



Questions for Candidates for Texas Agriculture Commissioner Conservative Coalition of Harris County

Our questionnaire is for candidates to indicate their reasons and opinions concerning issues surrounding their races. This questionnaire will be posted onto the Conservative Coalition of Harris County website for public voter viewing.

Candidate Name	Position for which Candidate is Running
Nate Sheets	Agriculture Commissioner

Please give your answer to each of the following questions and please include your rationale with each answer. Please be concise and clear.

1. Please describe the qualifications and experience that make you the best candidate in your political race.

Answer: I'm a Navy veteran, a conservative agriculture businessman who built America's #1 branded honey company starting with a single backyard hive. I'm not a career politician, and I'm not running to grow government. I'm running to make it work the way it was intended, then get it out of the way.

I started with one beehive and grew it into Nature Nate's, the largest branded honey company in America, now sold in more than 16,000 stores nationwide. We pioneered the raw and unfiltered honey category and led the industry in testing and transparency, not because regulators demanded it, but because it was the right thing to do. By earning consumer trust and creating a premium product people were willing to pay more for, we were able to pay beekeepers more for their honey and reward good stewardship instead of racing to the bottom on price. That's how markets are supposed to work.

That journey taught me agriculture from the ground up, from the hive to the shelf and everything in between. I've lived what farmers and ranchers live every day: getting squeezed by middlemen, navigating regulations that often hurt small operators, managing food safety and labeling requirements, and fighting to create markets that reward producers instead of bureaucrats.

The Agriculture Commissioner's job isn't about speeches or photo ops, it's about managing billion-dollar programs, protecting the food supply, responding to real crises, and ensuring our children are nourished, not harmed, by government-run school nutrition programs. I've hired people, met payroll, balanced budgets, built national distribution networks, and taken responsibility when things went wrong.

Take the GO TEXAN program. It was created to help small family farms and local producers reach customers, but today it's drifted into a taxpayer-funded PR machine. Last year, at the "Crossroads of Texas GO TEXAN Country Festival," [the TDA bankrolled a multi-stage music event](#) where my

opponent took the stage repeatedly, accepted awards, and introduced performers, all promoted on the department's official pages. I would strip out the self-promotion and rebuild it into a practical, cost-neutral, voluntary marketplace that helps producers sell directly to Texans. My goal isn't to expand it. It's to fix it. No new bureaucracy. No political logos. No picking winners and losers, just a tool that actually works for the people it was meant to serve.

2. Please explain what you believe are the most significant issues in this race, why you are running for this position and what differentiates you from the other candidate(s).

The contrast and the stakes in this race couldn't be bigger.

We face twin problems. First, Texas agriculture is in a real crisis. America lost 123,000 farms last year, and in Texas we've lost an average of 68 farming families every week since 2018. The average farmer is now 60 years old. Producers earn just 15 cents of every food dollar, down from 40 cents in 1980. Input costs are up 20–40% since COVID. At the same time, we're losing working lands and facing serious threats to our food supply, including massive bee losses that put agriculture itself at risk.

Second, this is happening alongside a broader health crisis. Today, 93% of Americans fail basic metabolic health markers, and obesity rates have tripled since 1970. As a result, more than 77% of young Americans are now disqualified from military service. More than 75% of U.S. health spending goes toward chronic conditions, and Medicaid costs in Texas have tripled in just 20 years, draining our state budget. As conservatives, we either pay on the front end or the back end. Right now, taxpayers are paying on the back end through skyrocketing health care costs tied to chronic, largely preventable disease.

By leveraging large institutional buyers, schools, universities, hospitals, and other government-funded programs, we can redirect existing food dollars toward Texas-grown meat, fruits, and vegetables. This isn't expanding government; it's fixing broken markets so food dollars strengthen Texas farmers while improving public health at the same time.

