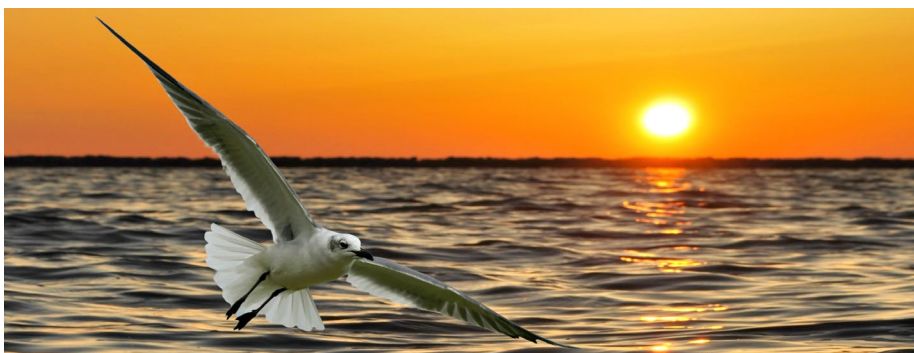




**State Office of
Rural Health**

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

**Judicial Mental Health
Collaborative Council
5/14/24**



Caring for Those who Care for Others



Dedicated to serving the health needs of rural Texas. The SORH staff work with local health care providers and other partners to support access to quality health care for rural Texas.

Through a variety of programs, SORH works to support rural health providers by providing technical assistance on finance, operations, and quality.

SORH Core Functions

1. Collection and Dissemination of Information
2. Provision of Technical Assistance
3. Coordination of Rural Health Activities



Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program

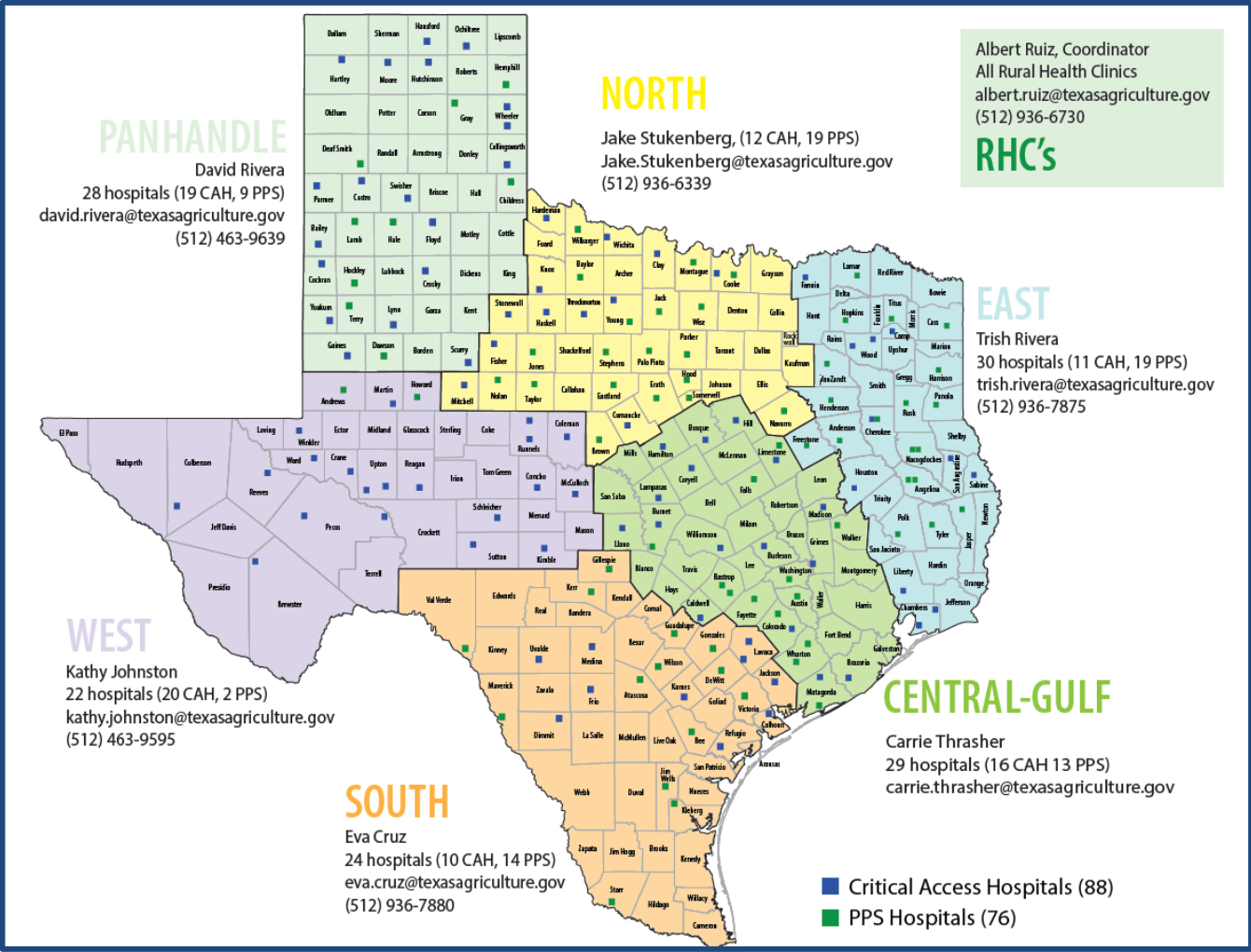
HRSA funded to address Critical Access Hospital needs

