

The Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers Community Based Organization (TSFR/CBO) is a private non-profit (501[c][3]) organization to provide information and education on agricultural related issues based on their following MISSION STATEMENT DISCLOSURE:

Purpose:

To establish and maintain the integrity and survival of small farmers and ranchers in the State of Texas by:

- Being an advocate of change while focusing on the plight of the rural communities.
- Providing information, education, training and addressing health needs to the historically un-served, underserved and other minorities in the rural communities.
- Providing a voice at local, state and national levels of government to bring equality to the historically under-represented and small farmers and ranchers.

The Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers Community Based Organization (TSFR/CBO) was established in 1998 as of result of the “100 Farmers Conference” Coalition signed into existence on August 7, 1998 and held at Langston University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with representation from each of the lower seventeen southern states. The purpose of the conference was to initiate a process by small and underserved farmers and rural residents to develop organizational capacity to impact public policy development.

Organizers of the 100 Farmers Conference included leadership and representatives from the National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees, the Center for Outreach Programs at Langston University and the Oklahoma Landowners and Tenants Association, Inc. They recognized the time had come for small and underserved farmers and ranchers to organize themselves, to effectively articulate their needs and issues, to chart their own destiny, and to begin to engage themselves in the public policy development process. By doing so, rural communities and residents will enhance their rural economies, conserve and manage natural resources better, prevent further decline of family farms, and generally improve their quality of life.

The Texas participants signing the 100 Farmers Conference Coalition included W. Wade Ross (current TSFR/CBO State Director) and Omar Garza (Texas/Mexico Border Coalition) which authorized them to return to Texas to organize and advance the cause of underserved communities. TSFR/CBO was founded in 1998 under the leadership of W. Wade Ross and received non-profit 501(C)3 status in March, 2001. In 2005 the organization was divided into 5 regions under the direction of Texas USDA/NRCS with outreach to counties within each region. In 2017 the organization expanded outreach beyond specified regions.

This CBO is actively accelerating assistance to minority, females, limited resource producers, veterans, beginning farmers and ranchers by providing outreach assistance in receiving information, technical and program assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), state and county agencies as well as, Texas A&M University, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M Commerce, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Texas A&M Overton, Prairie View A&M University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Houston Community College and the private sector.

The TSFR/CBO projects, workshops, activities and accomplishments include:

- Individual Ranch and Farm Support/Demonstration Field Days
- County Specific Conservation Practices
- Water Quality Workshops
- Risk Management Workshops
- Estate Planning Workshops

- Livestock Care Training
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Surplus Pine Tree Seeding Program
- Topography Map and Soil Analysis from Soil Sample Reports
- Youth Gardening Program
- Annual Sponsorship of Agriculture Career Workshop for Students (7 – 12 grades)
- Annual College Scholarships for High School Grads Pursuing Ag Major
- National Agriculture Statistics Services (NASS) Partnership Events
- NASS Advisory Council Representation
- National Grazing Land Conference Participation
- Website Information Sharing – www.TexasSmallFarmersandRanchersCBO.com

The primary affiliates and organizations that partner with and support TSFR/CBO activities and programs include:

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Texas State Technical Committee
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Rural Development (RD)
- Texas Agri-Life Extension Service
- National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS)
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Texas Railroad Commission
- Texas Environmental Quality Commission
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Resource Conservation & Development Councils
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- U.S. & Texas Forest Service
- Texas Chapter, National Organization of Black Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees
- Texas/Mexico Border Coalition

Currently, the TSFR/CBO organization serves multiple Texas counties primarily in East Texas with an expanding list of small farmers, ranchers, public and private sector associates and affiliates that participate in and support the organization's mission, activities, goals and projects. According to the by-laws, participation in organizational voting decisions and grant-acquired funding is limited to an annual paid membership which constitutes one farm, ranch or rural entity.

The very heart of our mission and purpose is the inclusion and count of **all** Socially Disadvantaged and Limited Resources agricultural operators in the State of Texas regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or economic level. Each operator counts and can make a difference in moving the agenda of saving small farms and ranches forward.