### COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE











## DISCOVER EXTENSION:

Delivering solutions to improve lives for all New Mexicans





he College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences' Extension
Demonstration Train toured New Mexico in 1912, bringing important information to people throughout our vast and diverse state. That train is long gone, but the Cooperative Extension Service endures as the vehicle that delivers research-based information to New Mexicans, improving their quality of life.

Thanks to the Cooperative Extension Service, the discoveries of New Mexico State University faculty reach about a third of New Mexico's nearly 2 million residents through non-formal education programs in each of the state's 33 counties.

We're all about outreach and engagement. We listen to the communities we serve.

We conduct programs aimed at the following issues, which you can learn more about in this brochure.

P2...... Youth programs

P4.....Natural resources

P6...... Production agriculture and urban horticulture

P10...... Nutrition, food safety and healthy families

P12......Community and economic development







Have a favorite NMSU Extension program or story? Share with us how NMSU Extension has improved your life using #discoverNMSUextension.

The College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service touches the people of New Mexico in a number of ways.

650,000

New Mexicans reached annually by Extension through several education programs and outreach.

Number of FARMERS' MARKETS
we helped create all over the state.

1,058

Number of officials and government employees who take part every year in **NM EDGE**, a program that fosters better government through education.

750,000+

Online visits to College of ACES Extension publications in a recent 12-month period.

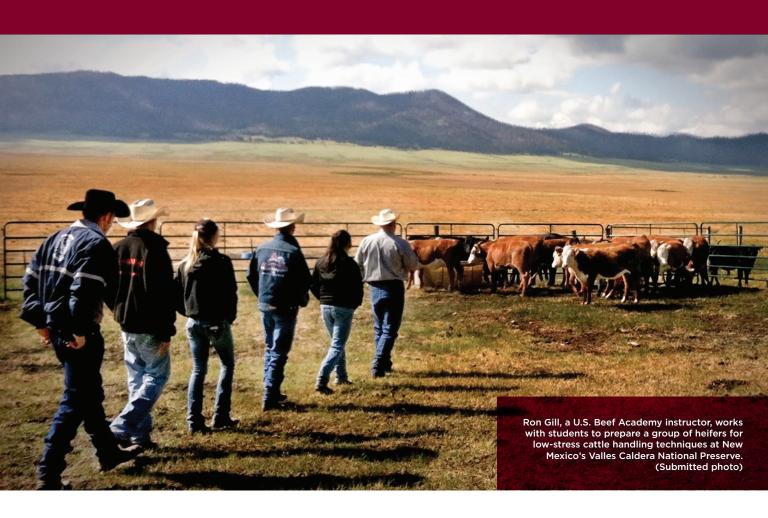
Check out aces.nmsu.edu/pubs.

\$18 million Value of in-kind contributions given annually by Extension volunteers. 80,000

New Mexicans trained since 2005 by the SOUTHWEST BORDER FOOD SAFETY AND DEFENSE CENTER to help protect the nation's food supply.

## 1 in 9 minimin

in public and private schools across the state receive enhanced curriculum during school hours through 4-H School Enrichment programs.



## Program nurtures the future of NM ranching

articipants at the New Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp spent about a week last summer learning about managing a ranch, bolstering the future of the industry in the state. The College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service and members of the state's beef industry sponsored the fourth annual ranch camp.

"We are proud to offer this one-of-a-kind program for the future cattle producers of our state," said Jon Boren, director of the Cooperative Extension Service and associate dean of NMSU's College of ACES.

College of ACES Extension specialists presented educational sessions that ranged from nutrition and proper care of the cattle to how to determine the grazing load on a pasture, as well as determining the quantity of wildlife also living on the land and wildfire reduction through proper management of natural resources.

"Each day, the youth participated in college-level curricula of hands-on activities and lectures," said Jack Blandford of Luna County Extension, the ranch camp's director.

Lena Sanchez grew up ranching sheep with her family in Chama. She has always planned on going into ranch management. Thanks to the camp, she learned more about the laws and policies ranchers have to navigate.

