

FOOD SUMMIT

A FARMER, RANCHER, & COMMUNITY EVENT



The Future is Growing Here

APRIL 2026

WELCOME!

Over the past three years, food system leaders and stakeholders have gathered to develop and refine the vision for the Rio Grande Valley Food System.

The first year of the Food Summit was dedicated to **building a foundational conversation** to develop the RGV Food System Vision. The second year focused on **showcasing the region's agricultural offerings and uniting all stakeholders** in one space to highlight the wealth of resources and opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley. The third year, the Food Summit started **shifting from vision and conversation to collaborative action and implementation**.



This year's focus is on continue growing the established solutions, networks, and the local food economy by strengthening partnerships, mobilizing resources, and launching coordinated efforts that address the key challenges identified in previous years.




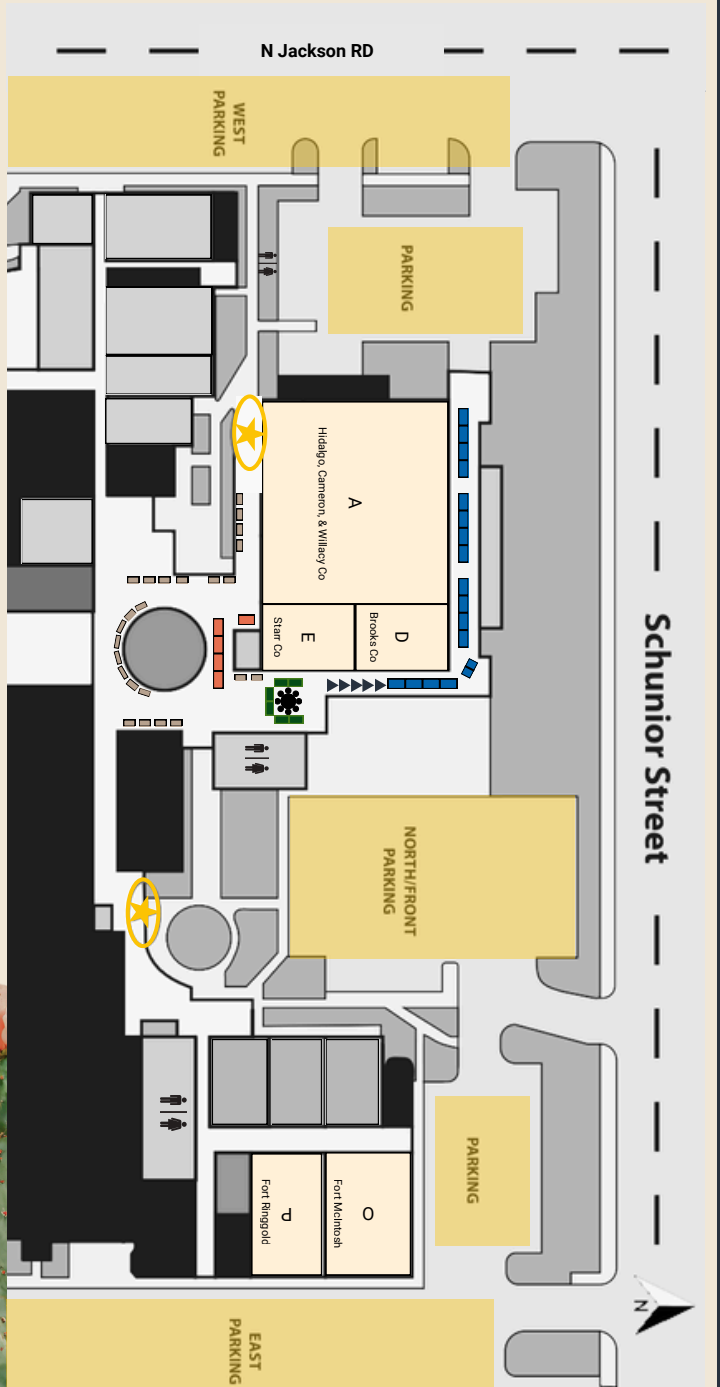
VENUE

- A - Hidalgo, Cameron & Willacy County Rooms
- D - Brooks County Room
- E - Starr County Room
- P - Fort Ringgold
- O - Fort McIntosh

-  - Entrance
-  - Registration Tables
-  - Food Tables
-  - Booths
-  - Seed Exchange

-  - Art Exhibits
-  - Restrooms

-  **Wifi Access**
- Region One Guest
- cameron1848



AGENDA | DAY 1 - APRIL 22

8:00 – 9:00 AM | Breakfast and Registration

Register, grab coffee, and join us for a farm to table breakfast and plenary opening remarks.

