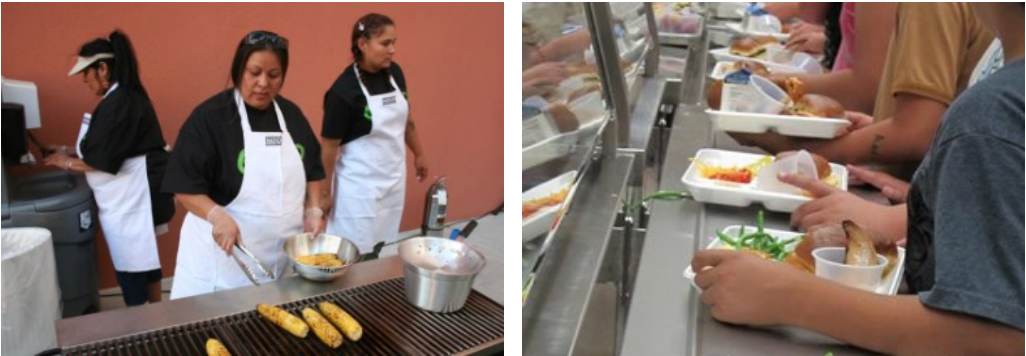


How it Works for Schools

By purchasing New Mexico-grown fresh fruits and vegetables schools across the state are providing high quality produce to students; helping food service directors to meet updated Federal nutrition standards for school meals and encouraging kids to eat fresh fruits and veggies for the rest of their lives.



We work with schools to facilitate the purchase of locally grown fresh produce by :

- ◆ Connecting school food service with local farmers through dialogue, farm tours, and production planning.
- ◆ Helping school food service directors establish clear market requirements for local produce.
- ◆ Facilitating direct sales from local farmers.
- ◆ Working with school administration to adopt local bid processes.

Currently 60 schools and school districts across the state purchase New Mexico-grown produce. This number has more than quadrupled since 2012!

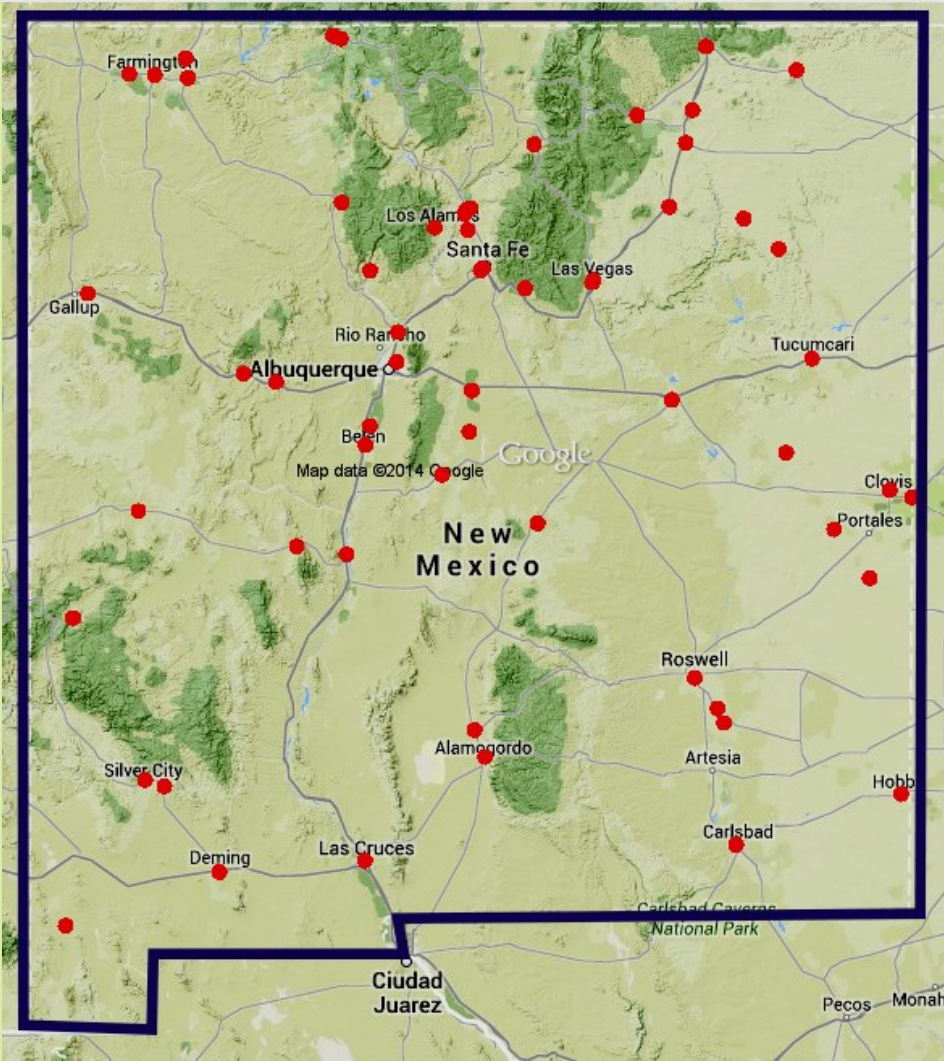
The success of New Mexico’s expanding Farm to Cafeteria program is rooted in a public private partnership; state agencies, non-profits, and communities are working together to benefit children, farmers, and our state economy.

We are able to reach children all over New Mexico by working with the Human Services Department, to utilize the distribution system for the Food and Nutrition Services (FANS) USDA Donated Foods program. This generous partnership allows us to bring fresh product to schools in the furthest corners of our state, exposing youth to new foods and bringing fresh fruits and vegetables to communities that otherwise have limited access.

