

Keeping up with the College

Dean's Message

Welcome back Aggies!

We are ready to charge into the fall semester with a new set of students and faculty in the College of ACES. This is a new semester, and with it come new challenges, but we are ready for them. One of the characteristics of the College of ACES is the individualized attention that students get from our faculty.

There is no doubt that the college of ACES has always been exemplary in mentoring

and tutoring students in our college. We are preparing many new activities for the semester, continuing recent advances, and expanding new programs in the college. You may have seen coverage in the national press of NMSU research exploring the introduction of cattle varieties more resistant to drought conditions. This research is being conducted in our college and is bringing NMSU into the spotlight.



It is county fair season around New Mexico, and our faculty in extension are busy working with and contributing to these: the dates will be included here in the newsletter. Also, in this newsletter we want to give recognition to our outstanding agents in extension who have been nationally recognized for their work. I encourage you to take note of recognition that Donald Martinez, Bonnie Hopkins, Rick Griffiths, Zane Webster, Weston Medlock, Chase Elkins, and Woods Houghton have obtained from national organizations. We also want to welcome all the new faculty and staff members who are joining the college this semester. We are delighted to have you here helping us move the needle to benefit the economic development of New Mexico. Details of upcoming activities like Ag Day and Open House will be communicated in the next issues of the newsletter. I encourage you to stay attentive to those dates.

We want to thank all those individuals who have taken the time to respond to this newsletter with feedback – we really appreciate it.

Rolando A Flores Galarza
Dean & Chief Administrative Officer



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Are Criollo Cattle a Regenerative Solution to a 1,200-Year Megadrought?

Originally from the Andalucía region of Spain, these Raramuri Criollo cattle are small and trim—weighing about 800 pounds each, compared to a 1,200-plus-pound Angus cattle. After being

brought from Spain 500 years ago, they evolved in the mountains of Chihuahua, Mexico, where they learned to survive by searching for food in the far corners of the rough landscape. For centuries, the Tarahumara people have successfully bred Criollos with little husbandry, taking advantage of the cattle's ability to forage and thrive in arid climates to produce meat, milk, and more.

Since 2005, researchers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and New Mexico State University (NMSU) have studied the Raramuri Criollo's potential to produce more sustainably in the drought-prone Southwestern states. In 2015, Corte Madera Ranch became one of five ranches across the U.S. participating in the [Sustainable Southwest Beef Coordinated Agricultural Project](#)—adding Criollo heifers and a bull into its Angus herd.

A more detailed summary is available at [Are Criollo Cattle a Regenerative Solution to a 1,200-Year Megadrought? | Civil Eats](#)

For more information contact Santiago Utsumi at sutsumi@nmsu.edu



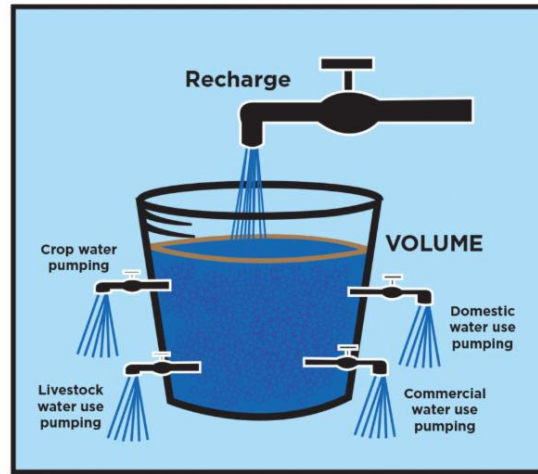
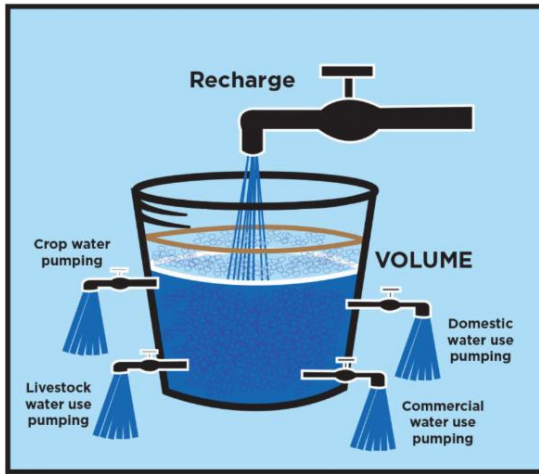
WATER FOR AGRICULTURE

