



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

COMMISSIONER SID MILLER



FULFILLING

the MISSION

2015-2016 Accomplishments

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MISSION STATEMENT

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



We protect Texas consumers all 28 million of them

WEIGHTS & MEASURES

- Initiated *Operation Maverick*, a statewide effort to identify unregistered scales and bring them into compliance and protect consumers
- Since inception, over 1,400 new locations have been registered through *Operation Maverick*, a 385% increase
- Canceled logistics contract saving \$150,000, while increasing average daily consumer inspections by more than 30% and reducing miles driven by 720,000
- Implementing two-year fuel pump calibration interval to better protect consumers

PESTICIDE REGULATION

- Implemented new regulations in nine areas to streamline process for pesticide applicators and provide additional safeguards for consumers
- Conducted continuing education audit of 1,761 licensed applicators, a 220% increase over 2015, to ensure compliance, and protect consumers
- Streamlined continuing education unit roster with Texas A&M AgriLife to create additional efficiencies

INVASIVE SPECIES PROTECTION

- Conducted critical entry point inspections, spending 10,400 inspection hours to safeguard against entry of invasive pests and diseases; garnered 96.64% compliance in plant shipments entering Texas
- Conducted nearly 10,000 nursery inspections to ensure the sale of pest-free articles; achieved more than 96% compliance in sale of quality plant products
- Conducted Citrus Greening quarantine outreach and disseminated materials to more than 475 nursery-floral locations; filed rule amendments to facilitate demand for citrus budwood (young branches with buds prepared for grafting onto the rootstock of another plant)

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

- Eliminated two-and-a-half year backlog in applications within the first 90 days of 2015

SEED LAW

- Collected and analyzed more than 9,000 seed samples resulting in a 91% compliance rate, protecting the Texas agriculture industry



We provide rural economic development

as 84% of Texas' total land area is rural

GRANTS

- Awarded more than \$73 million to rural communities for infrastructure improvements
- Launched small and micro-enterprise revolving fund to make loan funding available to assist small business in rural communities
- Launched Capital for Texas loan program for small businesses in rural Texas
- Made \$9.6 million available to rural communities to repair infrastructure affected by natural disasters
- Received \$17 million federal award to expand infrastructure for agriculture-based renewable fuels
- Awarded more than \$8.7 million to 139 organizations providing home-delivered meals in 161 counties
- Awarded \$5.6 million to Feeding Texans program to acquire produce to distribute to the 21 food banks with the goal of distributing 42 million pounds of surplus ag products

STAR FUND

- State of Texas Agriculture Relief (STAR) Fund distributed more than \$120,000 to producers impacted by natural disasters

RURAL HEALTH

- State Office of Rural Health administered Rural Communities Health Care Investment Program (RCHIP) grants faster than any previous year

WATER CONSERVATION

- Established the Office of Water at TDA to ensure that agriculture is represented at discussions on the future of water in Texas

LEARN MORE AT:

 TexasAgriculture.gov

We promote **healthy living** Education, Exercise & Eating Right

POLICY & ADMINISTRATION

- Allowed greater flexibility for schools to meet federal standards through local control by repealing mandates
- Authorized fundraising opportunities like bake sales to support the financial needs of school programs
- Held first student art contest to celebrate National School Lunch and National School Breakfast week
- Launched booths at State Fair of Texas and Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo; State Fair booth garnered 10,000 daily impressions and distributed 25,000 local Texas apples
- Held five meal appeal universities to provide hands-on culinary training and launched meal appeal website to boost appeal of school lunches

FARM FRESH INITIATIVE

- Launched Farm Fresh Network database to connect Texas producers with schools and child care centers with local products
- Promote Farm Fresh Fridays in schools across Texas
- Awarded grants to schools to implement farm-to-school activities totaling \$262,000
- Received Specialty Crop Block Grant funding to promote farm to school through regional training workshops

