

# NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants: Who can apply, and how

## 1. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

**Local governmental** entities with proven **land management** capacity to support healthy soil, including:

- Pueblos, tribes, and nations
  - Acequias
  - Land grants
  - Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs)
  - NMSU—Cooperative Extension Service
- The application period for Eligible Entities will start **April 11** and end **May 17**.
- **Funding limits** will depend on outcomes from the 2023 legislative session.

## 2. INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS

Individuals, businesses, and non-profits directly **engaged in farming, ranching, and other forms of land management**

- **Must complete conservation planning with NRCS** in order to apply for a grant
  - **Must secure project sponsorship** from their SWCD or their pueblo, tribe, or nation in order to apply for a grant
- The application period for Individual Applicants started **February 17** and ends **April 21**.
- Individual Applicants can apply for **up to \$22,000**.

Projects selected for funding must happen between **August 1, 2023** and **May 31, 2024**.

Projects must aim to improve soil health by applying **1+ of the 5 soil health principles:**



1.  
Keeping soil covered



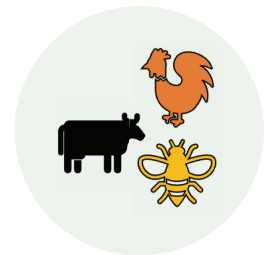
2.  
Minimizing soil disturbance on cropland and minimizing external inputs



3.  
Maximizing biodiversity



4.  
Maintaining a living root



5.  
Integrating animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or keystone species, such as earthworms

Popular Healthy Soil Program grant-funded projects include cover cropping, reestablishing native plant species, applying compost, establishing pollinator habitat, and bale grazing.

All projects involve in-field soil assessment and laboratory-based soil testing.

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Subscribe to the Healthy Soil Program e-newsletter for program updates, application tips, and deadline reminders.

**NMDA**  
New Mexico Department of Agriculture

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