculture.”

There are three high school scholarships available: Memori-

al/Honorary District Scholarship, Young Farmer & Rancher Scholarship and the Dick Mitchell Memorial Scholarship.

Enrolled college students can apply for four scholarships: Young Farmer & Rancher Scholarships for Enrolled College Students, TFB S.M. True Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award, Mia Balko Student Teaching Scholarship and the Rural Veterinary Scholarship.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must create an account and register through the MyTFB Membership portal at [my.texasfarmbureau.org](http://my.texasfarmbureau.org).

Once there, navigate to registration, and select 2022 scholarships from the list.

All scholarships require the student to be part of a TFB member-family to qualify, and membership must be maintained for the duration of the scholarship.

The deadline to apply and submit a completed application online is March 1 before midnight.

Visit [texasfarmbureau.org/scholarships](http://texasfarmbureau.org/scholarships) for more information and the scholarship application checklist.

Email [youthactivities@txfb.org](mailto:youthactivities@txfb.org) or call 254-751-2258 with questions.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

### DICK MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP

This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to one high school senior who completed the Thrive Experience through TFB’s Student Success Series last summer.

### YOUNG FARMER & RANCHER SCHOLARSHIP

High school seniors pursuing a degree in agriculture are eligible for TFB’s Young Farmer & Rancher scholarship. Each of TFB’s 13 districts will award one \$1,000 scholarship.

### MEMORIAL/HONORARY AND DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIPS

In each of the 13 TFB districts, one student will be awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. Three students from each district also will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

### TSTC SCHOLARSHIPS

TFB has made scholarship funds available to first-year and enrolled students attending Texas State Technical College (TSTC).

Twenty-five \$1,000 scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis through the Texan Success Scholarship.

Another \$10,000 is available through the “helping hands” scholarship, which is meant to help students with unexpected costs that are not usually covered by traditional scholarships.

TSTC scholarship applications are available at [tstc.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships](http://tstc.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships).

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ENROLLED COLLEGE STUDENTS

### YOUNG FARMER & RANCHER ENROLLED SCHOLARSHIP

The Young Farmer & Rancher Enrolled Scholarship is for students already in college pursuing undergraduate degrees. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 45 credit hours and a GPA of 2.5 or higher to qualify. Applicants must also intend to pursue a career in agriculture.

Three \$2,000 Young Farmer & Rancher Enrolled scholarships will be awarded.

### MIA BALKO STUDENT TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was renamed in honor of the late Mia Balko, who was TFB’s director of youth outreach and scholarship coordinator. Prior to joining TFB, Balko was an agricultural science teacher for many years.

Four senior agricultural education students will receive the Mia Balko Student Teaching Scholarship each semester.

The scholarships, valued at \$1,500, aim to help students cover expenses during their semester of off-campus student teaching. Students who will be student teaching off-campus in fall 2022 are encouraged to apply.

A second application process will open later this year for those student teaching in spring 2023.

### S.M. TRUE JR. AGRICULTURAL SCHOLAR AWARD

To acknowledge former TFB President S.M. True Jr., a \$20,000 scholarship was established for college students enrolled in an undergraduate degree program with at least 60 hours of college credit and declared agriculture as their major. Students are encouraged to apply at the end of their sophomore year for TFB’s most prestigious scholarship.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be a Farm Bureau member-family for at least three years at the time of application. Applicants must submit a completed application and two letters of recommendation—one from the county Farm Bureau president and one from the dean or head of the agricultural department of the applicant’s college or university.

### RURAL VETERINARY SCHOLARSHIP

The Rural Veterinary Scholarship is new this year. Four scholarships valued at \$10,000 each will be awarded.

Applicants must be a second- or third-year veterinarian student at Texas A&M University or Texas Tech University with a GPA of 2.5 or higher. The applicant must also plan to enter a rural and/or food animal practice in Texas after graduation.

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# Young couple continues ranching tradition

*Travis and Kaylin Isbell build on family's ranching heritage*

**By Julie Tomascik**  
Editor

Tradition runs deep for Travis and Kaylin Isbell, who are leaving their mark on Texas agriculture.