Sustaining aquifers economically in the face of hydrologic, institutional, and climate constraints

Aquifers are important for water and food security in New Mexico. Internationally, aquifers supply water to millions of farms, thousands of cities, and billions of people. Water use and economic activity in aquifer-dependent regions can only be sustained if groundwater levels are stabilized. A recent research study by a former NMSU Water Science doctoral student, Bernard Baah-Kumi and his co-authors, addresses the question of how water scarce places like New Mexico can reduce aquifer depletion while supporting the many economically important uses of groundwater, which serve as a source of supply in places with limited or seasonal precipitation which could become more pronounced in the face of future climate stress. Results show that for the aquifers investigated, present practices of groundwater use are often unsustainable. It also investigated alternative practices that are more sustainable.

The article is titled “Sustaining aquifers economically in the face of hydrologic, institutional, and climate constraints,” and was published in March, 2022. A more detailed summary is available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S004896972106558X>

For more information, please contact Frank Ward at fward@nmsu.edu



4-H



Dean Flores addressing State 4-H Conference Attendees

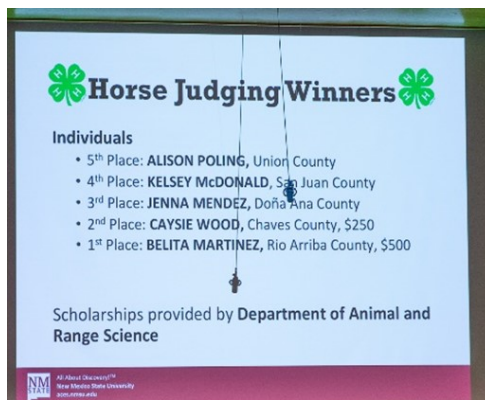
State 4-H Conference 2022

The 99th annual State 4-H Conference was held on the NMSU campus, July 11-14, with nearly 300 participants. During conference, youth toured the Athletics and Hotel and Restaurant Management departments, and the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum. Youth also attended workshops provided by the State 4-H Leadership

Team and College of ACES faculty on topics including communication, leadership, goal setting, healthy living, and financial management. The College of ACES provided dinner and presented opportunities for youth to learn about degree options. Youth competed in contests, ranging from family and consumer sciences to agricultural topics, some youth qualifying to compete nationally.

One youth participant stated, "I learned about opportunities the campus has to offer, how to set goals, and that I'm responsible for my reaction to events that happen in life." Youth returned to their counties with valuable skills and knowledge to share with friends, family and 4-H members.

For more information contact Dr. Laura Bittner at lbittner@nmsu.edu



New Mexico County Fairs

Here are New Mexico County fairs going on all month long in August. Note: Here is an edit to this post. We regret any omissions to this list. The Lea County Fair is still going on until August 6th. The Catron County Fair is scheduled for August 24th–27th.

If you need more information and times for any of these fairs, contact your County Extension Office at <https://aces.nmsu.edu/county>



ACADEMICS

Welcome Home, Aggies! Street Festival

Join us for our Welcome Home, Aggies! Street Festival that will take place on August 31st from 5:00pm – 8:00pm on College Drive between Gerald Thomas and Skeen Hall.

ACES street festival with live music and student clubs/organizations to welcome all students to home to Aggieland! All students are invited to attend; come join us for good food, good music, and a good time!

If your department/club/organization would like to participate in the Welcome Home festival, complete this form by August 26th (please avoid duplicating activities):

<https://crimsonconnection.nmsu.edu/event/8150400>

For more information contact Sr. Program Coordinator, Shelby Herrera at dancin4h@nmsu.edu

WELCOME HOME AGGIES!

AUGUST 31ST
5-8PM



Admission: \$1 per person
Proceeds will be donated to the ACES
Freshman Scholarship

GAMES, LIVE MUSIC, FREEBIES & LOTS OF FUN!

NM STATE
BE BOLD. Shape the Future.
College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Dryland Soil Health Workshop at Clovis ASC

The first dryland soil health workshop was successfully organized at the Clovis Agricultural Science Center on July 18-20. The workshop's main goal was to help undergraduate and graduate students learn about soil health and train them on soil health assessments. The workshop involved formal presentations, hands-on learning in the field and lab, and a discussion session.

