

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/>

March 2018

April 6 th	Water Quality & Conservation Grant proposals due by 5:00 pm
April 30 th	3rd quarterly budget report due to DFA-LGD (cc: SWCC, SWCC region commissioner and NMDA Specialist)
April 30 th	WQ&C grant 3 rd quarterly report and budget due to SWCC and NMDA Specialist
April	Pass annual mil levy rate resolution and submit to the SWCC for approval.

1. NRCS Conservation Planning Boot Camp

NRCS Conservation Planning Boot Camp is a three-week, intensive training course for technical employees that covers current conservation planning policy, procedures, and guidelines as outlined in the National Planning Procedures Handbook.

Each year for the next five years, 75 conservation district employees will have the opportunity to participate in this Lincoln, Nebraska-based program. District participants are trained in and out of the classroom – right alongside NRCS field staff – in the skills necessary for developing and implementing comprehensive conservation plans. District participation in the course ensures conservation technical assistance is provided to local landowners and operators in a consistent manner nationwide.

For more information, go to: <http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/conservation-planning-boot-camp/>

2. SWCC Meeting

The next Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting will be at 10:00 am on March 13, 2018 at the Valencia SWCD in Belen. If you have questions, please contact Patricia

Depner at 575-646-2642 or pdepner@nmda.nmsu.edu. The final agenda will be emailed to the districts.

3. 2019 Water Quality & Conservation Grant

The New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) annually receive a legislative appropriation from the State of New Mexico to be used for special projects relating to water quality and conservation. These funds are awarded by the SWCC through the Water Quality and Conservation (WQ&C) Grant Program. The goal of the grant program is to promote the health of New Mexico's watersheds and conserve the water resources they produce. A limited number of projects addressing one or more of the following areas will be funded over the next fiscal year:

1. Watershed Improvement/Management
2. Irrigation Efficiency
3. Riparian Restoration
4. Natural Resource Information and Education
5. Ground Water Protection/Conservation
6. Noxious Weeds

All proposals are due **Friday, April 6th by 5:00 pm**. The proposal needs to be in Microsoft Word formatted version and **emailed** to: swcc@nmda.nmsu.edu. **Faxed copies will not be accepted.** The application is attached.

4. DFA Local Government Budget Management System Rollout Postponed

At the Soil and Water Conservation District Operation Training in Moriarty in December, the Department of Finance Administration (DFA) announced the rollout of a new system for using the Local Government Division's standard chart of accounts rather than the district's internal chart of accounts. At that time they announced that all districts would have to use the new system by June 1, 2018. Please refer to the message below that was distributed by DFA. At this time, there's no longer a definite date by which the districts will have to be using the new system.

Local Government Budget Management System (LGBMS) implementation for special districts has been delayed and special districts are NOT required to "go live" on June 1, 2018. The special district feedback received by the DFA Local Government Division (LGD) highlights the need for chart of account changes and small group trainings geared towards particular special district types. Unfortunately, LGD currently does not have the staff or time to meet these requests.

Counties and municipalities will "go live" on June 1, 2018 and the experience gained from that endeavor will help LGD to further improve LGBMS before bringing special districts onboard. At this time, there is no definite "go live" date for special districts. However, after July 1, 2018, we will focus on working with groups of special districts so that we can phase-

in LGBMS implementation. Rest assured that LGD is committed to working closely with special districts in order to make the transition to LGBMS as smooth as possible.

Those of you who are currently in the LGBMS pilot group will continue to submit on LGBMS, test system enhancements, and provide your feedback for improving the system.

If your special district is 100% complete with the crosswalk from your internal chart of accounts (COA) to the LGD standard COA, or you have adopted the LGD standard COA as your internal COA, and you are interested in early access to LGBMS, please let DFA know so that they can send you further instructions.