The young couple raises commercial cattle, stocker cattle and Dorper sheep on their Williamson County ranch.

After graduating from Tarleton State University, the high school sweethearts came back to Florence to take over Travis' family's ranch.

"Since we came back, we've added more leased land to the operation," Travis said. "But we're also focusing more on soil health, land stewardship and increasing our carrying capacity, so we're not just leasing more land, but we're getting more out of the land that we already have."

They implemented no-till farming practices and rotational grazing, as well as added cover crops to increase plant diversity and organic matter. They also diversified by adding a flock of Dorper sheep, in partnership with Travis' parents, and custom hay work.

But urbanization and water issues could limit their opportunities to expand.

"There has been a significant increase in growth and development in the area over the last three years," Travis said. "That's putting pressure on our water and natural resources and taking prime agricultural land out of production."

Despite the challenges that urbanization brings, the Isbells persevere. Their kids—Trigg and Kyndall—can be found riding horseback through the herd, helping process cattle and caring for the horses and livestock.

"What makes us a little unique is that we do the majority of our cow work on horseback," Kaylin said. "We try to preserve the ranching heritage. We've added technology to our operation, but we still like to do a lot of the

work in the traditional way."

And for Travis and Kaylin, having their kids working alongside them is what it means to be a family ranch.

"I think it's important to have our kids grow up in this lifestyle," Travis said. "Seeing our kids help us, learn from us and work with us, well, it's just something we knew we wanted. We wanted them to be raised in this type of environment."

They're instilling a passion for agriculture in their kids and showing them the value of hard work.

"We've always said 'quality over quantity.' We don't want to be the biggest, but we want to raise high-quality cattle and high-quality forage that we can be proud of," Kaylin said.

As a family, they stay busy. Travis and Kaylin are active in numerous organizations, including Texas Farm Bureau. Kaylin is also a part-time farm and ranch real estate agent, and Travis manages two other local ranches. Their kids are active in school, rodeo and have started showing sheep.

Through the hectic days and busy seasons, the couple remains steadfast in their faith, family and agriculture.

"In our operation and our life, our faith comes first. Even if it's a super busy time of the year, we make sure that we're at church, and our kids are at church," she said. "Putting faith first and then having family second has always been our priorities."

And they both want consumers to understand they are caring for the land, the animals and natural resources.

"The biggest thing is just how important these animals are to us—that we're caring for them, not mistreating them," Travis said. "I wish consumers could come spend a day with us to see how we care for our livestock."

It's also important to the Isbells that land is kept in agricultural production wherever possible and to stay profitable so the next generation can carry on the tradition of the family's ranching heritage.

"We think it's so important to keep land in agricultural production," Kaylin said. "We want our kids to be able to work this land. We're fourth-generation ranchers on this place. It's important to us that it stays that way and that the land continues to be used how God intended it to be used."

[Click here](#) to watch a video interview with Travis and Kaylin Isbell.

They are finalists in Texas Farm Bureau's 2021 Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher Contest. [Click here](#) to learn more about the contest and other young farmer and rancher opportunities.



We think it's so important to keep land in agricultural production. We want our kids to be able to work this land. We're fourth-generation ranchers on this place. It's important to us that it stays that way and that the land continues to be used how God intended it to be used.

—Kaylin Isbell

# Venison STEW

---

## INGREDIENTS

2 lbs. ground venison  
1 tbsp. flour  
1 tbsp. garlic minced  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
6 to 8 new potatoes quartered  
5 to 6 carrots sliced in rounds  
2 stalks celery chopped  
1 c. fresh peas removed from pods  
1 c. pearl onions skinned  
32 oz. beef broth  
32 oz. vegetable broth  
1 can diced tomatoes 14 oz.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Combine venison, flour, garlic, salt and pepper in a large skillet.

Brown the meat over medium heat.

Prepare all vegetables, and place in a large stock pot.

