

Oak Farms
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For Immediate Release

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OAK FARMS DAIRY PROVIDES MILK TO 125,000 NORTH TEXAS CHILDREN
*Donation of Shelf-Stable "Giving Cow" Milks will be Distributed through the
North Texas Food Bank's School Backpack Program*

DALLAS, Texas (March 11, 2022) — When Oaks Farms® Dairy of Dallas learned that one of the most requested items for food pantries and school backpack programs was milk — but that milk was rarely donated, due to the challenge of refrigerating such donations — the dairy company was determined to help contribute to a solution.

Today, Oak Farms Dairy announced that it will donate 125,000 specially designed, shelf stable "Giving Cow™" milks to the [North Texas Food Bank \(NTFB\)](#) for distribution to children in its Food 4 Kids backpack program that operates in more than 300 schools, serving up to 11,000 chronically hungry children each week.

The NTFB's Food 4 Kids program provides backpacks full of nutritious, nonperishable, kid-friendly food to elementary and middle school children on the free and reduced-price school meal program who often face hunger at home when meals are not available on weekends. During the 2020-2021 school year, the Food 4 Kids program served more than 1.2 million meals to children across the 13 counties the NTFB serves in North Texas.

Giving Cow Milks Offer a Shelf-Stable Solution

The single-serve, 8-ounce packs of ultra-high temperature (UHT) pasteurized milk have a shelf-life of up to 12 months. Typically, fresh milk has a shelf life of approximately 20 days from processing. The Giving Cow milk packages are specifically designed for food pantries and kids backpack programs to fight hunger and will not be sold in stores.

"Incredibly, the average Texan served by food pantries receives *less than one gallon of milk per person a year* because many food pantries don't have the refrigeration needed to keep donated

milk fresh,” says John Smrcina, General Manager for Oak Farms Dairy. “As a result, thousands of people in our community are missing out on nutrient-rich milk.”

Adds Smrcina, “What’s especially striking is that there’s no part of Texas where hunger doesn’t exist. Right here in North Texas, food insecurity affects one in six people, including 300,000 children, giving the NTFB service area the fourth-highest level of food-insecure children in the country.”

“Oak Farms Dairy is helping the North Texas Food Bank serve hungry children through its generous support and donation of highly sought-after shelf-stable milk,” says Reid Ainsworth, North Texas Food Bank Director of Food Sourcing. “Given the ongoing shortage of milk and the inflated prices of food nationwide, we’re immensely grateful for this unique gift that children need to lead healthy lives and thrive at school and home. Thank you, Oak Farms Dairy for your commitment to hunger-relief in our community.”

For more information about The Giving Cow program and to keep up with how Oak Farms Dairy is making a difference, go to thegivingcow.com and click on the Oak Farms logo.

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About Oak Farms® Dairy

Oak Farms Dairy is a leading dairy brand in Texas and has been delighting families with wholesome and delicious dairy products since 1908. In May 2020, Oak Farms Dairy became a farmer-owned brand of Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), a national dairy cooperative owned by more than 12,500 family farmers. 100% of profits go to dairy farmers and their families. For more information, visit oakfarmsdairy.com.

About the North Texas Food Bank

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is a top-ranked non-profit hunger-relief organization that sources, packages and distributes food through a network of more than 200 Partner Agencies across 13 North Texas counties. The organization also provides food to children, seniors and families through various direct-delivery programs, including mobile pantries.

In its last fiscal year, the NTFB provided access to more than 125 million nutritious meals, a 28% percent increase over the prior year. In response to the ongoing elevated hunger crisis, the organization has launched a \$500 million campaign, Nourish North Texas, to provide more food for today and hope for tomorrow by addressing the root causes of food insecurity.

The North Texas Food Bank is designated a 4-Star Exceptional organization by Charity Navigator based on its governance, integrity and financial stability. NTFB is a member of Feeding America, the nation’s largest hunger-relief organization.