5. NMDA Encourages New Mexico Seed Stock Producers to Submit Bull Sale Materials for Promotion

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture is encouraging New Mexico ranchers to submit their spring bull sale flyers and catalogs so the agency may assist with marketing and promotion among cattle producers from Mexico. NMDA recommends ranchers submit materials electronically to marketing specialist Juan Sanchez at jsanchez@nmda.nmsu.edu.

Ranchers interested in submitting materials or that have questions should contact Sanchez at 575-646-4929 or jsanchez@nmda.nmsu.edu.

6. 52nd Annual Western Pecan Growers Association Conference and Trade Show

The Western Pecan Growers Association will hold their annual conference March 4-6, 2018. The conference will be held at the Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces in Las Cruces, NM. Attendee registration is due by February 23rd, otherwise attendees will have to register at the door. For more information or to register please contact director@westernpecan.org or visit the Western Pecan Growers website <https://www.westernpecan.org/>.

7. Forest Health Initiative Cost-Share Program

NM State Forestry District Offices are still accepting applications for the Forest Health Initiative cost-share program. Batching will occur in mid-March. Prices for each forest treatment type are expected to increase this coming year to better reflect current price per acre amounts charged by contractors. For more information visit: http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/FWHP/plan/documents/FHIprogram_overview.pdf

8. Upcoming Meetings and Events (list provided by State Forestry)

- March 26-29, 2018 – [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop](http://www.iawfonline.org/2nd_CohesiveStrategyWorkshop2018/) “Lessons for the Field”, Reno, NV
http://www.iawfonline.org/2nd_CohesiveStrategyWorkshop2018/

- April 4-5, 2018 – [5th Annual Cross-Watershed Network Workshop](http://allaboutwatersheds.org/library/news-and-events-inbox/5th-annual-cross-watershed-network-xwn-workshop), hosted by Save Our Bosque Task Force, Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge, NM
<http://allaboutwatersheds.org/library/news-and-events-inbox/5th-annual-cross-watershed-network-xwn-workshop>
- May 14-18, 2018 – [Madreal Conference 2018](https://www.skyislandalliance.org/madreal2018/about/) “Collaboration Now for the Future: Biodiversity and Management of the Madreal Archipelago”, Tucson, AZ.
<https://www.skyislandalliance.org/madreal2018/about/>
- June 19-22, 2018 – [Third Annual WRII Animas Conference](http://mailchi.mp/nmsu/save-the-date-2018-animas-conference?e=52c92240c3) “Environmental Conditions of the Animas and San Juan Watersheds: Past, Present and Future”, Farmington, NM
<http://mailchi.mp/nmsu/save-the-date-2018-animas-conference?e=52c92240c3>

9. NMDA Livestock Scales Inspection Request

2018 requests for livestock scale inspections will be accepted through March 31, 2018. These requests can be completed several different ways:

1. NMDA website, <http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/scs/licenseregistration/livestock-inspection-registration/>
2. Phone call to 575-646-1616 fax: 575-646-2361
3. Mail: Standards and Consumer Services, MSC 3170, Box 30005, Las Cruces, NM 88003

The initial inspection during our scheduled program will be at NO CHARGE provided the request is received by the March 31, 2017 deadline. However, a fee will be charged based on the current Fees for Weights and Measures Services schedule if:

- the request for inspection is received after the March 31st deadline.
- you need your scale inspected before the time we have it scheduled.
- you request an additional inspection in the same calendar year.
- re-inspection is requested of a scale previously inspected during 2017 with results as "No Test" because of a dirty beam box/house with excessive rodent nests or droppings.
- re-inspection is requested of a scale that was previously inspected and rejected during inspection year 2017.
- you are unable to have scale ready for inspection when inspector is in the area.

If you have sold or leased your property, please forward this information to the new owner/operator or have the new owner notify this office. If you know of anyone with scales that may need to be inspected, please ask them to contact the department for information on our Livestock Scale Inspection Program.

If you have any questions regarding the Livestock Scale Inspection Program, call Standards and Consumer Services at 575-646-1616.

