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July 2017

### Texas Coastal Agriculture Matters

Summer is here, and for our friends on the coast, it's an exciting time of year. Each July, Texas reopens its waters for shrimpers to begin their season of harvesting wild-caught shrimp from the Gulf of Mexico. Typically, around mid-July, there is a "blessing of the fleet" at various spots along the coast. These blessings are a ceremonial way to bring our Gulf shrimpers a bountiful season.

The Lone Star State is responsible for nearly one-third of the shrimp harvested from Gulf, and it's all thanks to our hard-working fishermen along the coast. For generations, the shrimp industry in Texas has been the heart and soul of the Gulf coast. So, next time you're in the grocery, look for the GO TEXAN mark and local, wild-caught shrimp.

Remember friends, *Texas coastal agriculture matters!*

Your servant,

Sid Miller

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### Listen to The Latest Episode of *Texas Agriculture Matters*

We are excited to be partnering with KRFE AM 580 in Lubbock to bring you the latest from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and the ag industry across the state in our new weekly radio show, *Texas Agriculture Matters*. Each week, we chat about the latest news impacting farmers and ranchers, how TDA is working for you and what's happening with our GO TEXAN marketing program. It's a great show to help you keep a pulse on the ag industry in Texas and your Texas Department of Agriculture.

Not in the Lubbock area? Not a problem! Never miss an episode by listening to *Texas Agriculture Matters* any time you want. Simply click [here](#).

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## ICYMI: China Deal and U.S. Dairy, Commissioner Miller Speaks Out About WOTUS

Just last month, Commissioner Miller congratulated the efforts of the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and China's Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA) on their hard work to create an agreement that will drastically increase U.S. dairy exports to China.

"This is a win for dairy producers across the nation but especially Texas producers," Commissioner Miller said. Click [here](#) to read Commissioner Miller's full statement.

In related news, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a decision in June to repeal the Obama administration-era Clean Water Rule and revisit the definition of Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) before creating new rules. The move is a step in the right direction to remove EPA's burdensome overregulation of farmers and ranchers across Texas and the nation, Commissioner Miller said.

"More than half of the states in this country filed lawsuits against the EPA over the WOTUS definition in the Clean Water Rule," Commissioner Miller said. "The EPA's attempt to control the use of our own land and water for agriculture production and to earn a livelihood was a threat to private property rights, individual freedom and economic growth in our country." Click [here](#) to read Commissioner Miller's full statement.

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## Summer Meals Available to Texas Children

TDA is excited that Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites are continuing to serve healthy meals at no cost to children age 18 or younger. From now through Aug. 30, you can find good nutrition at locations across Texas using three easy methods.

- Call 2-1-1 to speak to a live operator
- Visit [SummerFood.org](http://SummerFood.org) for an interactive site locator map
- Text FOODTX to 877-877



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## Brahman Bulls Leave The Lone Star State For Asia



[Check out](#) the latest installment of "Texas Agriculture Matters!" This [video](#) features Bob Hudgins of the Texas Brahman cattle ranch, [J.D. Hudgins Inc.](#), and learn how TDA is assisting with the international export process under Commissioner Miller's leadership. Follow along as these Texas bulls fly to Thailand and see firsthand how *Texas agriculture matters*.

## Want to Stay Connected With TDA?

TDA works hard to produce a variety of publications to keep you informed about our programs like GO TEXAN and agency activities that impact the ag industry in Texas. We also produce daily market news so you have the latest trends and market figures to make smart decisions. Want to be in the know? Simply [subscribe](#) to TDA publications today!

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## Join TDA to Support Farmers Markets This Summer

TDA appreciates all the farmers who bring bushels of good nutrition and Texas flavor to farmers markets across the Lone Star State. TDA supports their efforts in several ways, including by introducing more Texans to farmers markets through two federally funded programs — the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) for women and children, and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) for seniors.

TDA administers these programs in Texas, and this year, we are excited to announce that we added Amarillo to the list of great Texas cities where FMNP is supporting farmers markets and local economies. Amarillo joins Dallas, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Tyler, Austin, Pharr, Houston, Lubbock and Wichita Falls. SFMNP is available in Wichita Falls and San Antonio. In each city, TDA partners with the city government, a food bank or local nonprofit group to distribute booklets of vouchers to low-income Texans. Participants redeem the vouchers for fresh foods like the squash, cucumbers and tomatoes that are in season now and available at many TDA-certified farmers markets.



July is the perfect time to support a local farmers market and find new ways to enjoy a healthy lifestyle. TDA has online resources to help maximize your farmers market experience. Click [here](#) to find out what's in season, visit [GOTEXAN.org](http://GOTEXAN.org) to find the nearest TDA-certified farmers market, and find out more about FMNP [here](#) and SFMNP [here](#).