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November 2017

Tis' the Season for Gratitude

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I am reminded of how lucky we are to call the wonderful state of Texas home. Just last week, as we celebrated Texas farmers and ranchers and their agricultural heritage at our 42nd annual Family Land Heritage ceremony, I looked around the room and saw the legacy of our great state and its agriculture industry.

Thanks to our farmers and ranchers, we have a plentiful, safe and affordable food supply. The food on our plates doesn't come from the local grocery store; it comes from the earth. The men and women in agriculture make it so we can enjoy the wonderful meals we prepare for our families on Thanksgiving and all year long.

I couldn't be more proud to serve as your Agriculture Commissioner. Thank you for your support, and I want to wish you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving.

Your servant,

Sid Miller

Annual Family Land Heritage Ceremony Celebrates Agriculture, Heritage of Texas Farmers and Ranchers

Each year, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and Commissioner Miller have the privilege of recognizing Texas families who have kept their land in continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more through our Family Land Heritage program. Last week, we honored 64 families from 51 counties at the 42nd annual Family Land Heritage ceremony.

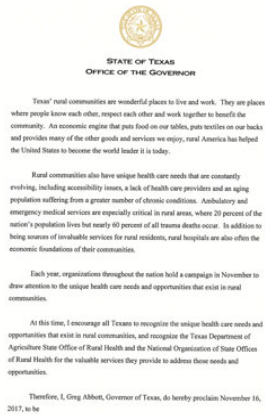
"Every Texan living today owes a debt of gratitude to the generations of Texas farmers and ranchers who have kept our agricultural heritage alive," Commissioner Miller said.



“We honor these hard-working men and women and their families as the true heroes of Texas agriculture. For a century or more, these families have raised the livestock, plowed the land and harvested the crops that make the Lone Star State what it is today. It is because of them that Texas is the last best place. May God continue to bless them and the wonderful legacy they leave behind.”

We were honored to have legendary rodeo announcer, Bob Tallman, as the emcee for the day, as well as cowboy poet Red Steagall for entertainment. Check out video from the day's event and Red's performance on our [Facebook](#) page.

To learn more about Family Land Heritage, click [here](#).



Celebrate National Rural Health Day Today

Today is National Rural Health Day. Join TDA as we celebrate this special day. It's all about recognizing the unique health care needs of rural communities, while celebrating the fact that rural towns all across Texas are wonderful places to live and work.

The power of rural Texas is strong today and every day of the year. Rural Texas is an economic engine that helps make Texas the wonderful place it is.

Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation marking Rural Health Day in Texas. Please join us in recognizing the importance of today and the importance of rural America to our country and our state.

Texas Agriculture Memorial Day Set for Nov. 21

The men and women who work in agriculture are responsible for putting food on our tables and ensuring our families have access to a safe, abundant food supply. Agriculture is not an easy profession, and it can be a hard way of life.

[Texas Agriculture Memorial Day](#) was created to honor the sacrifices of our farmers and ranchers. It honors those who have lost their lives while engaged in ag-related work, as well as those who have had a severely debilitating accident due to their work in agriculture. It's also about paying tribute to the men and women who are no longer with us but dedicated their lives to working the land.

Join Commissioner Miller next Tuesday as he marks Texas Agriculture Memorial Day. Learn more, including how you can nominate someone to receive this honor, [here](#).

Ag Losses From Hurricane Harvey More Than \$200 Million

Many of our fellow Texans are still feeling the impact of Hurricane Harvey, especially our farmers and ranchers. According to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services, Hurricane Harvey was responsible for more than \$200 million in crop and livestock losses.

“The effects of Hurricane Harvey will linger for quite some time with our Texas farmers and ranchers,” said Dr. Doug Steele, agency director in College Station. “Many South Texas or coastal area cotton farmers were on the verge of harvesting one of the best crops ever in Texas, while some ranchers were unable to save some cattle from insurmountable flood waters.”

To read the full report on the agricultural impact of Hurricane Harvey, click [here](#).

TDA Supports Recovery, Rebuilding Efforts Post Hurricane Harvey

Not long after Hurricane Harvey made landfall, TDA's Food and Nutrition division began communicating vital information to support our partners operating federal nutrition programs in Texas. As schools and food banks shifted gears to provide disaster relief, TDA provided the waivers they needed to turn warehouses, school cafeterias and food pantries into emergency facilities and begin providing food to affected communities. TDA also reduced administrative burdens for schools to ensure they were able to provide meals at no charge to students during the immediate aftermath of the event.

At Texas' State Operations Center in Austin, TDA staff helped coordinate relief efforts with other state agencies and organizations such as the Salvation Army and Red Cross. TDA connected relief organizations with more than 100,000 pounds of food such as rice, pasta, beans and ground beef from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We also processed requests from the Salvation Army for more than 4,000 cases of food. The thousands of hours TDA dedicated to providing nutrition assistance following the hurricane remains a small part of the Lone Star State's massive recovery effort.

All of TDA's divisions continue to work to support our partners and communities in their rebuilding efforts. As time separates us from the harrowing first days in August and September, much work remains to be done. Everyone is encouraged to continue to support our neighbors affected by Hurricane Harvey in the Lone Star State.

Listen to the Latest *Texas Agriculture Matters* Episodes

Each week, Commissioner Miller and TDA are proud to bring the listeners of KRFE AM 580 in Lubbock a new episode of *Texas Agriculture Matters*. For those of you not in the Lubbock area, don't worry — we got you covered! [Check out](#) the latest episodes of *Texas Agriculture Matters*.

“TEXAS
AGRICULTURE
Matters!”