Add broths to the pot.

Add tomatoes.

Stir in cooked meat.

Heat stew over high heat until it comes to a boil.

Reduce heat and simmer covered for 30 minutes to cook vegetables.

Continue to cook on low to increase flavor in vegetables until ready to serve.





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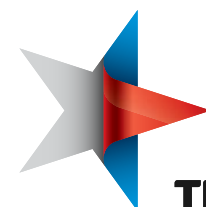
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**FARM BUREAU ADVANTAGE**

How We're Driving Change.



## Texas Farm Bureau membership grows again!

We're family at Texas Farm Bureau. A big one! This year, we gained 1,758 members, and we're now 535,614 members-families.

"This achievement marks 21 consecutive years of membership growth, and we're very proud of that accomplishment," TFB President Russell Boening said. "Our mission is to be the Voice of Texas Agriculture, and our continued membership growth shows the value of Farm Bureau to agriculture, rural communities and everyone connected to the production of our food, fiber and fuel."

Out of 205 organized county Farm Bureaus across Texas, 136 counties gained members during the year, and a statewide retention rate of 88.72% was achieved.

"Our great organization embodies the true spirit, resilience and passion of the Lone Star State," Boening said. "As the state's largest general farm and ranch organization, we work together to ensure agriculture stays strong and the rural way of life remains viable."

County Farm Bureaus were recognized for membership achievements during the 88th Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi.

# Texas Farm Bureau is **535,614** member-families strong

- County with highest new member acquisition:  
**Collin County Farm Bureau with 1,742 members**
- County reporting the largest total membership gain:  
**McLennan County Farm Bureau with 476 members**
- County with the highest membership renewal percentage:  
**Mason County Farm Bureau with 94.98%**
- County with the largest membership:  
**Collin County Farm Bureau with 13,394 members**
- County with the longest continuous gain in membership:  
**DeWitt County Farm Bureau for 72 years**

## New Texas Farm Bureau officers, state director elected

During Texas Farm Bureau's 87th Annual Meeting, new officers and one state director were elected.

Russell Boening was re-elected as president of TFB. He is now serving his NUMBER term.

Pat McDowell of Wheeler County was elected vice president, and Pete Pawelek of Atascosa County was elected secretary-treasurer.

McDowell grows corn and wheat and raises cattle in the Panhandle. McDowell was elected to the TFB board in December 2017.

Pawelek grows hay and cotton and raises cattle in South Texas. He was elected to the TFB board in December 2018.

Re-elected to two-year terms

were McDowell, Mark Daniel of Baylor County, Kevin Wilkerson of Van Zandt County, Sam Snyder of Callahan-Shackelford County, John Griffith of Cherokee County and Allen Kaminski of Austin County.

One new director, Brian Jones of Edcouch, was also elected. He will represent District 13.

Jones grows irrigated cotton, corn, grain sorghum and soybeans in Hidalgo County.

Jones has served several years in numerous roles, including president, vice president and secretary-treasurer, on the Hidalgo County Farm Bureau board of directors.

He participated in TFB's lead-

ership program, AgLead, and served on TFB's Feed Grains Advisory Committee. Jones also served as the state Young Farmer & Rancher Advisory Committee chair and served on the advisory committee for three years.

He was a member of TFB's 2020 Vision Committee and participated in the Food Dialogues panels to help foster communication between consumers and farmers.

He and his wife, Lisa, have two grown children and one granddaughter.



Read more about TFB's state directors at [texasfarmbureau.org/board-members](https://www.texasfarmbureau.org/board-members).

# 'Texas Ag Today' podcast reaches one year milestone

With over 250 episodes and more than 26,000 downloads, the *Texas Ag Today* podcast continues to reach audiences near and far.

Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network launched the podcast in September 2020. It's hosted by veteran farm broadcaster Carey Martin, along with the largest and most-experienced farm news team in the Lone Star State that includes Tom Nicolette, TFB senior network producer, and Jessica Domel, TFB multimedia reporter.