Speaker: Dr. Daniel P. King

9:05 – 9:50 AM | Food Summit Overview

Opening remarks and panel on **Building a Resilient Regional Food Economy** in the RGV.

Speakers: Lori Atwood Ramos | Dr. Alexis Racelis | Hernan Colmenero

~ 9:50 – 10:05 AM | Networking Break ~

10:05 – 11:05 AM | Panel 1 and Short Film

Identifying Infrastructure Gaps and Removing Structural Barriers panel, and screening of the Regional Food Business Center short film.

Speakers: Ruby Aguayo | Diana Padilla **Moderator:** Dr. Alexis Racelis

11:10 AM – 12:10 PM | Panel 2 and Short Film

The Future of Local Food: Youth Perspectives panel, and screening of Brownsville ISD Film by BBC.

Speakers: Karla Serrata | Denisse De Luna | Sofia Mejia **Moderator:** Jackie Cruz

~ 12:10 – 1:30 PM | Lunch and Networking Break ~

1:30 – 5:00 PM | Concurrent Sessions

Room:	Hidalgo & Cameron Co	Starr Co	Brooks Co	Fort Ringold	Fort McIntosh
Tracks:	Farmworker Rights	Food Production	Food Distribution	Access to Finance	Thought Leadership
1:30 – 2:30 PM	The Role of Farmworkers in the Food System Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria Arias Andrea Casares Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth Rodriguez 	Research Insights for South Texas Crops Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juan Anicso John Golsby Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juan Raygoza 	Turning Purchasing Buyers into Values-Aligned Procurement Architects Speaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> James Briscoe 	Financial Assistance through USDA NRCS including the Regenerative Pilot Program Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gina Riojas & Chris Mikita Servando Leal 	Storytelling as a Leadership Skill in Food and Community Systems - Workshop 12:40 – 2:45 pm Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fatima Garza Dani Marrero
2:45 – 3:45 PM	Sowing Seeds of Support: Understanding Migrant Education Programs in South Texas Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magdalena Ojeda 	Research Insights for Cattle Raisers Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darron Gaus Brooke England Jason P. Ott 	How to Work with TDA's GO TEXAN Marketing Program Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kara Smith Lamar Jones 	Understanding the TDA AgPro and AgPlan for Agricultural Businesses Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sara Saenz 	
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Technical Assistance	Produce Safety for Small Producers Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susie Marshall 	Farm and Ranch to School Success Stories Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cody Brown Stephanie Martinez Jackie Cruz Iris Perez 	Accessing USDA AMS and RD Grants Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roel Gomez Cristina Lopez 	

DAY 1 - MENU

BREAKFAST | DESAYUNO

8:00 - 9:05 AM



BREAKFAST TACO BAR

Flour & Gluten Free Corn Tortillas

Fillings

- Potato & Egg
- Chorizo & Egg
- Papa a la Mexicana
- Beans

Add-Ons

- Salsas
- Pico de Gallo
- Cheese

OATMEAL BOWL BAR

Fruit

- Berries
- Apples
- Raisins
- Bananas

Nuts

- Walnuts
- Almonds

Add-Ons

- Cinnamon, honey & raw sugar
- Cream and coconut milk

Pan dulce & fruit available all day

LUNCH | ALMUERZO

12:10 - 1:10 PM

POWER BOWL BAR

Base options

- Cilantro Lime Rice
- Salad Mix
- Pinto Beans
- Proteins
- Chicken Breast
- Picadillo

Add-Ons

- Grilled Veggies (onion, peppers, mushrooms)
- Nopales
- Queso Freso
- Salsa & Guacamole

DESSERT

Churro Bites with Cajeta
Fruit cups with Tajin & Honey

BEVERAGES

Cafe de Olla (All day)
Orange Juice (Breakfast)
Unsweet Tea
Lime-Cucumber Agua
Fresca
Infused Water (All day)

Pan dulce & fruit available all day



AGENDA | DAY 1 - APRIL 22

Food Summit Overview

This panel includes Region One, UTRGV, and the Institute for Ecology Scholarship and Health, discussing their roles in the Food Summit. Panelists will reflect on the Summit's evolution, key achievements, and the collaborative impact on the regional food economy in the Rio Grande Valley.

