



COMMISSIONER
SID MILLER

From A to Z:
**Learn about the
Texas Department
of Agriculture**

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is a diversified state agency whose mission is to make Texas the nation's leader in agriculture, protect consumers, fortify our economy, empower rural communities, promote healthy lifestyles, and cultivate winning strategies for rural, suburban and urban Texas. On the following pages, you'll learn about the agency's responsibilities and just how important agriculture is in our daily lives. After all, Texas agriculture is a \$115 billion industry that touches the lives of every Texan every single day. From aquaculture programs to quarantine zones, TDA has you covered from A to Z.

Remember friends,

“TEXAS AGRICULTURE
Matters!”

Howdy, neighbors!

It's important we work together to continue to grow the Texas agriculture industry as it sustains our lives and our state. Without agriculture, we would be missing the food on our plates and the clothes on our backs. We wouldn't have those cowboy boots on our feet, either.



I hope this guide helps you learn about the ways TDA fosters growth in agriculture and directly supports the men and women who nurture the land. Additionally, you'll learn how our agency protects Texas consumers every single day.

Life is great in Texas, and TDA works hard to ensure the Lone Star State remains a shining example for other states to follow.

Your servant,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Sid Miller". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Sid Miller
Commissioner



A to Z: Texas Agriculture at TDA

Agricultural Loan Guarantee Program: Provides loan guarantees and interest rebates for agriculture-related businesses and ranching operations.

Agricultural Surplus Grant Program: Provides funding for the collection and distribution of surplus agricultural products to food banks and other charitable organizations throughout Texas.

Agricultural Worker Safety: TDA conducts pesticide safety training for farm workers and unlicensed pesticide handlers to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.

Appeal and Acceptability Task Force: Provides schools with tools to appeal to students' healthier instincts, all while complying with federal regulations. Available resources focus on menu planning, food preparation, meal presentation and marketing the program.

Aquaculture Program: Licenses businesses that produce and sell cultured species raised in aquaculture facilities.

Boll Weevil Eradication Program: Assists with eradication and monitoring of boll weevils. Boll weevils once caused \$200 million annually in damage to Texas cotton crops.

Border Security: Provides resources to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to increase surveillance measures along the Texas-Mexico border.





Child and Adult Care Food Program: Assists child and adult care providers across the state in serving meals to low-income Texans of all ages through this federally funded program.

Each year, approximately 3,300 TDA partners serve more than 1 billion healthy meals at nearly 28,000 sites and utilize more than \$2 billion in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Sponsor Input Workgroup: TDA coordinates workgroup meetings, where members discuss the impact of policies and procedures related to CACFP. Input and feedback from these meetings helps guide TDA in providing the resources and trainings CACFP sponsors need to achieve success and compliance with program regulations.

Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP): Inspects citrus for pests and diseases, as well as addresses quarantine issues to facilitate interstate and intrastate trade. Funded by USDA, the goal of CHRP is to sustain the U.S. citrus industry and maintain continued access to export markets, as well as safeguard other citrus growing states against a variety of citrus diseases and pests. This is a collaborative effort involving growers, researchers, and federal and state regulatory personnel.





Citrus Tree Destruction: TDA's cost share grant agreement with Texas Citrus Mutual to help limit the spread of the Huanglongbing citrus disease, also known as citrus greening. This is achieved through the voluntary destruction of citrus trees known to be infected by the Asian citrus psyllid, which spreads citrus greening disease as the pests feed on the leaves and stems of citrus trees.

Colonia Fund: Provides financial assistance to severely distressed, unincorporated areas of rural Texas located along the Texas-Mexico border, specifically in relation to housing, water and sewer connectivity.

Commodities – Handling and Marketing of Perishable Commodities (HMPC): Protects and assists producers and produce dealers from unscrupulous individuals and businesses who do not pay for produce sold or handled in Texas. TDA licenses individuals and businesses who purchase perishable Texas commodities on credit to help safeguard the producers.

Commodity Boards: TDA recognizes the importance of each Texas commodity and serves commodity boards by facilitating meetings and ensuring compliance with Chapter 41 of the Agriculture Code.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program: Provides access to nutritious USDA-procured products for consumption at home by low-income Texans age 60 and older. This program is administered by TDA in select counties.



