



NEWSLETTER

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

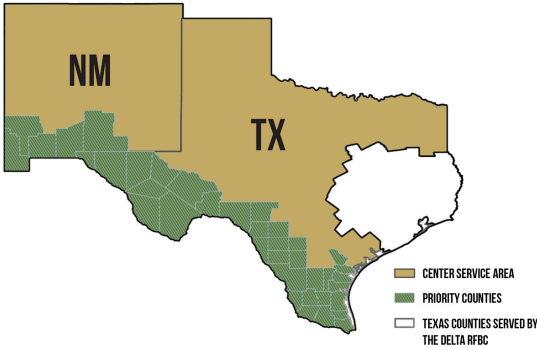
You have subscribed to our newsletter, which will keep you up-to-date with all offerings from the Rio Grande Colonias Regional Food Business Center. We will also share information about other regional food systems events, training resources, funding opportunities, and more. Thank you for reading!

ABOUT US

The Rio Grande Colonias 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. Visit our website to learn more about our service area!

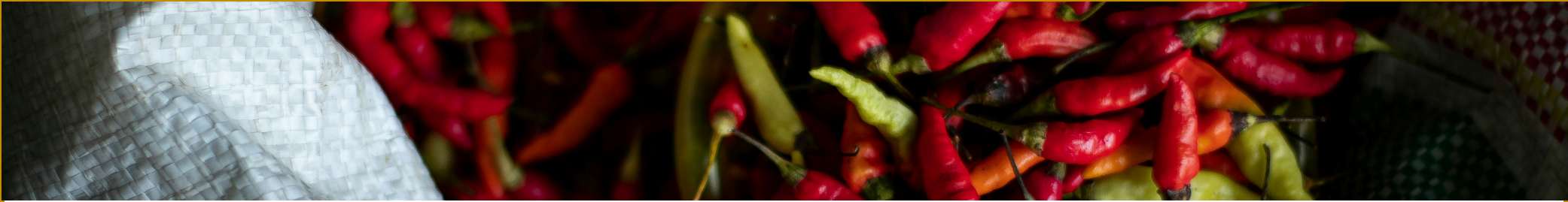


RIO GRANDE COLONIAS
REGIONAL FOOD BUSINESS CENTER



Center Service Area
Priority Counties
Texas Counties Served by the Delta RFB

CENTER LEAD: TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE
(PRIORITY COUNTIES INCLUDE COLONIAS IN TEXAS & NEW MEXICO)



CENTER UPDATE

As of September 15th, we closed the chapter on our Rio Grande Colonias USDA Regional Food Business Center program in its original form, our hearts are full of gratitude for the incredible support we've received from our Partners, Clients, and community.

The Rio Grande Colonias Regional Food Business Center will continue to facilitate the USDA Business Builder Grant Awards and work to make recipients projects as impactful as possible. We can't wait to share more about how their projects will positively impact Texas & New Mexico's food system.

Moving forward, we plan to continue the mission of the Regional Food Business Center program in every way we can. We will continue to build on the great foundation that was set, prioritize opportunities for greatest impact, and take strategic steps to get us where we want to be.

We remain dedicated to making a meaningful impact and will share news, opportunities, and voices that are a part of our Center and beyond. Stay tuned! Thank you for standing with us as we step into a new phase of our program.



RECENT EVENTS



FOOD & FARM BUSINESS: VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTION TOUR & FOOD SAFETY WORKSHOP

A huge thank you to Shannon Combest- Texas A&M AgriLife Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist who led an in person training/workshop. In partnership with the Texas A&M AgriLife Center at El Paso, Rio Grande Colonias USDA Regional Business Center, Border City Distribution, and Macheezmo Foods, INC., we brought together local farmers and small food entrepreneurs to explore what it takes to scale from cottage operations into full commercialization.

One of the highlights? A hands-on pH meter activity where attendees learned how to calibrate, measure, and properly store their meters – and went home with their very own pH meter and buffer solutions

EL PASO START UP WEEK

The Rio Grande Colonias Regional Food Business Center was proud to participate in this year’s El Paso StartUp Week, highlighting the importance of entrepreneurship in our agricultural communities.

Our Farmer Resource Fair and Workshop brought together producers, resource providers, and community partners. Farmers learned about funding opportunities and walked away with knowledge that will support their business growth and development.



CONTACT US!

We are here to support you! For questions, 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 Regional Food Business Center is led by **Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension**. 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, and Feeding Texas
- **Collaborators:** Desert Spoon Food Hub, University of Texas at El Paso, and Border City Distribution