Changes are coming in 2019. The New Mexico Department of Agriculture Standards and Consumer Services Division (SCS) will be launching a NEW Routine Livestock Scale Inspection Program in 2019. The program will apply to livestock scale owners who consistently request SCS’s annual livestock inspection service. To view the changes and

forms please visit: <http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2019-LS-Program-info-with-application.pdf>.

10. Los Lunas Plant Materials Center

The Los Lunas Plant Materials Center has the following species of poles and whips available: Rio Grande cottonwood, Narrowleaf cottonwood, Freemont cottonwood, Goodding's willow and Coyote willow. There is no charge for these propagules.

For more information please contact Bernadette Cooney, Plant Materials Center Manager, at 505-865-4684 ext. 105.

11. NMSU Certified Calf Program

Value added programs are a marketing tool which allow cattle producers to bring more dollars to their bottom line. At the basic level, value added programs assure buyers the calves received some type of vaccination / health protocol.

Marketing opportunities, such as grass-fed, all natural, and export, require age and source verification. For age and source verification, cattle require an official "840" EID tag which is an official USDA tag for animal traceability.

In an effort to promote additional marketing options for New Mexico cattle producers, NMSU offers two calf certification programs, **ACES High** and **ACES High+**.

Online Enrollment & Certification | Beginning February 1, 2018 producers are encouraged to enroll online and contact their local County Extension Office to have calves certified by the County Agriculture Agent. Extension Offices are also available to assist with the enrollment process.

NMSU CES will also inform all regional sale barns and other cattle markets about the ACES High and ACES High+ programs in an effort to gain program recognition throughout numerous marketing venues.

NMSU CES will host certified sales at area sale barns where a segment of the sale will be dedicated to ACES High or High+ calves. NMSU CES will also help facilitate advertising of these sales. Participation is optional.

There are no guarantees of increased value by participating in these programs. Traditionally, this type of value-added program results in \$6-7 / cwt premiums.

For more information contact Craig Gifford, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, by phone 575-646-6482 or email cgifford@nmsu.edu. You can also visit <http://nmbeef.nmsu.edu/>.

12. Drought Monitor Work Group Needs Volunteer Observers

The good folks from the Drought Monitor Work Group are looking for volunteer observers to add to their CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow) Network. The information they collect helps the experts develop the drought status maps for NM. That in turn informs decisions about mitigation actions and financial assistance programs that may be made available to sectors (like agricultural producers) that are impacted by drought.

If you know anyone who has a keen interest in the weather and its impacts on the ground and would like to share that with the people who track such data, please point them to this website and have them contact NM State Climatologist and CoCoRaHS Coordinator Dave DuBois:

David DuBois
New Mexico Climate Center
Dept. of Plant and Environmental Science
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8003
575-646-2974
dwdubois@nmsu.edu

They are especially interested in adding observers in the following areas:

- Four corners, especially on tribal lands
- East/East-central plains, from Mora to Eddy County
- Santa Rosa, Roswell, Carlsbad
- Upper Rio Arriba County
- McKinley, Cibola, San Juan and De Baca counties

Any referrals you can make in those areas – or anywhere else in the state - would be appreciated.

13. 73rd Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference

The 73rd International Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference (SWCS) will be held in Albuquerque this year July 29th-August 1st. The theme of the conference is Culture, Climate, and Conservation.

This year's conference will take place in the Albuquerque Convention Center, which is located adjacent to the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque, the SWCS headquarters hotel. The SWCS has negotiated a discounted conference rate of \$149 for single and double occupancy

rooms. This block is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and the discounted rate is available through July 5, 2018. Hyatt Regency Albuquerque is located at 330 Tijeras Avenue NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102. To reserve your room call: (505) 842-1234.

Sponsors and exhibitors are welcome and needed for this year's conference. If you are interested in being a sponsor or exhibitor, please contact Jamie Nieman; corporate.info@swcs.org.

