

Annual Conference

CELEBRATING SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN TEXAS

JANUARY 27-29, 2022 * GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

TOFGA.ORG

29th Annual TOFGA Conference!

Welcome letter	2
Georgetown Sheraton layout	3
Conference sponsors	4-7
Conference schedule	8-9
Session descriptions	10-12
TOFGA Regions	13-14

Welcome to the 29th Annual TOFGA Conference!

Dear TOFGA members, partners, and supporters,

Welcome to the Annual TOFGA Conference for 2022! After multiple years in this pandemic, we are so thrilled to be able to safely reunite in person. Although we met virtually last year, there is nothing that compares to being together in community, so we pushed through this new curveball the Omicron variant has thrown us.

As always, we have worked hard to bring together farmers and other experts in their fields. Our focus on peer-to-peer education shines bright this year with some fabulous speakers. Speakers were selected for their knowledge, their vision, and for their desire to share their skills with all of us. At the forefront of our minds were questions like, "Will our farmers benefit from this information? Will the speaker be engaging? Is this information practical?" Hopefully, you will find that the response to all three questions is a resounding YES!

Despite the rollercoaster of the past couple of years, TOFGA's board and staff are in your corner. We are always looking for ways to support you and your business. The biggest example from last year was the Winter Storm Uri relief where we partnered with various organizations to raise and distribute over \$120,000 in cash aid across Texas!

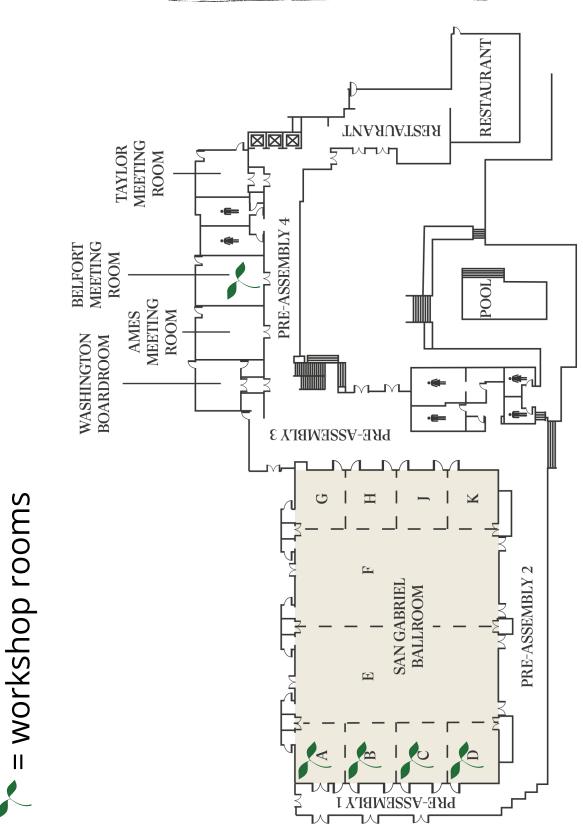
While we were all looking forward to some stability to kick off 2022, it looks like we still have a few challenges yet to face. So let's do our best to keep each other safe while we learn, eat, and network.

Sincerely, James Fairchild TOFGA Vice-President

Board of Directors
James Fairchild, Vice-President
Leslie Provence, Secretary
Carolina Mueller, Treasurer
Diana Padilla-Garcia,
New and Beginning Farmer Director

Aime Sommerfeld-Lillard, Region 1 Director Robert Maggiani, Region 2 Director Lacey Proffitt, Region 3 Director Susie Marshall, Region 4 Director Glen Miracle, Region 5 Director Theron Beaudreau, Region 6 Director Marisol Cervantes, Operations Manager Frankie Bayne, Grants Manager

Georgetown Sheraton Floorplan



THANK YOU to our *Planting Level* sponsors!

















THANK YOU to our *Planting Level* sponsors!

















THANK YOU to our *Cultivating Level* sponsors!









THANK YOU to our *Regenerating Level* sponsor!



Conference Schedule

Please note that while we have done our best to ensure sessions times, because of COVID, rooms and speakers are accurate, details are subject to change.

Thank you for understanding!

