



SAN JUAN COUNTY AG NOTES NEWSLETTER



A newsletter for the agricultural producers in San Juan County NM from NMSU Cooperative Extension, Farmington Ag Science Center, and the San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District in Aztec.



GREETINGS FROM THE AG NOTES TEAM

With temperatures warming up faster than usual this year, many of us are already thinking ahead to spring preparations. Whether you're planning fieldwork, starting your fight with invasive weeds, checking irrigation systems, or keeping a close eye on the weather, it's a good time to get organized for the season ahead.

In this February newsletter you'll find upcoming workshops, local events, research updates, and practical information to help support your farm, ranch, or backyard operation.

We appreciate all you do for agriculture here in San Juan County, and we're glad to share resources that help keep our community strong and growing.

Enjoy the February issue, and here's to a productive season ahead.

From the Ag Notes Team,
Bonnie, Kevin & Gary

In this issue:

Extension Updates:

- Extension workshops and training
 - Certified Burner Class with SJC Fire
 - Breakfast and Better Soil Workshop
 - Building a Better Backyard Garden
 - Landscape Learning Lab Series
 - Pesticide Applicator Training
- New World Screw Worm
- Livestock Information
- Save the date
 - Indian Livestock Days May 21-22

Soil and Water Updates:

- 2025 Partners of the Year
- Healthy Soils Grant Workshop
- SWCD Plan of Work

Ag Science Center Updates

- Annual Report
- Plant Sale
- Grape Wine Symposia

Community Programs

Upcoming Events

SAN JUAN COUNTY CERTIFIED BURNER CLASS

The San Juan County Certified Burner program is designed to improve planning for prescribed burns on private land. This one day class will be led by San Juan County Fire, and NMSU Forest and Fire Specialist. Participants will become a San Juan County Certified burner, and will have a greater understanding of safe burning practices.

Free registration is limited to the first 20 participants

Schedule:

8am-registration

8:30-12 Fuels, weather and topography, understanding fire

Lunch (included with free registration)

1-4pm Application of fire in the landscape, hand-on fire demonstration

Click here or scan QR to register



MARCH 24, 2026 8AM-4PM, AZTEC NM

FREE EVENT LIMITED SPACE, RSVP TO SAVE YOUR SEAT

505-334-9496

bhopkins@nmsu.edu



Sanjuanextension.nmsu.edu



New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the US Department of Agriculture cooperating. If you require auxiliary assistance to participate in this program please contact Bonnie Hopkins at 505-334-9496 by March 13, 2026.

BREAKFAST & BETTER SOIL WORKSHOP



March 6 8am-11
breakfast and coffee with
NMSU Soils Specialists
400 Gossett Drive, Aztec

Healthy Soil Grant Applications are Due March 20, 2026 to the NMDA. Click here for more information or visit their website nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program.html

Topics for workshop

Lectures from NMSU Soil Specialist Dr. Idowu, local experts and agency representatives

- Building drought resistant soil
- Writing a stronger Healthy Soils Grant Application
- Reduced Tillage Practices
- Utilizing Compost
- Cover Crop selection
- Mulching

Free event but Space is limited-- Click to [RSVP](#) or call 505-334-9496



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BUILDING A BETTER BACKYARD GARDEN

*Hands-on gardening essentials for San Juan County, NM
Garden supplies provided at each event*

Workshop Events:

- ✓ February 27 4-6pm: Getting a Strong Start: Season Extension & Seed Selection
- ✓ March 13 4-6pm: Growing Indoors: Houseplants and Kitchen Crops
- ✓ March 27 4-6pm: Designing a Successful Backyard Garden
- ✓ April 10 4-6pm: Healthy Soil, Smart Water
- ✓ April 24 4-6: Growing Strong Trees from the Ground Up
- ✓ May 8 4-6pm: Gardening Beyond Your Backyard: Local Resources & Support

