

Commissioner Todd Staples
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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**COMMISSIONER STAPLES AWARDS FUNDING FOR GO TEXAN RURAL
COMMUNITIES**

AUSTIN - Commissioner Todd Staples is pleased to announce the Texas Department of Agriculture has awarded 21 GO TEXAN Rural Community Beautification matching grants to cities and counties that wish to improve the aesthetic appearance of their downtown areas.

"The appeal of the downtown area is vital to the success of any city," Commissioner Staples said. "21st-century rural Texas expands beyond farming and ranching to capitalize on our state's vast natural resources and rich heritage. It is essential our communities attract tourists and retirees to generate economic prosperity and add to our powerfully productive agricultural base. These GO TEXAN matching grant funds will assist in creating opportunities for tomorrow, today."

The GO TEXAN Rural Community Beautification Grant Program, housed under the Rural Economic Development Division, has awarded matching grants to the cities of Clifton, Coldspring, Cross Plains, Eden, Elgin, Giddings, Hearne, Henrietta, Iraan, Jefferson, Lampasas, Los Fresnos, Meridian, Natalia, Paducah, Quitman, Silsbee, Whitesboro, and Yorktown as well as the counties of Throckmorton (on behalf of the City of Throckmorton) and Uvalde (on behalf of the City of Utopia). The total amount of matching funds granted is \$96,879.

The GO TEXAN Rural Community program is designed to market and promote rural Texas as well as educate the public about everything rural Texas has to offer. It shines a spotlight on the Texas communities working hard to boost tourism, job growth, leadership mentoring, community development and other economic opportunities.

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