



Trump doubles down on support for Texas House Speaker Burrows

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Wildfires trigger relief programs for ranchers



Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller outlines fencing, feed and recovery assistance for ranchers affected by Panhandle wildfires Friday in Amarillo. MICHAEL CUVIELLO / AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

Miller details farm assistance during Amarillo briefing

Michael CuvIELLO
Amarillo Globe-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller on Friday, Feb. 20 outlined agricultural relief programs for Panhandle ranchers as large wildfires continued burning across the region amid dry fuels and strong winds.

Speaking at a news conference in Amarillo alongside Panhandle officials,

Miller said he declared an agricultural disaster, allowing the Texas Department of Agriculture to activate assistance focused on livestock feed, financial aid and rural mental-health support.

The announcement comes as the Lavender Fire and 8-Ball Fire remain active across the High Plains, damaging rangeland and fencing and complicating containment efforts for firefighters.

Feed and fencing assistance

The department's hay and feed hotline is operating 24 hours a day to coordinate donations and deliveries.

Producers who need hay or want to donate can call 877-429-1998 or visit TexasAgriculture.gov.

Miller said Texas currently has adequate grazing in some areas but

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Amarillo College audit finds no missing funding

Nell Williams
Amarillo Globe-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Amarillo College on Wednesday released results from an independent forensic audit reviewing construction projects, bank account and investment account activity, internal communications, and financial reporting to the Board of Regents from 2019 through 2025.

The audit, which was commissioned in October 2025 and conducted by national accounting firm Weaver, was initiated after administrative reviews identified inconsistencies that merited deeper investigation, according to a news release from AC.

In November, the AC Board of Regents held a special meeting to address a shortage of \$2.3 million to cover projects outlined in a 2019 bond package.

The audit found no evidence of missing or misappropriated funds, but did note a failure to adequately and timely report some funds to the Board of Regents, according to the news release.

Later, AC's Vice President of Business Affairs, Chris Sharp, was suspended and submitted his resignation on Nov.12, 2025.

"When procedural questions came to light, it was important not to assume, but to investigate," said Dr. Janelle Conner, President of Amarillo College. "We are committed to accountability to our taxpayers, employees, and our students - and want to give our community the full facts provided by this report."

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Hub City BBQ Cookoff closed to public

Alana Edgin
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

This year's Hub City BBQ Cookoff event will look different with several changes, the biggest making it closed to the public.

Here's what to know about the changes to the 2026 Hub City BBQ Cookoff, announced via social media.

What is the Hub City BBQ Cookoff?

The cookoff, hosted by the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, has pitted pitmasters and their teams against each other to make the best ribs, brisket, cook's choice, bloody mary, or dessert. The entries are judged and winners are

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A 2022 Hub City BBQ Cookoff competitor smokes sausage at the South Plains fairgrounds. ANNIE RICE/AVALANCHE-JOURNAL FILE

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