

Report to New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts

New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Programs and Resources
Division

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<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-conservation-districts/>

January 2017

JANUARY	ELECTION PROCESS BEGINS!!
<u>No Later than January 2</u>	Notify county clerk of election provide required information (At least 120 days prior to election) <i>Please note: January 2 is a federal holiday.</i>
January	Secure polling places
January	Conduct district board mid-year budget review
January	Ensure that proper bonding policy is in place
January 17- March 18	2017 Legislative Session
January 31 st	2nd quarterly budget report due to DFA-LGD (cc: SWCC, SWCC region commissioner, and NMDA Specialist)
January 31 st	WQ&C grant 2nd quarterly report and budget due to SWCC and NMDA Specialist
February 7	AgFest and SWCD Day at the Legislature (Point System item!!)
March	ELECTION DEADLINES: 1 st legal notice, Election Superintendent, Canvassing Board, Declarations of Candidacy. PLEASE REVIEW ATTACHED ELECTION TIMELINE

1. Review Your Mileage and Per Diem Policy

If a supervisor or district employee uses their personal vehicle, they are eligible for mileage at the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate set **January 1 of the previous year.**

The state statute and rule for this can be found in the Mileage and Per Diem Act [10-8-4(D) NMSA 1978] and Mileage and Per Diem Rule (2.42.2 NMAC). The Internal

Revenue\Service standard mileage rate can be found on the IRS website at:
<http://www.irs.gov/Tax-Professionals/Standard-Mileage-Rates>

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2016, the IRS standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

54 cents per mile for business miles driven

19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes

14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The following link summarizes the optional standard mileage rates for employees, self-employed individuals, or other taxpayers to use in computing the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical, or moving expense purposes:

<https://www.irs.gov/Tax-Professionals/Standard-Mileage-Rates>

2. Preparing to Publish the Open Meetings Resolution

Be sure to pass your Open Meeting Act Resolution in either **November** or **December**.

When preparing to publish the Open Meetings Resolution, remember that the state sets a limit on advertising rates that can be charged to governmental entities for required advertisements. Title 1, Chapter 4, part 4 of the New Mexico Administrative Code states: “...*the newspaper publisher is entitled to receive no more than:*”

- A. *\$.63 cents (\$.63) for each column line of eight point or smaller type for the first insertion*
- B. *\$.49 cents (\$.49) per line of each subsequent insertion*
- C. *All emblems, display headings, rule work and necessary blank spaces shall be calculated as solid type and shall be counted and paid for as such.”*

3. SWCD Election Training

NMDA staff will provide training regarding the upcoming elections. If you have questions about the election process, this is your opportunity to get those questions answered. Please join us on January 11th at 10:30 am. The training will be held at the USDA office located at 6200 Jefferson St. NE #305, Albuquerque, NM 87109. It will be held on the first floor in the large conference room, room #145.

4. Potential Days of Interest During the Session

Below are some dates during the session you may be interested in attending during the 2017 Legislative Session:

- Tuesday January 17th Legislative Session Begins
- Tuesday Feb. 7th New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau AgFest Santa Fe Convention Center 6:00pm
- Tuesday Feb 7th SWCD Day

- March 18th Legislative Session Ends

To view prefiled legislation and to locate bills, go to
https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Legislation_List .

5. Meeting and Comments on National Forests in NM

All five of the National Forests in New Mexico are in various stages of completing their Forest Plan Revision. For updates, please visit the National Forests' websites below for meeting times and comment opportunities.

- Cibola NF:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cibola/landmanagement/planning/?cid=FSBDEV3_065627
- Carson NF:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/carson/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5443166>
- Santa Fe NF:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/santafe/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprd3791442>
- Gila NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gila/home/?cid=STELPRD3828671>
- Lincoln NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lincoln/home/?cid=stelprd3814307>

NMDA encourages all SWCDs to stay active in the Forest Plan Revision process for all five national forests. We also encourage SWCDs to provide information as requested to make sure that SWCD information is included in the process.

6. Soil and Water Conservation Day at the Legislature 2017

Soil and Water Conservation Day at the Legislature has been scheduled for February 7, 2017, with the press conference being scheduled from 11am-noon. We are encouraging all districts to attend. Also don't forget this is a point system item, item #6, worth 5 points.

7. 2017 NACD Annual Meeting

NACD's 2017 Annual Meeting will be held in Denver, Colorado, at the Sheraton – Downtown Denver from January 28 to February 1, 2017. The room rate is \$169 per night plus tax. To reserve a room before January 6, 2017, call 303-893-3333 and identify yourself as part of the NACD group rate.

To register or to find about more information on the annual meeting visit:
<http://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/>

8. Society for Range Management 2017 Winter Tour and Meeting

The 2017 Winter Meeting and Tour for the Society for Range Management will be held January 12-13, 2017 at the East Tarrant Soil and Water Conservation District Complex-

700 10th Street in Estancia, NM. Please visit <http://nmsrm.nmsu.edu/index.html> for more information.

