

Farm Fresh Network Member Spotlight



Alpha Foods

A family owned business taking pride
in serving Texas schools

Join the network
for free resources!

In the heart of Waller, Texas, stands [Alpha Foods](#), a family-owned company with a remarkable history. Commissioner Miller's Farm Fresh Initiative and the Texas Department of Agriculture's Farm Fresh Network have been pivotal resources for Alpha Foods. With an emphasis on quality and a commitment to their community, the partnership has flourished. "In collaboration with TDA's Farm Fresh Network, our focus is on putting out the best quality product that we can, the best quality pizzas and feeding children in Texas," shares Vice President Maria Bowen.

"We love that the Farm Fresh Network provides education for students to learn where their food comes from," Maria adds. She has greatly enjoyed seeing local schools tagging them on social media every year when they participate in the Farm Fresh Challenge. The recognition of their products is gratifying, as is the feeling of community. Additionally, she has received motivating feedback that the schools Alpha Foods works with have found that the introduction of locally sourced, whole grain pizza from Texas has increased student participation in school lunches.

Founded by Maria's father, the indomitable 86-year-old George Sarandos, Alpha Foods is more than a business – it's a testament to the power of perseverance and the spirit of giving back. At 86 years old, George continues to be a driving force at Alpha Foods, a fact that reflects the deep-rooted dedication fuels the company's mission. The inspiration behind their unwavering commitment to nourishing children stems from George's own past. An immigrant orphan from Greece, he and his siblings faced the harsh realities of food insecurity during his early years. This personal connection drives Alpha Foods' passion for serving the K-12 industry.

"What we really do is feed the children. Yes, we're making pizzas, but the passion that we have for feeding children stems from our roots," says Maria.

The process of joining the network was seamless and the Alpha Foods team celebrated their acceptance into the collaborative network for local Texas producers, immediately sharing the welcome letter with all of their ISD contacts. “We were proud and motivated by the recognition received from the Texas Department of Agriculture and shared the positive news with our production staff. We loved the posters and promotional items provided by the TDA team and use them at food shows and meetings with schools,” shared Maria.

Her advice to other businesses like hers? Maria emphasizes the importance of diversifying your sales portfolio and advises other producers to join the Farm Fresh Network.

“I feel very confident that our affiliation with the Farm Fresh Network and all of the sales efforts and the exposure that we have in participating in these regional food shows that, as a whole, it's very beneficial and has helped us increase sales... It's a class act. It's top notch. I would definitely recommend becoming a member by going through the quick steps.”

With their participation in the Farm Fresh Network, Alpha Foods knows they're playing a pivotal role in nourishing Texas children while championing the state's products. In their commitment, the legacy of George Sarandos lives on, resonating through every meal they serve and every child they nourish.

Are you a local farmer or producer? Don't wait to join Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller in the Farm Fresh Network and start reaping the rewards of this collaborative network designed to get local Texas products into Texas school and care facilities!



Join the Network



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711
Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL | For the hearing impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)



Food and Nutrition Division
Farm Fresh Initiative

This product was funded by USDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Updated 8/2023
www.SquareMeals.org