



Live, Learn and Thrive.

Extension Agronomy and Soils



Programming

Education

- Alfalfa & Corn Growers • Turfgrass
- Dairy Producers of NM • Master Gardener Training • Pesticide Applicator Training
- NMED Compost Operator Certification
- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Training
- Certified Crop Adviser Exam / CEU
 - Soil Test Interpretations
- Salinity Diagnostics & Management
- Irrigation Water Interpretations & Management
 - Kids, Cows & More
- STEM curriculum with Soil Science

Public Outreach

- Publications
- News Releases. TV

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 NMSU and U.S. Department of Agriculture*

Partnerships

WERA-103

Nutrient Management and Water Quality
 NMSU is represented on this project team from land-grant universities, public agencies, and private industry to improve nutrient management recommendations based on soil, water and plant analysis results and other management strategies and coordinating education and research efforts.

Southern Regional Water Program

Nutrient loss is prevalent across the Southern Region including groundwater contamination by nitrate. This partnership supports regional planning, collaboration and information sharing to improve nutrient management recommendations and enhance both economic and environmental outcomes in threatened and impaired watersheds.

Chile Improvement Group

Partnership with EPS, PES, EPPWS, and UA to keep chile a viable economic crop for the Southwest.

Soil Test Interpretations

Environmental regulations along with unique challenges to growing food and fiber crops in New Mexico soils has led many to find what exactly soils are like. The interpretation of those numbers leads to:

The right nutrients

The right nutrient source

The right application timing

Appropriate use of organic fertilizers

Improved environmental quality

Control of saline and/or sodium soil

Identifying causes for poor performance

Improved soil quality

Clients include private farms, ranches, homeowners, parks & recreation departments, consultants, and USDA-NRCS.



Accomplishments and Impacts

- ▶ Extension Agronomy and Soils programs reach over 1,200 people annually.
- ▶ 99% of attendees at soil and plant nutrition workshops learn at least one new piece of take-home information they can use and 90% indicate they have increased their working knowledge of soils, fertilizers and salinity.
- ▶ The Extension Agronomy and Soils Specialist was chosen for the “Distinguished Extension Award” by the College from input by his clientele and colleagues.
- ▶ Soil test interpretations identify nearly 170 sites per year that are saline from either natural, irrigation, or introduced sources of salts.
- ▶ Consultants and dairy producers are assisted in developing nutrient management plans that effectively reduce over-fertilization, reduce nutrient losses, and minimizes the effects of salinity on nutrient removal.

On the Horizon

- ▶ The challenge to produce more with less: While the U.S. population continues to grow, arable land suitable for food production is declining. The remaining marginal land is susceptible to erosion, salinization, and desertification processes, conditions that can compromise human health and air, water and soil quality.
- ▶ Education of tomorrow’s agricultural scientists to meet the challenge to produce more food with fewer resources.