"We cover everything happening in Texas agriculture with contributions from our in-house team of three full-time farm broadcasters and 12 contributing reporters spread out through every region of Texas," Martin said. "We bring our listeners the news that affects their livelihoods on Texas farms and ranches. That may be the latest legislative news

from the state capitol or the latest policy initiatives from Washington, D.C."

The podcast also brings regular reports on crop and livestock conditions and includes a daily segment on crop, livestock and energy markets.

And it's growing in popularity and rankings.

*Texas Ag Today* is ranked in the Top 100 Business News podcasts on Apple Podcasts, and it is ranked as the 11th agricultural podcast in Feedspot's "Top 30 Ag Podcasts of 2020."

"Our focus is on full-time production agriculture, but we also branch out to cover other issues that are important to rural Texans," Martin said. "A few examples would be our regular lawn and garden report from San Angelo horticulturalist John Begnaud, our daily wildlife report and our daily veteri-

nary report from Dr. Bob Judd."

*Texas Ag Today* is just another way that the state's largest farm and ranch organization provides information about agriculture to members and anyone who wants to learn more.

"The most satisfying achievement is to see the steady growth of our listener base," Martin said. "Each month, the downloads increase, meaning we are keeping a loyal audience and adding to it each month. There's still huge potential for growth, and we'll keep working to reach more listeners."

The podcast has been downloaded in 34 countries outside the U.S., with the most downloads coming from Canada, Japan, Brazil, United Kingdom, France, Taiwan, Sweden, Russia and Mexico.

Listeners can subscribe to *Texas Ag Today* on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify and any-

where you can listen to podcasts.

It is also available on the TFB website at [texasfarmbureau.org/radio](https://texasfarmbureau.org/radio).

"One pleasant surprise has been the willingness of radio stations to air *Texas Ag Today* as a morning radio show. It is currently heard on 10 radio stations each weekday morning, and we hope to expand that to over 20 stations by the end of the year," Martin said.

The Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network is the state's number one and most listened-to agricultural radio network. The network features over 115 affiliate stations and rates highest for Texas farmer and rancher all-day listening.

A complete list of affiliate stations is below, and more information about the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network is available at [texasfarmbureau.org/radio](https://texasfarmbureau.org/radio).



## Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network No. 1 Agriculture News Network in Texas.

The stories that matter. The network you trust. Thank you for making the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network the number one and most listened to agricultural news radio network in Texas.

