

Helping Texas Farmers **and** Hungry Texas Families



Administered by TDA, the **Texans Feeding Texans (Surplus Ag)** grant helps the Texas food banks provide hungry families with more than 12 pounds of Texas-grown produce for every \$1.

The program leverages the statewide infrastructure of the Texas Food Bank Network (TFBN) to solicit donated produce that would otherwise go to waste while reimbursing Texas farmers for their expenses.

How it works:

- ✓ TFBN and its agents solicit farmers who have excess produce in their fields that would otherwise go to waste. These farmers are offered up to \$.10 per pound to offset the gleaning and packaging costs associated with a donation.
- ✓ TFBN offers this food to its 21 member food banks, whose distribution networks feed 3 million Texans annually in every Texas county.
- ✓ The food is efficiently distributed to hungry families through local food pantries and soup kitchens.
- ✓ TFBN expects to provide nearly 20 million pounds of healthy, Texas-grown produce to hungry families during the current two-year grant cycle.

Why it's needed:

- ✓ **Texas ranks among the eight states with the highest rates of food insecurity.** Texas has the second highest number of food-insecure households in the nation.
- ✓ **Low-income families struggle to afford healthy, unprocessed foods,** which tend to cost more on a per-calorie basis. This problem is especially acute in urban and rural food deserts, where access to fresh produce is scarce.
- ✓ **Increasing the size of this grant would reduce hunger, promote health and support Texas farmers** by securing an additional 12 pounds of produce for every \$1 invested.
- ✓ **Doubling the program (currently \$1.6 million) would provide an additional 20 million pounds of produce,** equivalent to more than 15 million meals for needy Texans.