Core Areas of Support:

1. Improve Financial and Operational Outcomes
2. Improve Quality of Care

A Regional Approach

- ❖ North
- ❖ East
- ❖ Central-Gulf
- ❖ South
- ❖ West
- ❖ Panhandle



Texas Rural Healthcare Facilities

90

Critical Access
Hospitals



354

Rural Health
Clinics



72

Federally Qualified
Health Centers*



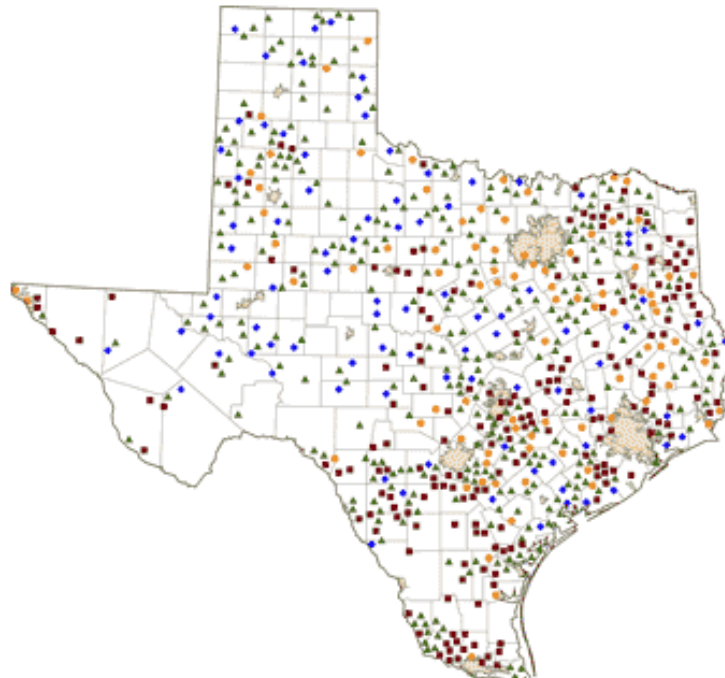
68

Short Term/PPS
Hospitals*



4

Rural Emergency
Hospitals



*Sites according to [data.HRSA.gov](https://data.hrsa.gov) (January 2023), showing only locations outside of [U.S Census Bureau](https://www.census.gov/urban-areas) Urban Areas with a population of 50,000 or more

Impact of Rural Hospital Closure

- Patients must travel greater distances to receive care
- Possible loss of emergency care
- On average a loss of 170 jobs
- Loss of population
- Loss of sales tax revenue to local government
- Reduction of school enrollment numbers, drives down state payments to schools
- Harm to local businesses
- Impedes community growth