Among others, our partners include: Human Services Department Food and Nutrition Services (FANS) Bureau, New Mexico Student Nutrition Association, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association, New Mexico State University Co-operative Extension, New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council, and Farm to Table.

Farm to Cafeteria

Connecting school communities with local farmers to bring farm fresh fruits and vegetables to the plates of children across New Mexico!



The points on this map represent school food authorities and districts who support the Farm to Cafeteria program by purchasing New Mexico grown fresh fruits and vegetables for their students.

Farm to Cafeteria Working Across New Mexico:

- We are making an impact.** 146,848 students across the state were served New Mexico grown produce from 2012-2013.
- We are supporting farmers.** Over 300,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables have been sold to schools through Farm to Table alone since 2012!
- We are strengthening the economy.** Over \$180,000 of New Mexico grown produce was sold to schools through Farm to Table alone since 2012!
- There is growing demand.** Over 345,101 students across New Mexico could potentially be served New Mexico grown produce in 2013-2014.

How it Works for Farmers

Selling fresh fruits and vegetables to schools helps strengthen New Mexico’s farming economy and agricultural heritage by increasing market opportunities for small and mid-scale producers across the state.



Since 2012, 23 New Mexican farmers have sold a total of over 300,000 pounds of fresh produce to schools !

Farmers enjoy selling to schools because they are contributing healthy foods to the plates of diverse children across the state, strengthening their communities by retaining cultural traditions, and growing and inspiring the next generation of farmers.

New Mexican farmers selling to schools are earning enough income to expand crop production, invest in infrastructure such as season extension and water conservation, and stop relying on farmers markets sales to make a living. In fact, producers would earn about \$6 million if every student in our schools ate two servings of New Mexico-grown produce per week.

Farmers are increasing their capacity by working with our partners to:

- ◆ Receive trainings on food safety and quality management.
- ◆ Develop farm management and documentation tools.
- ◆ Participate in production planning and marketing meetings.
- ◆ Train other farmers and work together to meet market demand.
- ◆ Inform programs and local bid design through evaluation.
- ◆ Engage with school food service, students, and communities by hosting on-farm educational activities.

Farm to School Education

Farm to School links school children with farm fresh food and educational activities that bring the whole world of agriculture to life and help instill lifestyle choices that nurture their bodies, their communities, and the planet.



*Eating fresh, local foods
AND having
farm and food related
education is the
combination that turns
kids into healthy
eaters for a lifetime.*

Farm to School Education Working In New Mexico :

56% of school districts in New Mexico have purchased locally grown product in the past year.

26% of schools districts in New Mexico offer Farm to School Educational programs to their students.

19% of school districts in New Mexico are purchasing locally grown product to serve in their cafeterias, and reinforcing those experiences with Farm to School Educational programs in the classroom.

Farm to school educational curriculum engages k-12 students in experiential learning activities that include the following aspects and more!

- ◆ School garden planning, care, planting, and harvesting
- ◆ Agriculture and natural science –based curriculum
- ◆ Incorporating local foods into school lessons, snacks, and meals
- ◆ Visits to Local Farms
- ◆ Cooking and Nutrition classes
- ◆ Farmer in the classroom
- ◆ Local food tastings
- ◆ Compost and Recycling programs

New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals - Appropriation Request: \$1.44 Million -



What Legislative funding could do:

For our Children

- ◆ The purchase of New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables will enhance the diets of school children, promoting healthier lifestyles and increasing academic achievement. Studies show healthy nutrition improves child well-being and learning ability.
- ◆ Legislative funding will stem the rise in childhood obesity in New Mexico and help to save the state an additional \$324 million in obesity related health care expenses and an additional \$1.2 billion for diabetes.

For our Schools

- ◆ Legislative funding will help ensure that school meal programs will have the budget to purchase local produce from New Mexico farmers.
- ◆ School food service directors will be in a better position to comply with recent federal rules requiring more servings of fruits and vegetables in the school meals.

For our Farmers and the Economy

- ◆ Legislative funding will expand school markets for the agricultural sector in New Mexico, particularly small and medium size fruit and vegetable farmers, they will build a new market and increase their chances to stay on the land and continue producing food for our communities.
- ◆ The new federal school meal rules—and their emphasis on fruits and vegetables—will help develop a strong market for New Mexico farmers as well as enhance rural and tribal economies.

For our State

- ◆ Increasing economic farming opportunities will help to maintain family farming and conserve the unique heritage and cultural traditions of New Mexico.

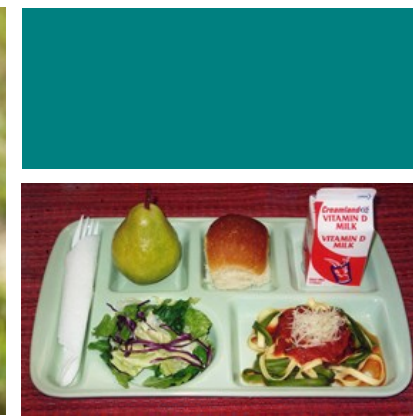
New Mexico School Nutrition Association

9111 La Costa Dr. NE
Albuquerque , NM 87111
(505) 293- 1004



New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council

618 B Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 473-1004



New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals

Senate Bill 143 Sponsors:

- Senator Pete Campos and Timothy M. Keller -

House Bill 81 Sponsors:

- Representatives Don L. Tripp and Jimmie C. Hall-

Healthy Kids - Healthy Economy

-Appropriation Request: \$1.44 Million –

*State investment could have sustainable impacts on the
well-being of children and economic growth of communities
across New Mexico.*