During the final day's presentations to three judges from the beef industry, the campers explained the revenue-generating activities and expenses in their ranch management plans.

"If these young people are a demonstration of what is in store for our industry, the future looks bright," said Dina Chacon-Reitzel, executive director of the New Mexico Beef Council, one of the camp sponsors.

For more about the youth ranch management camp, visit nmyrm.nmsu.edu.

Going into this I never knew what happened to cattle after they left our ranch ... The camp helped me really gain an insight into what possible careers are open.

> Kari Vallo, who grew up on a ranch and recently attended the camp



#### 4-H Youth Development helps kids give back

For decades, the New Mexico 4-H Youth Development program has provided young people opportunities to develop leadership, citizenship and life skills so they can give back to their communities in meaningful ways.

The New Mexico 4-H Youth Development program succeeds by providing members with

- · Positive peer groups
- Year-round community clubs
- Special-interest groups
- School enrichment programs
- Leadership experiences
- · Other camps, events and activities

More than 200 projects are offered in a variety of areas, including animal science, creative arts, engineering, nutrition, horticulture, agronomy and citizenship. It also benefits their future: Participants of 4-H are five times more likely to graduate college, two times more likely to join STEM programs and half as likely to use drugs.

More than

young people annually develop numerous skills through an array of 4-H programs.

# Extension agents provide quick support after mining spill



hen three million gallons of mining sludge from the Gold King Mine in Colorado flowed downriver in the Animas and San Juan rivers, multiple parts of New Mexico State University's system came together and addressed important agricultural questions.

Within hours of the incident passing through San Juan County, the College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service was organizing emergency response when irrigation water diversion from the river was stopped.

Bonnie Hopkins, San Juan County Extension agricultural agent, mobilized livestock relocation, water delivery for livestock and crops, and hay delivery for livestock. Other College of ACES Extension agents from across the state provided labor and logistical assistance.

She also organized ditch riders, irrigators and producers, providing a forum for updates on water and exchange of information about ditches' conditions from producers themselves.

NMSU, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New Mexico Environment Department and New Mexico State Engineer's office personnel are addressing the short- and long-term impacts of heavy metal contamination of river water and soil along the contaminated rivers.

The organizations came together as one, something that was evident during the spill's immediate aftermath. Working in the field generated complex questions in the minds of NMSU faculty, but they weren't in a position to get answers. The solution? Faculty relayed information to NMDA personnel at the emergency response center. NMDA then communicated with NMSU professors and researchers in Las Cruces so those experts could gather and analyze scientific information from their colleagues in the field.

"The goal was to determine the risks, if any, that come with using the river water to irrigate crops or water cattle," said Katie Goetz, NMDA public information officer. "The information NMSU produced was distilled into easy-to-understand fact sheets that were shared with the Extension personnel as they communicated with the affected farmers and ranchers."

NMSU will continue to be involved in years to come. Research faculty are organizing to study the long-term impact of the mining sludge spill to help the residents of San Juan County and the Four Corners region recover from the Gold King Mine spill.

#### Work sustains growers and protects investments

Thanks to the Cooperative Extension Service, New Mexico growers have had opportunities over the years to learn how they can keep their agricultural operations safe and viable.

The annual New Mexico Sustainable Agriculture Conference "rotates around the state and addresses topics in sustainable agriculture of special interest to local agricultural professionals," said Stephanie J. Walker, vegetable specialist for the College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service.

Recent topics ranged from soil conservation and alternative crops to the use of unmanned aircraft systems for rangeland monitoring.

Another event, the Four Corners Weed Symposium, provides the region with the latest information on handling weeds.

Aside from these helpful events, Extension has produced publications about navigating the challenges of growing crops in New Mexico's diverse soils. Scores of publication also are available to help residents cope with drought online at aces.nmsu.edu/pubs.

#### **NEW MEXICO**

producers enjoyed increased

#### **PROFITABILITY**

thanks to forage research and Extension programs that

#### **HELPED THEM:**

reduce water **30%** 

cut fertilizer and seed costs by **25%** 

increase • yields by 10%

## Green thumbs lend a hand through Extension

or the thousands of New Mexicans who want to improve their home's landscaping or get more from their vegetable garden, the College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service provides research-based solutions.