For more information contact NM SRM President: Nick Ashcroft by phone: (575) 646-5394 Or email: nashcrof@nmsu.edu .

9. New Mexico Cotton Growers Conference

The New Mexico Cotton Growers Association Conference provides an opportunity for cotton growers in New Mexico to update their knowledge on important production practices and to also learn about new technologies in cotton production coming out from the industry. It also provides an opportunity for cotton growers to network among themselves and discuss matters that are of mutual benefit.

The 2017 New Mexico Cotton Growers Conference will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso, New Mexico.

All New Mexico cotton growers, extension educators, crop consultants and stakeholders are welcome to attend. Registration fee is \$25 per person, which includes lunch.

Registration form can be downloaded at

<http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/ifcpm/documents/conference-registration-form-2017.pdf>.

Mail, email or fax completed registration forms to Patrick Sullivan, 1946 S. Valley Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88005, nmbollweevil@zianet.com, phone 575-541-0584 or fax 575-541-0788. For more information, go to:

<http://newscenter.nmsu.edu/Articles/view/12262/cotton-growers-to-gather-jan-11-for-annual-conference> .

10. 2017 New Mexico Chile Conference

The 2017 New Mexico Chile Conference will be held February 7th, 2017 at the Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces. Registration is \$120.00 per person. For more information and to register for this event, go to <https://cpi.nmsu.edu/events-2/> .

11. 2017 Organic Farming Conference

There will be an Organic Farming Conference February 17th and 18th, 2017 in Albuquerque. This conference will be held at the Marriott Albuquerque Pyramid North, 5151 San Francisco Road NE, Albuquerque. To register for the conference, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-mexico-organic-farming-conference-registration-27583766789?aff=es2> . Registration is \$105 for both February 17th and 18th or \$65 for one day. If you register before December 31st you can deduct \$5 dollars off your total. This conference is limited to 650 participants, so first come first serve.

12. 2017 New Mexico Hay Conference

The 2017 New Mexico Hay Conference will be held on January 11th-13th, 2017 at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Dr., Ruidoso. On the 11th the doors will open at 1 pm for booth set up. Hotel reservations can be made at MCM Elegante (formally known as The Lodge at Sierra Blanca) located next to the Convention Center (575) 258-5500. For more information on the conference and to register visit: <http://www.nmhay.com/2017-conference.html> .

13. 2017 Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association Annual Meeting

The Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association (NNMSA) will be hosting its annual meeting on **Saturday January 14, 2017** from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Juan Gonzales Rural Agricultural Center in Taos, New Mexico.

This year, the focus is on farm and ranch safety, importance of filing on our water rights with the Office of the NM State Engineer, understanding your property rights on lands administered by FS-BLM, rangeland drought insurance on private land and your respective allotments, how your beef check off dollars are being used to promote the beef industry, update on the ranching community by NM Cattle Growers, upcoming legislative issues and come and meet the new Dean of the College of Agriculture and Extension Service. *Refreshments and lunch will be served.*

NNMSA ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA SATURDAY JANUARY 14, 2017

08:00 – 09:30 A.M. – Registration

09:30 – 09:45 A.M. – Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, Introduction of Guests- Carlos Salazar, President NNMSA

09:45 – 10:15 A.M.- Farm and Ranch Safety, Ms. Valerie Huerta, NM Farm and Livestock Bureau

10:15 – 10:45 A.M. – Importance of Filing on our NM Water Rights, Ms. Suzanne Smith, Private Consultant

10:45– 11:05 A.M. – Rangeland Drought Insurance, Ms. Denise Tortorice, Silveus Insurance Group

11:05 – 11:15 A.M. – New Mexico Cattle Growers Update, Ms. Caren Cowan, Executive Director

11:15 - 11:45 AM – Beef Check Off, Ms. Dina Reitzel, Executive Director, NM Beef Council

11:45 - 12:00 A.M. – NMSU Dean of ACES, Dr. Rolando Flores PHD

12:00 - 12:45 P.M. - LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS (Sponsored by NM Beef Council and NM Farm and Livestock Bureau)

12:45 P.M. – 1:00 P.M. - NM Legislative Affairs, Ms. Tara Hedrick

1:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. – Understanding Your Property Private Property Rights on FS- BLM Allotments, Angus McIntosh, PHD

3:45 – 4:00 P.M. - Election of NNMSA Officers

4:00 P.M. ADJOURN

If there are any questions on the meeting, please contact Ms. Anita Lucero at 505-328-4056 or Carlos Salazar at 505-927-9818.

14.The Dialogue's 23rd Annual Statewide Meeting

The Dialogue's 23rd Annual Statewide meeting will be held Thursday, January 12th, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 2401 12th St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104.

