



Subscribe



January 2018

Happy New Year!

The first week of 2018 is officially in the books, and the new year is in full swing. There's something special about the beginning of any year — it's a clean slate, a time to check some things off our to-do lists. There's one thing I know that I'll for sure work on this year, and that's continuing to improve Texas' agriculture industry to ensure our state remains a leader in agriculture.

Winter can be tough, and it's been a particularly cold few weeks here in Texas and across the nation. The promise that lies ahead, including warmer temperatures and springtime, is something that the men and women who work to provide our food and fiber daily hold on to. They are no strangers to adversity; making a living in agriculture is tough work. It is my hope for 2018 that the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) can continue to serve and support our farmers and ranchers, as we look to create positive changes and be a strong voice for agriculture.

As your Agriculture Commissioner, I will work hard every day to spread the word that *Texas agriculture matters!* Here's to a great 2018 for each and every one of you, and Texas' agriculture industry.

Your servant,

Sid Miller

Stock Show Season is Here

It's that time of year, friends — it's livestock show and rodeo time. Later this week, our friends up in Fort Worth will kick it off with the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, and then we have major livestock shows happening all across the state through the end of March. So, mark your calendars and plan ahead to visit a stock show in your area.



Our GO TEXAN team will be at many of these shows, and so will many of our GO TEXAN members who will sample their great made-in-Texas products just for you! So, get ready ... it's rodeo season!

- Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo: Jan. 12 – Feb. 3
- San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo: Feb. 2 – 18
- San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo: Feb. 8 – 25
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo: Feb. 27 – March 18
- Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show: March 8 – 18
- Rodeo Austin: March 10 – 24

Fresh Texas Citrus in Schools Across the Lone Star State

This school year, TDA is partnering with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to provide approximately 1.4 million pounds of fresh Texas citrus to schools in the Lone Star State. Nearly 200 school districts and charter schools, representing more than 1.5 million students, ordered Texas grapefruits and oranges through the DoD Farm to School program. Citrus thrives in the Rio Grande Valley this time of year, and it will be used to make appealing meals featuring local products and teach children about good nutrition and Texas agriculture.

Schools also use the citrus to engage students in Farm Fresh Fridays activities, as part of Commissioner Miller's Farm Fresh Initiative. Schools use the products for taste-testing and other promotions to get children excited about healthy school meals. That may include reminding them that the cafeteria serves the official state fruit — the Texas red grapefruit. Also, Texas grapefruit is the TDA Harvest of the Month in January. Click [here](#) to see all the Harvest of the Month features.



Listen to the Latest *Texas Agriculture Matters* Episodes

Each week, Commissioner Miller and TDA are proud to bring the listeners of KRFE AM 580 in Lubbock a new episode of *Texas Agriculture Matters*. For those of you not in the Lubbock area, don't worry — we got you covered! [Check out](#) the latest episodes of *Texas Agriculture Matters*.

“TEXAS
AGRICULTURE
Matters!”