



College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Northern Extension District Profile

Cooperative Extension Service • extension.nmsu.edu • 505-983-4615

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Cooperative Extension Service Northern District is to provide research-based and community-driven educational programming to the citizens in the 13 counties in the Northern District to improve their quality of life.

Quick Facts

- With a population of 1,399,592—67% of the total state population—the District is extremely diverse, and includes the state’s largest urban population as well as viable agricultural-based economies in the rural areas. Culturally and visually, no other region exemplifies the unique tri-culture environment and beauty for which New Mexico is known.
- Northern District faculty reached over 199,500 clientele in 2016 through county-based Extension programs at workshops, conferences, field days, school programs, and one-on-one consultations.
- Northern District faculty reached 279,093 clientele through mass media outlets, including radio, television, newspaper, and the internet.

Selected Program Impacts

- **Diabetes Cooking Classes** have been offered by Family and Consumer Sciences agents throughout the district to provide citizens living with diabetes with hands-on learning, which has led to an increase in knowledge in meal planning and healthy food choices.
- **Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition (ICAN)** is a series of food and nutrition education classes for limited-resource families and youth to teach them menu planning, healthy food choices, and meal preparation. This program has reached 34,097 participants, helping them improve their daily nutrition.
- **New Mexico Tribal Extension Program** is serving New Mexico’s Native American population by incorporating their culture into educational programs on topics such as agriculture, home economics, and 4-H. In doing so, the agents are helping to preserve the culture.
- **Beef Quality Assurance Program** is designed to educate cattle producers about what production practices need to be followed to produce a wholesome and quality meat product that will appeal to the consumer. Over 400 producers are certified throughout the district.
- **Extension Master Gardener** training was provided to 173 new volunteers in seven counties to assist in expanding Extension’s educational reach in horticulture. These newly trained volunteers provided 6,920 hours of volunteer service valued at \$138,400. This was in addition to the 932 continuing volunteers that provided 32,230 hours valued at \$644,600.
- **Agricultural awareness educational programs**, such as Kids & Kows & More and Food Camp for Kids, have provided youth the opportunity to learn where their food and fiber come from through hands-on educational activities.
- **Food security** training has been provided to youth and adults participating in over 80 school and community gardens that have been developed to provide fresh vegetables and fruits in school lunch programs, or to teach people how to grow their own fresh food. In addition, assistance is provided in developing farmers’ markets for rural residents to purchase local produce while providing a marketing outlet for farmers.
- **Natural resources conservation** is aided by agents actively monitoring drought conditions that will assist ranchers in assessing grazing conditions on private and public lands, as well as for filing for grazing loss claims. Water conservation education has enabled homeowners to save money on their water bills by adopting alternative irrigation practices and selecting appropriate landscape plant materials.
- **Small Farm and Ranch Task Force** is a coalition of agents and producers that has been in existence since the 1960s to address issues related to small-scale agriculture, home economics, and youth.
- **Just Be It! Healthy and Fit** is a youth health and fitness in-school program designed to teach youth about the importance of proper eating and exercise to prevent obesity, which can lead to other health-related problems.
- **Urban 4-H** has delivered the benefits of 4-H to non-traditional audiences through the use of STEM curriculum in schools, military bases, and special-interest youth groups.

ACES Pillars for Economic and Community Development



Northern District County Extension Offices: Faculty, Areas of Expertise, and Location

Northern District Office - 505-983-4615

Patrick Torres, Northern District Department Head

Bernalillo - 505-243-1386

Cindy Davies, County Director/FCS
Diane Christensen, FCS
John Garlich, Natural Resources/4-H
Nicole Jaynes, 4-H/FCS
Lydia Montoya, FCS ICAN
Sara Moran-Duran, Horticulture
Elliot Sachse, 4-H Agriculture
Brittany Sonntag, Urban 4-H

Cibola - 505-287-9266

Chase Elkins, County Director/Agriculture/4-H

Los Alamos - 505-662-2656

Carlos Valdez, County Director/Horticulture/4-H
Desiree Jimenez, FCS/4-H

McKinley - 505-863-3432

Kathy Landers, County Director/4-H Agriculture
Katie Sharpton, FCS/4-H

Mora - 575-387-2856

Vacant position, County Director/Agriculture/4-H

Rio Arriba - 505-685-4523

Marcella Talamante, Interim County Director/4-H
Donald Martinez, Agriculture
Vanessa Martinez, FCS/4-H

San Juan - 505-334-9496

Shelly Hathorn, Home Economist/4-H
Richard Griffiths, FCS
Bonnie Hopkins, Agriculture
Aaron Preator, 4-H Agriculture

San Miguel - 505-454-1497

Samantha Ortiz, County Director/Agriculture/4-H

Sandoval - 505-867-2582

Steve Lucero, County Director/4-H Agriculture
Lynda Garvin, Agriculture/Horticulture
Nicole Lujan, FCS/4-H

Santa Fe - 505-471-4711

Jacqueline Baca, County Director/4-H/FCS
Tom Dominguez, Agriculture
Cydney Martin, FCS
Christina Turner, 4-H Agriculture

Taos - 575-758-3982

Tony Valdez, County Director/Agriculture/4-H

Torrance - 505-246-4745

Gene Winn, County Director/4-H/Agriculture
Danielle Berrien, FCS/4-H

Valencia - 505-565-3002

Laura Bittner, County Director/FCS/4-H
Vera Gibson, 4-H Agriculture
Newt McCarty, Agriculture
Anne-Marie Wilson, FCS/4-H

New Mexico Tribal Extension Program

Kathy Landers, Program Coordinator - 505-863-3432
Jesse Jim, 4-H Agriculture, Eastern Navajo Nation - 505-863-3432
Leah Platero, FCS/4-H, Shiprock - 505-368-3973
Vacant position, Agriculture/4-H, Crownpoint - 505-863-3432

Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program

Jesse LeFevre, Agriculture/4-H, Jicarilla Apache Nation - 575-759-3530

Selected Partnerships and Collaborators

- Rural Agricultural Improvement and Public Affairs Project (RAIPAP)
- Mid-Region Council of Governments
- River XChange Education Program
- County Governments
- Community Colleges
- New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council
- Tribal Governments
- USDA Agencies: FSA, NRCS, APHIS
- Agricultural Non-Profit Organizations and Producer Groups
- New Mexico Public Agencies such as Income Support Division, Department of Health, Livestock Board, Department of Agriculture
- New Mexico Public and Private Schools
- Fair Boards