THURSDAY			
Registration hours 8:00 am - 6:00 pm			
	EVENING ACTIVITIES		
5:00 - 6:30 pm	Velcome Reception: Exhibitor area		
6:00 - 7:30 pm	6:00 - 7:30 pm Seed Swap: San Gabriel D		
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Trivia Night hosted by Central Texas Young Farmers Coalition: San Gabriel C		

		F	riday		
7:30 am	I	•			
7:30 am 8:15 - 9:45		Duo	Regsitration Opens		
	6 6 1 : 14		akfast & Opening Plen		D 16 1
Room	San Gabriel A	San Gabriel B	San Gabriel C	San Gabriel D	Belfort
9:45-10:00			Break	1	
				Choosing a	How Social Media
	NRCS EQIP Small	Visual Soil	NOP	Commercial	Can Help Promote
	Farm Priority	Assessments	record keeping	Kitchen	Your Farmers Market
Session 1					
10:00 - 11:15	Rob Ziehr	Kara Kroeger, NCAT	Emily Fowell, NICS	Revolving Kitchen	TXFED
11:15 - 1:00			Lunch on own	1	
		Praise The Lard:	Wholesale	Farmers Discussing	
		Livestock	Readiness	Farmers Markets:	
	Cut Flowers	Mastermind Group		Love It or Leave It	
Session 2			Sustainable Food		
1:00-2:15	Amanda Vanhoozier	"Pork" Rhyne	Center	TCLF	
2:15-2:45	Break				
		Planning For Profit:			
		Business Planning	Selling at the		
		and Budgeting for	Farmers Market for	What is Local?	
	Varietal selection	Your Farm	Beginners		
Session 3				James Buratti	
2:45 - 4:00	Becky Hume	Evan Driscoll (virtual)	TXFED	(virtual)	
4:30 - 5:45	Member Meeting- Room TBA				
6:00 - 7:00		Pre-Banquet Happy Hour with cash bar			
	Banquet				
			Dr. Alex Racelis		
7:00 pm		University of Texas R	io Grande Valley, Keyr	ote Speaker (virtual)	

Conference Schedule

		Saturday		
7:30 am	Registration Opens			
7:30-8:30		Brea	kfast	
Room	San Gabriel A	San Gabriel B	San Gabriel C	San Gabriel D
	Lo-tek Mushroom Cultivation & Composting			
				Policy is Not a Dirt
	Angel Schatz &	D	Making Money at	Word
	Megan Lowder,	Beekeeping 101	the Farmers Market	
Session 4	Central Texas Myco	D	TV550	Judith McGeary &
8:30 - 9:45	Alliance	Bruce Ford	TXFED .	Carolina Mueller
9:45-10:15		Bre	eak T	T
		Diversified farming with animals and		Heirs Property & Wills
		produce	Optimizing Your	Ms Dãnia Davy,
	Cover Crops for Hot,	P • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Impact at the	Federation of
	Humid Climates	Billy Mitchell,	Farmers Market	Southern
Session 5		National Farmers		Cooperatives
10:15-11:30	Justin Duncan, NCAT	Union	TXFED	(virtual)
11:30 - 1:15	Lunch & Regional meetings			
		_		Pathways to Racial
				Justice in the Food
				System
	Brooms, Bins and			
	Brains!		Managing Rain with	Phill Ross, TX Small
			High Tunnels	Farmers &
Session 6	Lorig Hawkins & Billy			Ranchers-CBO
1:15-2:30	Mitchell		Brent Heronimus	(virtual)
2:30-3:30		Closing F	eedback	

