



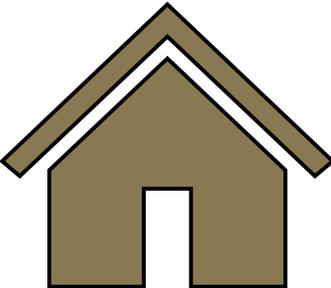
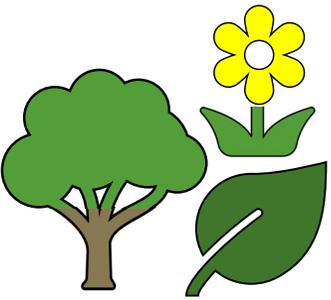
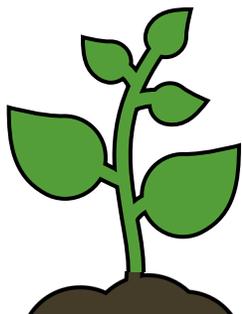
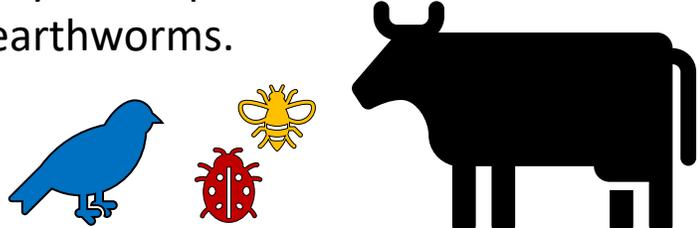
New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Healthy Soil Program

Grants, soil assessment + education,
capacity building, soil health research

Presented by **Katie Goetz**,
NMDA's Healthy Soil Program co-lead
(along with Dean Bruce)

All aspects of NMDA's Healthy Soil Program revolve around the 5 soil health principles

<p>The 5 soil health principles</p>	<p>1. Keep soil covered.</p> 	<p>2. Minimize disturbance on cropland and minimize external inputs.</p> 	<p>3. Maximize biodiversity.</p> 	<p>4. Maintain a living root.</p> 	<p>5. Integrate animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or keystone species, such as earthworms.</p> 
<p>EXAMPLES of practices arising from the 5 soil health principles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting a cover crop • Leaving crop residues in the field to decompose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimizing tillage on cropland • Minimizing farm inputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing different plants • Increasing the diversity of a crop rotation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing long-season crops • Planting a cover crop following a cash crop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing crop residues • Supplemental feeding according to a bale-grazing plan • Planting pollinator habitat



GRANTS TO IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH

- **Who can apply:**
 - **Eligible Entities**, including pueblos, tribes, and nations; acequias; land grants; soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs); and NMSU-Cooperative Extension Service
 - **Individual Applicants**, including farmers, ranchers, and other land managers who complete **conservation planning with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**; and who secure **project sponsorship from their local SWCD** or tribal government to implement their project
- **What's popular:** Planting cover crops; applying compost, mulch, or biochar; installing additional fence and drinkers to facilitate rotational grazing; bale-grazing to restore grass on bare ground
- **When things happen:** NMDA's Healthy Soil Program conducts outreach year-round, intensifying in the fall; applicants apply early in the calendar year; grantees implement their projects between August and May
- **Where projects happen:** Managed land of any size and any ownership structure in New Mexico

SOIL ASSESSMENT AND EDUCATION

- **Soil testing and soil assessment** are required of each grantee
 - Soil **testing** happens in a laboratory and costs a fee
 - Soil **assessment** happens in-field and is free
- NMDA's Healthy Soil Program sends out a **weekly e-newsletter** featuring soil health news, events, and resources, as well as program updates and deadline reminders
- NMDA's Healthy Soil Program and NMSU-Cooperative Extension Service are co-hosting the first-ever **New Mexico Soil Health and Soil Carbon Conference** July 31-August 1 in Albuquerque





CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Presenting information about soil health and NMDA's Healthy Soil Program during **field days**
- Making **in-person visits** to Eligible Entities to provide technical assistance and to answer questions about NMDA's Healthy Soil Program
- Providing **equipment** (penetrometers, range health assessment kits, etc.) and associated training to Eligible Entities for their further use with local land managers

SOIL HEALTH RESEARCH

Leyendecker Plant Research Science Center

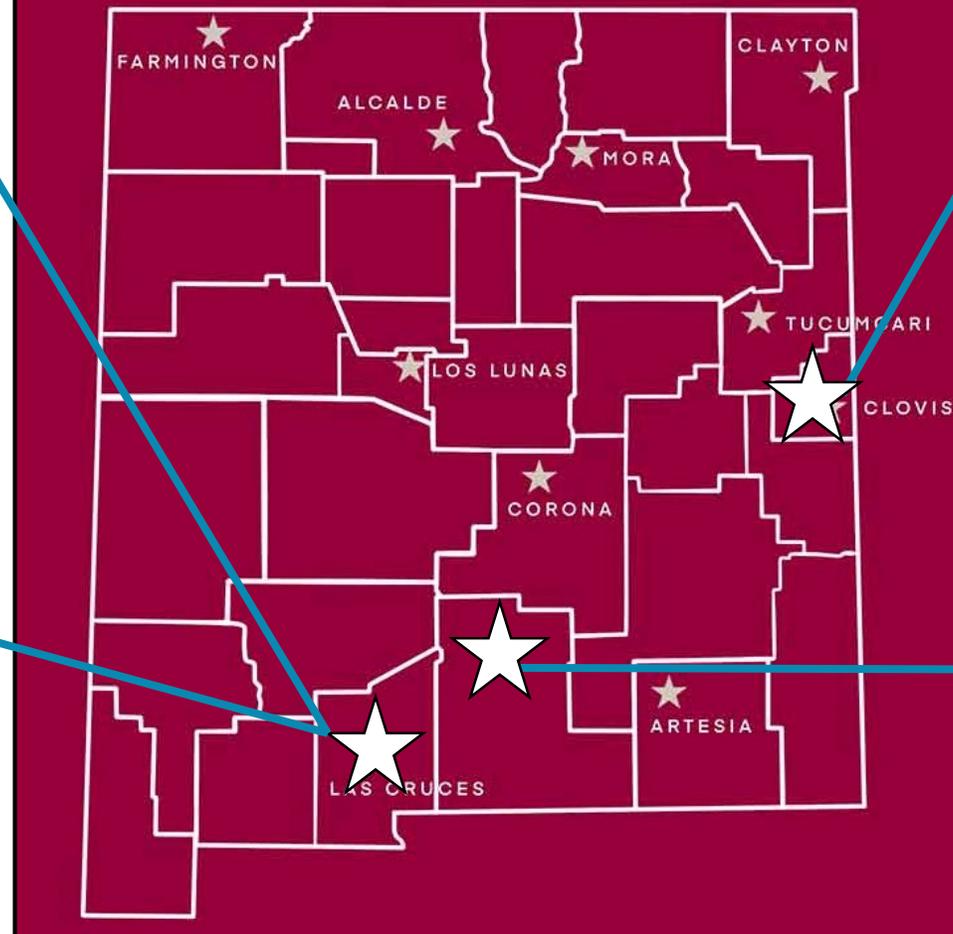
What's the **best mix of cover crops** (single species vs. multi-species) and **organic amendments** (compost, biochar, etc.) to improve soil health in southern New Mexico?

Leyendecker Plant Research Science Center

What are **best practices for avoiding the negative soil health impacts when land is temporarily fallowed** to conserve water?

(in partnership with NMISC)

STATE-WIDE SCIENCE CENTERS



Clovis Agricultural Science Center

How can cover crops and other soil health practices benefit farmers **transitioning from irrigated to dryland** production systems?

Otero County

When both domestic and wild ungulate species are grazing the same area, how can we **measure and manage their influence on soil and vegetation** resources?

Questions?

- Email hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu
- Call 575-646-2642
- Visit <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program.html>, where you can **subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter** for soil health news, events, and more