*Farmer Radio Listening Study for all Texas counties surveyed.*

City	Frequency	Call Letters	City	Frequency	Call Letters	City	Frequency	Call Letters	City	Frequency	Call Letters
Abilene	96.1	FM KORQ	Corpus Christi	99.1	FM KRY5	Hereford	106.3	FM KPAN	Post	107.3	FM KSSL
Amarillo	97.5	FM KGNC	Corsicana	1340	AM KAND	Hillsboro	1560	AM KHBR	Quanah	1150	AM KOLJ
Amarillo	710	AM KGNC	Corsicana	104.9	FM KAND	Hondo	1460	AM KCWM	Quanah	100.7	FM KOLJ
Amarillo	103.9	FM KHNZ	Crockett	1290	AM KIVY	Idalou	105.7	FM KRBL	Ranger	98.5	FM KWBY
Amarillo	96.5	FM KDDD	Crockett	102.9	FM KIVY	Kenedy	92.1	FM KCAF	Reno	98.9	FM KLOW
Austwell	105.9	FM KIBQ	Crockett	105.5	FM KIVY	La Grange	104.9	FM KBUK	Rockdale	98.5	FM KRXT
Ballinger	1400	AM KRUN	Crockett	92.7	FM KIVY	La Grange	1570	AM KVLG	San Angelo	92.7	FM KDCC
Beeville	1490	AM KIBL	Dalhart	1240	AM KXIT	Lamesa	690	AM KPET	San Angelo	1260	AM KKSA
Beeville	97.1	FM KIBL	Dalhart	94.5	FM KXIT	Lamesa	105.1	FM KPET	San Antonio	680	AM KKYX
Big Spring	1490	AM KBST	Detroit	104.3	FM KFYN	Levelland	1230	AM KLVT	San Antonio	104.9	FM KKYX
Big Spring	103.9	FM KBST	Dilley	95.3	FM KVWG	Lubbock	94.1	FM KSSL	Seguin	1580	AM KWED
Boerne	1500	AM KBRN	Dimmitt	1470	AM KDHN	Madisonville	1220	AM KMVL	Seymour	1230	AM KSEY
Boerne	103.9	FM KBRN	Dimmitt	102.7	FM KDHN	Madisonville	98.9	FM KMVL	Seymour	94.3	FM KSEY
Bonham	1420	AM KFYN	Dumas	800	AM KDDD	Madisonville	102.7	FM KMVL	Seymour	105.7	FM KSEY
Bonham	103.9	FM KFYN	Dumas	103.5	FM KDDD	Madisonville	100.5	FM KMVL	Shamrock	92.9	FM KSNZ
Brady	1490	AM KNEL	Dumas	95.3	FM KDEL	Mansfield, LA	92.7	FM KJVC	Smiley	103.9	FM KBQQ
Brady	95.3	FM KNEL	Eastland	97.7	FM KATX	Marshall	103.9	FM KMHT	Spearman	98.3	FM KXDJ
Breckenridge	1430	AM KROO	El Campo	1390	AM KULP	Mason	102.5	FM KHLB	Sterling City	100.5	FM KSCK
Cameron	105.1	FM KMIL	El Campo	106.7	FM KULP	Mason	101.7	FM KZZM	Stephenville	93.1	FM KSTV
Canadian	102.9	FM KSNZ	Elk City, OK	98.9	FM KSNZ	Memphis	105.3	FM KLSR	Sulphur Springs	107.1	FM KRVA
Canton	1510	AM KWJB	Fredericksburg	910	AM KNAF	Meyersville	100.1	FM KQBQ	Sulphur Springs	1230	AM KSST
Canton	95.1	FM KWJB	Giddings	96.3	FM KGID	Mineola	99.9	FM KMOO	Sulphur Springs	101.3	FM KSST
Carthage	104.3	FM KGAS	Graham	1330	AM KSWA	Pampa	101.3	FM KHNZ	Sweetwater	1240	AM KXOX
Center	930	AM KDET	Greenville	1400	AM KGVL	Paris	1490	FM KPLT	Sweetwater	96.7	FM KXOX
Childress	96.1	FM KCTX	Greenville	93.5	FM KIKT	Paris	96.3	FM KPLT	Temple	1400	AM KTEM
Christine	96.9	FM KWYU	Greenville	105.9	FM KGVL	Paris	93.9	FM KOYN	Temple	94.3	FM KTEM
Clarendon	99.3	FM KEFH	Greenville	107.7	FM KGVL	Pearsall	1280	AM KMFR	Tyler	104.1	FM KKUS
Clovis, NM	1240	AM KCLV	Haskell	97.1	FM KVRP	Pearsall	94.7	FM KMFR	Vernon	101.7	FM KOLJ
Clovis, NM	99.1	FM KCLV	Hebbronville	104.3	FM KUFA	Pecos	97.3	FM KDNZ	Victoria	107.9	FM KIXS
Comanche	94.3	FM KYOX	Henderson	1470	AM KWRD	Perryton	93.7	FM KEYE	Wichita Falls	97.5	FM KXXX
Comanche	1550	AM KCOM	Henderson	98.5	FM KWRD	Perryton	1400	AM KEYE			
Comanche	100.1	FM KCOM	Hereford	860	AM KPAN	Perryton	96.7	FM KEYE			

# FARM FACTS

Agriculture touches every part of our lives—from the **food on our tables** to the **wood that frames our homes**, the **fiber in our clothes** and even the renewable fuel in our cars.



After accounting for input costs, farmers and ranchers receive only **8 cents out of every dollar** spent on food at home and away from home. The rest goes for costs beyond the farm gate: wages and materials for production, processing, marketing, transportation and distribution.