Full Conference Registration Rates:

SWCS Members: \$435

Register and Join SWCS: \$540

Non-Members: \$450

Seniors (65+): \$325

Full-Time Students: \$250 (includes a 12-month student membership)

One-Day Rates:

SWCS Members: \$250/day

Non-Members: \$300

Senior: \$185

Full-Time Students: \$130 (no membership)

Wednesday ONLY: \$150

For more information visit: <https://www.swcs.org/events/conferences/2018-annual-conference/>

14. 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>

What is the purpose of these community open houses?

- Create understanding of preliminary plan direction with posters and Forest Service staff available for dialogue
- Discuss the preliminary draft plan direction with Forest Service staff and any further ideas for revising the Forest Plan
- Keep stakeholders informed and involved in the forest plan revision effort
- Strengthen links between the Forest and nearby residents, users, and interested parties

Community Open House Schedule: (Open house style so drop in anytime during the meeting)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Monday, March 19th</u>	<u>4-6:30 pm</u>	<u>Quemado</u>	<u>Quemado High School Cafeteria, 3484 Hwy 60 Quemado, NM</u>
<u>Tuesday, March 20th</u>	<u>4-6:30 pm</u>	<u>Glenwood</u>	<u>Glenwood Community Center, 14 Menges Ln, Glenwood, NM</u>
<u>Wednesday, March 21st</u>	<u>4-6:30 pm</u>	<u>Silver City</u>	<u>WNMU Global Resource Center, 12th Street & Kentucky Street, Silver City, NM</u>
<u>Thursday, March 22nd</u>	<u>4-6:30 pm</u>	<u>Mimbres Valley</u>	<u>Roundup Lodge, Acklin Hill Road, San Lorenzo, NM</u>
<u>Friday, March 23rd</u>	<u>9-11 am</u>	<u>Las Cruces</u>	<u>NM Farm and Ranch Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Rd Las Cruces, NM</u>
<u>Friday, March 23rd</u>	<u>3-5:30 pm</u>	<u>Truth or Consequences</u>	<u>Albert Lyon Event Center, 2953 South Broadway, Truth or Consequences, NM</u>
<u>Monday, March 26th</u>	<u>4-6:30 pm</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Reserve High School gym, Mountaineer Rd, Reserve, NM</u>

- No need to RSVP for the community open houses
- Your input will help develop forest plan direction that will provide for a healthy, diverse, and productive Forest.
 - 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.

15. SWCD Boundary Description Project

Thank you to all of the districts that have submitted their packet to the Secretary of State's (SoS) office.

There are some districts with whom we've not heard back from that should have received their updated legal description and map. Please file the packet with the SoS's office. ***After the SoS's office confirms receipt of the packet, please forward that email to the SWCC (swcc@nmda.nmsu.edu) and your NMDA Specialist.***

If you have questions, have not received the packet, or have had any trouble receiving/opening any of the attachments that were sent, please inform Katie Kruthaupt at kkruthaupt@nmda.nmsu.edu.

16. 2018 AgriFuture

The 2018 AgriFuture Educational Institute brings together the wisdom and experiential knowledge of past and present farmers and ranchers, along with the fresh thinking and enthusiasm of the next generation. The event aims to connect, inform and inspire the next generation of farmers, ranchers and others in agriculture. AgriFuture is May 15-17 in Albuquerque. This year marks the third biennial conference with 150 attendees expected and will feature educational speakers, breakout sessions, dinner with mentors, networking opportunities and more.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/agrifuture-2018-tickets-39879237874> .

17. Wildland Urban Fire Summit (*Previously called the Wildland Urban Interface Summit*)

The state's leading authorities in wildfire preparedness will be meeting in Santa Fe, April 10-12, to host the 2018 Wildland Urban Fire (WUF) Summit. The WUF Summit is one of New Mexico's largest events designed to discuss and prepare the state for wildfires, including the impending 2018 wildfire season. The theme for this year's Summit is "Collaborative Community Action" and this topic will be highlighted throughout the two-day summit. Local government leaders, fire and emergency responders, businesses, and community members are encouraged to attend.