Speakers: Lori Atwood Ramos | Dr. Alexis Racelis | Hernan Colmenero

Panel 1 - Identifying Infrastructure Gaps and Removing Structural Barriers + Short Film

This panel will examine barriers in food systems hindering small farmers and ranchers from scaling their operations. It will focus on key infrastructure gaps and discuss practical solutions to address these challenges.

Speakers: Ruby Aguayo | Diana Padilla **Moderator:** Dr. Alexis Racelis

Panel 2 - The Future of Local Food: Youth Perspectives and Short Film

This session highlights students' voices and their visions for the future of our food system. By sharing their stories and inspirations, students invite us to listen and reflect on our collective role in shaping that future. It emphasizes not only what's to come but also ongoing initiatives and how we can contribute.

Speakers: Karla Serrata | Denisse De Luna | Sofia Mejia **Moderator:** Jackie Cruz

Storytelling as a Leadership Skill in Food and Community Systems - Workshop

"Story of Self, Us" is an interactive workshop that teaches a storytelling model for connecting with others through shared values and inspiring action. Participants are encouraged to share their personal stories at the end of the workshop.

Speakers: Fatima Garza | Dani Marrero

The Role of Farmworkers in the Food System

Explore the vital role farmworkers play in our food system—past and present. This session will highlight the history of land loss and erasure experienced by communities in the region, examine the current realities and challenges faced by farm and food workers, and open a conversation on pathways forward.

Speakers: Maria Arias | Andrea Casares **Moderator:** Elizabeth Rodriguez

Research Insights for South Texas Crops

In this session, participants will learn about the latest pest management and crop production findings, focusing on strategies for South Texas. Insights will cover current challenges, emerging trends, and science-based methods to enhance crop health, resilience, and productivity.

Speakers: Juan Ancisco | John Golsby **Moderator:** Juan Raygoza

Turning Purchasing Buyers into Values-Aligned Procurement Architects

James Briscoe, creator of the N.E.R.D. framework (Know the Need, Evaluate the Specifics, Research the Details, and Deliver), offers a structured approach to Best Value Procurement in public education. This session focuses on aligning financial and procurement decisions for transparency and long-term impact, covering financial strategies, compliance, and budgeting to enhance student-centered outcomes.

Speaker: James Briscoe

Financial Assistance through USDA NRCS including the Regenerative Pilot Program

Learn about technical and financial assistance programs to help you improve your natural resources, including the Regenerative Pilot Program, set to help American farmers adopt practices that improve soil health, enhance water quality and boost long-term productivity.

Speakers: Gina Riojas & Chris Mikita | Servando Leal

AGENDA | DAY 1 - APRIL 22

Sowing Seeds of Support: Understanding Migrant Education Programs in South Texas

Farmworkers are vital to South Texas's agriculture, but their mobile lifestyle creates educational challenges for their children. This session will discuss the Title I Part C Migrant Education Program, which identifies and supports migratory families. It aims to help farmers, ranchers, and community members advocate for these workers, fostering access to educational resources for migrant children and enhancing the local food economy.

Speakers: Magdalena Ojeda

Research Insights for Cattle Raisers

This panel will examine barriers in food systems hindering small farmers and ranchers from scaling their operations. It will focus on key infrastructure gaps and discuss practical solutions to address these challenges.

Speakers: Darron Gaus | Brooke England | Jason P. Ott

How to Work with TDA's GO TEXAN Marketing Program

This panel will explore the common barriers within food systems that prevent small farmers and ranchers from scaling their operations. The discussion will highlight key infrastructure gaps and consider practical solutions to help overcome these structural challenges.

Speakers: Kara Smith | Lamar Jones

Understanding the TDA AgPro and AgPlan for Agricultural Businesses

"Story of Self, Us" is an interactive workshop that teaches a storytelling model for connecting with others through shared values and inspiring action. Participants are encouraged to share their personal stories at the end of the workshop.

Speakers: Sara Saenz

Technical Assistance

Get the support you need to move forward. This session offers producers and schools the opportunity to connect with technical experts, ask questions, and discover tools and resources to strengthen their work.