## 98%

of all U.S. farms are owned by individuals, family partnerships or family corporations.



More than half of America's farmers intentionally provide habitat for wildlife. Deer, moose, birds and other species have shown significant population increases for decades.

About **11% of U.S. farmers** are serving or have served in the military.



Careful stewardship by America's farmers and ranchers has spurred a **34% decline in erosion of cropland** by wind and water since 1982.

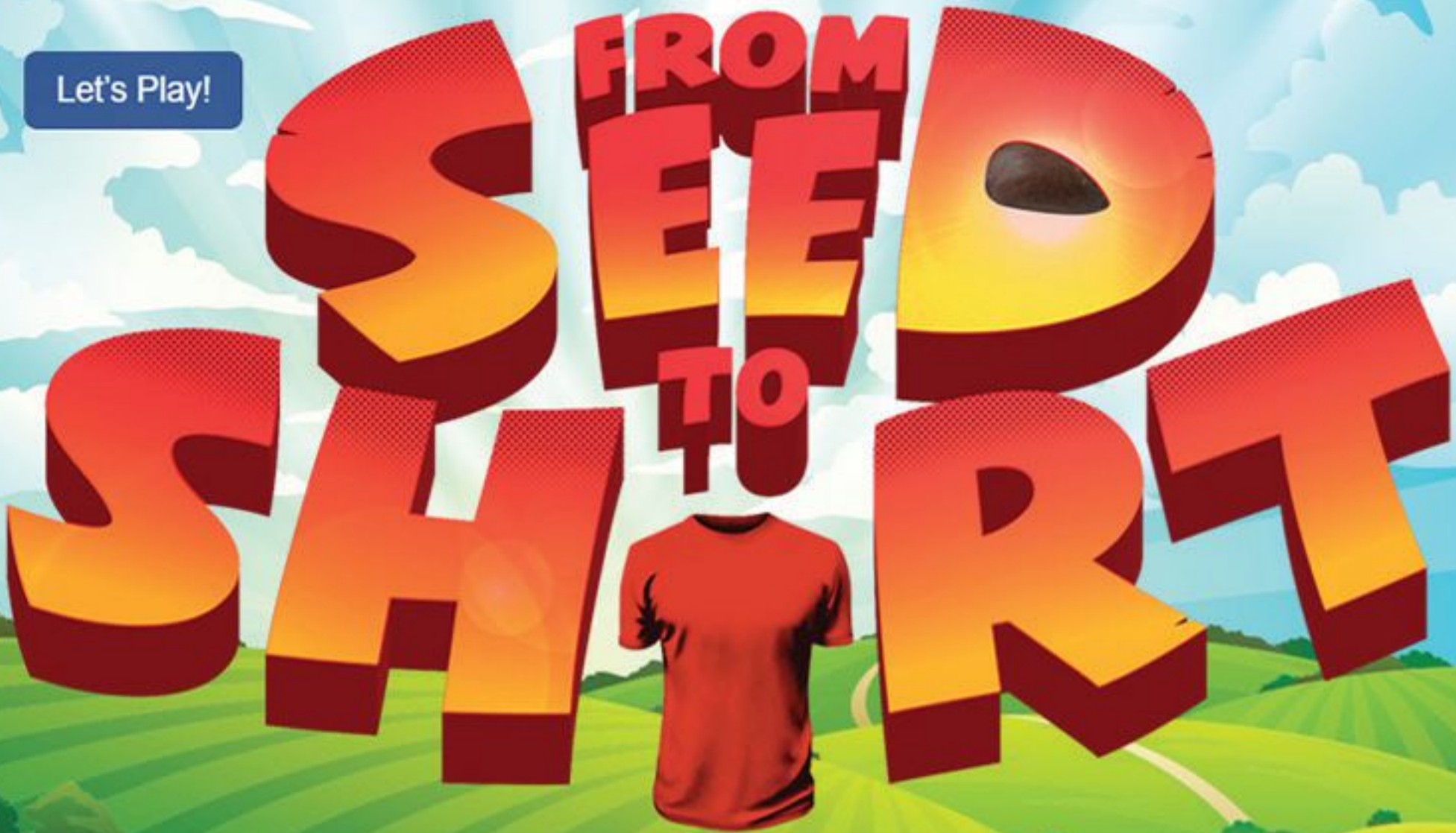
Pizza comes from America's farms and ranches. Americans consume more than **3 billion pizzas** annually.