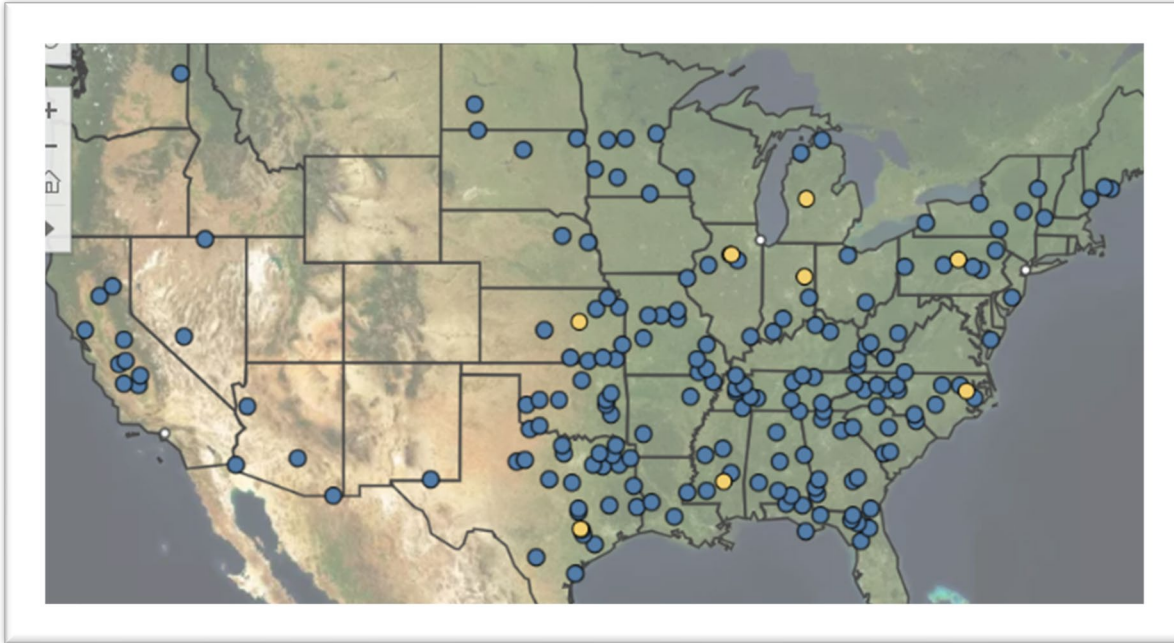


Why are rural Americans at greater risk for poor health outcomes?



- Higher rates of:
 - Smoking
 - High blood pressure
 - COPD
 - Diabetes
 - Obesity
 - Heart Disease
- Less leisure-time physical activity
- Lower seatbelt use
- Higher rates of poverty
- Lower levels of health literacy
- Less access to healthcare
- Less likely to have health insurance

Rural Hospital Closures



- **Nationally:**
 - 192 rural hospitals in the US have closed since 2005.¹
 - 104 have closed completely.¹
 - 88 converted and no longer provide inpatient services.¹
 - 600 (30%) in the US were at recent risk of closing due to financial pressures.²
 - Since January 2023, 18 have converted to Rural Emergency Hospitals.
- **Texas:**
 - 26 perm or temp closures in Texas since 2020.³
 - Only one closure in Texas since 2020.
 - 76 Texas hospitals are at risk of closure, 12 are at immediate risk.³

1. Cecil G Sheps Center for Health Services Research – University of North Carolina
2. Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform
3. Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals

Programs/Projects

- SHIP - Assists small rural hospitals in their quality improvement efforts and with adaptation to changing payment systems through investments in hardware, software, and related trainings.
- CIP – Rural Health Capital Improvement Program – Provides up to \$75,000 in fund for hospitals to make capital improvements to existing facilities, construct new health facilities, and to purchase capital equipment including hardware and software.
- Rural Health Clinic Support – Technical Assistance, RHC Tool Kit, RHC Cohort group
- St. David’s Foundation, Temple Foundation, New-Nurse Scholarship – Workforce Retention funds
- Board Education – Free training to rural hospital boards
- Workforce Recruitment - 3RNet Texas representative
- Rural Community Paramedicine Program – providing paramedicine training to 4 EMS communities in the Panhandle. Goal is to decrease hospital readmissions and improve community health.
- Rural Hospital Broadband Initiative – New project
- Data Support Project
 - Analyzing outmigration to other service areas
 - Costs of services in other areas

