

Keeping up with the College

Dean's Message

This is the first Summer newsletter after we ended a very successful semester. Now, faculty return to their summer activities, including research, extension activities and workshops. Our extension personnel continue to be very dedicated in assisting the teams with the fires and related issues, at which they are doing a commendable job. Please see below for details.

This season has brought a lot of tough issues to the state of New Mexico, especially with the drought that we are living with and the need for water for containment of the fires, while also keeping the agriculture system working. In this issue you will see some of the important activities that we have in the college.

I encourage everyone to see the new buildings that are being built and coming up. We really appreciate the support of the NM Beef Council and everything they are doing to provide the additional funding for these facilities.

We have a write-up about digital agriculture. The definition of this term is included below. This is a wide field, but we see specific ways of moving forward with digital agriculture not only in our classrooms and laboratories but also in our research and extension programs. I encourage you to keep looking for new developments in this area and to recognize the successes that our faculty and students are having as well.

It is worth mentioning that the [Las Cruces Bulletin](#) recently gave recognition to College of ACES horticulture pioneer [Fabián García](#), for his work in developing crops for New Mexico, as well as to [Fabiola Cabeza de Baca](#), an early extension agent, for her role in supporting our rural communities and documenting their foodways, including being the first to document a recipe for the U-shaped fried taco.



**Dean & Chief Administrative Officer
Rolando A. Flores Galarza**

Relief programs available to agriculturalists impacted by wildfire

Fires across the state have caused a lot of hardship for families and industry partners! If any ag producers are in need of assistance they should work through their local Farm Service Agency.

Contact for San Miguel County will be Linda Alcon at: 505-652-3230 (direct line) or via email: Linda.Alcon@usda.gov

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers assistance to agriculturalists impacted by wildfire – including multiple programs to help during recovery and to mitigate risk on your operation. [To learn more about your options and how to enroll, contact your county FSA agent. New Mexico's directory can be accessed online at https://www.fsa.usda.gov/contact-us under 'FSA County Offices'.](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/contact-us-under-FSA-County-Offices)

There are an array of options when looking to enroll to receive emergency relief payments.

Some programs to inquire about include:

- [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\)](#)
- [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#)
- [Emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres](#)
- [Livestock Forage Disaster Program \(LFP\)](#)
- [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#)

Details and further programs can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/wildfire>



Jose Fernandez Memorial Garden

The Jose Fernandez Chair was created in 1988, when Grace and Enrique "Henry" Chavez, deeded over seven acres of prime real estate to the NMSU Foundation. The Chair was named in honor of Grace Chavez' father, a Mesilla Valley pioneer farmer who emigrated from Mexico and began growing alfalfa in the Mesilla Valley as a tenant farmer in the early part of this century.

At the time, this endowment was the largest of its kind ever donated to the NMSU Foundation and designated to the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

On May 13, 2022, current Jose Fernandez Chair Dr. Stephanie Walker shared her inspiration for the creation of the Jose Fernandez Garden at NMSU. We were delighted to celebrate this special occasion with the family and descendants of Jose Fernandez and continuing this family's legacy in the College of ACES.

For more information contact [Dr. Stephanie Walker](#) via email: swalker@nmsu.edu



SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Digital Agriculture at NMSU

Providing food and fiber supplies to sustain our society is a focus for agricultural research. New Mexico State University strives to enhance the abilities and opportunities of agriculture producers. Utilizing technologies and digitally based solutions can add tremendous value for producers located in rural and water stressed areas in the southwest.

Digital agriculture focuses on integration of digital information into livestock and crop management as well as other related agricultural processes. Adoption and use of digital agriculture technologies such as sensors, drones and automation allow for increases in productivity, savings of time and resources, prediction of needs, and reduction of risk. Digital agriculture produces large quantities of data needing to be processed and interpreted. Researchers in the College of ACES strive to understand how to best collect digital data,

interpret it and develop solutions that aid producers and better equip them to use multiple source digital information to make decisions.

For more information contact [Dr. Don Edgar](#) via email: dedgar@nmsu.edu

4-H



After a few years of navigating a pandemic and advisor transitions, NMSU Collegiate 4-H has kicked off the dust and is driving forward in rebuilding their student organization. The springboard for this task came with the opportunity for seven students to attend the National Collegiate 4-H Conference at the University of Tennessee Knoxville in April.

Learning from and with Collegiate 4-H students from across the country helped build a vision and develop goals for NMSU Collegiate 4-

H, cultivated relationships, and created a network of resources and support of students who are driven to make a difference as servant leaders in their colleges, universities, and communities. In the past four months, Collegiate 4-H members have performed 131 hours of community service. If you are looking for opportunities to serve, Collegiate 4-H is your place! No previous 4-H experience is required, just a desire to make a positive difference. Contact (575) 646-3026 to get involved.

For more information contact [Dr. Laura Bittner](#) via email: lbittner@nmsu.edu

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Virtual Fencing Deployment

Dr. Utsumi's lab successfully deployed virtual fencing collars on cows at the Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center (CDRRC) for the first time. This is an exciting, novel, and high-tech venture for the CDRRC and is a huge accomplishment for the Sustainable Southwest Beef Coordinated Agricultural Project as well as for researchers in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences.