A typical Holstein dairy cow weighs **1,500 pounds** and will produce an average of more than **25,000 pounds of milk** each year. A cow converts roughage and grains not consumed by people into high-energy foods.



Let's Play!



## ***NEW COTTON GAME SPROUTING ON MY AMERICAN FARM PLATFORM***

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is expanding the lineup of popular educational games on its [My American Farm platform](#) with a new game that introduces players to how cotton is planted, grown, cared for, harvested and turned into clothes.

The game, titled "[From Seed to Shirt](#)," is generously sponsored by Nichino America and encourages players to solve math problems to earn clothes for their in-game character. From Seed to Shirt is best for students in third through fifth grade.

"From Seed to Shirt is an excellent addition to My American Farm as it incorporates science, math, technology and sustainability into an engaging game," said Daniel Meloy, executive director of the Foundation. "Students will really enjoy earning fun clothing items to dress their character in their own personal style while learning what it takes for cotton to go from a seed in the ground to a shirt in their closet."

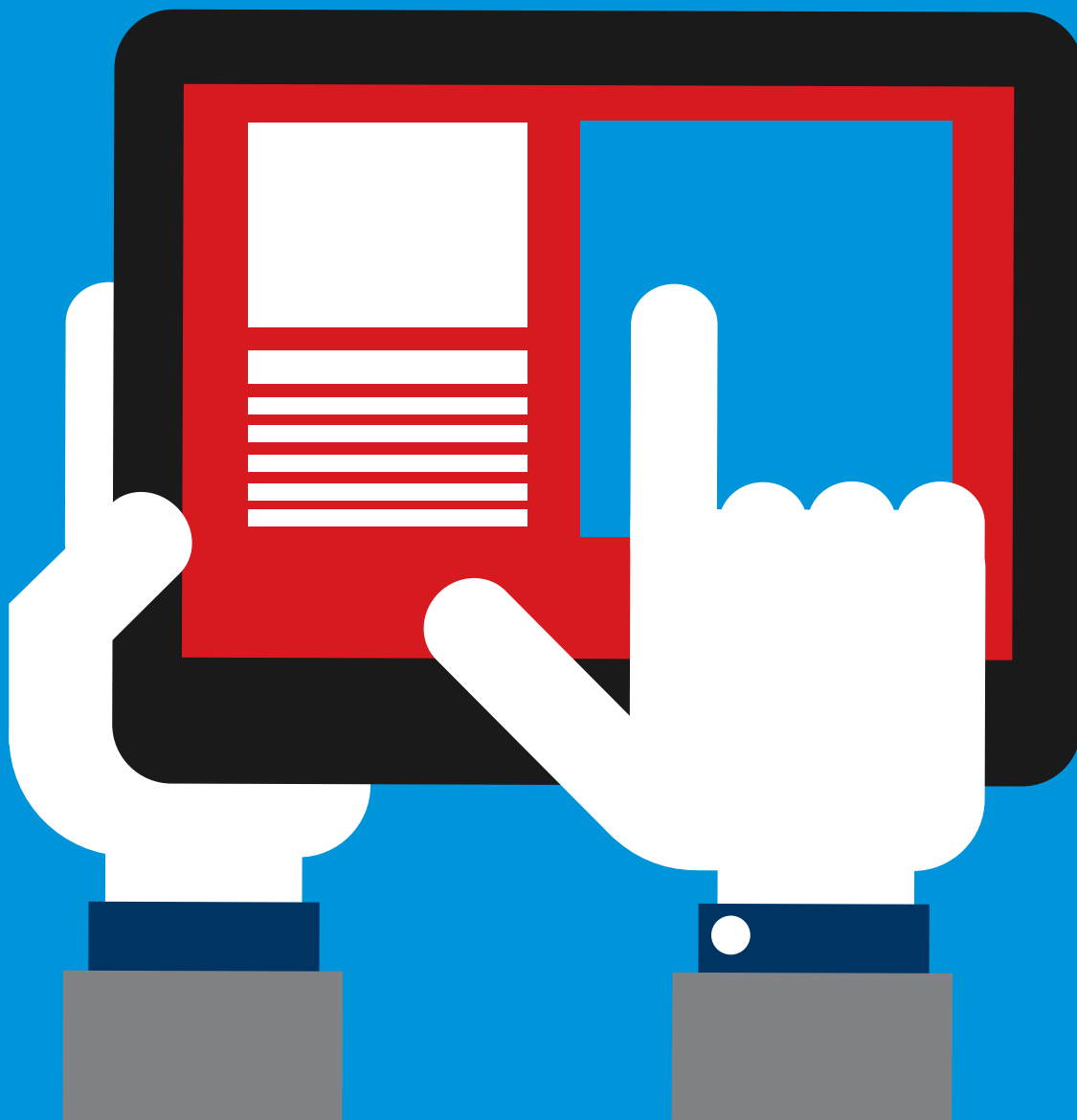
My American Farm is an online game and educational resource platform that offers more than 24 free games for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Each game is aligned to a learning standard and a Pillar of Agricultural Literacy. The website also features videos, economic insights about agriculture, family activities and lesson plans, making My American Farm the perfect one-stop shop for ag literacy leaders looking for free, easy-to-use educational resources.

