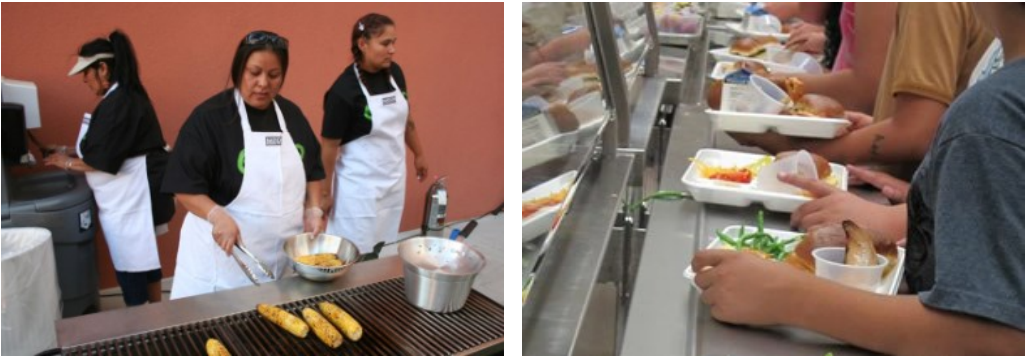


How it Works for Schools

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.



Schools are modifying their practices and policies to support local food purchasing by:

- ◆ Building relationships with local farmers by engaging in conversations, farm tours, and production planning meetings.
- ◆ Establishing clear, and scale-appropriate vendor requirements for local producers.
- ◆ Working to modify and adopt bid processes to allow for the increased purchase of locally grown foods.
- ◆ Partnering with non-profit and service corps organizations to bring Farm to School education to their school communities.

“Its like going out to your garden and picking fresh produce to serve for lunch that day”

— Priscilla Garcia,
FSD, Santa Rosa

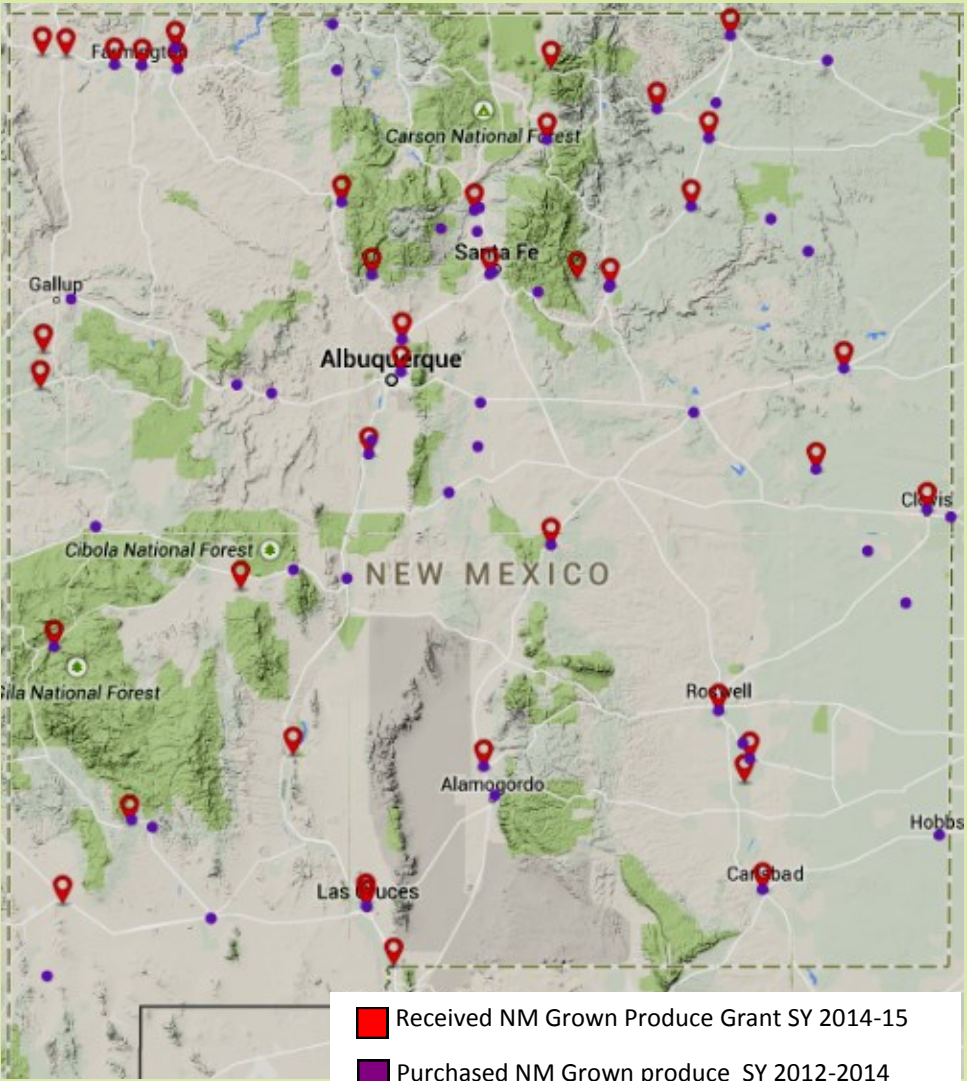
The potential success of the *New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals* program is rooted in a public private partnerships; state agencies, non-profits, and communities are working together to benefit children, farmers, and our state economy.

