• *Parciantes*: Landowners with water rights

• *Commissioners*: Three member elected body

• *Mayordomo*: Responsible for day-to-day management

• Autonomous Irrigation Organizations
  • Self-Governance
  • Cooperative Labor
Overview: Acequia Agriculture

- Traditional, small-scale agriculture
- Self-sufficient communities into twentieth century

**STRENGTHS**

- Family ownership of land/water
- Local knowledge
- Strong cultural connections

**CHALLENGES**

- Declining infrastructure
- Smaller herd size
- Aging Farmers and Ranchers
Acequia Agriculture

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
Self-sustaining communities
Wide variety of crops grown and livestock

MID-CENTURY TRENDS
Population growth
Wage labor
Transition to pasture and alfalfa
Part-time farming and ranching

RECENT RESURGENCE
Increase in farmers markets
Farmers wanting to diversify again
Growing number of farmers
Rebuilding local/regional food systems (crop income >)
Increased demand
Acequia Agriculture

FUTURE POTENTIAL
Acequias vital to local agriculture
Retainment of land, water, infrastructure
Food security, healthy communities
More farmers markets
Aggregated produce

If consumers spend only 15% on food grown in region, it would be $49 million in new income to farmers.
Mission:
To empower communities in defending water as a community resource and to inspire people in keeping acequia water flowing to provide families and children with healthy, locally-grown food.
New Mexico Acequia Association: Strengthening Acequia Resilience

Primary Foci:

- Providing education and outreach to acequia communities
- Supporting the continuance of the acequia tradition
- Advocating for the protection of communal water rights
- Committed to continuance and development of a sustainable, local food system through acequia-based agriculture
¡Que Vivan las Acequias!