Produce Safety for Small Producers

How can produce farmers incorporate key areas like hygiene, water quality, and sanitation to their operation? This session will cover best practices, tools, and considerations to prevent contamination and comply with food safety regulations.

Speakers: Susie Marshall

Farm and Ranch to School Success Stories

Selling to institutional buyers is a great way for farmers to grow their operation. In this session we hear some success stories from schools who purchase local food and farmers who have gone through the process.

Speaker: Cody Brown | Stephanie Martinez | Jackie Cruz | Iris Perez

Accessing USDA AMS and RD Grants

Learn how to apply for USDA AMS (Agricultural Marketing Services) and RD (Rural Development) grant programs. We will hear from local USDA representatives about going through the process.

Speakers: Roel Gomez | Cristina Lopez

AGENDA | DAY 2 – APRIL 23

8:00 – 8:30 AM | Grab and Go Breakfast

Grab coffee and breakfast to get started.

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Concurrent Sessions

Room:	Hidalgo & Cameron Co	Starr Co	Brooks Co	Fort Ringold	Fort McIntosh
Tracks:	Farmworker Rights	Food Production	Food Distribution	Access to Finance	TDA Fresh Trays
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Technical Assistance	Opportunities for Small-Scale Meat Processing <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diana Padilla Misty Cornejo DeAnne Ecomodes <i>Moderator:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vero Dimas 	The Role of Food Banks in a Regional Food System <i>Speaker:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hilda Gutierrez Omar Rodriguez DeAnne Economedes 	Accessing USDA FSA, NRCS, RD Loans and Loan Guarantees <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allison De La Rosa 	TDA FRESH TRAYS – Advanced Local Procurement Training – for schools <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacob Korir Kathryn Ortega
9:45 – 10:45 AM	AFT Learning Circle for Women Farmers and Ranchers	Policy Landscape for Texas Producers <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Figueroa 	Texas A&M AgriLife FRESH TRAYS – for producers <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alice Kirk 	Accessing Capital through Farm Credit, SBA, CDFIs <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marcela Arredondo 	
11:00 – 12:00 PM	<i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lindsey Richards Deydra Steins 	The State of RGV Water <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sonny Hinojosa 	Setting Up for Success at the Farmer's Market <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JD Rogan Civia Hernandez Amy Gallo <i>Moderator:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jose Aguirre 	Profit / Loss Workshop – Financial Statements 101 <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Austin Breckenridge 	

~ 12:15 – 1:15 PM | Lunch and Networking Break ~

1:15 – 2:30 PM	Time for Networking, Exhibitor Booths, and Seed Exchange	Fort McIntosh Buyer Supplier Event: Bringing the Farm to School
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2:30 – 3:30 PM | Keynote Panel

Expanding Local Food Efforts & Access: Partnerships with Faith Based Organizations

Speakers: JD Hogan | Sara Solis | Jon Adams *Moderator:* Dr. Alexis Racelis

3:45 – 5:00 PM | Panel 3 and Closing Remarks

From Discussion to Action: Calls to Action, Commitments, and Next Steps

Speakers: Jose Perez Vela | Art Rodriguez | Jordan Roney *Moderator:* Hernan Colmenero

~ 6:00 – 10:00 PM | Farm to Table Mixer ~

DAY 2 – MENU

BREAKFAST | DESAYUNO

8:00 – 8:30 AM

BREAKFAST BOWL BAR

Scrambled Eggs
Bacon/Sausage
Seasoned Potatoes
Refried Beans
Cheese
Nopales

Pan dulce & fruit available all day

OATMEAL BOWL BAR

Fruit

- Berries
- Apples
- Raisins
- Bananas

Nuts

- Walnuts
- Almonds

Add-Ons

- Cinnamon, honey & raw sugar
- Cream and coconut milk



LUNCH | ALMUERZO

12:15 – 1:15 PM

PASTA BOWL BAR

Pastas

- Rottini
- Veggie Spirals

Sauces

- Alfredo
- Marinara
- Poblano Sauce

Proteins

- Chicken Breast
- Plant Based Meatballs

Sides

- Garlic Bread
- Green Salad
- Gluten Free Bread

Add-Ons

- Salad Dressings (Ranch, Caesar, Vinaigrette)
- Parmesan Cheese

DESSERT

Mini Mandarin Cake
Mini Almond Flour-Based
Brownies

BEVERAGES

Cafe de Olla (All day)
Orange Juice (Breakfast)
Unsweet Tea
Agua de Jamaica
Infused Water (All day)

Pan dulce & fruit available all day



AGENDA | DAY 2 – APRIL 23

Technical Assistance

Get the support you need to move forward. This session offers producers and schools the opportunity to connect with technical experts, ask questions, and discover tools and resources to strengthen their work.