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

- Launched statewide training and conference for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Developed one of first state recognition programs for CACFP organizations
- Increased marketing and communications by TDA and Educational Service Centers for 23% increase in food service training participants
- Created and implemented strategic media campaign to enhance awareness of Summer Food Service Program
- Developed new online CACFP and SFSP training modules
- Approved 30 Healthier U.S. Schools Challenge applications (representing \$25,000 in awards.) Texas has the highest number of awards in the country

COMPLIANCE

- Developed and deployed web-based review program for National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- Removed 13 SFSP organizations with organizational problems, reducing non-compliance risk for 752,239 meals valued at \$2.7 million
- Conducted 603 NSLP reviews, 114 Seamless Summer Operations reviews, 453 CACFP reviews and 225 SFSP reviews, all up from previous years

We provide **efficient administration**

as **good stewards** of taxpayer dollars

COMMUNICATIONS

- Instituted a Daily Market Report for radio, which is distributed to more than 100 stations
- Subscriptions for emailed Market Recap increased by 1833%
- Developed monthly newsletter for more than 5,600 recipients
- Increased social media presence and engagement

LEGAL/ENFORCEMENT

- Issued 6,889 Notices of Violation for violations of Texas ag statutes and rules, with penalties equal to over \$3.7 million
- Implemented new background check system for cost efficiencies and more complete background check data
- Went from 0 cases to 251 case hearings before the State Office of Administrative Hearings; 205 resolved and 46 active
- Successfully fought 91 Food and Nutrition appeals

FINANCE, IT, HR & SUPPORT SERVICES

- Implemented chaplaincy program for agency staff
- Implemented electronic agency visitor sign in to better process report for Ethics Commission, resulting in 50% time savings per quarter
- Consolidated from seven servers to five, reducing operating costs for IT.
- Implemented electronic personnel action forms for greater efficiency
- Completed agency-wide personnel file audit
- Enhanced Equal Employment Opportunity review process to better review veteran status
- Reconstituted Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) program to place priority on HUB purchasing; ranked third among state agencies at annual spot bid fair

We promote **agriculture** a vital **\$110 billion** Texas industry

GO TEXAN®

GO TEXAN represents Texas businesses on state, national and international levels by building recognition for the GO TEXAN mark and helping consumers find Texas products

- Increased GO TEXAN membership
- Developed and launched two new electronic magazines for members and consumers
- Revamped recruitment packages
- Partnered with AM Racing for NASCAR Camping World Truck Series to place GO TEXAN logo on race truck and increase awareness of GO TEXAN brand and Texas products
- Partnered with Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to promote Texas wine, including a new belt buckle award presented to the top Texas winery
- Launched statewide wine tasting series, along with event grant program to encourage participation

FARM FRESH FRIDAYS

- Developed and launched *Farm Fresh Fridays* to connect Texas schools to local farmers and ranchers to promote local, Texas products in school meals
- Created network to connect schools and childcare centers with local producers
- Helped plant school gardens to promote agriculture in schools

STATE FAIR

The agency, each year, runs the GO TEXAN Pavilion at the State Fair of Texas to introduce visitors to Texas products and exhibitors

- Garnered highest participation rate in history for GO TEXAN General Store participants in 2015
- State Fair sampling slots sold out for the first time ever in 2015
- Expanded sampling slots for 2016 due to renewed relationships with previous participants

GLOBAL TRADE INITIATIVE

- Expanded international agriculture trade programs, and coordinated activities on every continent except Antarctica
- Conducted trade missions/activities with:
 - ▶ Argentina
 - ▶ Australia
 - ▶ Canada
 - ▶ China
 - ▶ Colombia
 - ▶ Costa Rica
 - ▶ Cuba
 - ▶ Ecuador
 - ▶ Ghana + Sub-Saharan Africa attendees
 - ▶ Germany
 - ▶ India
 - ▶ Italy
 - ▶ Malaysia
 - ▶ Mexico
 - ▶ Netherlands
 - ▶ Nicaragua
 - ▶ Pakistan
 - ▶ Panama
 - ▶ Paraguay
 - ▶ Philippines
 - ▶ South Africa
 - ▶ South Korea
 - ▶ Thailand
 - ▶ United Arab Emirates

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

