

Organizations encouraged to apply for 2018 Summer Nutrition Programs

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller today announced the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is accepting applications for its 2018 summer nutrition programs. These programs connect community organizations and schools with federal funds to provide healthy meals for the Texas children who may not always have access to good nutrition when school cafeterias are closed for summer.

“TDA and our partner organizations help ensure the end of school does not mean the start of hunger for some Texas children,” Commissioner Miller said. “Together, we work to strengthen communities across Texas by serving children the meals they need for an active, healthy summer. I encourage any eligible organization to join us in the effort to help promote good nutrition this summer so more Texas children can return to school in the fall ready to thrive.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), more than 14 percent of Texas households are considered food insecure, meaning every member of the household does not have consistent access to good nutrition. In partnership with USDA, TDA administers federally funded programs to help address childhood hunger during the summer. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides schools, nonprofit summer camps, governmental entities and other nonprofit organizations such as churches with the opportunity to serve meals to children across Texas. Schools have the option of participating in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or SFSP, allowing them to continue meal service after the academic year ends.

Organizations partner with TDA to serve meals at sites in designated areas, such as areas where more than 50 percent of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program. Meals will be provided to individuals age 18 and under without charge, as well as adults over the age of 18 who are determined by a state educational agency or local public educational agency of a state to have a mental or physical disability and who participate in a public or nonprofit private school program established for people with mental or physical disabilities.

All meal sites must be sponsored by an organization that has a contract with TDA. Approved SSO and SFSP sponsors, operating in accordance with federal and state regulations, will be reimbursed for meals served to children. All new sponsors are required to take training courses

before participating in the SFSP. Some applications may require additional review, and sponsors are encouraged to visit www.summerfood.org to determine if their organization falls into this category. The SFSP application deadline for new sponsors and those requiring more thorough review is April 15, 2018. All other returning SFSP sponsors must apply by May 1, 2018. The deadline for all SSO applications is May 31, 2018.

For more information about TDA’s Summer Nutrition Programs, visit www.summerfood.org.

Patience Key for Spring Turkey Season

Patience as much as skill will be tested during the opening days of this year’s spring turkey season, as Texas hunters may be forced to wait out the natural pecking order to get a gobbler’s attention.

According to biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), recent field observations suggest hens are slowly becoming receptive, and breeding activity should be peaking over the next few weeks.

“Things are changing daily as gobblers are strutting and hens are slowly becoming receptive,” said Jason Hardin, TPWD Upland Game Bird Program

specialist. “That means many hens could become interested in breeding near opening day of the season, effectively hampering a hunter’s chances of luring love-struck gobblers. If you do go early in the season some of the best hunting could be mid-day after hens split off from toms.

“By week three most hens should be bred and hunting should be good from the time the toms leave the roost until they go back up for the night,” he noted. “Also, if conditions remain mild and if we get a few more timely rain events, Texas can expect another good year of nesting and populations growth.”

Biologists report habitat conditions in South Texas are shaping up in a hurry. There has been enough rain to green up the landscape with bluebonnets, wine cups, and other flowers popping up quickly. As for the rest of the state, the landscape should follow suit week-by-week moving northward. One region of concern is the Rolling Plains, where the landscape is very dry with limited rain in the last six months.

The spring season for Rio Grande turkey general season runs March 17 - April 29 and culminates with a youth-only weekend May 5 - 6. In the North Zone, the youth-only weekend seasons are March 24 - 25 and May 19 - 20. The North

Zone general season opened March 31 and runs through May 13. A special one-gobbler limit season runs April 1 - 30 in Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Fayette, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Milam, and Wharton counties.

Eastern spring turkey hunting in the counties having an open season is April 15 - May 14. Hunters are required to report harvest of eastern turkeys electronically to TPWD within 24 hours of harvest. Reports can be made through the TPWD My Texas Hunt Harvest App or online from the TPWD turkey

page at www.tpwd.texas.gov/turkey. The app is available for free download from Google Play or the App Store. Hunters will be issued a confirmation number upon completion of the reporting process. Hunters still have to tag harvested birds.

The harvest reporting app can also be used as a tool for voluntarily reporting and tracking harvests of other resident game species, including Rio Grande turkey. With My Texas Hunt Harvest, hunters can log harvested game animals and view harvest history, including dates and locations of every hunt.

Thank you so much for your participation as voters in our recent primary elections. Regardless of whom you supported, it is your continued interest, support, and active participation in our electoral system that keeps our democracy strong.

Hal Spain
 Republican Nominee
 for Coke County Judge

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Hal Spain, PO Box 975, Robert Lee, Texas 76945

My sincere thanks for your support and vote. I appreciate it more than you know. Congratulations to Russell Johnson! Thank you, Jackie Walker Coke County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1

Paid Political Advertisement by Jackie Walker


I want to take this opportunity to thank all who supported and voted for me in the Republican Primary. I will appreciate your continued support and vote in the run-off election in May.

Paul Williams
 Commissioner, Precinct 2

Paid Political Advertisement by Paul Williams

Keep your Loved Ones in the Loop next year with a Gift Subscription to The Observer/Enterprise!

Hometown News & Pictures!



THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE
 Serving Coke County
 P.O. Box 1329 Robert Lee, TX 76945

Yearly Subscription Rates:
 \$30 in Coke County, \$35 in Texas
 \$37 in United States