The biggest difference between my opponent and I is ethics. Miller has long faced scrutiny over his relationship with longtime political advisor Todd Smith, who was arrested in 2021 and later [pled guilty](#) to felony bribery for soliciting payments related to hemp licenses at the Texas Department of Agriculture. [According to the arrest warrant](#), Smith's associate falsely claimed there would be "only 15 total hemp licenses issued in the entire state" and told prospective applicants to pay \$25,000 to secure one, even though each license cost only \$100. Smith pled guilty to felony bribery last year, and [Miller rewarded him by naming him Chief of Staff](#) of the same agency. [Miller now faces separate accusations](#) that he asked a friend to hide his marijuana from federal agents. Sid Miller [collected over \\$320,000](#) in federal farm subsidies from taxpayers while claiming to fight "big government." He has repeatedly used his public office and campaign account for personal gain. He loaned himself \$10,000 at 10% interest and [repaid \\$31,000 from campaign funds](#), he [spent \\$55,000 in donor money decorating his office](#), was [fined by the Ethics Commission](#) for using state funds to attend a Mississippi rodeo, and even [billed taxpayers for a trip](#) to Oklahoma to get a medical treatment he called a "Jesus Shot."

After the legislature [denied his request](#) for a higher budget, [Miller raised hundreds of agriculture fees](#) on Texas farmers and ranchers. His fee hikes brought in \$27 million, [\\$6.5 million more than the programs actually cost](#), while he [handed out \\$410,000 in staff bonuses](#). That's not conservative budgeting; it's waste dressed up as reform. While publicly declaring "[war on DEI](#)," Sid Miller used

his official position to [pressure the University of Texas to admit the daughter of a cannabis attorney friend](#), using the same DEI-style arguments he condemns. Miller talks tough on immigration, but his record tells a different story. He voted to give illegal immigrants in-state tuition, voting FOR [HB 1403 \(2001\)](#) (Record vote: 559). In an article titled: "[In border meeting, Sid Miller suggests distance with Trump on border wall, immigration](#)," Miller stated: "If we're going to build a wall, Mexico needs some input." That's not defending the border, it's undermining it.

3. What will be your top 3 priorities during your upcoming term?

Priority 1: DOGE the Ag Commission – Clean Out Corruption and Waste

As Agriculture Commissioner, my first action will be to DOGE the agency. When lawmakers told Miller to live within his means, he ignored them and raised hundreds of fees on farmers, ranchers, and small businesses. According to the State Auditor, those hikes brought in \$27.3 million when the programs cost only \$20.8 million, a \$6.5 million surplus, while Miller handed out over \$400,000 in bonuses to his political allies. His mismanagement was so reckless that key duties, like regulating fuel pumps, were stripped from the agency, and he was fined by the Texas Ethics Commission for misusing state and campaign funds. As Agriculture Commissioner, my first act will be to audit the agency, cut waste, end cronyism, and make sure every dollar serves Texas farmers, ranchers, and consumers, not political insiders.

Priority 2: Grow New Markets in the MAHA Economy

Farmers used to receive over 40 cents of every food dollar. Today, they earn less than 16 cents. That's why Texas has lost an average of 68 family farms every single week since 2018. My vision is to reconnect Texas farmers and ranchers directly with Texas families.

We need to rethink and rebuild the GO TEXAN program because it no longer serves the people it was created for. GO TEXAN was meant to help small farmers, ranchers, and local businesses reach consumers. Instead it has turned into a branding tool for the Commissioner.

Commodity marketing should mostly be led by co-ops, grower groups, and producer-funded check-offs. Where the state is involved, it should be limited, transparent, and tied to real benefits for producers, not concerts and photo ops.

We should return GO TEXAN to its purpose: connecting Texas producers to customers. That means replacing the current system with a modern Texas Agriculture Marketplace, a practical online platform that lets farmers and food makers sell directly to Texas families and institutional buyers. Participation would be voluntary and cost-neutral, with only a small processing-style fee to cover technical costs. No extra bureaucracy. No political branding. Just a useful tool that helps Texas producers reach more customers and keep more of the food dollar. The goal isn't a bigger program. It's a better one.

Priority 3: Tackle the Public Health Crisis with Real Food

Sid Miller talks about "making kids healthy," but his record shows the opposite: his first act as Commissioner was to roll back bans on cupcakes, sodas, and fryers in Texas schools. The result? More junk food on kids' plates and worse health outcomes.

