



# Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems — An Interdisciplinary Program

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences  
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY • [aces.nmsu.edu](http://aces.nmsu.edu)



**MISSION:** NMSU's Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems (CESFAS) will be the leader in building a vibrant agricultural economy by conducting innovative, transdisciplinary, collaborative research that facilitates and develops strong food and value-added agricultural businesses. The center will also provide interdisciplinary training and education to students to give value-added industries highly-skilled, workforce-ready employees. In partnership with industry, the CESFAS will help meet the complex challenge of feeding a growing global population using fewer natural resources.

CESFAS, established during the 2019 New Mexico legislative session, is **leveraging resources** of other NMSU units and industry to develop three interdisciplinary faculty positions to address critical gaps in research, Extension, and education in the areas of microbial food safety, food bioprocessing, and sustainable water systems.

This **expansion request** is for salary and operations support for two new faculty positions that will complement the existing CESFAS positions. These new positions would be in the areas of **value-added agribusiness entrepreneurship and agricultural law and policy**. Remaining funds will be used to support student interns in the Sustainable Steward Internship Program.

## APPROPRIATIONS

**FY20 Actual:** \$250,000

**FY21 Request:** \$500,000

### \$250,000 Recurring Project Request for Faculty Positions & Student Interns

NMSU's Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems will build a vibrant food and agricultural economy in New Mexico through value-added research and education.

New Mexico's agricultural industry provides nearly \$3 billion to the state's economy, yet the majority of the state's agricultural commodities are shipped out of state for processing before returning as consumer-available products.

## ACES Pillars for Economic and Community Development



The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences is an engine for economic and community development in New Mexico, improving the lives of New Mexicans through academic, research, and Extension programs.

# Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems

An Interdisciplinary Program at New Mexico State University



## Potential Impacts of CESFAS Research, Extension, Education, and Outreach Efforts:

- **Sustain human communities and the environments** in which they live through food and agricultural systems that are environmentally sound, economically viable, and socially responsible.
- **Develop and expand value-added agribusinesses** in New Mexico.
- **Create jobs** associated with value-added agribusinesses.
- **Develop workforce-ready graduates** for wide-ranging careers.

## Overall Goals for CESFAS:

1. Develop **transdisciplinary collaborations** among university faculty with industry partners to identify and work on research and educational needs in the areas of sustainable food and agricultural systems.
2. Conduct **innovative research** that supports value-added agriculture.
3. Provide practical, research-based education to students to develop **workforce-ready graduates** with the training and skills needed to support food and value-added agricultural industries.
4. Become a hub for collecting and disseminating current livestock production, plant production, food safety, food science, food technology, food bioprocessing, and **value-added food and agribusiness entrepreneurship** information and training.
5. Foster communication between industry and education and **disseminate information** that will consistently serve as a resource to the agricultural industry, the community, and the K-20 educational system.



## Proposed Areas of Work:

1. Nutraceutical and Functional Foods Program
2. Specialty Markets for Meat and Produce
3. Food Safety
4. Food Security
5. Hemp Industrialization
6. Value-added Agribusiness and Ag Supply Chain Entrepreneurship
7. Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Policy
8. Agricultural and Culinary Tourism
9. Sustainable Water Systems



## Programs in Development:

1. **Sustainable Steward Student Internship Program.** Students will work alongside faculty on projects that conserve resources and protect the environment.
2. **Sustainable Steward Invited Speaker Series.** Nationally recognized experts in fields related to sustainable food and agricultural systems will be invited to present both academic and public seminars.
3. **Interdisciplinary Minor in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems.** This minor degree will be available to NMSU students in a wide range of majors who are interested in broadening their degree program.
4. **Interdisciplinary Graduate Degree Program in Food Studies.** This degree involves all aspects of food, including food safety, food security, nutrition, biology, and historical and cultural aspects of food in local and global contexts. This degree complements other interdisciplinary graduate programs in development at NMSU.



## Project Collaborators:

- College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
- College of Engineering
- College of Business
- New Mexico Chile Industry

New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.