The My American Farm platform is sponsored by Corteva.

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture aims to build awareness, understanding, and a positive public perception of agriculture through education by offering learning opportunities, educational resources and a selection of accurate books about agriculture. Learn more at [agfoundation.org](#).

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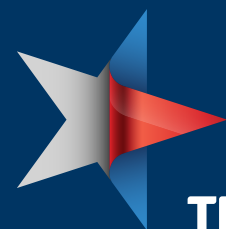
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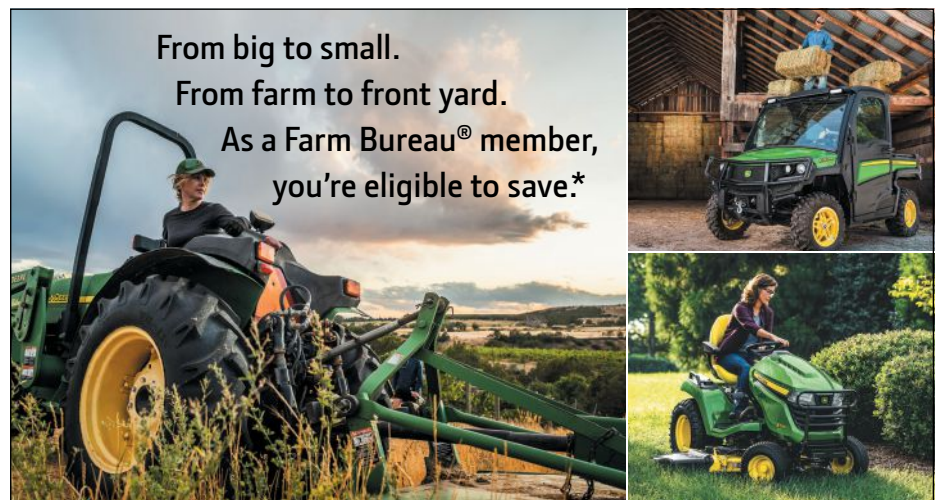
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Our mission is to be the Voice of Texas Agriculture.

Our vision is for all Texans to benefit from a prosperous agriculture that provides for a viable, long-term domestic source of food, fiber and fuel.

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