



New Mexico Agriculture

Families Feeding Families

2019 NEW MEXICO
**Agricultural
Statistics**

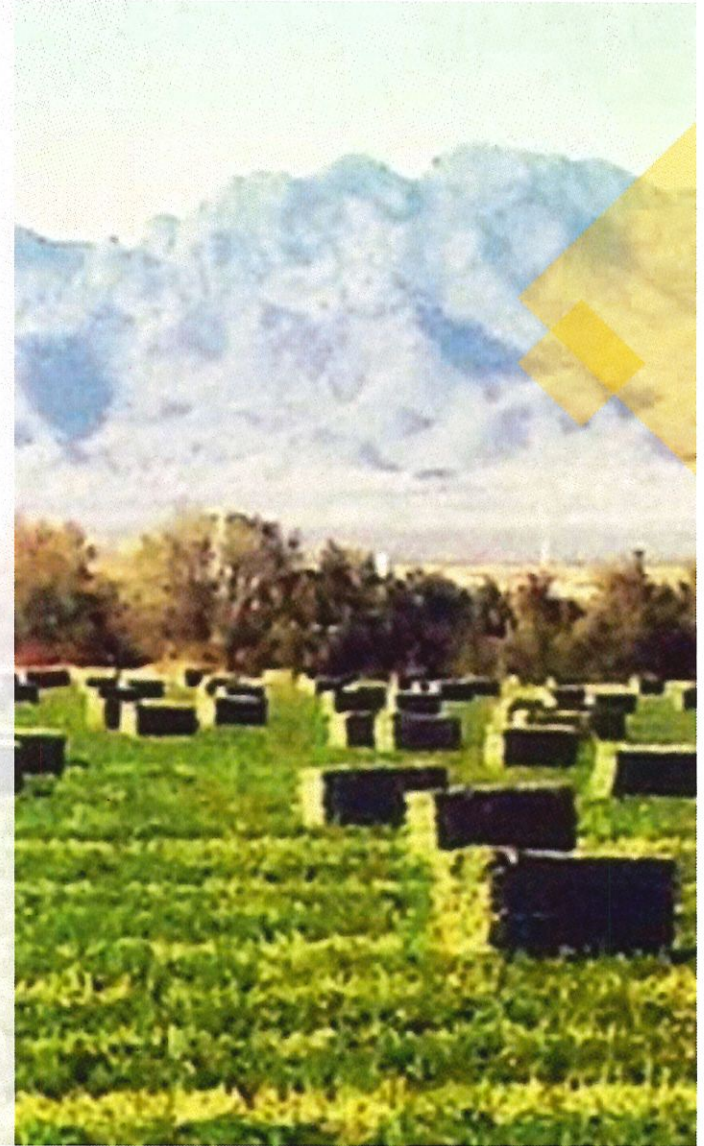
2019 NM Ag Statistics

- Collaborative effort between the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) and the NM Department of Agriculture
- Annual publication which highlights the state's agricultural production
- Statewide and county by county data



Statewide Economic Impact

- 2019 Ag Industry Value \$3.44 Billion
- Ag and food processing account for roughly 13.1% of the State's GDP
- 50,886 Total Jobs Statewide