Opportunities for Small-Scale Meat Processing

Join this session to learn from local producers about processing and preparing pigs, chickens, or steers for sale. Topics include whether to do it yourself or contract out, processing costs, packaging, and food safety concerns.

Speakers: Diana Padilla | Misty Cornejo | Cori Spellane **Moderator:** Stephanie Kasper

The Role of Food Banks in a Regional Food System

Food banks are critical for reducing food waste and alleviating food insecurity throughout the country. In this session, we will discuss different programs and how local farmers fit into that model.

Speakers: Hilda Gutierrez | Omar Rodriguez | DeAnne Economedes

Accessing USDA FSA, NRCS, RD Loans and Loan Guarantees

Learn how to apply for USDA FSA (Farm Service Agency), NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Agency) and RD (Rural Development) loan programs. We will hear from local representatives, technical assistance providers, and other producers who have gone through the process.

Speakers: Allison De La Rosa & Maricruz Cantu

TDA FRESH TRAYS– Advanced Local Procurement Training – for schools

This advanced training is designed for child nutrition operators participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Summer Meals Program (SMP), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) who are interested in purchasing local foods and supporting Texas agriculture. Participants will learn how to select appropriate procurement methods, develop compliant solicitations, connect with local producers, and navigate the local purchasing process with confidence.

Speakers: Jacob Korir | Kathryn Ortega

AFT Learning Circle for Women Farmers and Ranchers

The American Farmland Trust Learning Circles provide a peer-to-peer model for women farmers and ranchers to share knowledge and experiences, enhancing farm operations and supporting ecosystems. Lindsey Richards and Deydra Steans will discuss the practical aspects of Learning Circles and upcoming opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley. Deydra will also address the challenges and successes in implementing regenerative rangeland management in the area.

Speakers: Lindsey Richards | Deydra Steans

Policy Landscape for Texas Producers

Navigating today's agricultural policy is increasingly complex. This session aims to provide Texas farmers and ranchers with a practical overview of key state and federal policies affecting their operations and sustainability. Insights from the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance will cover current legislative developments, regulatory challenges, and engagement opportunities, equipping attendees with essential knowledge and tools for the future.

Speaker: Paul Figueroa

Texas A&M Agrilife FRESH TRAYS – for producers

FRESH TRAYS connects Texas producers with schools to bring fresh, local foods onto kids' lunch trays. This session highlights how collaboration strengthens farm-to-school partnerships, improves child nutrition, and fosters resilient communities.

Speakers: Alice Kirk

AGENDA | DAY 2 – APRIL 23

Accessing Capital through Farm Credit, SBA, CDFIs

Learn how to apply for capital through Farm Credit, the Small Business Association, or Community Development Financial Institutions. This session will cover what you need before you apply and how to maximize your chances for success.

Speakers : Marcela Arredondo

The State of RGV Water

What are water districts? What role do they play in agriculture, our food, and our communities? In this session, we explore these and other questions as we seek to understand what we can do about water and water issues in Texas.

Speakers : Sonny Hinojosa

Setting Up for Success at the Farmer's Market

What does it take to be successful at your local farmer's market? This session will focus on strategies on how to get started and prosper with fresh and value-added products.

Speakers : JD Rogan | Civia Hernandez | Amy Gallo **Moderator :** Jose Aguirre

Profit / Loss Workshop – Financial Statements 101

"Story of Self, Us" is an interactive workshop that teaches a storytelling model for connecting with others through shared values and inspiring action. Participants are encouraged to share their personal stories at the end of the workshop.

Speakers : Austin Breckenridge

Buyer Supplier Event: Bringing the Farm to School

By bridging the gap between South Texas producers, distributors, and school nutrition leaders, this event aims to fortify the local food supply chain and ensure a sustainable, farm-to-school future to feed our students.

