



Southwest/Southland Dairy Farmers'

# DAIRY LINE

A Quarterly Newsletter published by the Southwest Dairy Museum

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**INSIDE:** Hands-On Learning, Made With Dairy



## Being a Part of Everything That's Good: One Bag at a Time

On August 25, Southwest Dairy Farmers presented a \$15,500 check to Snack Pak 4 Kids in Amarillo to support its continued fight against childhood hunger. Southwest Dairy Farmers has proudly sponsored Snack Pak 4 Kids for 14 years.

During our visit, our team had the opportunity to roll up our sleeves and help pack Snack Paks for students in the Amarillo area. Working alongside the dedicated volunteers gave us a firsthand look at the time, care and effort that goes into making sure children have food to take home. It was meaningful to see their commitment in action and the difference these efforts can make for students and families.

We also toured the facility and learned more about the Snack Shack, which helps provide food to teens, and the Tillie Project, which supports grandparents and other caregivers raising children. According to Snack Pak 4 Kids, 65% of teachers reported seeing improved academic performance among students participating in the program.

Southwest Dairy Farmers is proud to support these programs and grateful for the opportunity to do more than provide financial support. By volunteering alongside those who make these programs possible, we were able to see firsthand the impact of their work in our community. 🐄





# Hands-On Learning, Made with Dairy

Sometimes the best way to learn is to get your hands a little messy, and that's exactly what students at Bethel Schools in Sugar Grove, North Carolina, are doing in their Foods and Nutrition class.

We are excited to introduce Bethel Schools as the very first recipient of the Southwest/Southland Dairy Farmers Culinary Dairy Products Grant. CTE teacher Chelsie Eldreth is using the \$300 award to bring dairy products into the classroom and give her students the opportunity to learn through hands-on cooking experiences.

With a class of 12 students, the grant helps turn their kitchen into a place to learn, create, and experiment. Students are working with dairy products as they prepare

recipes and discover how ingredients such as milk, cheese, and whipping cream can be used in different ways.

What makes this grant so special is getting to see the learning happening beyond the textbook. Students aren't simply talking about dairy or following along with a demonstration — they are measuring, mixing, and cooking with dairy.

We are especially excited to see this first grant being put into action at Bethel School. Supporting students as they build their culinary skills while incorporating dairy into their classroom is exactly what this grant was created to do.

We are grateful to Chelsie Eldreth and her students for being the first to take part in this new opportunity, and we can't wait to see where the Culinary Dairy Products Grant goes from here!

Congratulations, Bethel Schools, on being our first-ever Culinary Dairy Products Grant recipient! 🐮



## ..... Meet Our New Team Member .....

Chad Saunders serves as a Mobile Dairy Classroom Instructor for Southwest Dairy Farmers, where he is excited to continue his career in agricultural education and share the importance of the dairy industry with audiences across the region.

Chad earned his degree from Texas A&M University in 1997, where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets. He is originally from Devine, Texas, where he grew up on a ranch raising registered Brahman cattle. His upbringing in agriculture sparked a lifelong passion for the industry and led him to pursue a career focused on agricultural education.

Before joining Southwest Dairy Farmers, Chad spent 29 years as an



agriculture science teacher. He also gained experience as a veterinary technician and as a wrangler on a ranch in Colorado. These experiences have given Chad a broad understanding of agriculture and has allowed him to share firsthand knowledge of the many different aspects of the industry.

In his role as a Mobile Dairy Classroom Instructor, Chad is excited to educate the public about the importance of the dairy industry in our daily lives. He enjoys sharing the knowledge he has gained throughout his lifetime and connecting with others through agricultural education.