As a conservative, I believe we either pay on the front end or the back end. Right now, taxpayers are footing the bill on the back end, through skyrocketing health care and Medicaid costs. More than 75% of U.S. health spending goes toward chronic conditions that are largely preventable. By leveraging large institutional buyers, schools, universities, hospitals, and other government-funded programs, we can redirect those same dollars to Texas-grown meat, fruits, and vegetables. This isn't

expanding government, it's fixing the market so that our food dollars strengthen Texas farmers and improve public health at the same time.

By connecting local producers directly with these buyers, we can literally change markets, creating steady demand for real food, reducing long-term health costs, and keeping more money circulating in rural communities. That's fiscal conservatism in action: spend smarter, not bigger. The result is healthier kids, stronger farms, and a more efficient use of every taxpayer dollar.

4. What strategies do you have to improve the programs protecting crops and livestock from pests and diseases, as well as improving financial aid (loans, grants) and research funding for farmers?

Texas must be proactive on livestock disease, not reactive. That's the fundamental difference between my approach and my opponent's. Under Sid Miller, Texas too often responds after the threat is already at our doorstep. By then, the damage is already underway.

Screwworm is the perfect case study, and it sounds like something out of a horror film. It's a flesh-eating parasite. The larvae don't attack dead tissue, they eat living animals from the inside out. If screwworm spreads, herds are destroyed, regions are shut down, exports are halted, and tens of billions of dollars in livestock and wildlife are put at risk, especially in a state that leads the nation in cattle.

That kind of threat demands prevention, not publicity. When pressure mounted over the lack of preparedness, instead of stepping up and taking responsibility, my opponent blamed the Trump Administration. Federal officials responded bluntly. Here's what they said, and this is a direct quote:

USDA can no longer keep wasting its time and personnel to deploy Commissioner Miller's infamous traps, which USDA has deployed, tested, and has proven ineffective. In one month, USDA's traps in Panama caught thousands of New World Screwworm flies, Commissioner Miller's traps caught ONE single NWS fly. Commissioner Miller is blatantly disregarding tried-and-true NWS offensive strategies in favor of clickbait publicity stunts.” That says it all.

As Agriculture Commissioner, I'll focus on early detection, real-time surveillance, and tight coordination with veterinarians and producers, stopping threats before they cross into Texas.

And the lesson is simple: biosecurity is border security.

If we're not serious about what crosses our border, animals, pests, and diseases, we're gambling with Texas agriculture and our food supply. I won't gamble. I'll lead.

Texas is losing 68 farms a week, and rural Texas is dying, but not because we lack government programs, loans, or grants. We already have plenty of those. Rural Texas is hurting because multinational corporations and private equity are consolidating land, squeezing producers, and pushing heavily processed food that makes us sicker while hollowing out local economies.

The answer isn't more financial aid, it's better markets.

Texas already spends billions of taxpayer dollars every year on food through schools, prisons, hospitals, and state agencies. That is enormous buying power. Right now, much of it goes to large, woke multinational corporations for highly processed food made far from Texas, often overseas.

As Agriculture Commissioner, I would work to redirect more of that existing spending toward Texas farmers, ranchers, and Texas-based food businesses. Not through mandates or subsidies, but through smarter procurement policies that give Texas producers a fair shot at state food contracts.

That kind of predictable, recurring demand does more than any one-time grant ever could. It allows family operations to plan, hire workers, invest in equipment, and stay on the land. It creates processing, transportation, and support jobs in rural communities. And it keeps food dollars circulating inside Texas instead of flowing to corporate headquarters thousands of miles away.

Rural Texas isn't struggling because people don't want to live there. Young people leave when there's no economic future. Markets create futures, not paperwork.

If Texas uses its purchasing power to buy Texas-grown food, we strengthen rural economies, improve food quality, and increase food security at the same time, without growing government or spending new taxpayer dollars.

That's how you rebuild rural Texas: markets over mandates, paychecks over promises, and producers over politics.

5. Does Texas need to improve its oversight in regulating pesticides and ensuring their appropriate use, given the federal HHS push for MAHA?