New Mexico Master Gardeners help Extension agents spread useful information about homeowner horticulture across the state — the majority of New Mexicans are connected to gardening in some way.

The volunteer Master Gardeners, who are specially trained by Extension agents, deliver information in a variety of ways. In Doña Ana County, for example, Master Gardeners respond to questions via a hotline and set up tables at the popular Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market and relevant conventions. They also provide technical information and present educational programs at schools and community gardens.



#### PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE AND URBAN HORTICULTURE

Sandoval County Master Gardeners recently held an eightweek series of classes.

"The series covers all the topics needed to grow a bountiful vegetable garden and interesting landscape in desert soils and climates," said Lynda Garvin, NMSU Sandoval County agricultural agent.

Here are some of the class titles from Garvin's event.

- Fruit Trees for the Home Landscape
- Building Desert Soils
- Gardening in Drought Conditions
- Plant Selection for High Desert Gardening
- Insect Pest Management

Each year Master Gardeners give more than 50,000 hours of volunteer service to improve homeowner horticulture across the state.

Master Gardeners are a diverse and versatile group; they come from all ethnic and educational backgrounds and have experience in all walks of life. Those traits help them relate to people in their community.

The New Mexico Master Gardener program began in 1981 in Albuquerque. Today, Extension offers Master Gardener programs in 16 counties statewide and the Navajo Nation.



The vast majority of participants in a recent Master Gardener weed management training said the course increased their understanding of weed science.



#### Trainings, videos boost NM industries and consumer confidence

People buying New Mexico beef and dairy products expect the best. The College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service helps local producers ensure the wholesomeness of their goods and maintain efficiency so they can be more competitive in the market.

The New Mexico Beef Quality Assurance Program is designed to help raise consumer confidence in beef and dairy production through a commitment to proper management techniques and the highest quality.

By participating in the program, producers can gain increased profitability through increased consumer confidence.

Extension also helps ensure dairy farm workers and managers have the most accurate and up-to-date information available on the basic principles for health and safety when on the dairy. These videos are available at youtube.com/

**USagCenters.** The Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium, in partnership with College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service and other organizations, produced the videos.

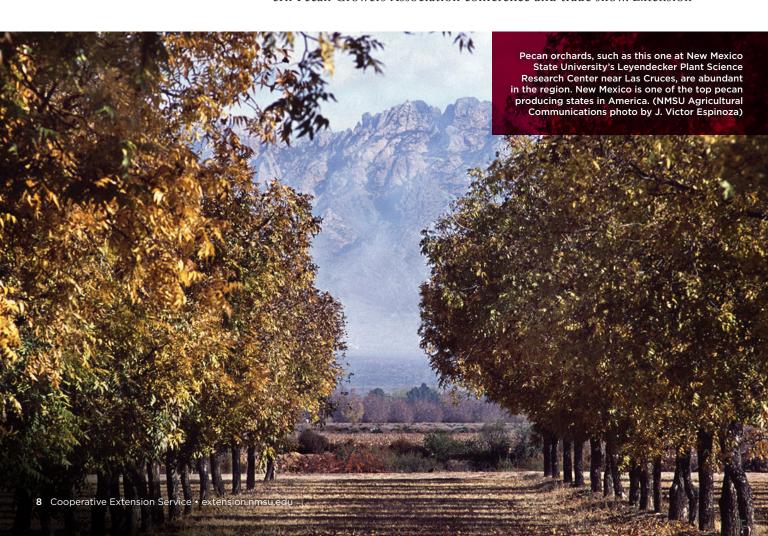
"Beef cattle and dairy producers have an enormous economic impact on the eastern side of New Mexico," said Sandra Barraza, agricultural agent for the College of ACES Chaves County Cooperative Extension Service office.

## Extension shares key research on pecans, chile

hile and pecans are ingrained in New Mexico's culture and key to our state's economy.