Community and Economic Development Assistance Fund (CEDAF): Provides funds to Councils of Government (COG) and Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) to defray costs associated with their administrative assistance to Regional Review Committees (RRC).



Community Development Fund: Provides funds to rural cities and counties to address a wide range of community needs relating to infrastructure, housing and community facilities. This fund is part of the Texas Community Development Block Grant program.

Compliance Agreements: Developed between shippers and state departments of agriculture to meet quarantine requirements and facilitate commerce.

Consumer Information Stickers: Used on all weights and measures devices throughout Texas to inform consumers how to contact TDA and the requirements for businesses to post each device's registration certificate in view of the public.

Cotton Stalk Destruction Program: Works to suppress boll weevil and pink bollworm populations in Texas.

Critical Entry Points Monitoring for Pests of Biosecurity Concern: Monitors pests of biosecurity and quarantine concern at principal entry points along highways by inspecting plant shipments entering Texas and conducting plant inspections at nursery sites. Pests of national concern are monitored during road station inspections, nursery inspections and market blitzes.

Disaster Relief and Urgent Need Fund: Provides grants for eligible communities to restore infrastructure damaged by natural disasters or when the infrastructure's sudden failure poses an imminent threat to life or health.

Downtown Revitalization Program: Awards matching grant funds for public infrastructure projects in an effort to foster and stimulate economic development in rural downtown areas.

Early Childhood Health and Nutrition Interagency Council: Reviews current research, identifies barriers, locates promotional funding and reports on best practices related to health and nutrition for Texas children age six and under.

Egg Quality Program:
Enforces egg quality and grade standards by licensing and inspecting egg packers, wholesalers and distributors.



Eggs are inspected by TDA for cracks in shells and interior quality to reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses.

Emergency Food Assistance Program: Distributes healthy USDA products to food pantries for qualifying low-income Texans through a partnership between TDA and Texas food banks.

Emergency Response Team: Represents TDA on emergency preparedness and homeland security issues. The team develops and maintains working relationships with private, military, local, state and federal officials in order to remain current on issues facing the emergency management community. Team members also work in the State Operations Center during emergency activations.

Endangered Species Protection Program (ESPP):

Acknowledged by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its proactive approach, ESPP obtains local input about pesticide use and other management practices near habitats of endangered species.

Enology and Viticulture Grants: Provides funding for viticulture research and education, enology research and education, and wine marketing research. Grants also support research in other program areas that support Texas' grape and wine industry.

Establishing the 3E's Grant Program (E3E): Provides competitive grants to child care institutions and community organizations to incentivize nutrition education, exercise and eating-right programs that benefit our youngest Texans.

Expanding the 3E's Grant Program (X3E): Provides competitive grants to Texas public schools to help expand programs that educate Texas students about good nutrition.





Family Land Heritage (FLH) Program: Honors Texas families who have kept their land in continuous agricultural production for 100 years or more.

Farm to School: Improves school nutrition by connecting Texas schools with local producers and introducing students to fresh and nutritious locally grown food.

Farmers Market Certification Program: Responsible for administering certification of Texas farmers markets.

*TDA-certified farmers markets have
a \$30 million impact on
the Texas economy.*

Farmers Market Nutrition Program: Provides access to healthy, locally grown foods from TDA-certified farmers markets for low-income mothers, mothers-to-be and infants.

Feral Hog Abatement Grant Program: Focuses on implementing a long-term statewide strategy to reduce Texas' feral hog population.

Fever Tick Grant: Assists in the eradication of fever ticks from Texas livestock by completing field trials, administering anti-tick vaccines to cattle and testing the Bm86-based Texas vaccine. Fever ticks cause acute anemia and death in up to 90 percent of affected cattle. These ticks are primarily found in counties along the Rio Grande from Del Rio to Brownsville.





Food and Fiber Pavilion: A 25,000-square-foot facility at Dallas' Fair Park showcasing Texas agriculture and GO TEXAN products during the State Fair of Texas.

Food and Fibers Research Grants: Established to provide a vehicle for Texas fiber and oilseed industries to facilitate and support applied research by engaging in surveys, research projects and investigations relating to the use of cotton fiber, cottonseed, oilseed products, other products of the cotton plant, wool, mohair and other textile products.

Food Assistance for Disaster Relief: In the event of a major disaster, relief organizations can request approval from TDA to receive USDA foods to provide congregate meal services to disaster victims.

