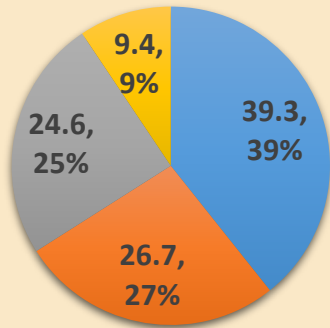
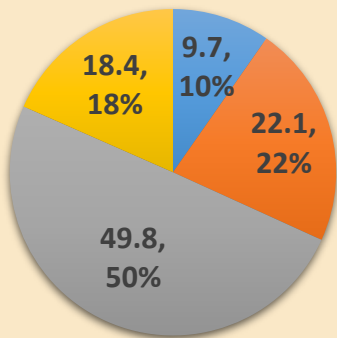


# Water Use & Conservation

## What is a Watershed? Pre-Survey



## Post-Survey



- I don't know.
- It is a building where we store water.
- It is an area of land that drains to a river, lake, bay, or ocean.
- It is a water-body such as a river, lake, bay, or ocean.



## Hands-On, Multidisciplinary 4-H School Enrichment Program

Part of ACES pillars for Economic and Community Development

### Situation

Water is the most limiting resource in New Mexico. Drought, tribal water rights, and compacts with neighboring states have an impact on water use and availability. Water conservation and management are critical as water demand increases for agriculture, industry, and urban uses.

### Extension Response

For over 10 years, Sandoval County Agents have educated more than **12,000** youth about protection of water resources, understanding a watershed, the river ecosystem, and water uses in agriculture. Our team includes Soil and Water Conservation District, Southern Sandoval County Arroyo and Flood Control Authority, Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque Water Utility Authority, City of Rio Rancho, Rio Rancho, Albuquerque, and Bernalillo Public Schools.

Programs incorporate science, social studies, and math. Critical thinking skills are reinforced when students explain water concepts to their pen pals, integrating their new knowledge with their personal experience.

### Impact

During the 2017-2018 school year, **995** youth were engaged in educational activities regarding water conservation and quality. Approximately 25% of the participating students understood what a watershed was prior to the lessons. At the end of the lessons 50% of the participating students have an understanding of what a watershed is and its function. Therefore, a **25% increase in knowledge was achieved through these educational presentations**. In addition, participating students have increased their knowledge about what farmers do to conserve water or prevent pollution of our water resources by the following percentages for the following practices: Use of drip Irrigation (30%), Use less pesticides (13%), Laser-level fields if flood irrigating (25%), Water during cooler parts of the day (20%), Plant cover crops to keep soil in place (15%).



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.

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