The virtual fence collars keep cattle contained by providing them with auditory cues associated with a "virtual" fence line. This means that ranchers could potentially utilize less wire fencing and change fence lines seasonally to adjust areas where cows graze.

For more information contact [Santiago Utsumi](#) via email: sutsumi@nmsu.edu



CDRRC Brangus cow equipped with a No Fence virtual collar



Computer dashboard image of the 11 cows' GPS locations over a daily period.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS & AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS

NMSU National Agri-Marketing Association team competes in semifinals at nationals

New Mexico State University's National Agri-Marketing Association team competed and made it to the semifinal round at the National NAMA competition in Kansas City, Missouri, April 6-8. The team was in the top 10 and recognized for its marketing work on the producer product, "The Gateman."

NMSU NAMA is a team of undergraduate students that works to create a successful marketing plan for a new-to-market or undermarketed agricultural product. Students learn first-hand the process of developing and marketing products. The program also provides students with the opportunity to develop professional networks, collaborate with peers and business professionals to obtain information, get experience in leadership roles, establish relationships and foster career development through research and personal growth.

"NMSU NAMA provides students countless opportunities, from career and professional development to networking skills to actual hands-on marketing knowledge," said Chadelle Robinson, NMSU NAMA adviser and Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business assistant professor.

[Read more](#)



HOTEL, RESTAURANT AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

On Wednesday, March 30, 2022, School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management faculty member Daren Bloomquist presented at the National Association of College and University Food Services' Southern Regional Conference held at the NMSU Corbett Center. His presentation, "Induction Cooking in a Commercial Kitchen," explained how transitioning from gas to electric induction appliances makes kitchen operations more efficient, cooler, cleaner, and more sustainable.








Approximately 30 food service professionals attended the presentation. Students from the HRTM 443 – Meetings, Conventions and Special Events Management class volunteered at the NACUFS conference assisting with registration and sessions. They gained valuable experiential learning and were able to network with industry representatives.

For more information contact [Dr. Jean Hertzman](mailto:jhertzma@nmsu.edu) via email: jhertzma@nmsu.edu

INNOVATIVE MEDIA RESEARCH & EXTENSION

ACES Website Migration Beginning

The three missions of our college – and its sheer size – make the ACES website unique. Our web team has begun migrating more than 310 active sites and 6,000 pages to the NMSU system called Cascade. The NMSU team has been working with our college to develop special templates, and the ACES team has been working for a year, preparing the older sites and deleting outdated content to ensure our sites can move smoothly into the new, mandated system. The first phase will be migration of sites for academic departments, then AES, then CES sites, and then the remaining special projects. We will notify department heads and web editors when it is time for their site to move, and provide support on how to use the new software. Depending on the size of each site, it can take a few days or a couple of weeks to transition each site. The entire process for the college should take approximately a year. Web editors can continue using the ACES CMS (<https://cms.nmsu.edu/>) to keep their pages current until their site is moved into Cascade. Contact ACES Webmaster, [Connie Padilla](#), with questions

	Other Colleges	ACES
	 website info 	  
Audience	Students potential students	Students and potential students, the public, producers, consumers, other researchers, and Extension stakeholders
Sites/Pages and editors	One main website (each department manages own site)	310 active sites 6,300 pages 17,000 images and documents 250 active users
Navigation	Each department links to their own pages.	Each department links to their own pages, as well as to other college sites.

the [ACES website](#) has unique needs, compared to other NMSU colleges

INDIAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

[Indian Resources Development](#) is now one of the statewide program partners of the College and Career Readiness Bureau of the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) and New Mexico Workforce Solutions for the [2022 Summer Enrichment Internship program](#). IRD provided support to tribal nations to apply for grant funds to offer paid internships for high school students with government agencies and community organizations, including county, tribal, and/or municipal placements. During the summer, IRD will collaborate with tribal education departments in planning and offering career and college readiness workshops and other activities that support youth in their exploration of higher education opportunities in New Mexico.

[Contact Info for 2022 Partners – NEW MEXICO INTERNS \(nminterns.com\)](#)

Summer 2022 Statewide Program Partners

Bernalillo County
Curry County
De Baca County
Dona Ana County
Grant County
Los Alamos County
Roosevelt County
San Juan County
San Miguel County
Sandoval County
Socorro County
Torrance County
Valencia County

Jicarilla Apache Nation
Pueblo of Acoma
Nambé Pueblo
Ohkay Owingeh
Pueblo of Picuris
Pueblo of Pojoaque
Pueblo of Santo Domingo
Pueblo of Zia
Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo

Non-profits:

Future Focused Education

Indian Resources Development at New Mexico State University

HELP NM:

Cibola County
Colfax County
McKinley County
Mora County
Rio Arriba County
San Miguel County
Taos County



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For available vacant positions in the College of ACES, please visit,
[New Mexico State University Applicant Portal | Home \(nmsu.edu\)](#)

The College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences is an engine for economic and community development in New Mexico, improving the lives of New Mexicans through academic, research, and Extension programs.



**College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences**
New Mexico State University

