



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

September 4, 2020

Maria Bowen
Alpha Foods Co
19802 G.H. Circle
Waller, Texas 77484

Dear Ms. Bowen,

In October, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Farm Fresh Initiative will celebrate National Farm to School Month. I want to thank you for being a member of the Farm Fresh Network and for your unwavering commitment to feeding your community. This year has demonstrated just how much Texas agriculture matters. Your hard work and dedication are something to be proud of during the difficult times we have experienced.

Farm to School Month will highlight the connections between children and Texas farmers and ranchers. This meaningful work would not be possible without you and the more than 140 other members of the Farm Fresh Network. Serving up fresh, local products through child nutrition programs benefits your business and the entire community. At the same time, eating Texas products like yours in school meals is a good way for young Texans to learn lifelong lessons about healthy lifestyles and good nutrition.

Enclosed, you will find a Farm Fresh Network hat that I hope you will wear proudly to increase awareness of the relationships you are building in your community between local food and Texas children.

Thank you again for your commitment to the Farm Fresh Network and for helping Texans embrace the importance of Texas agriculture.

Sincerely,

Sid Miller

SM/EC/ec

Enclosures (2)



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Welcome to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Farm Fresh Network, a statewide collaboration for building strong purchasing relationships between Texas agricultural producers and schools and child care centers. This network establishes new TDA partnerships to connect young Texans with healthy foods and strengthen local economies by keeping child nutrition dollars in Texas. You are to be commended for your leadership in this effort.

Enclosed you will find two signs along with valuable informational resources. Please display the signs in a prominent place to proudly show you are connecting Texas children with local products. You can use the brochure "School Food Service: A Marketplace for Producers" to determine if school food service is an appropriate marketplace for your products. In addition, the "Selling to Schools" decision tool will help you determine which method of selling products to schools works best for your business while providing action steps for each option.

Our partnership in expanding the reach of Farm Fresh activities is vital to teaching Texas students the important role agriculture plays in our daily lives and ensuring healthier environments for entire communities. Thank you for being a leader working to build a healthier future for our great state.

TDA stands ready to assist you in getting involved in additional Farm Fresh projects or building a relationship with schools and child care centers near you. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact us at FarmFresh@TexasAgriculture.gov.

Sincerely,

Emilee Case
Farm Fresh Coordinator
Food and Nutrition

EC/EC/ec
Enclosures