



COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## State of Texas Agricultural Relief Fund

### STAR Fund

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. What is Star Fund?

A. The Star Fund was created by private donations to assist agricultural operations recover after natural disasters occur. The STAR Fund offers a cost-share of up to 50% of eligible expenses to qualified agricultural producers not to exceed \$4,000 per applicant.

### Q. What does cost-share mean?

A. Cost sharing, as a general term, is the portion of total costs submitted in the STAR fund application related to the amount not reimbursed by TDA. TDA is offering a cost share (50% of eligible expense) to qualified agricultural producers not to exceed \$4,000 per applicant. Example: A producer would need to submit documentation for \$2,000 of eligible expenses to receive \$1,000 in reimbursement.

### Q. Can you give me an example of an agricultural operation that received these funds?

A. TDA has assisted agriculture farmers, ranchers, producers and agribusiness owners for variety of reasons. The STAR fund has assisted with replacement cost of barns, feed, debris removal, carcass removal, small pond/dam repair and livestock fences. TDA is unable to reimburse the value of an item lost (crops, seed, livestock, equipment); but can reimburse the cost it took to replace it. Funds are not intended to compensate individuals or businesses for losses incurred, but to assist producers in cost-sharing some of the unexpected expenses associated with the repair or replacement of items necessary for their agricultural operation.

### Q. Can these funds be used to repair my farm house?

A. Funds may not be used for housing repairs.

### Q. When is the deadline for applying?

A. Once the Texas Governor makes the official disaster proclamation for the county affected, applicants have 90 business days to apply for funding. These deadlines are posted on TDA's website under [Grants & Services](#).

### Q. How long will funds be available?

A. STAR Fund availability is based on donation levels and demand. Assistance is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. TDA cannot guarantee funds will be available; however, the agency is continuing to seek donations. Applications must be received within 90 business days of the Governor's Disaster Proclamation for the disaster event.

### Q. What documentation do you need?

A. A complete application should include the following: 1) copies of invoices/receipts showing items purchased after the date of the disaster, 2) proof of payment of those items and 3) pictures or other documentation showing the damaged item before repair.

**Q. Do I have to complete the work (repair or replacement of items) before I apply?**

A. No, you may submit an application any time before the 90 business day deadline; however, you will not receive the cost-share funds until you submit invoices and proof of payment documentation.

**Q. Can I submit multiple applications over time if I have been affected by multiple disasters?**

A. Because the STAR Fund is funded by private donations, TDA limits applicants to a single funded STAR application once every 12 months.

**Q. Where do I find the STAR Fund application?**

A. The STAR Fund application is found online on the TDA website ([www.texasagriculture.gov](http://www.texasagriculture.gov)) under [Grants & Services](#).

**For more information, contact:**

**Grants Office**

**(512) 463-6695**

**[Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov)**

**[www.TexasAgriculture.gov](http://www.TexasAgriculture.gov)**