

## Agency Division Overview

The **Administrative Services Division** provides administrative support functions to the agency, including human resources, risk management, information technology, special events within the agency, records retention, office space, warehousing and mail services.

The **Communications Division** ensures that information about TDA and its programs are communicated to the public and news media in a timely, professional manner.

The **Financial Services Division** provides financial support functions to the agency, including financial management, purchasing, accounts payable, budget, and contracts management.

The **Food & Nutrition Division** is responsible for safeguarding the health and well-being of the state's citizens by ensuring nutritionally adequate meals are provided; encouraging adults and children to gain an understanding of the relationship between proper eating and good health; and providing learning experiences designed to result in healthier lifestyle choices. The Division's objective is to integrate a nutritious meal service or food component with services offered to children, low-income households and individuals. Additionally, it ensures that the child and adult nutrition programs and the commodity distribution programs operate within federal and state rules, regulations, and policies. This is accomplished through providing federal reimbursement payments to public and private educational agencies, childcare centers, day care home providers and adult day care centers; performing compliance reviews; and developing and providing training on regulations, policies and procedures.

The **General Counsel** provides ethics and legal advice to all programs and divisions and is the agency's liaison with the state's attorney general. The Enforcement Section prosecutes administrative violations of consumer laws and regulations pertaining to plants, seeds, egg quality, weights and measures, commodity warehouses and the Agriculture Code and related rules.

The **External Relations Division** serves as an agency liaison working with stakeholders, producer groups, researchers and local, state and federal governments. This division maintains oversight of the state's 10 active commodity boards and the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation. Staff assists in convening the commissioner's Advisory Boards and administers multiple agricultural research grants and development grant programs. The division monitors legislative and regulatory activities impacting Texas agricultural producers and consumers and maintains relations with federal, state, local and foreign governments on a wide range of agricultural and rural issues.

TDA's **Marketing and Promotion Division** increases awareness of the products, culture and communities of Texas through GO TEXAN, a focused, broad-based strategic marketing effort. The program works to expand markets for products through program membership, focused marketing campaigns and state, national and international promotions and events. In addition to increasing awareness of Texas products, the program includes several focused initiatives. The GO TEXAN Restaurant Program is geared toward helping Texas-based restaurants market themselves and connect with local producers. The division promotes rural Texas through the GO TEXAN Rural Community Program (formerly Texas Yes!) and markets Texas as a retirement destination through the GO TEXAN Certified Retirement Community Program. The scope of the Marketing and Promotion Division also includes the Food and Fiber Pavilion at the State Fair of Texas, Market News, the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service and management of the livestock export facilities.

The **Office of Internal Audit** is the independent appraiser established within TDA to examine and evaluate its activities as a service to the agency. OIA furnishes the agency with analysis, appraisals, recommendations, counsel and information concerning the activities reviewed.

The **Pesticide Division** enforces state and federal pesticide laws and regulations. The Pesticide Division encompasses: Worker Protection, Registration, Certification and Training, Endangered Species, Risk Assessment and Toxicology, Compliance and Program Development and Laboratory Services. Effective Sept.1, 2007, the duties of the Texas Structural Pest Control Board were incorporated into the Pesticide Division. The primary responsibilities of this program include the licensing and regulation of persons engaged in the business of structural pest control.

The **Regulatory Programs Division's** duties run the gamut from inspecting gasoline pumps and grocery store scales to ensuring egg quality and compliance with biosecurity safeguards. This division oversees the following programs: Organics, Grain Warehouses, Eggs, Aquaculture, Weights and Measures, Seed Quality and the Cooperative Marketing Association. Regulatory also operates with the USDA and the Texas Cooperative Inspection Program, which oversee the quality inspection of fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts.

The **Rural Economic Development Division** works with rural communities and businesses to develop and execute plans to stimulate rural economic development. The rural economic development programs provide broad-based assistance to help local economies expand by assisting with rural tourism, small town revitalization and agricultural diversification. TDA works with many businesses and communities to enhance their economic outlook and provide economic opportunities to the 3.2 million Texans who reside in rural areas as well as the more than 20 million Texans living in urban areas who also benefit from strong rural economies.

The Texas Department of Agriculture's **Regional Offices** provide customer assistance from a local perspective. Regional staff are available during normal business hours to assist Texans with a wide range of regulatory, pesticide and marketing needs. The regional offices coordinate and oversee regulatory and pesticide inspectors and are the first line of defense in biosecurity and consumer protection efforts. With locations around the state, the regional offices provide a more convenient way for customers to do one-on-one business with TDA. Though all of the regional offices provide a similar array of services, each is also unique, reflecting the diversity of the state and the special needs of the clients in each region.