To serve the community, the College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service has organized events to share new discoveries about the popular crops and bolster growers.

For half a century, regional pecan farmers have gathered in Las Cruces to discover how to improve their orchard operations. The College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service has supported the annual Western Pecan Growers Association conference and trade show. Extension



#### PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE AND URBAN HORTICULTURE

researchers and specialists give presentations at the conference, which is organized by Extension.

Pecans are one of the top crops in the state, and New Mexico is one of the top pecan producers in the country.

The most recent conference drew about 300 people from the U.S. pecan-growing belt and Mexico. In a survey, 81 percent of attendees said they learned important information that they planned to incorporate into their operations.

The 2015 conference also featured an update on the proposed pecan marketing order, tips for success in doing business in China and a look at mechanical pruning techniques.

For people interested in learning more about the chile pepper, Chile Field Day is the perfect opportunity.

"Most New Mexicans love to eat chile; we hope to showcase some of the research projects that support production of the crop," said Stephanie Walker, College of ACES Extension plant sciences assistant professor.

In 2015, research projects, including pest and disease management, breeding and mechanization, that are being conducted at NMSU and contribute to the productivity of the state's chile fields were presented, Walker said.

The western pecan is a superior pecan to others sold in the international markets. We need to continue to build those international markets, and it is important that our growers are knowledgeable on (international) marketing practices.

> - John White, director of the **Western Pecan Growers Association**



Children listen to a presenter during a recent Progressive Agriculture Safety Day in Clovis. (Photo by Alec Richards)

#### Kids discover safety through Extension

In towns across eastern New Mexico. College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service agents team with the Progressive Agriculture Foundation to teach children safety lessons that will keep them and others free from harm, whether they are at home or on the farm or ranch.

The one-day events, dubbed

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day, annually reach more than 5,000 children and teachers.

Young students learn how and when to make 911 calls for help. They learn how to be safe around household chemicals, electricity, water, farm equipment and lawnmowers. They also learn first aid. All of this is delivered through ageappropriate, hands-on activities.



### Food education fosters a better quality of life

hopping and preparing healthy meals for a family on a limited budget can be a challenge. To help, College of ACES Extension offices

teach adults and children in the community the basics through the Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition (ICAN) program.

The ICAN program delivers hands-on lessons on healthy food choices, food preparation skills and food buying strategies free of charge to people with limited resources.

"Participants learn the basics of purchasing, preparing, safe food handling, budgeting and planning meals in an

interactive and fun learning environment," said Donna Sauter, Extension's ICAN director.

Many Extension offices offer the classes to adults and youth, in English and Spanish.

Classes are held in community centers as well as schools. Extension offices coordinate with organizations that serve the same population as the ICAN program.

ICAN's mission, Sauter said, "is to improve the health status and reduce the nutritional health disparities of New Mexicans while making a measurable, positive impact on the well-being of our communities."

One new ICAN initiative, the free People to Produce farmers market in Curry County, recently distributed 6,000 pounds of produce to families.

"With fresh foods, I know my grandkids will eat healthy," said Barbara Rodriguez, who has benefited from the markets. "I've also tried different recipes with the produce I've gotten here."

Sauter said that food safety is an important lesson to prevent people from becoming sick.

In addition to learning how to improve their health, ICAN participants also gain valuable life skills. Upon completion of the program, graduates receive a certificate, which has helped some graduates acquire a job in the food service industry.

A recent lesson, entitled "plan, shop and save," taught participants how to read and compare grocery ads and how to read food labels.



#### **NEW MEXICANS.**

of all ages, are reached every year by Extension's community classes and workshops on nutrition, parenting and physical fitness.



StrongWomen Strong Bones participants work out in Española. (Courtesy photo)

#### Extension programs keep communities healthy

What do a popular food safety blog and a series of fitness classes have in common? Both support community health.

On weekday mornings at the College of ACES Grant County Extension office in Silver City, you will likely see a group of women having fun and investing in their long-term health and fitness. Established in 2009, the New Mexico StrongWomen **Strong Bones** program has evolved to include strength-training programs for both men and women.