**\$10 PER CLASS \$50 FOR ALL 6 CLASSES
\$25 FOR ALL FOR SJC MASTER GARDENERS**



**CLICK TO REGISTER
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE**



sanjuanextension.nmsu.edu/agandhort/agandhort.html



400 Gossett Drive Aztec NM



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505-334-9496



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**The San Juan County Extension office is looking for a 4-H Family and Consumer Science Agent to join our team!
Position closes Feb 13TH**

**STOP BY THE NEW EXTENSION OFFICE FOR A TOUR!
400 GOSSETT DRIVE, AZTEC**

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN JUAN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WE ARE **HIRING!**

JOIN OUR TEAM

OPEN POSITION

✓ 4-H FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE AGENT




Click for **More Info**



400 GOSSETT DRIVE, AZTEC NM



SANJUANEXTENSION.NMSU.EDU



FREE
REGISTRATION



LANDSCAPE LEARNING LAB

WORKSHOP SERIES

A hands On Workforce Development
training for San Juan County community
members interested in creating

SCHEDULE

April 18 10am-12pm Planning a Drought Tolerant Landscape:
plant selection, growth rates, water use and more.

April 25: 10am-12pm: Building a Healthy Soil: understanding
soil fertility, mulching, and other healthy soils

**May 9 10-12pm: Designing a Water Conscious Irrigation
System** from the ground up

May 16: 10am-12pm Proper Planting of Landscape plants:
Hands on best practices

Register online by April 8 <https://forms.gle/tzt92TdoQWp7pxj98>

Call for more information
505-334-9496



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New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service

2026 NMSU In-Person Pesticide Applicator CEU Training in San Juan County (NM)

When: Thursday, April 16th, 2026

Applicators will receive 5 CEU credits through this in-person workshop. Sign-in and registration begin at 7:30 am. **The first presentation begins promptly at 8:00 a.m.**

Where: San Juan County Extension Office

Address: 400 S. Gossett Dr., Aztec, NM 87410

***Pre-register beginning 2/2/26 at: pesticide.nmsu.edu

Fees: \$50 pre-registration fee per person, \$75 on-site registration (cash or check only, at the door). Online registration beginning on 2/2/26, can be found at pesticide.nmsu.edu. Pre-registrations can be made up to 3 days in advance of the event, otherwise "on site" fees will apply.

Workshop details and speakers:

8:00 am – 8:55 am: Pest Control in Forage Crops, Dr. Mark Marsalis, NMSU-Extension Forage Specialist

9:00 am – 9:55 am: Pesticides in Aquatic Systems: BMP's for Protecting Water Quality, Dr. Rossana Sallenave, NMSU-Extension Aquatic Ecology Specialist

10:00 am – 10:55 am: Principles of Pre-Emergent Herbicides, Dr. Leslie Beck, NMSU-Extension Weed Specialist

11:00 am – 11:55 am: Vegetable Arthropod Pest Management, Dr. Joanie King, NMSU-Extension Entomology Specialist

12:00 pm – 12:55 pm: Common Crop Diseases – Signs, Symptoms, and Management Strategies, Dr. Phillip Lujan, NMSU-Extension Plant Pathology Specialist



5 CEU's available

Contact:

Dr. Phillip Lujan,
Extension Plant

Pathologist

Tel: 575-646-1822

Email:

pl11@nmsu.edu

(preferred method)

or visit:

pesticide.nmsu.edu

for more information



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.
College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences
Cooperative Extension Service
Extension Plant Sciences

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate, please contact Dr. Phillip Lujan, 2 weeks in advance at (575) 646-1822 or pl11@nmsu.edu

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NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.



WHAT IS NEW WORLD SCREW WORM?