Expanding Local Food Efforts & Access: Partnerships with Faith Based Organizations

Join faith leaders from the Rio Grande Valley to discuss the connection between healthy food systems, community well-being, and values of stewardship and justice. They will explore access to nutritious, locally-produced food as a moral responsibility that involves caring for the land, supporting farmers, and showing compassion for neighbors. The discussions will emphasize the role of faith communities in promoting sustainable practices, strengthening local food networks, and ensuring access to healthy, affordable food for all families.

Speakers : JD Hogan | Sara Solis | Jon Adams **Moderator :** Dr. Alexis Racelis

From Discussion to Action: Calls to Action, Commitments, and Next Steps

In this closing panel, we turn reflection into direction—focusing on how to translate the ideas, insights, and energy of our time together into tangible, lasting outcomes. Together, we'll explore the next steps needed to sustain momentum for a better food system and deepen collaboration across sectors to move closer to our shared food vision for the RGV.

Speaker : Jose Perez Vela | Art Rodriguez | Jordan Roney **Moderator :** Hernan Colmenero

Time for Networking, Exhibitor Booths, and Seed Exchange

Step into a vibrant hour of connection and exchange. Meet new people, explore exhibitor booths, and take part in the seed exchange—whether you're sharing, learning, or simply browsing, there's something here for everyone.

AFT LEARNING CIRCLE FOR WOMAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS



APRIL 23 | 9:45 - 12 PM

American Farmland Trust (AFT) invites you to this learning circle for woman producers at this year's Food Summit.

The American Farmland Trust Learning Circles are a peer-to-peer learning model meant to create a brave space for women farmers and ranchers to build knowledge, share experiences, and strengthen farm and ranch operations while supporting healthy ecosystems.

Lindsey Richards and Deydra Steans will offer insight into what Learning Circles look like on the ground and highlight upcoming opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley. Deydra will also lead a discussion on the challenges and successes of implementing regenerative rangeland management in the region.

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American Farmland Trust
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US



BUYER SUPPLIER EVENT

Bringing Farmers, Ranchers and
Schools Together



APRIL 23 | 1:15 – 2:30 PM

Region One Education Service Center, NCAT, and The Institute for Ecology, Scholarship, and Health invite you to the **Buyer Supplier Event** at this year's Food Summit.

This event will **connect** local farmers, ranchers, distributors, and school nutrition staff to explore ways to **source more local foods for South Texas schools**.

We encourage all school nutrition staff, farmers, ranchers and those involved in procurement to join us for a whole day of sessions, networking and this immersive event.

SPONSORED BY:



INSTITUTE
FOR ECOLOGY
SCHOLARSHIP
& HEALTH



NCAT



SEED & PLANT SWAP

APRIL 23 | 1:15 - 2:15 PM

Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners (TOFGA) invites you to the Seed Swap at this year's Food Summit.

Bring your seeds and step into a vibrant hour of connection and exchange. Meet new people, explore exhibitor booths, and take part in the seed exchange—whether you're sharing, learning, or simply browsing, there's something here for everyone.

SPONSORED BY:

A graphic illustration of a seed swap. It features several orange paper envelopes of various sizes, some open and some closed, scattered across the scene. A hand is shown at the bottom right, holding one of the envelopes. The background is a soft-focus image of various flowers, including purple and yellow ones, and a monarch butterfly is perched on a green stem in the upper right. The overall aesthetic is bright and natural.

SEED

SWAP

RGV NATIVE PLANTS

LOTERIA



ANACAHUITA
Cordia boissieri



VASEY'S WILD LIME
Adelia Vaseyi



STARR CACTUS
Astrophytum asterias



HEART LEAF HIBISCUS
Hibiscus martianus



HORSE CRIPPLER
Echinocactus texensis



TURK'S CAP
Malvaviscus arboreus



WHITE PLUMBAGO
Plumbago scandens



CENIZO
Leucophyllum frutescens



PYRAMID BUSH
Melochia tomentosa



YELLOW SOPHORA
Sophora tomentosa



CEDAR ELM
Ulmus crassifolia



MONTEZUMA CYPRESS
Taxodium mucronatum



FIDDLEWOOD
Citharexylum berlandieri



TEXAS TORCHWOOD
Amyris texana



SCARLET SAGE
Salvia coccinea



DESSERT WILLOW
Chilopsis linearis

FARM TO TABLE MIXER

~ ALL ATTENDEES WELCOME ~

APRIL 23 | 6:00 - 10:00 PM

200 N Closner Blvd, Edinburg, TX 78541

Join us for a festive farm-to-table mixer at the Museum of South Texas History as we celebrate our shared achievements. Enjoy student photovoice and art installations, listen to live music by David Friman Trio, network with others, explore complementary museum exhibit, and savor delicious local food bites.