I'm proud to be endorsed by Make Texans Healthy Again because they know I'm a reformer at heart, and that I'll fight to clean up our food system without growing government or punishing farmers. This isn't about Washington agendas or top-down mandates. It's about common sense, Texas leadership, and doing what actually works.

I'm a beekeeper by trade, and last year Texas lost nearly 80% of its bees. That's not an abstract statistic to me, I've seen the damage firsthand working directly with beekeepers and building a honey company from the ground up.

At its core, bees are getting sick for many of the same reasons people are getting sick, because of what's happening in our food system. Overexposure to pesticides, herbicides, and ultra-processed inputs has weakened bee immune systems, reduced nutrition, and made colonies far more vulnerable to disease and collapse. This isn't theory, it's reality in the field.

This issue deserves balance, not extremes.

For farmers and ranchers, long-term exposure to certain chemicals is a real concern. These men and women are closest to these products every day, and their health matters.

For consumers, it's about cumulative exposure over time. When residues add up, especially in ultra-processed foods, it raises legitimate questions about long-term health, particularly for children. The answer isn't one-size-fits-all mandates or more bureaucracy. It's growing food better and growing better food, using better data, better tools, and smarter, more targeted practices that protect yields while reducing unnecessary risk.

Texas should lead by empowering farmers with innovation and transparency, not drowning them in paperwork. When producers are given good information and real choices, they adapt faster than any regulation ever could.

That's how you protect bees, farmers, and families at the same time, and that's the kind of steady, practical leadership Texas agriculture needs.

KEY ENDORSEMENTS: A growing coalition of organizations and conservative leaders are supporting Nate Sheets, including Gun Owners of America, Texas Eagle Forum, True Texas Project, Grassroots America – We the People, Kingwood Tea Party, Make Texans Healthy Again, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Texas Cattle Raisers Association, Montgomery County Tea Party, Fort Bend Conservatives, Texas Gun Rights, Texas College Republicans, Veterans for America First PAC, Former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, Senator Charles Perry (Chair of Senate Agriculture Committee), Senator Angela Paxton, Senator Kevin Sparks, Kelly Shackelford, President and CEO of First Liberty Institute, Mark Meckler, President of Citizens for Self-Governance and Convention of States, Jim “Mattress Mack” McIngvale, and more than a dozen members of the State Republican Executive Committee.

BY RETURNING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, THE CANDIDATE ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. THE ANSWERS ON THE FOREGOING REFLECT THE CANDIDATE'S BEST EFFORTS TO ANSWER THIS QUESTIONNAIRE HONESTLY AND DIRECTLY.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO YOUR LOCAL MACHINE IN THE EVENT THAT THERE ARE ANY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WHEN YOU ATTEMPT TO EMAIL IT BACK.

Once this questionnaire has been completed, please email it to:

alex@cchc-pac.org

* **Please note:** You **must** return your questionnaire from the email address to which it was sent. Questionnaires returned from any other email address will be considered fraudulent and will **not** be recorded and no answers will be published in the voter's guide. CCHC-PAC deems a return from the proper email address as authentication of the correct respondent.



STRONGER FARMS HEALTHIER FAMILIES THRIVING TEXAS

Nate Sheets for Texas Agriculture Commissioner

From Backyard Beekeeper to National Leader — Ready to Serve Every Texan

Nate Sheets' journey began with a single backyard beehive and a bold idea: that food should be both pure and profitable. Over the past two decades, he built what is today America's #1 branded honey, proving that principled stewardship, science-driven innovation, and common-sense leadership deliver results. Now, Nate is ready to bring that same leadership to every corner of Texas as your next Agriculture Commissioner.

A Record of Results, Not Rhetoric

Nate isn't a career politician—he's a builder and problem-solver. From growing a national food brand to uniting people around a clear, common-sense vision, Nate knows how to turn conviction into action.

- Conservative Values: Driven by faith, family, and a commitment to limited government and personal responsibility.
- Proven Business Leader: Created jobs, supported farmers, and built partnerships that drive economic growth.
- Defender of Texas Agriculture: Committed to supporting farmers, ranchers, and producers—the backbone of our economy and our food system.