Food Distribution Program: Utilizes federal funds to help schools and residential child care institutions purchase foods from local distributors or access products directly from USDA by partnering with TDA to order agricultural commodities.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Provides access to federal funds to qualified elementary schools to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for consumption outside of school nutrition programs.

Fruit Fly Eradication: TDA collaborates with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Texas citrus industry to conduct a Mexican fruit fly program to eliminate the risk of this pest in Texas and other citrus-producing states.





Fuel Quality Inspection: Conducts quality testing on motor fuel through routine and complaint-based inspections.

A fuel sample is tested for octane value, water content, contaminants, distillation, vapor pressure and ethanol content.

Gives Recognition for Outstanding Work (GROW)

Achievement Award: Recognizes middle and high school student leaders for their outstanding work — both in and out of the classroom. GROW highlights each recipient's service to their community and family, strong work ethic, leadership and overall character.


GO TEXAN: TDA's membership-based marketing program designed to promote and certify the products, culture and communities that call Texas home.

GO TEXAN Certified Retirement Community (CRC)

Program: Certifies qualified communities as retirement destinations based on specific entertainment, education, employment, volunteer and safety standards.

GO TEXAN Partner Program (GOTEPP): TDA's matching fund program designed to double the money available for qualifying GO TEXAN members to market and promote their agricultural products.





GO TEXAN Restaurant Round-Up: A week-long, dine-out event promoting GO TEXAN member restaurants that offer special Texas menu items, as well as Texas food and beverage pairings. Participating restaurants also pledge cash or food donations to local food banks.



Grain Warehouse Program: Protects depositors of grain stored in a public grain warehouse through financial reporting, on-site financial risk-assessment and inspections.

Hay Hotline: Helps agricultural producers locate forage and hay supplies for sale, as well as identify possible transportation services.

TDA inspectors climb grain silos as high as 150 feet tall in order to measure the amount of stored grain.

Healthier U.S. School Challenge – Smarter Lunchrooms: A voluntary program from USDA that recognizes schools that go above and beyond the requirements for basic school health and wellness. TDA provides guidance and recognition to Texas schools that participate in the challenge.



Healthy Community Network (HCN): A collaborative effort between TDA and elected officials who are committed to improving the health and wellness of their communities. TDA coordinates HCN efforts by showcasing members and their work to implement healthy initiatives, as well as connecting like-minded leaders to city-specific data and grant opportunities.

Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program: Helps supplement and extend current home-delivered meal program funding for seniors and/or disabled Texans.

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

Infrastructure and Real Estate Development Program: Provides grants for infrastructure and real estate development to create or retain permanent jobs in primarily rural communities.

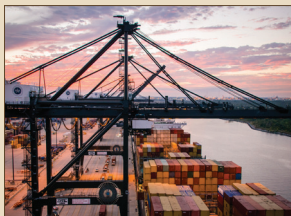
Interagency Coordination Group: Expands and improves the relationship between state government and faith- and community-based organizations that are seeking to collaborate with the State of Texas to help meet health and human service needs.

Interagency Obesity Council: Discusses the status of programs coordinated by participating agencies that promote better health and nutrition to prevent obesity among children and adults in Texas.



Interest Rate Reduction Program: Assists in the creation and expansion of agricultural enterprises by encouraging low interest commercial lending.

International Marketing: Promotes Texas products and companies through inbound and outbound trade missions, livestock shows, trade leads, referrals and research of international markets.



Jobs for Texas (J4T): In partnership with the U.S. Department of Treasury, J4T increases small businesses' access to capital and enables private entrepreneurs to make market-driven decisions that grow jobs.

Licenses and Registrations: As a commitment to consumer protection, TDA requires licenses and registrations for a wide range of individuals and businesses that sell products or services to consumers, including grocery stores, convenience stores, fuel stations, nurseries, and pesticide dealers and applicators.

Licensed Service Technicians and Companies: Service companies must be licensed and registered by TDA in order to place devices into service or remove out-of-order tags. Devices include scales, liquid measuring devices and liquid petroleum gas (LPG) measuring devices.

License Suspension and Revocation Guidelines: Provides transparency for licensees and other interested stakeholders, as well as encourages consistency in TDA's internal processes.