Outside of work, Chad enjoys spending time outdoors, attending sporting events, and spending time with his friends and family. He is the father of two children, a daughter and a son. A fun fact about Chad is that he rode bulls in high school and even made a brief appearance in *8 Seconds*, the biographical film about legendary bull rider Lane Frost. 🐮

# OUT & ABOUT

*Southwest Dairy Farmers Team  
Serving Chocolate Milk at the  
State Fair of Texas*



*Madeline Hettinga & Amanda Phelps  
volunteering at Snack Pak 4 Kids*



*Mobile Dairy Classroom  
Instructor Suzie Reece at the  
Oklahoma State Fair*



*Mobile Dairy Classroom Instructor  
Charlotte Boyett at Kids & Kows & More*



*Southland Dairy Farmers at the  
Kentucky State Fair Cheese Auction*



*Mobile Dairy Classroom Instructor  
Kayler Frick at the Wilson County/  
Tennessee State Fair*



*Mobile Dairy  
Classroom Instructor  
Kayler Frick at the  
State Fair of Texas*



*Mobile Dairy Classroom Instructor  
Todd Griffin at the New Mexico State Fair*

## Where Texas Agriculture Takes Center Stage



The State Fair of Texas is a celebration of everything that makes the Lone Star State special, and Southwest Dairy Farmers is proud to be part of it!

For years, Southwest Dairy Farmers has proudly sponsored the GO TEXAN Pavilion and the GO TEXAN General Store, helping provide a place where visitors can experience the many products, businesses, and people that make Texas agriculture unique. This long-standing partnership reflects Southwest Dairy Farmers' commitment to supporting local agriculture businesses, Texas producers, and the communities they call home.

The GO TEXAN General Store is a great example of this commitment, bringing together products from Texas businesses and giving visitors the opportunity to discover and support locally made goods. By helping showcase these businesses year after year, Southwest Dairy Farmers is proud to play a role in connecting consumers with the people behind the products and highlighting the strength and diversity of Texas agriculture.

The 25,000-square-foot GO TEXAN Pavilion showcases hundreds of products made by GO TEXAN-certified businesses. Visitors can explore Texas-made foods, specialty products, hand-crafted goods, and much more.