	FRIDAY
7:45 AM	Registration Opens
8:15 - 9:45	Complimentary Breakfast & Plenary
9:45 - 10:00	Break
Session 1, 10:00-11	15 AM
San Gabriel A	NRCS EQIP Small Farm Priority - Rob Ziehr (in-person and virtual) USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides financial and technical assistance to help farmers of all sizes implement and maintain conservation practices on their farm. Learn about programs designed to support small, sustainable and organic farms, whether urban or rural. Hear from an NRCS urban specialist, a local farmer, and also from Farm Service Agency about how to access programs that can help your farm.
San Gabriel B	Visual Soil Assessments - Kara Kroeger, NCAT
	Safeguarding the soil resource for present and future generations is a key task of land managers. Loss of soil quality can significantly affect the environmental sustainability of the soil, and the economic sustainability of farming businesses. Many physical, biological and, to a lesser degree, chemical soil properties show up as visual characteristics. They control the movement of water and air through the soil, and the ease with which roots penetrate the soil. Damage to the soil can change these properties and reduce plant growth, regardless of nutrient status. In this class you will learn to visually assess soil characteristics that will give you clues to its health and function. These clues are important tools that will help you change your management practices to improve soil health. karak@ncat.org
San Gabriel C	Demystifying the National Organic Program Record Keeping Requirement for Crop Growers - Emily Fowell, NICS
	Emily is the Certification Manager at Natures International Certification Services (NICS) and has been involved in the organic industry for over 15 years. This session will provide strategies to help with the record-keeping for certified organic farm businesses. Bring your questions!
San Gabriel D	Choosing a Commercial Kitchen - <i>Revolving Kitchen</i>
	Commercial kitchens can help local food operators—like farmers—efficiently and effectively expand a food business. This session will provide information on how to find a facility that provides you with the infrastructure and equipment that is the right fit.
Belfort	How Social Media Can Help Promote Your Farmers Market - TXFED
	Attendees will learn the basics of how to use social media as a promotional tool for farmers markets. This session is for farmers market organizers and farmers, ranchers, and vendors new to social media and those who want a refresher too. So if you want to build your additional promotional skills, we'll see you there! Attendees will create a content calendar for their farmers market. Presented by TXFED.org collaborators.
11:15 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch on your own
Session 2, 1:00-2:15	5 PM
San Gabriel A	Cutting Flowers to Bridge the Gap, Amanda Vanhoozier
	Flowers are powerful bloomers, many times, when produce harvest is low. Come learn the benefits of adding cut flowers to farm production, what varieties are most profitable during field production changeout, how to work flowers into your market streams and best resources for instant answers from seasoned flower growers. amanda@bishophillfarmflowers.com
San Gabriel B	Praise The Lard: Livestock Mastermind Group - "Pork" Rhyne
	Struggling to find community? Stuck trying to figure out how to be profitable? In this session, Pork Rhyne will lead current and potential livestock farmers through strategic group discussions addressing issues on and off the farm as well as crowd-sourced solutions from their peers. If you are in need of community and advice in your livestock farming journey, come on down! rhyne@porkrhyne.com

Wholesale Readiness - Hallie Casey, Eric de Valpine, Jarred Maxwell & Margaret Smith	
What do you need to know to get into the wholesale marketing space? How do you price your products? How do you develop and finance a business plan? What will wholesalers require from you in order to sell to them? Come ready to learn these answers and more from experts in the wholesale marketing trade. hcasey@sustainablefoodcenter.org jarred@foodshedinvestors.com margaret@thecommonmarket.org	
Farmers Discussing Farmers Markets: Love It or Leave It - Texas Center for Local Food	
Sue Beckwith of the Texas Center for Local Food will facilitate a panel of farmers with various perspectives and experiences selling at the farmers markets. The panel will discuss what they like or dislike about selling at farmers markets. Farmers and ranchers will be available to answer questions from farmers market staff interested in improving their vendor recruitment and retention. This candid session has never been held at the conference before and promises to be full of useful information for farmers market leaders and vendors alike.	
Break	
4:00 PM	
Seeds & Varieties for Texas and the South - Becky Hume, Johnny's Seeds	
Do you ever wonder 'is this really the best variety for my region'? What are the latest traits disease resistances that can help increase quality & yields? Which is better Hybrid or Open Pollinated Seeds? How do I keep my seeds fresh and viable? If you have asked yourself any of these questions lately, this is the session for you! Join Becky Hume, local area farmer and Johnny's Selected Seeds Texas Seed Rep for a discussion about seeds and varieties that work for our climate. bhume@johnnyseeds.com	
Planning For Profit: Business Planning & Budgeting for Your Farm - Evan Driscoll, Kitchen Table Consultants (virtual)	
Understanding how your business is performing financially now, and how it will meet your financial goals in the future, is critical to ensuring your farm or food business continues to operate and move towards your financial goals. We will review why business planning is important and can lead to funding, how budgeting and accounting fundamentals are essential backbones for your business, and an overview of creating both. evan@kitchentableconsultants.com	
Selling at the Farmers Market for Beginners - TXFED	
TXFED.org collaborators will guide attendees through the Selling at the Farmers Market for Beginners course on TXFED.org. Attendees will learn whether farmers markets are a suitable sales outlet for their business, how to research which farmers market to choose, and gain knowledge to support their decision on selling at a farmers market. Attendees will complete the Farmers Market Self Assessment and Farmers Market Research Question worksheets. This course is loads of fun with information that can save farmers big bucks!	
What is Local? Appealing to Consumers Seeking Truly Local Products - James Buratti (virtual)	
Despite arguments to the contrary, you can answer the question, "what is local food?" and "how local are my products?". This presentation will explore the many factors that producers and consumers consider when crafting and buying local and give you additional methods to make your products even more local. An entire consumer segment known as neolocalism is seeking out the local, and there is much more to it than miles from farm to plate.	
Break	
Member Meeting- Room TBA	
Pre-Banquet Happy Hour with cash bar	
Banquet Dr. Alex Racelis, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Keynote Speaker (virtual)	