Livestock Export Facilities: Provides a location for livestock, poultry and other animals to be inspected prior to international shipment.

TDA processes circus animals through the Laredo export facility.

Main Street Improvements Program: Provides eligible Texas Main Street communities with matching grants to expand or enhance public infrastructure in historic main street areas.

Market News Service: Provides daily updates of agricultural commodity prices in Texas and across the nation via email and on TDA's website, TexasAgriculture.gov.

Market Round Up: When commodity markets are open, Commissioner Miller records a 60-second audio report that is distributed and aired on news stations across the state.



Metrology Lab: Maintains Texas' primary standards that are traceable to national and international standards, as well as provides certification of weights and measures equipment used by TDA inspectors and service companies.




TDA performs calibrations on lottery balls used in drawings by the Texas Lottery.

National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs: Provides schools and residential child care institutions with access to technical assistance and federal funds to support serving nutritionally balanced meals to Texas children each school day.

Noxious and Invasive Plant List: TDA administers and publicizes a list of noxious and invasive plant species in Texas that have the potential to cause environmental or ecological harm.

Nursery Floral Licensing Program: Prevents the introduction and spread of agricultural pests and diseases in nursery plants, and protects consumers and Texas' agricultural industry against economic losses.

Online Master's Degree in Alternative Food Systems: TDA partnered with Sam Houston State University to create an online master's degree program in alternative food systems.



Operation New Fences: Designed to provide relief to Texas agricultural producers adversely impacted by natural disasters such as wildfires or hurricanes. TDA provides vouchers to qualified producers for agricultural fencing supplies. Funding is made available through the State of Texas Agriculture Relief (STAR) Fund.

Organic Certification Program: Ensures the integrity of organic agriculture products produced and manufactured in Texas by providing certification to Texas producers and businesses.

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

Organic Cost Share Reimbursement Program: Provides cost share assistance to producers, processors, distributors or other handlers of organic agricultural products.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Seed Schemes: Rules used by 34 participating countries to certify and label seed for varietal purity for international movement.

Outstanding Rural Scholarship Program: Assists rural communities in increasing the number of health care professionals in their area by matching community funds with TDA funds to support students in their professional education endeavors. Fifty percent of each student's educational expenses are covered by the sponsoring rural community and the remainder by TDA.



Package Inspection Program: Inspects any commodities sold by weight or measure to ensure proper net content and labeling.

Parallel Pathways to Success Grant Program: Assists communities in aligning educational resources with workforce needs by supporting the development of programs that offer rural high school students a more flexible education system focused on job training.

Pest Survey: TDA conducts surveys on quarantined pests helping to reduce expenditures and prevent exotic or invasive pests from becoming established.

Pesticide Applicator Recertification: TDA approves the continuing education courses that applicators must take in order to be certified by TDA.

Pesticide Certification and Compliance: Ensures the compliance and enforcement of state and federal pesticide laws for the distribution and use of pesticides in Texas. Persons who purchase, use or apply restricted and state-limited-use pesticides for the production of agricultural commodities must be certified by TDA.

Pesticide Lab: Collects pesticide residue data and contributes to a pesticide residue database of commodities sampled from U.S. and international markets.

Pesticide Product Evaluation and Registration: Registers pesticide products distributed in Texas to ensure federally approved labeling requirements are met. Evaluates special pesticide needs or uses to protect Texas agriculture and natural resources.



Pesticide Regulation: 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.



Phytosanitary Certificates: Certifies pest-free products and protects Texas agriculture through phytosanitary inspections in nurseries, fields and greenhouses.

Planning and Capacity Building Fund: Assists communities in creating a comprehensive community plan.

Plant Quality Program: Protects consumers and the plant industry by regulating agricultural products through licensing, phytosanitary inspection of plant products, quarantine enforcement and pest monitoring.

Prescribed Burning Board: Regulates certified and insured prescribed burn managers. Persons who need to perform controlled burns during burn bans must be certified by TDA.

Price Verification Program: Inspects price scanners for accuracy.

Produce Recovery Fund: Reimburses produce growers and dealers who do not receive payment for Texas-grown commodities sold on consignment or credit.



Protect Your Texas Border: To shine a light on what is truly occurring along the Texas-Mexico border, TDA created ProtectYourTexasBorder.com. The website shares the personal stories of farmers, ranchers and law enforcement personnel who have been impacted by violent Mexican drug cartels that have illegally crossed the border, invaded Texas farms and ranches, threatened the lives of U.S. citizens and jeopardized our nation's food supply.