~Transportation Provided~



SPEAKERS



Lori Atwood Ramos
Region One



Alex Racelis
UTRGV



Hernan Colmenero
IESH



JD Hogan
McAllen Farmers Market



D ana Padilla
Padilla Farm LLC



Ruby Aguayo
Texas A&M



Sara Solis
Edinburg First United Methodist



Jon Adams
Like Christ Church



Jackie Cruz
Brownsville ISD



Karla Serrata
Los Fresnos CISD



Jose Perez Vela
Compass Group



Jordan Roney
IDEA Public Schools



Denisse De Luna
Los Fresnos CISD



Sof a Mej a
UTRGV

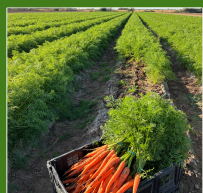


John Goolsby
USDA-ARS (ret.)



Maricruz Cantu
Farm Service Agency

SPEAKERS



Juan Raygoza
UTRGV SARA



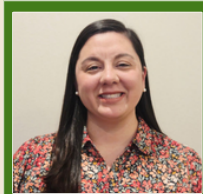
Juan Anciso
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



Stephanie Martinez
2F Akaushi Beef



Elizabeth Rodriguez
Moderator



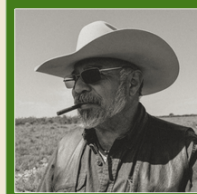
Gina Riojas
USDA NRCS



Chris Mikita
USDA NRCS



Maria Arias
Farmworker



Servando Leal
HLLM LLC



Darron Gaus
NCAT



Jason P. Ott
Texas A&M AgriLife



Cody Brown
NCAT



Cristina Lopez
USDA RD



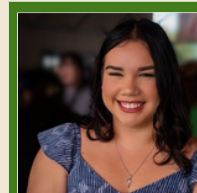
Iris Perez
Sharyland ISD



Cori Spellane
Circle S Beef



Stephanie Kasper
Moderator



Misty Cornejo
UTRGV SARA



Fatima Garza
Ruido Studios



Dani Marrero Hi
Ruido Studios



Lindsey Richards
American Farm Land Trust



Deydra Steins
American Farm Land Trust

SPEAKERS



Alice Kirk
Texas A&M Agrilife



Allison De La Rosa
Farm Service Agency



Amy Gallo
Sustainable Food Center



Andrea Casares
Sol & Roots Ranchito



Art Rodriguez
City of Brownsville



Omar Rodriguez
RGV Food Bank



Brooke England
England Cattle CO.



Hilda Gutierrez
Feeding TX



Austin Breckenridge
Business Entrepreneur



Civia Hernández
Nature's Heartland



James Briscoe
Hitchcock ISD



Sara Saenz
UTRGV SARA



Jose Aguirre
Moderator



Magdalena Ojeda
Region One



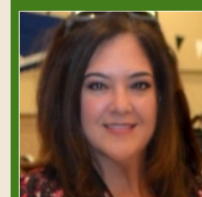
Susie Marshall
GROW North Texas



Paul Figueroa
FARFA



Sonny Hinojosa
Hidalgo County Irrigation
District No. 2



DeAnne Enconomedes
South Texas Food Bank



Marcela Arredondo
UTRGV SBDC

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

This event could not be made possible without the unwavering support of our sponsors. Their contribution and participation helps us make these events accessible to all.



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



American Farmland Trust
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US



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SENTLI

UTRGV TM : School of
Social Work



Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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THANK YOU

~ ORGANIZED BY ~

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~ SPECIAL THANKS TO ~

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ISRAEL GALINDO

ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ

GUADALUPE GONZALEZ

**MEMBERS OF THE RGV FOOD SYSTEM
WORKING GROUP**

Thank you for joining us!

Creating a resilient and sustainable food system that benefits the community can only happen when we share ideas, learn from each other, and become intentional participants in the work that we do.

**Learning, Working,
and Celebrating Together**



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