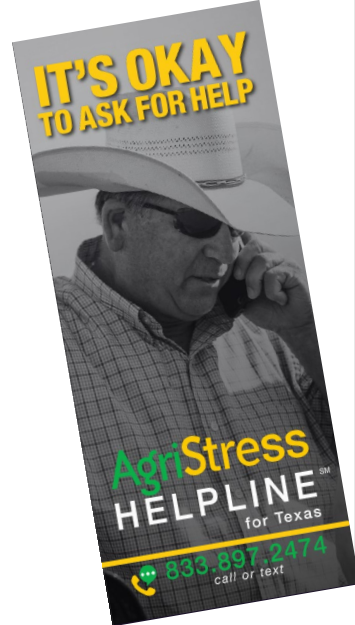


Texas Farmer's Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Program

- The program sheds light on farmer mental health issues and brings awareness to the signs and symptoms of stress in agricultural work.
- According to the CDC, the suicide rate of those in agriculture is greater than the general population. As an occupation along with forestry and fishing, agriculture has the 4th highest rate of suicide.
- Agricultural occupations are vulnerable to circumstances that are out of their control, such as unpredictable weather patterns, falling market prices, labor shortages and legacy issues.
- In Texas, 75% of the 406 federal Mental Health Professional Shortage Area (MHPSA) designations are in rural areas. Farmers and ranchers who may be of the greatest need of any occupational group are going without vital mental health services.
- The Texas Department of Agriculture is partnering with:
 - UT Tyler Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education (UT SWAG) – Ag Mental Health Public Awareness campaign
 - AgriSafe – Helpline development and launch, FarmResponse training



Public Awareness Campaign – UT SWAG



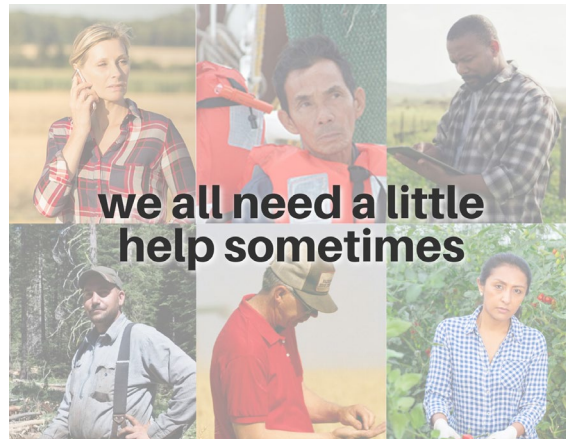
HOW TO HELP

Start a conversation.

It's okay to acknowledge feelings of anxiousness, hopelessness or even thoughts of suicide. Tough conversations today could prevent tragedy tomorrow.

If you know someone that is experiencing emotional pain or thoughts of suicide...

1. Ask if they want to talk and let them know you care about them.
2. Listen to them well.
3. Familiarize yourself with available mental and behavioral health resources.
4. Connect them to help then follow up.
5. Reduce access to lethal means, such as fire arms, if you think someone is at risk of suicide.



- Radio and video PSAs to all rural media
- Social media posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram by UT SWAG and TDA
- Brochures, postcards in English & Spanish
- Giveaways – rubber bracelets, picture frame magnets
- Mental Health Wellness Kit w/ 30 minute Mental Health First Aid training opportunity to all county extension agents and TDA Field Reps and Livestock pen staff

Year 3 - Youth & Faith-Based Campaigns

- Future Farmers of America, 4-H clubs and Ag Teachers
- All faiths and denominations outreach



NEED TO TALK?

AgriStress
HELPLINE™
for Texas
833.897.2474
call or text



**NEED HELP?
WE HAVE THE
EGGSPERTS.**

AgriStress
HELPLINE™
for Texas
833.897.2474
call or text



**A helpline you
can hang your
hat on.**

AgriStress
HELPLINE™
for Texas
833.897.2474
call or text




**When
everything
seems lost,
there's hope.**

AgriStress
HELPLINE™
for Texas
833.897.2474
call or text



**LIFE
GETS
MESSY.**

AgriStress
HELPLINE™
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**WE'RE
ALL
EARS.**

AgriStress
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**You are
worth
more
here.**

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**You
are not
alone.**

AgriStress
HELPLINE™
for Texas
833.897.2474
call or text

Helpline – 833-897-2474

- A Texas-specific 24/7 toll-free helpline where agricultural workers and producers can receive resources and crisis counseling services via telephone and text.
 - staffed by credentialed professionals trained to respond appropriately to the agricultural community through a program, FarmResponse, developed by experts in mental health, agriculture production, mediation, and financial analysis.
 - utilizes a "care navigation" process that triages for safety with crisis intervention and response directs callers to the appropriate resources for their situation.