Public Weighers: TDA issues licenses to individuals who can issue an official weight certificate to declare the accurate weight of a commodity.

Quarantines: TDA conducts inspections to monitor quarantined pests that could be introduced into Texas from outside agricultural shipments or transported from quarantined to pest-free areas of the state.

Road Station Inspections: Utilizes DPS to stop commercial vehicles for inspection of agricultural plant products entering the state.

Rural Communities Health Care Investment Program: Assists rural communities in recruiting health care providers, other than physicians, to practice in their communities by providing partial student loan reimbursements or stipend payments.

Rural Health Facility Capital Improvement Program (CIP): Endowment used specifically for hospitals in rural counties to improve health care services and infrastructure.



School District Pest Control: Ensures that schools are complying with guidelines outlined in the Texas Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for public school districts. TDA maintains a list of all school IPM coordinators and conducts compliance monitoring.

Seed Arbitration: When a dispute results from seed sold in Texas failing to produce or perform as represented by the warranty/label or as a result of negligence, a hearing before the Seed Arbitration Board will determine the outcome between the labeler/seller and purchaser.



Seed Law Program: Monitors the labeling of seed packages to ensure that consumers receive the quality and type of seed they paid for, that the seed will germinate or sprout as stated on the label and that the seed will produce the kind of plants represented.

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.

Seed Quality Program: Ensures consumers are buying the highest quality of seed available by implementing requirements on labeling, administering laboratory testing and ensuring proper implementation of seed laws.

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program: Provides qualified low-income senior citizens with healthy, locally grown foods from select TDA-certified farmers markets using vouchers.

Shoot the Bull: Daily radio segment recorded by Commissioner Miller and aired on Texas State Network radio stations across the state. Each segment focuses on agricultural issues and other important Texas-related topics.

Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP): Provides funding to small, rural hospitals to help implement delivery system changes as outlined in federal legislation, including value-based purchasing (VBP), accountable care organizations (ACO) and payment bundling.

Small Town Environment Program (STEP): Supports community development projects that encourage local volunteers to become involved with restoring their community.

Special Milk Program: Provides low-income children with access to milk at schools, camps and child care centers that do not participate in the school meal program.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program: Enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops — fruits and vegetables, dried fruits, tree nuts, horticulture, nursery crops and floriculture — pertaining to food safety, marketing, nutrition, plant health and industry development.



Specialty Crop Retail Promotion Grant: Designed to provide grant funds to Texas retailers to promote specialty crop products such as produce and horticulture in retail stores.

Specialty License Plate Program: TDA acts as the sponsoring state agency for organizations like the American Quarter Horse Association and Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas to receive and distribute funds for the sale of specialized license plates. Proceeds are then used to support each individual organization.

STAR Fund: Collects monetary contributions from private individuals and entities to fund disaster recovery efforts for agricultural producers who have been adversely impacted by natural disasters such as wildfires and hurricanes.

Structural Pest Control: Protects the health, safety and welfare of Texans and the environment by licensing, regulating, and setting standards and criteria for structural pest control.

Structural Pest Control Advisory Committee: Advises TDA on various regulatory responsibilities relating to structural pest control.



Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option: Schools and nonprofit organizations partner with TDA to feed Texas children in need during the summer through this federally funded program.

Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species:

TDA serves on the task force to advise on issues related to the Endangered Species Act. Members of the task force review the economic impact of proposed listings; develop strategies for protecting endangered species while encouraging economic growth; and provide recommendations and reports on endangered species concerns in Texas.

Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFA) Board:

Establishes TAFA program rules, reviews annual budgets, selects Young Farmer Grant recipients, sets agriculture loan guarantee limits and provides general oversight of all TAFA operations. Members are appointed by the Commissioner.

Texas Bioenergy Policy Council and Texas Bioenergy Research Committee: Created by the 81st Texas Legislature in 2009 to evaluate state and federal policies to ensure a fair and level playing field in the bioenergy industry.

Texas Equine Incentive Program (TEIP): Provides an incentive for owners of Texas-bred horses to enter foals in Texas horse events, encourages development of the Texas horse industry, and enhances the quality of certain Texas-bred Appaloosa, Paint and Quarter horses.





Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee (TISCC): Collectively seeks funding opportunities and facilitates governmental efforts to prevent and manage statewide invasive species.

Texas Israeli Exchange (TIE) Grant Program: Supports practical and applied agricultural research, as well as the development of agriculture, trade and business opportunities to mutually benefit Texas and Israel.

Texas Livestock Market Post Web Page: Provides information on livestock auction markets from across the Lone Star State.

Texas Organic Agricultural Industry Advisory Board: Assists TDA with assessing the state of the organic agricultural products industry and develops recommendations for lawmakers on how to promote and expand the industry in Texas. The board also reviews and provides guidance on rules and rule changes that impact the organic industry.

Texas Rural Foundation: Supports health, community and economic development programs in rural Texas using money raised from foundations, governmental entities and other sources.

Texas Rural Health and Economic Development Advisory Council: Advises the Commissioner on rural policy priorities, including the use and allocation of funds from the Texas Community Development Block Grant program. The council also develops rural policy plans for TDA to submit to the Texas Legislature.





Texas Rural Health Task Force: Assists the Commissioner and Rural Health and Economic Development Advisory Council in expanding and improving access to health care in rural areas of the Texas, as well as developing the rural health plan.

Texas Rural Internship Program: Introduces urban college students to rural Texas by inviting them to live and work in small communities throughout the Lone Star State.

Texas Rural Investment Fund: Promotes and supports economic development in rural areas throughout Texas to create jobs and new capital investment.

Texas School Health Advisory Committee (TSHAC): Supports the delivery of coordinated school health programs and school health services in Texas.

Texas Shrimp Marketing Program: Educates the public about the value of Texas wild-caught Gulf shrimp to increase the sale of this commodity and add value to the Texas economy.

Texas State Seed and Plant Board: Gathers information on seed varieties to ensure they are true to variety and presides over seed arbitration disputes.

Texas Wine Marketing Assistance Program: Assists in promoting and marketing Texas wines, as well as educating the public about the Texas wine industry.



Urban Schools Agricultural Grant Program: Provides funding to elementary and middle schools for agricultural demonstration projects and to improve students' understanding of agriculture.

TDA inspects more than 400,000 gas pumps and 14,000 gas stations across the state.

Weights and Measures Program:

Protects consumers and businesses by ensuring that weights and measures devices perform within acceptable tolerances.

Wildfire Prevention Task Force:

Formed following the horrific wildfires of 2011, this task force brings together key stakeholders to discuss ways to avoid future disasters, how to mitigate these types of events and ensure proper access to resources.



Wine Grape Investment Grant Program: Allocates money through matching grant funds to agricultural producers who want to establish new vineyard operations or expand existing ones by at least five acres.

Worker Protection: Monitors compliance for and enforcement of the requirements of state and federal worker protection rules, as well as investigates alleged violations of worker protection rules.

Workforce Study Grant:

Through a partnership with Rice University, TDA funded a project to conduct surveys and focus groups to better understand the workforce needs and challenges of rural and agricultural employers in Texas.



Photo by Scott David

Young Farmer Grant Program: Provides financial assistance in the form of dollar-for-dollar matching grant funds to young agricultural producers who are engaged or will be engaged in creating or expanding agricultural businesses in Texas.

Young Farmer Interest Rate Reduction Program: Reduces the loan interest rate for young farmers or ranchers who are starting or expanding agricultural businesses in Texas.

Zebra Chip Program: Funds multidisciplinary research and extension activities to minimize the impact of Zebra Chip potato disease, which causes losses of up to \$117,000 annually to Texas producers.

The equipment at the Metrology Lab is designed to be sensitive for weighing and measuring purposes. It is precise enough to detect vibrations produced by an earthquake experienced anywhere in the world.



What Does TDA do to Protect Texas Consumers and Agricultural Producers?

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

TDA operates livestock export pens. The agency has no official role in animal health, as that's the responsibility of the Texas Animal Health Commission.

TDA regulates pesticides, pesticide products and fertilizers containing pesticides. However, TDA does not regulate fertilizer. The Office of the Texas State Chemist is responsible for overseeing fertilizer regulations.

TDA inspects cotton, cottonseed, other field crops and produce for plant health and pests, but food safety for produce is overseen by DSHS.