	SATURDAY	
7:30 AM	Registration opens	
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast	
Session 4, 8:30 - 9	:45 AM	
San Gabriel A	Lo-tek Mushroom Cultivation & Composting - Angel Schatz & Megan Lowder, Central Texas Myco Alliance	
	Join Central Texas Mycological Society for a talk and hands-on workshop about what people are calling the "earth's internet." Everyone is talking about this invisible, underground network that connects most plants and distributes water and nutrients. This workshop will give you the practical knowledge to learn how to use spent mushroom substrate (SMS) to build healthy soil, sequester carbon, increase water retention, feed the soil web, your plants and eventually you! info@centraltexasmycology.org	
San Gabriel B	The Value of Beekeeping - <i>Bruce C Ford</i>	
	Honey bees are a critical element of this circle of life, and they give us honey! Get some interesting facts about the life cycle of honey bees and their behavior. Topics will include current honey bee environmental issues and how we are resolving them. Learn how to attract honey bees to your garden and food forest for pollination, specific plants that attract honey bees. We'll go over basic equipment and how to set up your bee yard. We'll have plenty of time for questions and answers. rosscreekorganicfarm@gmail.com	
San Gabriel C	Making Money at the Farmers Market - TXFED	
	Show me the money! TXFED.org collaborators will guide attendees through the Making Money at the Farmers Market course. This course builds on the Selling at the Farmers Market for Beginners course (Friday at 2:45). Attendees will learn ways to make more money at farmers markets: a beginners guide to knowing your market, knowing your costs, and pricing your products. Attendees will learn how to create and use an estimated cost worksheet.	
San Gabriel D	Policy is Not a Dirt Word - Judith McGeary & Carolina Mueller	
	Policy can be confused with politics, and while there is overlap, they are not the same thing! Getting involved in policy is vital to the future of regenerative agriculture and it's easier than you think! This session will cover both state and federal policy issues, with easy action items to help you make a difference for the future of your farm and local foods. judith@farmandranchfreedom.org	
9:45 - 10:15 AM	Break	
Session 5, 10:15 -	11:30 AM	
San Gabriel A	Cover Crops for Hot, Humid Climates - Justin Duncan, National Center for Appropriate Technology	
	Cover cropping in Texas is hard, particularly in dryland conditions. But can be really beneficial for weed conrol, erosion control and building soil health. Justin will talk about cover crop species that are little known in Texas but of great potential benefit to all types of farmers. justind@ncat.org	
San Gabriel B	Diversified farming with animals and produce - Billy Mitchell, National Farmers Union	
	Rasing animals AND growing produce brings added benefits and complication. As a group, we roll discuss how to reduce produce safety risks, schedule when to do what tasks and how, and best practices to get the most enjoyment and productivity from a diversified operation. Please bring your questions, your answers, and your best (we sold a lot of eggs!) and best/worst (the cows were outside the kitchen!) stories.	

