



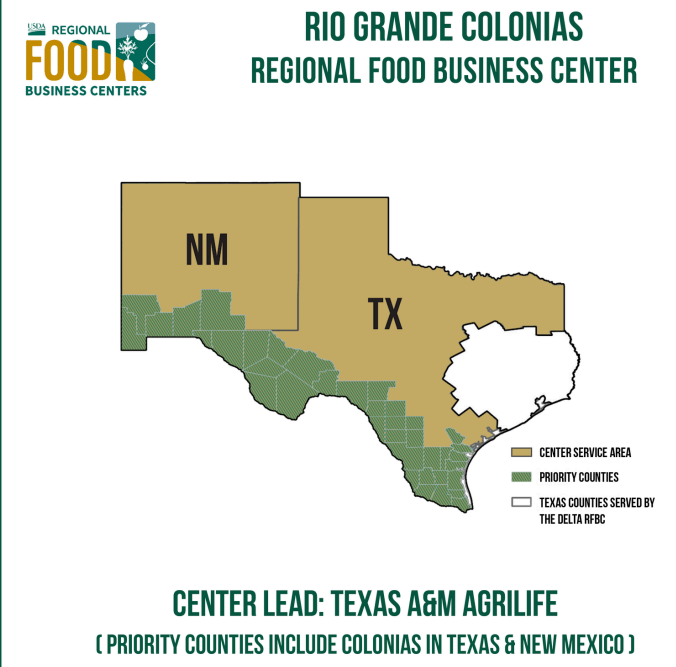
NEWSLETTER

Supporting small and mid-sized farmers and food businesses in Texas and New Mexico through post-harvest technical assistance, coordination, and funding opportunities.

You have subscribed to our newsletter, which will keep you up-to-date with all offerings from the Rio Grande Colonias USDA Regional Food Business Center. We will also share information about other regional food systems events, training resources, funding opportunities, and more. Thank you for reading!

ABOUT US

The Rio Grande Colonias USDA Regional Food Business Center is one of twelve Centers nationwide tasked with serving small to mid-sized farmers and food businesses with post-harvest support in three categories: Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Capacity Building. Each Center has a unique, regionally tailored approach. Our Center is serving Texas and New Mexico with focused assistance to Colonias in both states. Texas is fortunate to have support from two Centers, the Delta USDA Regional Food Business Center is serving 53 counties in East Texas. Visit our website to learn more about our service area!



GET READY FOR OUR GRANT LAUNCHES!

All farmers and food businesses applying for grant funding from a Regional Food Business Center must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

- If you do not have a UEI, you can register at: sam.gov
- The General Services Administration (GSA) has a thorough video explaining the process. Click the link below to learn more.

[GSA VIDEO](#)



CENTER UPDATE

Since our Center's launch in July of 2023 we have been hard at work laying the foundation for a variety of resources and hiring staff that will support our mission. We are excited to announce that our webinar series will be launching in February 2025 and our grant funding opportunities will begin launching March 3rd!

Thank you for your patience as we have worked to coordinate internally and with the USDA to best support you and your business. To learn more about eligibility, our upcoming funding opportunities, and sign-up for our webinar, please read on to page 2.

SAVE THE DATE FOR REGIONAL TRAININGS & EVENTS!

- **Rio Grande Colonias Webinar - Regional Trade** - February 10, *Virtual*
 - Register Here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A82WeX6-T6C10yvqPfyfNA#/registration
- **Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training** -- February 25-26 or April 22-23, *Virtual*
 - Register Here: <https://preparedness.nmsu.edu/events/psagrower.html>
- **Tejano Farmer and Rancher Conference + Food Systems Summit** --- April 22-24, McAllen, Texas
- **Field Guide Festival** -- April 25-27, Austin, Texas

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Our Center's grant applications open **March 3, 2025!** There are two different tracks, each with their own eligibility criteria and priorities. The charts below include eligibility highlights, please note that complete eligibility requirements will be released upon formal application launches.

FRONTERA FARM AND FOOD BUSINESS GRANT

- Business must operate in one of the Center's 38 Priority Counties.
- Eligible applicants will receive focused technical assistance (TA) and coordination support from Center staff.
- Non-Competitive Process: Completing technical assistance and meeting other outlined requirements will factor into eligibility for grant funding toward a specific post-harvest project or business need.
- Zero or more years in business
- Awards of up to \$50,000

BUSINESS BUILDER FARM AND FOOD GRANT

- Open broadly to farmers and food businesses across Texas and New Mexico, with the exception of 53 counties in East Texas being served by the [Delta USDA Regional Food Business Center](#).
- Competitive Request for Application (RFA) Process
- Funding can support a wide variety of approved post-harvest business needs.
- Must have been in business for a minimum of two years
- Gross revenue caps of \$500,000 for food producers and \$5,000,000 for food businesses.
- Awards of up to \$100,000



SAVE THE DATE!

Webinar: The Importance of Agricultural Trade and Economic Growth

Date: Monday, February 10th 2025

Time: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm CT

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

*Simultaneous Spanish Translation Available

[REGISTER HERE](#)



CONTACT US!

We are here to support you! For questions about grant and technical assistance eligibility, please visit our website and if you have additional questions about our Center, fill out the contact us form linked below:



rgcolonias.org



<https://rgcolonias.org/contact-us/>

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KEY PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

The Rio Grande Colonias USDA Regional Food Business Center is led by **Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension** via a cooperative agreement with the **USDA**. The Center is also supported by the combined expertise of several Key Partners and Collaborators in Texas and New Mexico:

- **Key Partners:** University of Texas Rio Grande Valley - Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Advancement (SARA), La Semilla Food Center, UTHHealth Houston School of Public Health in El Paso, Feeding Texas, and People Fund
- **Collaborators:** Desert Spoon Food Hub and Border City Distribution