New World Screwworm larvae feed on living tissue of warm-blooded animals. They infest open wounds (or natural orifices), causing deep, painful lesions, infections, and potentially death if untreated. *Though not yet present in New Mexico, vigilance is critical to preventing establishment.*

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Open wounds that worsen or do not heal
- Animals exhibiting restlessness, licking or biting at a wound, or isolating themselves
- Visible maggots in wounds
- Swelling, discharge, foul smell, or unusual tissue deterioration



WHAT YOU CAN DO IN NEW MEXICO

Animal Management & Biosecurity

- Inspect animals regularly
- Maintain strict wound care: clean, disinfect, cover when feasible, isolate animals with open wounds
- Consult your veterinarian prior to moving animals

Veterinarian Engagement

- Talk with your veterinarian about diagnosis and treatment options, including insecticides and larvicides approved for use in New Mexico
- Ask your vet about preventative strategies appropriate to your operation

Why New Mexico Is Taking This Seriously

- The state's livestock sector, rural communities, wildlife populations, and pets are vulnerable
- Early detection and rapid response are essential to prevent spread and protect agriculture

Fly Traps & Surveillance

- State and federal teams place and monitor fly traps in potentially vulnerable counties
- Do not disturb traps if you see them — they are critical for tracking NWS
- If you notice a damaged or tampered trap, please report it to NMDA or the New Mexico Livestock Board immediately

REPORTING SUSPECTED CASES

- If you see any signs consistent with screwworm, report immediately.
- In New Mexico, call the New Mexico Livestock Board (505-841-6161) After hours, call the AgroGuard Hotline (1-800-525-2782) or fill out NMDA's reporting form. (scan QR code)
- Testing kits are available at your local NMSU Cooperative Extension Office (scan QR code)

Reporting form



Testing kits



NMDA is coordinating with USDA-APHIS, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico Department of Health, the New Mexico Livestock Board and NMSU Cooperative Extension Service to raise awareness, increase surveillance, and be prepared for rapid response.



Red books are available in limited quantities, call or stop by the Extension office to reserve your book

SAVE THE DATE

NM INDIAN LIVESTOCK DAYS

MAY 21 & 22, 2026

McGee Park, Farmington, NM

For more information, contact:

NMSU-McKinley County Cooperative Extension Office
(505) 863-3432

NEW MEXICO SPRING BULL SALE 2026 CALENDAR

- FEBRUARY -		
Diamond Seven Angus Bull Sale https://www.diamondsevenangus.com/	2/19	Tucumcari
Perez Cattle Co. Bull Sale https://www.perezcattleco.com/	2/24	Nara Visa
Roswell Brangus Sale https://www.facebook.com/RoswellBrangusSale/	2/28	Roswell
- MARCH -		
Dexter Livestock Commission Breeder Select Bull Sale https://www.dexterlivestockcommission.com/upcoming-sales	3/1	Dexter
Manzano Angus Bull Sale www.manzanoangus.com	3/7	Estancia
New Mexico Angus Association Sale http://www.nmangusassociation.org/	3/9	Roswell
Ready for Work Bull Sale https://readyforworkbullsale.com/	3/9	Belen
Tucumcari Bull Test Sale https://tucbulltest.nmsu.edu/	3/14	Tucumcari
J-C Angus Ranch Bull Sale https://www.jcangus.com/	3/21	Moriarty
Northern N.M. High Altitude Bull Sale	3/21	Abiquiu
Hubbell Ranch Bull Sale	3/27	Belen
Copeland & Sons Hereford Bull Sale https://copelandherefords.com/	3/30	Clayton
- APRIL -		
Red Hot Bull Sale http://redocfarm.com/	4/11	Belen

For bulls available via private treaty, please see the New Mexico Stockman's Bull Buyers Guide: <https://www.aalivestock.com/>

SAN JUAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District recognized outstanding local producers and partners during the Annual Meeting held in December. These awards highlight leadership, stewardship, and collaboration that strengthen conservation efforts throughout San Juan County.