For more information and online registration, please click here [2018 Wildland Urban Fire Summit](#).

Lodging is available at the Lodge at Santa Fe for a rate of \$85.00 Single/Double plus tax. Reservations must be made directly with the hotel no later than March 10th to guarantee the negotiated WUF Summit rate.

18. AgSprint

Instead of being wedged into a one-size-fits-all program, AgSprint ventures receive 5-months of customized support tailored to each entrepreneur's unique path to business development and financial success. Along with the Arrowhead Investment Fund, AgSprint has its pulse on private, state, and federal funding and will curate a list of opportunities and assist with proposal/pitch development to make time-to-market more efficient.

Founded by civic leaders, we have a mission that is equal parts public and private — an entrepreneurial venture designed to bridge the gap between what people need and what governments can provide. Whether you want to launch a startup, scale up your operations or give your established business a competitive edge, we've got the tools and resources you're looking for.

We make time-to-market more efficient by providing dedicated business and technical development advisement, financing, testing, and on-demand academic and industry connections. Special perks include R&D and demonstration and validation partners, investment consideration for the Arrowhead Innovation Fund, NSF I-Corps lineage, \$2,000 in participant support, and a \$20,000 seed investment in one company.

For more information, visit <http://arrowheadcenter.nmsu.edu/agsprint/> .

19. Clean Water Rule: Waters of the U.S. Update

The agencies will continue to implement nationwide the previous regulatory definition of “waters of the United States,” and administer the regulations in place prior to the 2015 rule. The final Waters of the U.S. rule will not be implemented until February 6, 2020.

For more information, go to:

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/02/06/2018-02429/definition-of-waters-of-the-united-states-addition-of-an-applicability-date-to-2015-clean-water-rule?utm_campaign=subscription%20mailing%20list&utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email

20. Wildfire Risk Reduction for Rural Communities Grant Program

The New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC) is pleased to announce the release of the 2018-2019 Wildfire Risk Reduction for Rural Communities Grant Program. Applications can be submitted electronically or via mail. All applications must be received by NMAC no later than Friday, March 30, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. **All applications must also be submitted to BLM for review by March 9th.*

The information is available on the NMAC website at

<http://www.nmcounties.org/homepage/local-state-and-federal-collaboration/fire/>. Funding for this program is provided by the National Fire Plan through the Department of the Interior/Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in cooperation with NMAC. The program targets at-risk communities by offering seed money to help defray the costs of reducing wildland fire risk to non-federal WUI areas in New Mexico. Funding is intended to directly benefit communities that may be impacted by wildland fire initiating from or spreading to BLM public land.

The 2018-2019 Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program grant cycle will give priority to applicants who request funding for outreach and education projects (i.e. Fire Adaptive Communities, Ready, Set, Go Program) that encourage reducing wildfire risk on non-federal lands and can show a direct benefit to BLM lands. Requirements for New Mexico State Forestry CWPP updates are included with the program information. A limited number of hazardous fuel reduction projects will also be considered. Please review all materials thoroughly and complete the submission checklist before submitting your application packet. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. *All applications must be received by the New Mexico Association of Counties office by 5:00 pm on March 30, 2018 and can be submitted electronically to awebb@nmcounties.org.*

If you have specific inquiries about the New Mexico Association of Counties, Wildfire Risk Reduction Program, Application for Funding, or grant distributions please contact Aelysea Webb at (505) 395-3403 or via email at awebb@nmcounties.org.

21. NM Agricultural Statistics Bulletin Available

The 2016 NM Agricultural Statistics Bulletin is now available. Please visit the website below to access the bulletin.

<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/2018/02/2016-new-mexico-agricultural-statistics-bulletin/>