

2022 End of Year Report

Central Texas Young Farmers Coalition

At a glance:

- 2 news articles mentioned CTYFC
- 10 newsletters sent, reaching 390+ subscribers each week
- 11 events and socials
- 400+ new Followers on Instagram
- Added two new CTYFC leaders
- Attended two local conferences
- Attended one In-District meeting



Overview:

We were as graceful as a newborn calf when new leaders took over the coalition in late 2021. It took much of 2022 to realize that ambition can easily overshadow the nourishment of celebration and what is realistic to extend our time in energy to. Over the year we hosted 11 events, grew our social media following, and tabled at three separate fairs and conferences throughout the year. All the while, most of us were still farming full-time. The transformation of our accomplishments is undeniable, but there were times throughout the year when the work still felt incomplete, lacking, and like enough wasn't being done. *Phew*

In short, we were getting distracted from essential community experiences and voices that we set out to focus on in the beginning of the year. With retrospect, time for reflection and rest, and extrinsic motivation, we got more realistic about time and how much work we were taking on as volunteers. We learned how to celebrate. As a grassroots organization, CTYFC is constantly reflecting on our approach, our biases, our knowledge gaps, and a commitment to learning and unlearning so that we can genuinely support the people who grow our food in this region. It's our goal to be an extended hand and connective tissue for those just getting their footing. Young and beginning farmers play a critical role in the continued success of our state's agricultural sector and rural development.

Yet, much knowledge sharing in the farm community is still afforded on self-reliance, gate-keeping, and learn-as-you-go opportunities. There is no roadmap of data, resources, and funding opportunities for new farmers that can be easily searched for—no magical compass to dictate our individual farm journeys. We can do more by letting go of the pursuit of individual power and focusing on the ways we can transfer that power to others. This is especially true of organization leaders and historically white-dominated space in agriculture.

As farmers in conversation, our work here is participatory. Community-led. The solutions come from us. Because we know what we need better than anyone else, it's our collective responsibility to see our communities at the forefront of the struggle for land, food, and justice not as passive beneficiaries but as active and autonomous agents of change. By banding together and supporting one another, we can help create a positive environment for young farmers to network, exchange ideas, and become better farmers. We hope you join us in 2023.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hayley Wood".

Hayley Wood

Director for CTYFC

Central Texas Young Farmers Coalition

CTYFC



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Mission and Values

2022 Leadership Team

Hayley Wood - CTYFC Director

Mo (Mariana) Bonilla - Treasurer

Katie Tritsch - Development Lead

Thu Nguyen - Communication Coordinator

Anamaria Gutierrez - Events Coordinator

Tentative events for 2023

April: Skillshare Event at Farmshare

June/July: Virtual Workshop

August: SFFFS Conference tabling

October: Farm Party community celebration and fundraiser



Central Texas Young Farmers Coalition (CTYFC) is a fiscally-sponsored chapter of the National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC), connecting us to a national policy voice. More info about NYFC online.

Mission:

Central Texas Young Farmers Coalition's mission is to support young and beginning farmers in Central Texas through education, connection, and advocacy.

Vision:

We envision a collaborative and diverse farming community through which young and beginning farmers make a living as a key component in agricultural production and ecological stewardship.

Celebration

We want to celebrate all the new and former leadership members who joined and resigned from CTYFC in 2022. Our latest members, Hannah Beall and Erin Gomez, bring a passion-driven zest to the leadership goals. They are incredibly resourceful and are eager to lend a hand in the community. We also said goodbye to two sustaining and pivotal leaders, Anamaria Gutierrez and Mo Bonilla. Mo was the first and only person to work with Hayley in 2021 to start a new CTYFC leadership and set a foundation for treasurer duties. Anamaria gave us reminded us what it means to be intentional and generous with our time and bodies and selflessly offered her growing space, Este Garden, as a flagship gathering space for our monthly socials. While they are more than just these short accolades, we want to give them endless gratitude for their contributions and continued support of the chapter. Growing up with this chapter has been nothing short of extraordinary. I'd also like to celebrate our ambitions for hosting monthly events in the summer and fall, taking a shot at our first grant application, and testing new methods of outreach.

What we look forward to:

Intentionality! More gatherings! In-person conversations! Policy!

Over the next year, we're planning fewer but more specific events and workshops in Central Texas. We're getting smart about how we extend ourselves, *happily* asking for help and advice, and more importantly, we are looking to you to share the vision and bring your ideas to fruition.

#1. Now calling on folks to start and chair their own committees; this will allow us to share the infrastructure of our network with folks who can share the work of spearheading social events, special projects, and advocacy. #2 This year, we're continuing applying to grants to execute more workshop trainings and stipends for leaders; #3 We'll be holding general meetings biannually to share ideas in person; and #4 relaunching the second Farm Party for October 2023!



2022 Timeline

January	To start the year, we attended our first TOFGA conference as a team and continued our annual tradition of Farmer Trivia! We held one leadership meeting and officially welcomed in Katie and Anamaria as leadership for the new year.
February	We gathered in person to work on coalition strategy for the year and to workshop our values and alignment as a team. This inspiring session brought us closer as colleagues and with the CTYFC mission. Later in the month, we set dates for regular leadership meetings and planned events for 2023.
March	Hayley and Katie met with Judith of FARFA to introduce collaboration ideas and discuss policy concerns for 2023. We held our first virtual workshop: Central Texas Tomatoes with Montana Stovall of Dancing Bear Farms. At the end of the month, Anamaria hosted a happy hour at jester king brewery. We sent out our first newsletter!
April	Katie hosted a virtual information session with Kat Nelson of NCAT on upcoming Grants for Texan farmers. Hayley tabled at the St. Edwards Earth Day fair and did some outreach with students.
May	No events. Regularly scheduled leadership meetings.
June	Mo Bonilla finished her duties as Treasurer and resigned from CTYFC. Katie and Hayley discussed applicable grants that the coalition could apply for funding and set meetings to write and work on the grant proposal. We held our first installment of farmer social hours at Este Garden with a turnout of about 20 folks! We were also featured in an article for Yahoo News titled " <i>Gen Z and millennial farmers face funding issues, isolation, and major knowledge gaps — this group wants to change that.</i> "
July	Second farmer hour at Este with low turnout (bad heat wave!) Katie continued to enhance and develop the grant proposal.
August	Hayley met with the leader of the New Orleans Young Farmer chapter to swap ideas about advocacy. We held the third farmer social at Este Garden with a stellar turnout and a DIY Bandana table that folks loved! We raised about \$50 from bandana sales. Hayley and Katie attended a policy meeting at SFC with other Texas Food organizations. Hayley, Katie, and Anamaria attended the SFFFS Conference in San Marcos, TX. At the end of the month, we submitted our first grant as a coalition with a local private foundation!
September	September farmer social: we made bandanas and had a generous donation from the Meridian Hive and Jester King Brewery! Hayley attended a District-In meeting with a representative from Michael Cloud (TX-27). Anamaria assisted with translation services for the 2022 National Young Farmer Survey Report!
October	Virtual event: Info session on Grants and Loans hosted by Katie and Shakera Raygoza of Preta Terra Farms. We hosted our last farmer social of the year at Este Garden. We had a fantastic turn out for our Fruit Tree workshop with James "Figbeard" at Este Garden! We help open elections for those interested in joining CTYFC leadership.
November + December	Unfortunately, we were not awarded our grant. No new events were scheduled for the end of the year due to the holiday season. However, we had four regular leadership meetings, including a strategic planning session with Carolina Mueller and Kim Cook of NYFC. Hayley onboarded our new treasurer, Erin Gomez. We continued to send updates through our newsletter.