



Lumbermen's Association of Texas & Louisiana

Serving Dealers. Supporting Builders. Since 1886.

Commissioner Staples' office has asked us to spread the word to retailers who might be able to assist those producers who have been harmed by the Texas Wildfires. Please see the information below and attached which explain how you might become a vendor. If you have already agreed to participate, we thank you. If you are not able to qualify; however, please pass along the word to your fellow area businesses who might not be aware of the program.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) recently launched the [2011 Operation New Fences](#) recovery program. This program utilizes the State of Texas Agriculture Relief (STAR) Fund to provide vouchers to agricultural producers impacted by the wildfires this season for purchasing fencing materials. Eligible producers will have approximately 30 days to redeem the vouchers beginning August 1, 2011. Please note there will be a second round of applications accepted later this year for producers still being impacted.

To receive a voucher a producer must complete a TDA application and provide a copy of their Farm Service Agency Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) form 848-A. This form verifies that a producer has been deemed eligible to receive ECP funds and a fencing voucher. This voucher program will be limited to producers in the ECP qualified counties. Currently there are 28 counties that have been approved for ECP funding:

Archer, Brewster, Clay, Coke, Crosby, Fisher, Garza, Hartley, Jack, Jeff Davis, Kent, King, Lipscomb, Midland, Mitchell, Moore, Motley, Palo Pinto, Pecos, Presidio, Scurry, Stephens, Stonewall, Terrell, Terry, Tom Green, Wichita and Young.

Interested Vendors

Please find the **2011 Operation New Fences Qualified Vendor Application and Agreement to Participate** packet linked at <http://www.lat.org/files/Vendor-Application-Packet.pdf>. This application is for vendors in the 28 ECP counties, or who do business with producers in those counties, to apply to be a qualified vendor. Please feel free to distribute this application to any vendors that might have a desire to participate. TDA is seeking vendors willing to enhance the value of the voucher. After the producer has used the voucher, the vendors will be reimbursed 90 percent of the value of the voucher, therefore, vendors will be contributing 10 percent of the value of the voucher back to the STAR Fund. (vouchers are expected to be valued for \$200-\$500 depending on demand and balance of the STAR Fund. They have no cash back value and must be used in one occurrence.)

For example a vendor would be reimbursed for \$90 of a \$100 voucher, thus stretching the STAR fund a little farther.

The deadline to submit vendor applications is July 15, 2011.

TDA looks forward to working with our industry partners in helping producers in need. We are happy to discuss this program in more detail and answer any questions that vendors or producers may have. For questions or requests for additional information, vendors may contact Ms. Jessica Glover at (512) 475-1615 or by email at Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov. Please note, producers must also submit an application by July 15, please direct producers looking for an application to TDA as well.

TDA continues to accept tax deductible donations to the STAR Fund. Please check out our [donation page](#) on the TDA website and join other Texans that have already extended a helping hand to producers devastated by wildfires.