

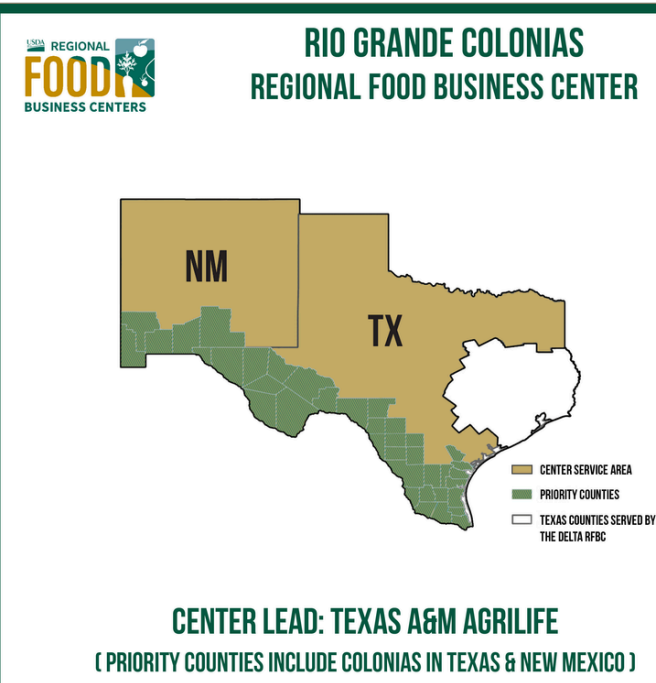


NEWSLETTER

You have subscribed to our newsletter, which will keep you up-to-date with the Rio Grande Colonias USDA Regional Food Business Center. We will share information about other regional food systems events, training resources, 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!



CENTER UPDATE

A Message to Our Valued Clients, Partners, and Stakeholders,

As you may have heard or read, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the termination of the Regional Food Business Centers program ([Termination of Regional Food Business Centers Programs | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)). This is a regrettable moment for those of us who have given our expertise and commitment to serve our community and advance our shared mission.

While this USDA program funding is ending, our dedication to transparency and goals of the program remain unchanged. We are actively working to ensure a smooth and responsible transition while we pursue other opportunities to continue this important food systems work. Indeed, our key partners and collaborators will continue to provide support for small and mid-sized food and farm businesses in Texas and New Mexico. Their ongoing efforts will help sustain the momentum we've built together and ensure that this good work continues.

As noted in the USDA announcement, centers that have executed or announced Business Builder subawards will have the option to continue managing those existing commitments through May 2026. For those who have already been selected as grant awardees, please be assured that we will provide timely updates on next steps and disbursement of funds as soon as they are available from USDA. Clients will receive communication about their application and grant award status in the following days and weeks.

As we navigate this transition, we remain determined to make a meaningful impact. Our team is focused on maximizing the value of our available resources to honor the legacy of this program and the communities we serve.

We express our profound gratitude to each of you, our clients, partners, and stakeholders, for your trust and collaboration in our work and achievements. Thank you for standing with us. We will continue to communicate openly and provide updates as we navigate this program closure together.

With sincere appreciation,

The Staff at the Rio Grande Colonias USDA Regional Food Business Center

SAVE THE DATE

- **Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course** - - August 4-6, College Station, Texas
 - **Register Here:** <https://beefcattleshortcourse.com/>
- **Understanding the New Mexico Homemade Food Act** - - August 11 @2:00pm-3:30pm MST
 - **Link Here:** [Zoom Link](#)
- **Texas Cottage Food Production Law** - - August 25 @2:00pm-3:30pm CST
 - **Link Here:** [Zoom Link](#)



DID YOU MISS ONE OF OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBINARS?

We have good news! All technical assistance webinars hosted by our Center are recorded in both English and Spanish and stored on our Vimeo channel! Visit the links below to catch up on any topics you missed:

- **English:** <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11685450>
- **Spanish:** <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11685447>
- **Main Channel:** <https://vimeo.com/rgcolonias>

[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

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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, UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in El Paso, and Feeding Texas
- **Collaborators:** Desert Spoon Food Hub, University of Texas at El Paso, and Border City Distribution