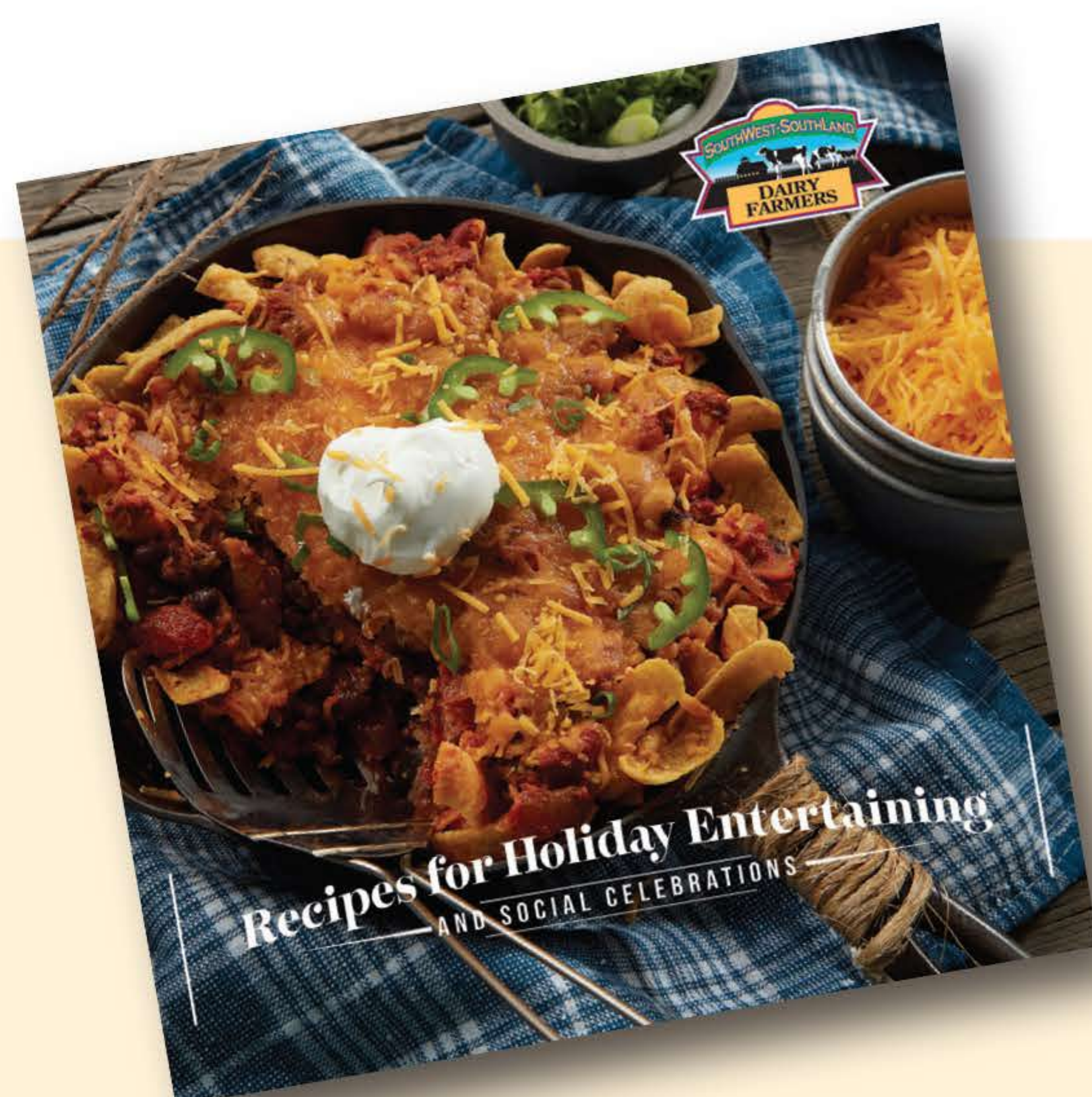
Southwest Dairy Farmers is especially proud to support an event that celebrates agriculture in so many ways. Dairy farmers are an important part of Texas agriculture, and opportunities like the GO TEXAN Pavilion and General Store help us share the story of agriculture with the public while supporting fellow Texas producers and agribusinesses.

Our involvement with GO TEXAN is more than simply sponsoring a space at the State Fair. It's about supporting Texas agriculture, investing in local businesses and communities, connecting consumers with producers, and celebrating the people who keep agriculture moving forward. 🐮



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



This year, Southwest/Southland Dairy Farmers are doing something a little different!

Instead of our traditional calendar, we are excited to introduce a recipe booklet filled with delicious ideas for every occasion. From holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas to more casual gatherings like game day or brunch, there's something for all your friends and family to enjoy at every occasion. And, of course, every recipe features wonderful dairy products!

The goal is to create something that can be enjoyed throughout the year and be used in the kitchen.

## A First Taste of Something New

Whether you're looking for something to make for a holiday celebration or just need a new recipe for a Saturday afternoon with friends, this booklet offers plenty of ideas to try.

The recipe booklet will be sent to the standard mailing list that has received our annual calendar, so those recipients can look forward to something new in their mailboxes this year. If you would like to receive the recipe booklet but are not currently on our mailing list, you can sign up online through the Southwest/Southland Dairy Farmers website. We'd love to have you join us for delicious dairy recipes!

## EVENTS

**October 1–11, 2026**

Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa, OK

**October 2-11, 2026**

Carolina Classic Fair, Winston-Salem, NC

**October 15-25, 2026**

North Carolina State Fair, Raleigh, NC

**October 16-17, 2026**

Missouri Special Olympics, Springfield, MO

**October 22, 2026**

Oklahoma Special Olympics, Tulsa, OK

**November 1, 2026**

Bass Pro Marathon, Springfield, MO

**December 11-13, 2026**

BMW Dallas Marathon Weekend,  
Dallas, TX

We hope this booklet inspires you to try something new, gather around the table and enjoy delicious recipes made with dairy. 🐮