There were 16 participants; representing students and researchers from New Mexico State University, Colorado State University, Eastern New Mexico University, Texas Tech University, and USDA ARS Lubbock. Interest in identifying soil health indicators that are repeatable, sensitive to management changes, and include chemical, physical, and biological components of soils has increased in recent years. However, a framework that links soil health indicators to essential soil functions in water-limited environments is yet to be identified. The "Soil Health Framework" project (USDA NIFA Project # 2022-67019-36106) aims to evaluate the response of soil health indicators in water-limited environments and engage students in the process. The topics discussed in the workshop included the overview of soil health, soil carbon fractions, soil structure, macro-fauna, soil microbial community structure and functions, and soil water functions such as infiltration and moisture retention.

For more information contact Claire Montoya at ccortner@nmsu.edu



Soil macro-fauna sorting in the soil laboratory

AGRICULTURE AGENTS RECOGNITION

Please join us in congratulating each one of these award winners for the 2022 National Association of County Agriculture Agents.



**Donald Martinez,
Achievement Award**

Donald Martinez is currently the agricultural agent and county program director for Rio Arriba County CES. He is a lifelong resident of Rio Arriba County and an alumni of the Rio Arriba County 4-H program. Donald grew up on a farm and ranch along with his two siblings raising cattle and sheep.

Facilitating programs such as the Annual Fruit Grower's Workshop, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA), Ranchers Roundtables and Noxious Weed programs to name a few.



San Juan County Extension office: Bonnie Hopkins Byers, Rick Griffiths, Zane Webster, Weston Medlock.

National Winner, "Search for Excellence Award, Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Growing Forward Farm Project"

Growing Forward Farm is a cooperative project between the San Juan County Cooperative Extension, San Juan County Government, and NMSU Cooperative Extension to create an outdoor agricultural classroom and new farmer training area. The mission of the farm is to connect youth and community members to the legacy and future opportunities for agriculture in San Juan County and beyond.



**Chase Elkins,
Distinguished Service Award**

Chase Elkins is a Cibola County, NM native that works every day to give back to the community who has given him so much. Chase has been employed with New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service for the past 11 years, and serves as the NMSU Cibola County CES Program Director, Agriculture, and 4-H Agent.



**Woods Houghton,
NACAA National Hall of Fame Award**

Woods Houghton served New Mexico State University and the Cooperative Extension Service for 43 years as an employee and agent. Woods spent his career helping all citizens no matter their background, occupation, or creed and was often the key antagonist putting together coalitions to solve problems.

LET'S MEET THE ACES ACADEMICS TEAM



**Donald Conner
Associate Dean/Director**

Dr. Conner joined the College in May 2019. Conner received his B.S. in environmental health science from the University of Georgia. He holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in food science from UGA, also. Prior to joining NMSU, Conner served Auburn University for 30 years, including 17 as Head of the Poultry Science. Conner completed ESCOP/ACOP leadership training in 1998, and is a 2016 fellow of the Food Systems Leadership Institute. In his present position, Conner provides ACES leadership for student recruitment, student success, career placement, and teaching excellence. Dr. Conner and his wife, Kim make their home in Las Cruces.

**Janie Wagoner
Sr. Student Program Coordinator**

Janie has been working in the College of ACES for 10+ years and with NMSU for 16 years. She earned a bachelor's degree in General Agriculture and a master's degree in Agricultural and Extension Education. She feels blessed to work with the wonderful staff in the Academic Programs office, ACES faculty, staff and students. Every day in ACES is an exciting opportunity to try student-produced foods; see students studying, working and having fun; and to see the dogs (and even a goat!) walking down the halls.

Ashley Lama-Mendoza
Sr. Student Program Coordinator

Ashley began working in the College as a student employee in 2007 with County College (now called NM EDGE) where she continued to work until 2009. Ashley left Las Cruces for a few years, but she returned to work in the College of ACES in 2013 where she worked with the Cooperative Extension Service and the ACES Office of Business and Resource Planning before starting her current role in the Academic Programs Office in 2019.