Farmer of the year:
Thomas Tyler



Conservationist of the
year: Greg Schmitt



Partners of the Year:

Jake Quintana & Bonnie Hopkins Byers
Not Pictured: Katherine Pritchett & Barbara Witmore



HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM

The Healthy Soils Program supports producers interested in improving soil health, increasing productivity, and promoting long-term sustainability. The program focuses on practices that enhance soil structure, organic matter, and water retention.

UPCOMING TRAINING DATES & TIMES:

When: February 16th, 2026

Where: San Juan County Cooperative Extension Services Office

Time: 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

[Healthy Soils free registration link click](#)
or scan



WHO CAN APPLY:

Individuals, businesses, and nonprofits actively engaged in farming, ranching, or other land management in New Mexico.

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Contact key partners
2. Complete conservation planning by Feb. 20, 2026
3. Build your project idea
4. Work on the online application
5. Secure project sponsorship
6. Final review & submit



IMPORTANT DEADLINE:

MARCH 20TH, 2026 @ 12:00 P.M. (NOON) MT- THIS IS THE FINAL DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ONLINE APPLICATIONS. LATE OR INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS WONT BE REVIEWED.

NEED HELP???:

Assistant Office Manager: Yazlyn Pinon
yazlyn@sanjuanswcd.com
(505) 419-2034



San Juan Soil & Water Conservation District

San Juan Soil & Conservation District 2016 Plan of Work

Russian Olive & Salt Cedar Control Program:

- 296 acres of removal on BLM in Largo Canyon
- 735 acres of removal and restoration in Largo Cutter & Carrizo Canyon (BLM)
- 400 acres riparian restoration on San Juan River at Hogback in Shiprock (Navajo)
- 24 acres of removal in the City of Farmington Public Parks (Farmington Fire)
- 20 acres of restoration at Lions Park in Kirtland (San Juan County)
- 100 acres of russian olive salt cedar removal on private land

Noxious Weed Program:

- \$50,000 grant to map 297,000 acres for invasive weeds & to spray invasive weeds on 300 acres on public land
- \$50,000 grant from BLM to spray invasive weeds on BLM
- Private landowners invasive weed cost share provided by San Juan Farm & Range fund through the extension office

Ditch Diversions:

- Construct new head gates on the Farmers Mutual Ditch & retrofit new head gate on the Halford Ditch
- Construct & pipe ditch behind Apache School on North Farmington Ditch
- Final finishing on Cedar Ditch

San Juan River Watershed Based Plan to be submitted to Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

Navajo Healthy Soil Program at Upper Fruitland San Juan Chapter & Shiprock.

Finish the Attorney Generals Gold King Mine Spill Grant by inspecting and reimbursing farmers for fallow ground plantings & fencing livestock off the river. Over 3 miles of river restoration to be preformed this spring.



Outreach Education:

- Healthy Soils workshop
 - Pesticide safety & handling workshops for CEU's
 - SWCD rolling rivers trailer presentations at Growing Forward Farm & schools
-

**Russian Olive Salt Cedar Removal Applications for private landowners may be obtained by calling Gary Hathorn at (505) 320-5056 and in turn he will email you an application.
San Juan Soil & Water Conservation District: (505) 234-6040**



Agricultural Experiment Station

Agricultural Science Center at Farmington

farmingtonsc.nmsu.edu | 505-960-7757

THE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE CENTER AT FARMINGTON'S LATEST REPORT COVERING 2024 IS NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://FARMINGTONSC.NMSU.EDU/2024-FARMINGTON-ANNUAL-REPORT_FINAL.PDF](https://farmingtonsc.nmsu.edu/2024-farmington-annual-report_final.pdf)

THE REPORT PROVIDES A HIGH-LEVEL OVERVIEW OF EACH PROJECT AND INCLUDES CONTACT INFORMATION SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. STAFF ARE WRITING UP RESULTS FOR THE 2025 GROWING SEASON ALSO AND THAT REPORT WILL BE OUT LATER IN 2026.