IT'S OK TO ASK FOR HELP

Have you experienced problems like rising costs, market fluctuations, family conflicts, or extreme weather?

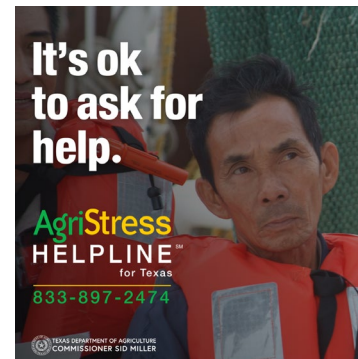
Are you stressed or feeling defeated?

Even the toughest people
NEED HELP sometimes.

AgriStress
HELPLINESM
for Texas

833-897-2474

Scan code to save the number



It's ok to ask for help.

AgriStress
HELPLINESM
for Texas

833-897-2474

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Things can be replaced.

You can't be.

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FarmResponse Online Learning

- The Farm Response course addresses farm/ranching cultural competencies, financial stress, land ownership and legacy issues, and the work of agriculture.
- The Farm Response training will be made available at no charge to up to 250 additional health care and mental health providers that serve Texas agriculture workers.



FarmResponseSM Online Learning
FarmResponseSM is a 3.5-hour continuing education module developed by national experts from the AgriStress Response Network.

AgriSafe's *FarmResponse* course provides the full range of competencies necessary to provide appropriate mental healthcare for agricultural producers and their families. This knowledge is critical for a wide range of healthcare professionals to effectively care for a farmer's total health.

The topics covered in *FarmResponse* include:

- The Total Farmer Health Model
- AgriBusiness Factors Impacting Mental Well Being
- Agriculture Work Factors
- Family Dynamics
- Agrarian Culture and Values
- Special Populations
- US Agricultural Producer Demographics
- Agricultural Community Healthcare Challenges
- Opioids and Alcohol Issues in Agriculture
- Suicide and Agriculture
- Resources and Referrals

Learners can earn a digital badge to acknowledge their accomplishment and dedication to serving the unique healthcare needs of the agricultural community!

Free Training Opportunity for Texas Professionals:

The Texas Department of Agriculture has generously sponsored 250 free seats on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information scan the QR code!


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Continuing education details are available on the other side of this flyer! 

agrisafe.org



Continuing Education for Multiple Disciplines:

The Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety offers 0.35 CEU or 3.5 contact hours of participation. This course is eligible for 3.5 CPH Recertification Credits and is sponsored by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, an approved provider of CPH Recertification Credits by the National Board of Public Health Examiners.


MCOHS

The following groups of professionals have been able to use these CEUs in the past: Industrial Hygiene (CIH), Certified Public Health Professional (CPH), Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Nursing (RN, LPN), Social Work (LSW), Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), Audiology (ABA), and others. Please contact your accrediting agency regarding any questions about receiving credits.


SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Medical Association designates this enduring series for a maximum of 3.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.


MINNESOTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Minnesota Medical Association and AgriSafe Network. The Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.


MCOHS

Interested in learning more?
Scan the QR code for FarmResponse program details!



agrisafe.org

Rural Health Resources

- Rural Health Information Hub (RHI hub) - <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/>
 - Rural Updates and Alerts – subscribe here: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/updates>
 - Find Rural Data
 - Funding Opportunities
 - Am I Rural?
- National Rural Health Association - www.ruralhealth.us
- Rural Health Research Gateway - <https://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/>
 - Research Centers
 - Research Alerts and Rural Health Research Recaps
- HRSA Data Warehouse - <https://data.hrsa.gov/>
 - Search and Create Maps
 - Query Data
 - View HRSA Fact Sheets



How can we help? Contact Us:

- South Region - Eva Cruz: Eva.Cruz@TexasAgriculture.gov
- Central-Gulf – Carrie Trasher: Carrie.Thrasher@TexasAgriculture.gov
- East Region - Trish Rivera: Trish.Rivera@TexasAgriculture.gov
- North Region – Jake Stukenberg: Jake.Stukenberg@TexasAgriculture.gov
- West Region - Kathy Johnston: Kathy.Johnston@TexasAgriculture.gov
- Panhandle Region – David Rivera: David.Rivera@TexasAgriculture.gov



You may call 512-463-0018 or email RuralHealth@TexasAgriculture.gov for immediate assistance