Standing for Texas Families, Farms, and Ranches

Nate understands the critical role Texas agriculture plays in putting food on our tables. As Commissioner, he'll fight for:

- ✓ Safer, cleaner, and more transparent food systems
- ✓ Strong support for Texas farmers and ranchers
- ✓ Protection of rural resources and land
- ✓ Policies that strengthen both urban and rural communities

A Life of Service and Faith

Nate proudly served 6 years in the U.S. Navy Reserves and brings that same spirit of service to his campaign. Married to Patty for 29 years, they've raised four children and welcomed a daughter-in-law—all rooted in faith and love for Texas. Nate Sheets is ready to work for every Texas family, farm, and ranch—bringing integrity, innovation, and leadership to the job.

Learn More: NateSheetsforTexas.com



Pol Adv. Paid for by Nate Sheets Campaign

Nate Sheets – Endorsements

	A	B	C
1	Last Name	First Name	Title
2	Angelo	Ernest	former Midland mayor
3	Bentley	Christin	SREC 1
4	Biedermann	Kyle	Former TX House Member
5	Bobet	Dan	Founder and CEO of TrendHR
6	Carney	Candy	former precinct chair
7	Castilla	Cindi	Texas Eagle Forum
8	Collier	Madeline	former vice chair /former board of trustee Houston Christian Un.
9	Crow	Tisha	SREC 31
10	DeVine	Gaile	SREC 11
11	Evans	Steve	SREC 28
12	Fite	Ralph	SREC 7
13	Fletcher	Dr. Julie and St	Pediatric Surgeon
14	Foundation	Susan	SREC 16
15	Gonzalez	Hector	President of Tarrant County Latino Republicans
16	Hale	Darrell	Commissioner
17	Harper	Trudy	Founder and President (Ret)Tenaska Power Services
18	Harrell	Greg	SREC 22
19	Hendrickson	Lisa	SREC 12
20	Hill	Chris	County Judge
21	Hommel	Scott	GOP Chair, Lamar County
22	Horton	Rachel	SREC 30
23	Kelting-Fite	Deborah	SREC 7
24	Kneir	Melissa	SREC 20
25	Lennon	Jim/Robin	Kingwood Tea Party
26	Lucas	Susan	SREC 5
27	Mathews	Ceci	GOP Chair, Sabine County
28	Mattress Mack		
29	McCullough	Peter, DR	
30	Mechler	Mark	President
31	Patrick	Mathew	SREC 16
32	Patton	Cathy	former committee member
33	Paxton	Angela	TX Senator
34	Perry	Charles	Senator
35	Perry	Kelly	SREC 19
36	Perry	Charles	Texas State Senator
37	Price	Randy	Partner, Executive / Managing Director Wealth Manager
38	Purham	Randy	SREC 21 and Regional Capt for Convention of States
39	Renteria	Tony	Founder of Latinos United for Conservative Action
40	Rosenweiz	Aileen	Accountant
41	Santorum	Rick	Former US Senator
42	Schaefer	Matt	
43	Shackelford	Kelly	President
44	Smyer	Joel	President & Gen Counsel Natinal Christian Foundation North Texas
45	Sparks	Kevin	Senator
46	Sparks	Kevin	Texas State Senator
47	Telles	Adolpho	SREC 29
48	Ticzkus	Matt	SREC 10
49	Travis	Randy	County Singer
50	Valliant	Susan	SREC 10
51	Wagner	Jeanene	Business Owner
52	Wells	Lee	Farmer Biz Owner
53	Wylie	David	SREC 12
54	Zenner	Ed	SREC 23
55			

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1	Endorsed Organizations
2	Patriot Owned Businesses
3	Texas Gun Rights
4	Kingwood Tea party
5	Texas College Republicans
6	Grassroots America
7	Veterans for America First
8	Latinos United for Conservative Action
9	Texas Eagle Forum
10	True Texas Project
11	Gun Owners of America
12	Stone County Conservatives
13	Tarrant County Latino Republicans
14	Montgomery County Tea Party
15	Ford Bend Conservatives
16	Make Texans Healthy Again
17	Bay Area Conservatives
18	Catlte Raisers PAC
19	