The issue of ensuring a reliable water supply for New Mexico has been the focus of water planning for over 30 years. In 2003, the legislature enacted provisions for “a comprehensive state water plan.” A skeletal state water plan was adopted that same year. In 2016, the Interstate Stream Commission began the process of working toward a comprehensive state water plan. Join the Dialogue in a discussion of where we have come since 1987 when the legislature required regional water plans and what challenges the state, regions and local communities face that need to be addressed in a revised state water plan. For more information or to register contact Joaquin Baca at 505-377-7549, joaquin_baca@fws.gov or visit <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/tab2.aspx?EventID=1877604> .

16. NM Water Resources Research Institute 2nd Annual Conference on Environmental Conditions of the Animas and San Juan Watersheds

NM WRRI will host the conference from June 20-22, 2017 at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico. This year's technical program will include oral and poster presentations in addition to plenary talks from some of the region's leading experts on environmental catastrophes and their impacts on our communities. This year's conference will include an all-day education tour of the Animas and San Juan watersheds.

Particularly relevant topics to be featured at the conference this year include:

- Geology, minerology, ore bodies and natural sources of contamination
- Analysis of Animas and San Juan watersheds as a result of Gold King Mine spill
- Effects of acid mine drainage after more than a century of mining
- Effects of historical mill-waste discharges
- Effects of historical spill events
- Effects of the Gold King Mine spill
- Transport and fate of mining contaminants in the Animas and San Juan watersheds
- Contaminant uptake into the food web
- Mining and milling contaminant impacts on surface water, sediment, groundwater, agriculture, livestock, wildlife, and humans
- Long-term monitoring
- Existing corrective measures to control mine seepage and hydraulic consequences
- Options for additional source control, spill prevention, and remediation
- E. Coli and other organisms in nutrients
- Streamflow and water quality sensitivity to climate change

For more information, go to: <https://animas.nmwrrri.nmsu.edu/2017/> .

15. Notice of Proposed Rule Making 2017 Audit Rule

The Office of the State Auditor is in the process of repealing and replacing in full: The Audit Rule (2.2.2.8 NMAC et seq.). Copies of the proposed new rule are available at the Office of the State Auditor, 2540 Camino Edward Ortiz, Suite A, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507 and on the Office of the State Auditor website, <http://www.osanm.org>. The Agency will consider adopting the proposed new rule at a public hearing on January 12, 2017, which will take place at 1:30 p.m. at the Office of the State Auditor, 2540 Camino Edward Ortiz, Suite A, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507. Please mail or deliver written comments on the proposed new rule to Emily Oster, Director of Compliance and Quality Control, at the Office of the State Auditor, 2540 Camino Edward Ortiz, Suite A, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507, or by email at Emily.Oster@osa.state.nm.us by December 31, 2016.

16. New Mexico Chief Procurement Officer Recertification Process

Recertification is required (per statute 13.1-95.2D) every 2 years (based on month of initial certification).

Two options for completing recertification classes:

1. NMPPA Conference Recertification Track (included in the cost of conference attendance)
2. NM EDGE Recertification Classes (2 classes) offered monthly through June 2016 and quarterly thereafter in Albuquerque and occasionally in Las Cruces.

Culminating test required:

- NM EDGE Recertification Test (1 class) will be offered for eligible candidates who have successfully completed NM EDGE or NMPPA classes. Copy of letter of completion from NMPPA or successful completion of NM EDGE classes as reflected on transcript will be required.
- There is a fee of 1 class unit to take the test.
- Must be enrolled in NM EDGE program to take test.

One-time enrollment fee of \$50 to enroll in NM EDGE program. If you have taken NM EDGE classes, then the enrollment fee was likely paid at that time. If in question, call us and we can look this up for you.

- A pdf or photocopy of CPO Certificate from NM State Purchasing must be provided to NM EDGE prior to enrolling in test.
- Photo ID required at test sign-in.
- Test will be 25 randomly generated questions, grade of 70% or higher required to pass, 2 attempts allowed, 1 hour each attempt.
- NM EDGE will email you an Excel document which you will need to complete and return. This information will be provided to State Purchasing after successful completion of your test and will be used to generate your new certificate.
- NM EDGE test will be offered monthly through June 2016 and quarterly thereafter in Albuquerque and in Las Cruces.

Contact State Purchasing for questions regarding the recertification guidelines (anna.silva2@state.nm.us). Contact NM EDGE regarding NM EDGE classes and test (nmedge@nmsu.edu).

See schedule at www.nmedge.nmsu.edu or <http://www.generalservices.state.nm.us/uploads/files/SPD/User%20Guides/NM%20EDG E%20Training%20Calendar%20for%20CPO%20Recert-%202016-2017.pdf> .