In 2012, NMSU launched the Food Safety and Protection blog thanks to input from Extension agents. The blog featured the latest notifications from the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service that pertained to New Mexico, Texas and the Four Corners region.

## Government officials gain an EDGE



#### COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

very year nearly 1,100 administrators, elected officials and staff members in all levels of government learn the best management practices and theories through the College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service.

Forty-four public servants in 2015 received certification in their fields through NM EDGE, which stands for Education Designed to Generate Excellence in the public sector.

"We feel this program directly assists us in our mission to take practical education to every part of our state," said Jon Boren, College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service director. "We couldn't be more pleased with the enthusiastic response to the program. We continue to find collaborative ways to reach out to new partners toward our mutual goal of better government through education."

To obtain a certification designation, the students must complete a required number of three-hour classes depending on the certification, and a portfolio demonstrating, through written and project work, their application of the competencies learned by participating in the classes.

In 2015, eight graduates received the designation of New Mexico Certified Public Purchasing Professional, NM EDGE's newest public sector specialization program.

"The public purchasing certification curriculum was developed through the collaborative efforts of NM EDGE, many of our partners and practicing experts," said Mary DeLorenzo, NM EDGE program director. "It is recognized by New Mexico State Purchasing as a reciprocal certification to the Chief Procurement Officer. CPO certification is required by state statute to be completed by July 1. We are delighted to be part of the solution."

Other recent certifications awarded were the public sector specialization designation of public assessment officer, county commissioner and advocate for public ethics.

#### Programs aim to secure bright economic future

New Mexico is a unique state with distinct economic opportunities and challenges. The College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service is invested in ensuring a bright economic future in two promising programs.

- The Youth Entrepreneurship Summer (YES) Camp is a college course for high school students eager to learn about entrepreneurship. YES students learn financial strategy, market research and the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, including its rewards and challenges.
- · The Stronger Economies Together (SET) program works at the community level. Experts say that thorough planning among New Mexico's widespread communities is vital for our economic success. SET facilitates the development and implementation of a strong, multiregion economic blueprint, based on current and emerging strengths.



The number of young people who have or would like to start their own business some day. Extension has ways to get them started.

Source: Harris Interactive survey



### Extension agent promotes balance of cultures

esse Jim is working to improve the lives of her fellow Navajo people.

Jim's duties as a College of ACES faculty member working through the Cooperative Extension Service include providing youth development and nutrition and agricultural programs for the people of the Navajo Nation's eastern region.

"The Tribal Extension job is to find the balance between living in a Western society and traditional culture," she said. "There is a balance in everything. Coming from the Navajo culture, the only balance is agriculture. I'm demonstrating that we can teach the youth critical thinking through other projects, such as Lego robotics and rocketry."

A lifelong resident of the eastern Navajo Nation region, the New Mexico State University graduate and Tribal Extension agent deals personally each day with many of the same issues experienced by her neighbors.

She lives on her family's 5,287-acre ranch north of Crownpoint in a sandstone house built by her grandfather. She calls it a "typical rural Navajo homestead."

Jim said she hauls 500 to 600 gallons of water each week from Crownpoint to fill a cistern so she can have running water in the house. But she does have modern amenities — access to internet and cell phone service.

"People need to know there are information resources out here to help them," she said. "I want to provide the information on how to manage the livestock and rangeland to my community. I want to tell them, 'I've been there, and I'm here to help you. What you are doing is not wrong, but here is a better way to approach it to make it better."

Tribal Extension agents also support Native American culture.

Kathy Landers, the Tribal Extension coordinator based in McKinley County, and her colleagues are developing a curriculum for a Navajo weaving course. It's one of the Native American culture programs that Tribal Extension agents offer.

Landers said it's important to support such a program "so that weaving doesn't become lost."

Once the program is complete, participants will learn how to weave items from coasters to rugs. They will also learn how to build a loom.

An Extension program called the Rural Agricultural Improvement and Public Affairs Project (RAIPAP) also serves Native Americans. RAIPAP supports small-acreage Hispanic and Native American farmers in Northern New Mexico, helping their operations thrive in a global economy.