Shelby Herrera
Sr. Program Coordinator

Shelby is originally from Los Chavez, NM. She received a Bachelor's of Science in Agriculture from NMSU in 2018, where she studied Ag Communications with a minor in Journalism. She is now the Recruitment and Retention Coordinator for the College of ACES, where she recruits students, advises the ACES ambassador team, and coordinates student events on campus. In her free time she runs a photography business and hangs out with her dog.

Priscilla Bloomquist
Professor

Priscilla retired after 33 years as a faculty member in HRTM. She is thankful to have the opportunity to come back part time to serve the college as a member of the Academic Programs team.

UNIVERSITY AWARDEES



Community Engagement, Extension and Outreach Award

We would like to congratulate Dr. Stephanie Walker on receiving the Community Engagement, Extension and Outreach Award. Stephanie Walker is a Professor and Extension Vegetable Specialist in the department of Extension Plant Sciences. She serves as a Professional Development coordinator for the USDA's New Mexico WSARE program (Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) and held the Jose Fernandez Endowed Chair in vegetable production. She serves as the Co-director of the Chile Pepper Institute and Chair of the annual NM Chile Conference.

Her research has focused on trialing and identifying vegetable cultivars and production practices optimum for New Mexico producers and improving chile pepper cultivars through traditional breeding.

While there are so many individuals who she'd like to thank for their support during her career, some that stand out include Tony Fleming who first hired her as a Quality Control Supervisor at the Old El Paso processing plant; Paul Bosland who served as her graduate school advisor; Marisa Wall who brought her into the onion and paprika breeding program; Rich Phillips who led the Chile Task Force; and Natalie Goldberg who



served as an Extension mentor. She is pleased to have been supported by her colleagues in the department towards the receipt of this award while she enjoys the best job in the world – researching and providing training and Extension in New Mexico chile peppers.

Once again, on behalf of the College of ACES congratulations Dr. Stephanie Walker.

COLLEGE OF ACES FALL CONVOCATION 2022

To view the ACES 2022 FALL Convocation presentation you can click on the link below:
[PowerPoint Presentation \(nmsu.edu\)](#)



NEW FACULTY OF THE COLLEGE

To view the faculty of the College you can click on the link below: [ACES-New Faculty.pdf \(nmsu.edu\)](#)



College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences



New Faculty

January 2022 — August 2022

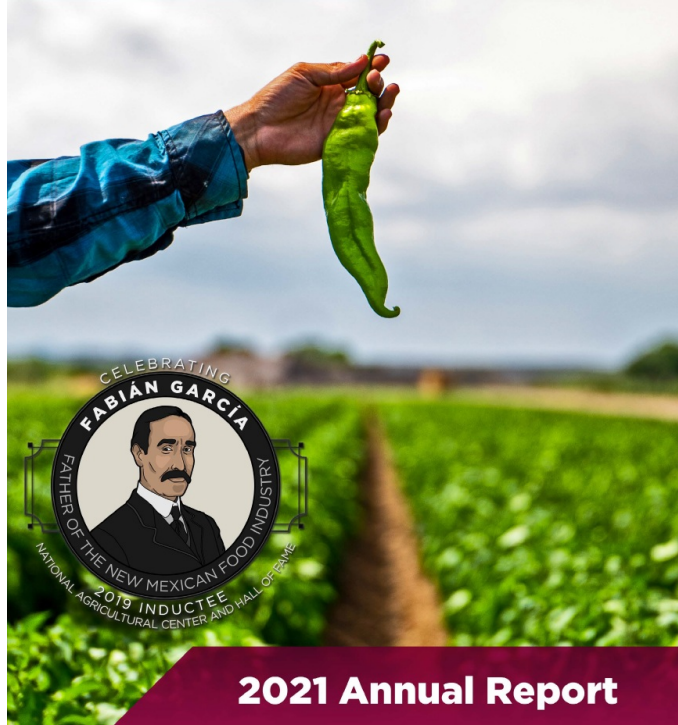
COLLEGE OF ACES 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

This report showcases the many achievements and the impacts accomplished throughout the College of ACES and its main areas and programs during 2021.

To view the full annual report click on the link below:
[2021-aces-annual-report_r.pdf \(nmsu.edu\)](#)



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



COLLEGE OF ACES MAGAZINE – SPRING 2022 ISSUE



[View & Download](#)

OPEN POSITIONS

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
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New Mexico State University