One example of this is an innovative public-private partnership between local farmers and non-profits, and the NM Human Services Department. Because of this generous support, local farmers are able to utilize the distribution system for the Food and Nutrition Services (FANS) USDA Donated Foods program to distribute their farm fresh produce to schools in the furthest corners of our state. This program not only benefits our local farmers by providing critical infrastructure to grow our agricultural economy, but also increases access to fresh fruits and veggies – helping to build healthier communities for New Mexico’s children.

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, Foodcorps New Mexico, and Farm to Table.

New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals

The list below represents all schools and school districts who are currently participating in the *New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals* grant program, administered through NM Public Education Department.



■ Received NM Grown Produce Grant SY 2014-15
■ Purchased NM Grown produce SY 2012-2014
SY 2015-17: 218 School Food Authorities received opportunity to participate in NM Grown Program

New Mexico Public Education Department : New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals Grant Program

Fresh fruits and veggies are reaching the plates of students all over New Mexico because of a state-supported program to help schools increase their purchase of New Mexico produce for meals served in their schools.

School Foodservice Directors responded to an RFP issued by NM PED in late spring of each year and are allocated funds on a reimbursement basis and must be spent before June of the following year. All schools and school districts in New Mexico were eligible to apply. For more information visit:
www.ped.state.nm.us/nutrition/

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.



“The apples are coming straight from my trees and not traveling more than 50 miles to a school. My melons are picked ripe and ready. Everything going to the schools is harvested the day before delivery .If the schools want to buy more, I’ll grow more.”

- Anthony Wagner,
Wagner Farms, Corrales NM

New Mexico 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.

Farmers selling to schools are increasing their capacity by working with 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 input and evaluation.

New Mexican farmers need additional support to increase their production, access new markets, and to retain farmland, preserve a way of life, and grow new farmers.

For more information about New Mexico food and farming please review, *The Power of Public Procurement*, a research document produced in partnership by Farm to Table and New Mexico State University.

Download the report at : www.farmtotablenm.org/programs/farm-to-cafeteria/

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 Table's new Harvest of the Month program . . .



In 2014-15 School year, 16 schools and school districts are participating in the LOVE LOCAL program!

Through this program:

Schools across the state are committed to serving students in their communities New Mexico grown fresh fruits and veggies on a monthly basis.

Schools are promoting nutrition, local produce, and local farmers in the cafeteria .

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 and Harvest of the Month promotional programs

For more information about Farm to School educational activities and supporting policy initiatives happening across the nation please visit:

www.farmtoschool.org



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.



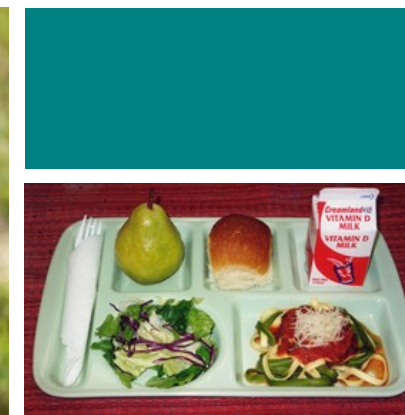
New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council

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New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals

2017 NM legislative Request— \$1.44 Million

Sponsors: Representatives

Jimmie Hall, Don Tripp and

Brian Egolf

Funds administered by the

NM Department of Public Education: \$250,000

Funds administered by the NM Department of Agriculture:
\$85,000 recurring specific to Valley Cluster School, Albuquerque

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