#### THE TRIBAL EXTENSION PROGRAM **INCLUDES FOUR PROGRAM AREAS**

- Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
- Youth Education
- Community Resource, Economic and Leadership Development
- Strengthening Families Through Education in Health. Nutrition and Family Resource Management

#### Extension helps match producers with NM food demand

A recent study showed that 70 percent of consumers in the Albuquerque metro area would buy locally grown food if it were available.

Just how significant is that economic opportunity for New Mexico food producers? Looking a little closer at the numbers reveals that it's big.

The nearly 1 million people living in the metro area annually consume \$78 million in fresh fruits and vegetables. But more than 80 percent of those healthy foods come from outside New Mexico.

Metro-area agents with the College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service created the **CONNECTING Local Food Producers with Local Markets Project to** link the food demand with suppliers.

The Extension agents are working with more than 3,300 farm operations in the metro region on plans to provide more locally grown produce to residents.

Through the CONNECTING program, officials are getting a better understanding of the supply-and-demand picture for food (primarily fruits and vegetables) in the metro area. They are also developing workshops for food producers, measuring their interests and meeting with local food buyers to assess food demand.

Elsewhere in the state, Extension is partnering with other agencies to conduct grant-writing workshops to help New Mexicans develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local and regional markets.

The Agriculture Act of 2014 — better known as the Farm Bill — authorizes \$30 million annually to programs that support direct producer-to-consumer activities.

### Extension evolves with its communities

he College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service improves our communities through discovery. We provide practical, research-based knowledge and programs in response to the needs of New Mexicans. That's the mission we have embraced for more than 100 years, and we will remain eager to help our neighbors statewide for years to come.

It's vital that we keep local needs at the forefront. We pride ourselves in listening to our communities, responding to their needs and improving lives. While our mission has endured over the years, our delivery methods and partnerships continually change—just as they have for decades.

In New Mexico's early days of statehood, the best way to reach people with our resources was by train. Later, Extension distributed thousands of printed publications statewide. Today, Extension is a leader in utilizing modern technology—social media, learning games, apps and e-books—to disseminate beneficial information.

Our areas of expertise also evolve to meet society's needs. We imagine a future in which we will be improving lives through discoveries in areas such as alternative energy, urban issues and health care.



Issues have changed over the years, but the need to extend researchbased information out to the state remains constant.

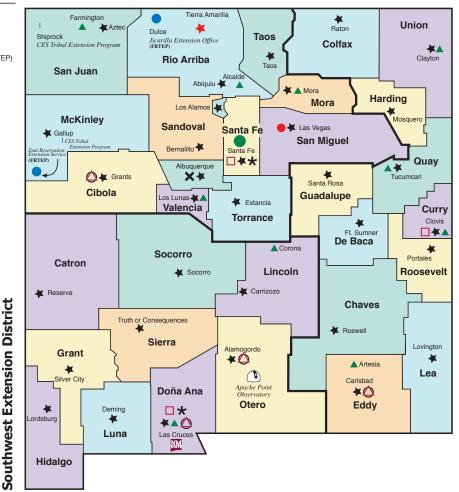
> - Jon Boren, director of the College of ACES Cooperative **Extension Service**

he College of ACES Cooperative Extension Service exists to serve all New Mexicans, wherever they live. We reach every corner of New Mexico thanks to 54 offices statewide — there's at least one in each of New Mexico's 33 counties. We provide a wide range of research-based information, and we deliver that knowledge in whatever way it is needed. We have more than 300 faculty and staff, along with nearly 11,000 volunteers, all dedicated to improving the quality of life for their fellow New Mexicans through discovery.

#### **Facility Locations**

- ★ County Extension Offices
- County Extension Satellite Office
- Tribal Extension Offices
- Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP)
- ☐ Cooperative Extension Service District Offices
- ▲ Agricultural Science and Research Centers
- \* University Government Affairs
- NMSU Community Colleges
- × NMSU Albuquerque Center
- Santa Fe Ranch Demonstration Site
- MSU Main Campus
- Apache Point Observatory
- Memorial Middle School Agricultural Extension and Education Center

#### **Northern Extension District**



New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.