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



TDA administers federal funds for various natural disasters. Hurricanes are excluded. Hurricane recovery efforts are federally funded through the General Land Office.

TDA regulates the quality of motor fuel and octane labeling. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Transportation are responsible for ethanol fuel blend (E85) labeling.

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

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

TDA licenses grain warehouses. However, grain merchandisers are not regulated by TDA, and grain is inspected by the Federal Grain Inspection Service.



Regional Operations

TDA's regional offices are designed to provide localized assistance to serve a wide range of consumer needs. Regional offices provide a convenient way for consumers to conduct one-on-one business with TDA. Though all regional offices provide a similar array of services, each office offers its own unique services, reflecting the diversity of the state and special needs of each area.

AUSTIN

Main TDA Headquarters
1700 North Congress,
11th Floor
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 463-7476

BROWNSVILLE

Brownsville Export Pen
International Airport
701 South Vermillion Avenue
Brownsville, TX 78520
(956) 546-5135

COLLEGE STATION

Pesticide Laboratory
1500 Research Parkway,
Suite B100
College Station, TX 77845
(979) 458-4213

DALLAS

North Texas Regional Office
Regal Tech Center
1720 Regal Row, Suite 118
Dallas, TX 75235
(214) 631-0265

EAGLE PASS

Eagle Pass Export Pen
205 Industrial Boulevard
Eagle Pass, TX 78852
(830) 773-2359

EL PASO

El Paso Export Pen
10800 Socorro Road
El Paso, TX 79927
(915) 859-3942

El Paso Food &
Nutrition Office
400 East Franklin, Suite 410
El Paso, TX 79901
(915) 834-7506

FORT WORTH

Fort Worth Food &
Nutrition Office
1501 Circle Drive, Suite 155
Fort Worth, TX 76119
(817) 321-8101



GIDDINGS

Field/Greenhouse Testing
1010 County Road 226
Giddings, TX 78942
(979) 542-2814

Metrology/Weights
and Measures Lab
1258 County Road 226
Giddings, TX 78942
(979) 542-3231

W.H. Pieratt Seed Lab
1010 County Road 226
Giddings, TX 78942
(979) 542-3691

HOUSTON

Gulf Coast Regional Office
Elias Ramirez State Office
Building
5425 Polk Street, G-20
Houston, TX 77023
(713) 921-8200

Houston Export Pen
18850 Colonel Fisher Street
Houston, TX 77205
(281) 443-2447

LAREDO

Laredo Export Pen
3902 Jamie Zapata Memorial
Highway
Laredo, TX 78046
(956) 722-6307

LUBBOCK

West Texas Regional Office
4502 Englewood Avenue
Lubbock, TX 79414
(806) 799-8555

SAN ANTONIO

South Central Texas
Regional Office
8918 Tesoro Drive, Suite 120
San Antonio, TX 78217
(210) 820-0288

SAN JUAN

Valley Regional Office
900-B East Expressway 83
San Juan, TX 78589
(956) 787-8866



Important Contact Information

TDA Main Headquarters: (512) 463-7476

Hearing Impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)

Fax: (888) 223-8861

Customer Relations: (800) 835-5832 or
Customer.Relations@TexasAgriculture.gov

Media Inquiries: (512) 463-7664

GO TEXAN

Marketing and International Trade

P.O. Box 12847

Austin, TX 78711

(877) 99-GOTEX

(512) 463-7476

GOTEXAN@TexasAgriculture.gov



GO TEXAN.

Submitting a Public Information Request

To request records maintained by TDA, you must submit a request in writing using one of the following methods:

Online at: www.TexasAgriculture.gov

By mail to: Public Information Office

Texas Department of Agriculture

P.O. Box 12847

Austin, TX 78711

By fax to: (800) 509-1159

By email to: PubInfo@TexasAgriculture.gov.

For more information, contact the Public Information Office at (512) 463-4075 or (800) 835-5832.

If you have questions, feedback or information to offer TDA, call (800) TELL-TDA or visit www.TexasAgriculture.gov.

*“Burn down your cities
and leave our farms,
and your cities
will spring up again
as if by magic;
but destroy our farms
and the grass will grow
in the streets
of every city
in the country.”*

—William Jennings Bryan

**COMMISSIONER
SID MILLER**

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711-2847**