San Gabriel C	Optimizing Your Impact at the Farmers Market - TXFED
	TXFED.org collaborators will guide attendees through the Optimizing Your Impact at the Farmers Market course on TXFED.org. Attendees will learn ways to build their network, design their booth, and decide if they need to find market help. Attendees will use the Design Your Display worksheet to plan a beautiful and effective farmers market booth.
San Gabriel D	Heirs Property & Wills - Ms Dānia Davy, Federation of Southern Cooperatives (virtual)
	Heirs Property issues arise when a landowner passes without a will. The family must then work through the many legal steps to create clear ownership. Heirs property issues can happen to anyone, but they are more common for families of color. These issues can prevent farmers from accessing most farm programs. Learn the basics about heirs property, how to manage it, and how to prevent these issues from happening.
11:30 AM - 1:15 PM	Lunch & Regional meetings
Session 6, 1:15 - 2:	30 PM
San Gabriel A	Brooms, Bins and Brains! - Lorig Hawkins & Billy Mitchell
	The right tools in your wash/pack - especially your bins and how you clean them – can increase your shelf life, decrease your produce safety risks, and improve your and your employees happiness! We'll discuss how to simplify and improve employee teaching and communication, have some hands-on show and tell with bins, boxes, totes, and cleaning tools that make harvesting and packing produce a dream, and share ways to make your wash/pack area a place of beauty. There will be prizes! bmitchell@nfudc.org
San Gabriel C	Managing Rain with High Tunnels - Brent Heronimus
	Come and hear Brent from Donna's Farm in Beaumont share about how they manage the rain and inspect pressure with high tunnels on their farm. With over 20,000 ft2 in high tunnels on their farm, learn from their mistakes, failures and successes. Donnasfarmtx@yahoo.com
San Gabriel D	Pathways to Racial Justice in the Food System - Phill Ross, TX Small Farmers & Ranchers-CBO (virtual)
	Racial equity is the process for moving towards the vision of racial justice. Racial equity seeks strategies, measurable milestones and outcomes that can be achieved on the road to racial justice. pross@tsfrcbo.org
	Closing feedback

TOFGA Regions

TOFGA is a grassroots, member-run and member-funded organization! Get involved and bring more sustainable agriculture activities, networking, and education events to your local region!



Region 1 Counties - East Central

Austin, Bell, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Colorado, Coryell, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Grimes, Hamilton, Hill, Lee, Leon, Limestone, Madison, McLennan, Milam, Navarro, Robertson, Somervell, Washington

Regional Director: Aime Sommerfeld-Lillard - aimesommerfeld@gmail.com

Region 2 Counties - Central

Bastrop, Bexar, Bandera, Blanco, Caldwell, Comal, DeWitt, Gillespie, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Lavaca, Medina, Travis,

Regional Director: Robert Maggiani - robertm@ncat.org

Region 3 Counties - West Central

Williamson, Wilson

Brown, Burnet, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Concho, Eastland, Erath, Jones, Kimble, Lampasas, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Mills, Palo Pinto, Runnels, San Saba, Shackelford, Stephens, Taylor

Regional Director: Lacey Proffitt - laceyproffitt@hotmail.com

Region 4 Counties - Dallas/Ft. Worth area

Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Grayson, Hood, Johnson, Montague, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Wise

Regional Director: Susie Marshall - susie@tofga.org

Region 5 Counties - Houston area

Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler, Waller, Wharton

Regional Director: Glen Miracle - thelaughingfrogfarm@gmail.com

TOFGA Regions

Region 6 Counties - Northeast

Anderson, Angelina, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Fannin, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Hunt, Houston, Kaufman, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Titus, Trinity, Upshur, Walker, Van Zandt, Wood

Regional Director: Theron Beaudreau - theron@integratedacres.com

Region 7 Counties - South

Aransas, Atascosa, Bee, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, Dimmit, Duval, Edwards, Frio, Goliad, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Maverick, McMullen, Nueces, Real, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, Zavala

Regional Director: Vacant

Region 8 Counties - Northwest

Archer, Armstrong, Bailey, Baylor, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Clay, Cochran, Collingsworth, Cottle, Crosby, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Delta, Dickens, Donley, Floyd, Foard, Garza, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Hardeman, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Hockley, Hutchinson, Jack, Kent, King, Knox, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lynn, Moore, Motley, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Stonewall, Swisher, Terry, Throckmorton, Wheeler, Wichita, Wilbarger, Yoakum, Young

Regional Director: Vacant

Region 9 Counties - West

Andrews, Borden, Brewster, Coke, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Dawson, Ector, El Paso, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Hudspeth, Irion, Jeff Davis, Loving, Martin, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Schleicher, Scurry, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Tom Green, Upton, Ward, Winkler

Regional Director: Vacant



Interested in BEEKEEPING for increased sustainable agriculture and pollination:



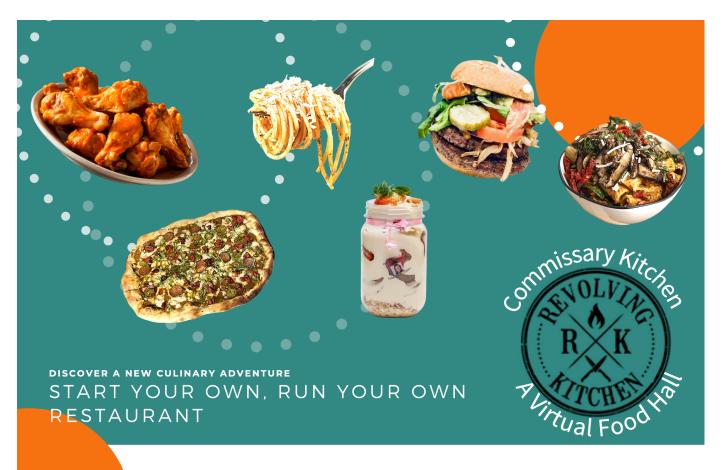
Visit our beekeeping exhibit booth during the conference and learn how!!!

Learn how to set up your honey bee yard for improved pollination and free local honey. Keep your annual property taxes 80% lower and make a change in the environment. Offering consulting and mentoring for new beekeepers, custom bee equipment, and spring NUCs and queens.









RENT A COMMERICAL KITCHEN

HOURLY, MONTHLY, ANNUALLY

(972) 332-3516 WWW.REVOLVINGKITCHEN.COM

KITCHEN SIZES

- 250 sq ft Kitchen
- 360 sq ft Kitchen
- 530 sq ft Kitchen
- 640 sq ft Kitchen
- 690 sq ft Kitchen

EXTRA AMENITIES

- Walk-in Cooler- \$100 per month
- Walk-in Freezer- \$100 per month
- Dry Storage- \$100 per month
- Online ordering platform
- Marketplace to sell shelf stable products
- Chemicals provided

EQUIPMENT

- 16ft vent hood with ansul
- 3 compartment sink
- Dish Machine
- Double convection oven
- 6 burner gas range
- Flat-top griddle
- Sandwich prep refrigerator
- Fryers
- Double door Reach-in Cooler
- Reach-in Freezer
- Microwave oven
- Proofer/ Warming box











SUSTAINABLY GROWN FOOD FROM FARMERS AND RANCHERS

TEXAS FARMERS' MARKET

SATURDAYS AT LAKELINE 9AM-IPM



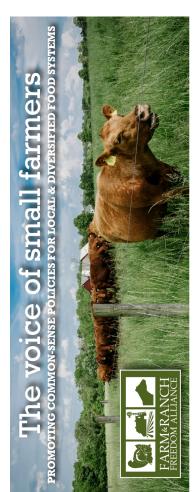
SUNDAYS AT MUELLER IOAM-2PM

FOR MAPS, VENDOR LISTS, AND MORE VISIT TEXASFARMERSMARKET.ORG

TESTES MARKET

LAKELINE I MUELLER





Join FARFA in its work to break down barriers for farmers & local food producers & learn how you can initiate change.

Be a part of our movement by ...

- Signing up for Action Alerts. We'll give you the background on each issue and a sample of what to say to your legislators.
- Becoming a member, starting at \$20 for students & seniors. Farm memberships are \$50.
- Finding out more about the issues impacting independent farmers and ranchers.



Follow the Council's work to advance just & sustainable food systems through education for farmers & consumers.

CHFS develops and hosts programs that include ...

- Farmer workshops on business, legal, & marketing topics to boost success.
- Sessions & materials for non-farmers on soil health, youth activism, and the far-reaching impact of food choices.

w.FarmAndRanchFreedom.org | 254-697-2661 | www.HealthyFoodSystems.org



Coyote Creek Organic Feed Mill - World's Best Eggs brand eggs www.CoyoteCreekFarm.com

WE'RE HIRING!

Farm Viability Coordinator - connect with farmers and provide resources for sustainability and profitability

Supply Chain Program Coordinator - support the local food economy by connecting Texas farmers to buyers

Food Access Director - join our leadership team and contribute to the strategic development and direction of food access and educational programming





Learn more today: sustainablefoodcenter.org/careers





APPLY FOR PRODUCER GRANTS

RELEASED IN SEPT 🕞 DUE IN NOV 🕞 AWARDED IN MARCH

Learn more about sustainable agriculture and other research grants at SOUTHERN.SARE.ORG









Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association 7017 N 10th St Ste N2 #349 McAllen, TX 78504 512 - 656 - 2456 | admin@tofga.org www.tofga.org