Cooperative Extension Service
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
MSC 3AE
New Mexico State University
P.O. Box 30003
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8003
575-646-3015

#### County Extension Offices Bernalillo County

505-243-1386 bernalil@nmsu.edu bernalilloextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Catron County**

575-533-6430 catron@nmsu.edu catronextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Chaves County**

575-622-3210 / 3211 chaves@nmsu.edu chaves-extension.nmsu.edu

#### Cibola County

505-287-9266 cibola@nmsu.edu cibolaextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Colfax County**

575-445-8071 colfax@nmsu.edu colfaxextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Curry County**

575-763-6505 curry@nmsu.edu curryextension.nmsu.edu

#### De Baca County

575-355-2381 debaca@nmsu.edu debacaextension.nmsu.edu

#### Doña Ana County

575-525-6649 donaana@nmsu.edu donaanaextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Eddy County**

575-887-6595 eddy@nmsu.edu eddyextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Grant County**

extension.nmsu.edu

575-388-1559 grant@nmsu.edu grantextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Guadalupe County**

575-472-3652 guadalup@nmsu.edu guadalupeextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Harding County**

575-673-2341 harding@nmsu.edu hardingextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Hidalgo County**

575-542-9291 hidalgo@nmsu.edu hidalgoextension.nmsu.edu

#### Lea County

575-396-2819 lea@nmsu.edu leaextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Lincoln County**

575-648-2311 lincoln@nmsu.edu lincolnextension.nmsu.edu

#### Los Alamos County

505-662-2656 losalamo@nmsu.edu losalamosextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Luna County**

575-546-8806 luna@nmsu.edu lunaextension.nmsu.edu

#### **McKinley County**

505-863-3432 mckinley@nmsu.edu mckinleyextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Mora County**

575-387-2856 mora@nmsu.edu moraextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Otero County**

575-437-0231 otero@nmsu.edu oteroextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Quay County**

575-461-0562 quay@nmsu.edu quayextension.nmsu.edu

#### Rio Arriba County (Main Office)

Abiquiu: 505-685-4523 rioarrib@nmsu.edu rioarribaextension.nmsu.edu

#### Rio Arriba County (Sub Office)

Tierra Amarilla: 575-588-7423 losojos@nmsu.edu rioarribaextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Roosevelt County**

575-356-4417 roosevel@nmsu.edu rooseveltextension.nmsu.edu

#### San Juan County

505-334-9496 sanjuan@nmsu.edu sanjuanextension.nmsu.edu

#### San Miguel County

505-454-1497 samortiz@nmsu.edu sanmiguelextension.nmsu.edu

#### Sandoval County

505-867-2582 sandoval@nmsu.edu sandovalextension.nmsu.edu

#### Santa Fe County

505-471-4711 santafe@nmsu.edu santafeextension.nmsu.edu

#### Sierra County

575-894-2375 sierra@nmsu.edu sierraextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Socorro County**

575-835-0610 socorro@nmsu.edu socorroextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Taos County**

575-758-3982 taos@nmsu.edu taosextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Torrance County**

505-246-4745 torrance@nmsu.edu torranceextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Union County**

575-374-9361 union@nmsu.edu unionextension.nmsu.edu

#### Valencia County

505-565-3002 valencia@nmsu.edu valenciaextension.nmsu.edu

#### Tribal Extension Offices Jicarilla Apache Nation

575-759-3530 jicarill@nmsu.edu jicarillaextension.nmsu.edu

#### Tri-State Navajo Nation

928-871-7406, 6605, 7686 navajoextension.nmsu.edu

#### **Zuni Reservation**

505-782-4495 zuni@nmsu.edu zuniextension.nmsu.edu

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#### **About the College**

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences serves New Mexico through its mission of academics, research of the Agricultural Experiment Station and outreach of the Cooperative Extension Service.