Top Ag Commodities

Milk \$1.38 B

Calves and Cattle
\$993 M

Pecans \$165 M

Hay \$125 M

Onions \$102 M

Chile \$50 M





Agricultural Exports

Dairy Products \$201.9 M

Tree Nuts \$161.4 M

Beef and Veal \$121.4 M

Other Plant Products \$114.7 M

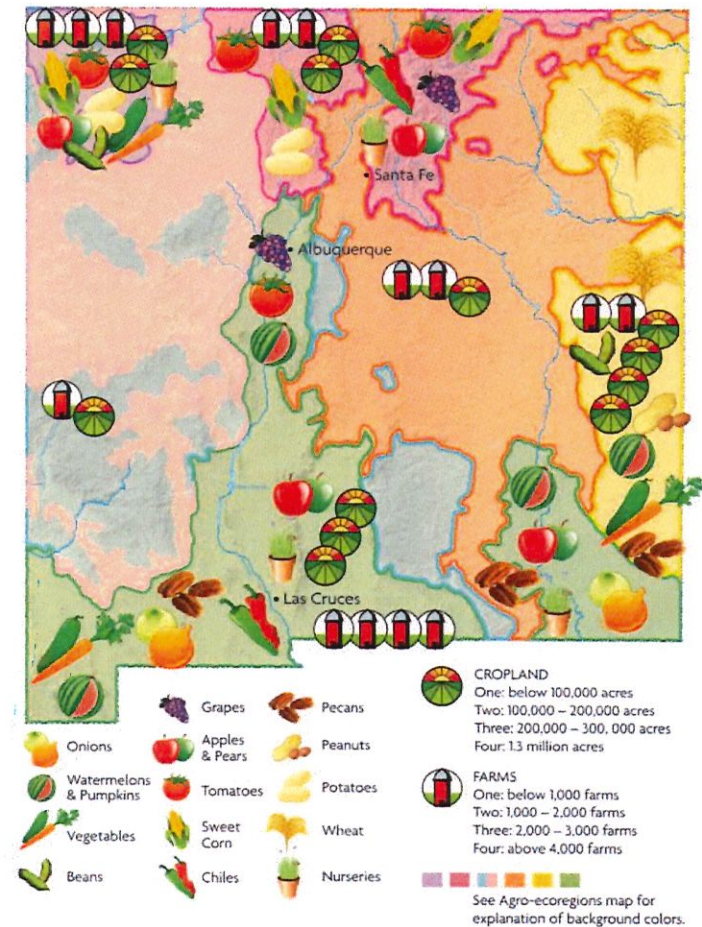
TOTAL \$784 M

USDA Economic Research Service

NM Ag Facts

- 24,800 farms
 - **97% farms and ranches are family owned and operated**
 - 40.6 million acres
 - Average NM Farm size 1,613 acres
 - 3.3x's larger than the national average
- 41% of producers are female
- Top Producing Districts
 - Most farms and ranches
 - McKinley and San Juan Counties
 - Largest in Cash Receipts
 - Curry County \$555,405
 - Chavez County \$473,175

FARMS AND CROPS



Map courtesy of NM PED

Sustainability and Innovation

- **The chile industry is producing more chile per plant and more chile per acre** thanks to improved seed genetics, however the total acres harvested are decreasing
- **Dairy producers are now doing more with less**, they have pledged to be **carbon net zero by 2050**, they **recycle water several times over and utilize it on crops to grow more feed for their cows**
- **Ranchers have always been innovative, they “upcycle” forage on harsh terrain into a nutrient rich protein**
 - Between 1960-2018 US cattle producers have reduced the carbon footprint of the industry by 40% while producing 66% more beef

Conservation

- The planned management and multiple use of natural resources on working lands
- Our state's farmers and ranchers are stewards of the land and our natural resources
- Producers work in close collaboration with the state's 47 soil and water conservation districts who leverage both state and federal dollars to improve landscapes and watersheds
- Our state's producers work to slow soil erosion, increase forage, remove invasive species, and increase plant diversity all which directly benefits wildlife and pollinators

Conservation continued

- **Farmers & Ranchers provide habitat, water, and manage forage that benefits wildlife including endangered species who share rangelands with livestock**
- **Game hunting programs provide supplemental income to landowners**
 - **Revenue generated through hunting assists in offsetting the cost of habitat management**
 - **Hunting is also a scientifically based method for managing wildlife populations and providing ecosystem balance**

Opportunities

- Next Generation farmers and ranchers
 - Continued and strong support for FFA and 4H while working to include more curriculum in the K-12 system about food production
- Creating stronger connections with consumers
 - Providing increased insight on what it takes to get food from farm to fork
- Direct Sales to the consumer
 - 324 farms and ranches reported sales of \$7.6 million in 2019
- Agritourism
 - Provides valuable education and connection opportunities for the public



Challenges

- Drought & Climate
- Providing a secure variety of affordable food for a growing population, while allowing our producers the ability to earn a fair return for their risk
- Land management (lack of federal management, checkerboard ownership)
- Opportunities for the next generation of agriculturalists
- Consumer demands and relationships
- Price volatility
- Stable labor
- Enactment of cost prohibitive and burdensome legislation

Water Availability Challenges

Entity	General Annual Water Allocation	2021 Actual Water Allocation	Change in Water Allocation
Elephant Butte ID	3 acre ft. / acre	4 in. / acre	89% reduction
Middle Rio Grande CD	3 acre ft. / acre	1.5 acre ft. / acre	50% reduction
Carlsbad ID	3.6 acre ft / acre	0.4 acre ft. / acre	89% reduction
Arch Hurley CD	2 acre ft. / acre	0 acre ft. / acre	100% reduction

The chart above highlights the impacts of a short water year on our agricultural producers

I ask you to consider what your day-to-day life would look like with an 89% reduction in water availability

Take Aways

- **NM's Ag Industry needs:**
 - **Legislative support and investment to strengthen the industry specifically the value-added sector**
 - **Support in protecting the valuable resources and practices that our state's producers use**
 - **Supporting agencies NMDA, NMSU, NMED, NMOSE, and the NMLB to be fully funded**
 - **Increased state and federal emphasis and prioritization of watershed and natural resource management**

Conclusion

- Producers are converting to less labor-intensive crops
- Farms and ranches are the drivers of our rural economies
- NM's producers face competition not only from other states but from other countries
- Making a profit in the industry is challenging since we are price takers
- **Our communities depend on a strong and vibrant farm and ranch economy not only at the state level but at a national level as well. We must all collectively work together to ensure the next generation can fulfill consumer needs on our family farms and ranches.**





QUESTIONS?