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE CENTER AT FARMINGTON

THE NMSU AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION SUPPORTS RESEARCH THAT ADDRESSES REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS. RESEARCH IS AT THE CORE OF NMSU'S MISSION TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE GLOBALLY.

FARMINGT@NMSU.EDU
FARMINGTONSC.NMSU.EDU

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
Agricultural Experiment Station
Agricultural Science Center at Farmington



UPCOMING EVENTS: NMSU ASC FARMINGTON OPEN HOUSE AND PLANT SALE SAVE THE DATE MAY 15, 2026:

**OVERVIEW OF
HYDROPONIC
SYSTEM
PLANT WALK
AGRIVOTAICS
DEMONSTRATION
SITE
INFORMATIONAL
BOOTHS
LIVE MUSIC**

Save the Date!

OPEN HOUSE & PLANT SALE
@ THE ASC FARMINGTON

May 15, 2026 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

300 County Road 4063 Farmington NM 87401



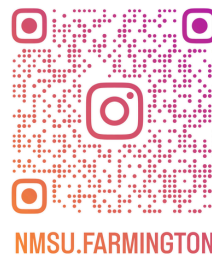
Visit farmingtonasc.nmsu.edu for more info or scan the QR code.



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Agricultural Science Center at Farmington

If you are interested in setting up an educational booth, please contact Corey Benally at coreyb@nmsu.edu or (505)960-7757.

INSTAGRAM PAGE



[NMSU.FARMINGTON](https://www.instagram.com/nmsu.farmington)



FACEBOOK PAGE

Agricultural Science Center at Farmington
New Mexico State University 300 County Rd
4063, Farmington, NM 87401 Phone: 505-960-
7757 Email: farmingt@nmsu.edu

MORE FARMINGTON AG SCIENCE CENTER UPDATES



SAVE THE DATE: FOUR CORNERS GRAPE SYMPOSIA!

APRIL 9-10, 2026

**TOPICS WILL INCLUDE VARIETAL UPDATES, SITE SELECTION, SENSORY EVALUATIONS, FERTILITY REQUIREMENTS AND MORE!
WATCH FOR FURTHER EVENT DETAILS INCLUDING VENUE!**



Visit farmingtonsc.nmsu.edu for more info or scan the QR code.

1. GUIDE Z-133: LIVESTOCK RISK PROTECTION INSURANCE (LRP) FOR PROTECTING AGAINST PRICE DECLINES: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR NEW MEXICO FEEDER CATTLE GROWERS BY PILJA VITALE, DON MARTINEZ, BONNIE HOPKINS BYERS, JEFFREY VITALE, EDUARDO MEDINA, NICHOLAS LOWERY

· HTML
· PRINTABLE PDF

Community Resources

3RD ANNUAL
Healthy Living EXPO
 Saturday February 21, 2026
 10 am to 3 pm @ McGee Park



To register for a booth **EAT YOUR VEGGIES** **STAY ACTIVE!**

Let's Learn How To
RECHARGE YOUR MIND AND BODY
BE KIND TO YOUR MIND **SLEEP WELL**



<https://form.jotform.com/sjhealth/2026-hlexpo>

Brought to you by
 San Juan Health Council and
 San Juan Regional Medical Center

SAVE THE DATE!
 Most County Transfer Stations will accept normal TARPED loads from county residents during regular hours for
FREE!

DUMPSTER DAYS

FEB. 28 & MAR. 1

GO TO SJCOUNTY.NET/SOLIDWASTE FOR LOCATIONS AND HOURS

TARPED LOADS ONLY!



¡Qué linda!

VENDOR Training

VENDORS WILL RECEIVE TRAININGS ON MARKET REQUIREMENTS FOOD SAFETY, SNAP & WIC
THIS VENDOR TRAINING IS REQUIRED TO SELL AT AZTEC, BLOOMFIELD, KIRTLAND AND FARMINGTON




505-592-6140 JACQUELINE
 FMNTGROWERSMARKET@GMAIL.COM

MARKET PAVILION
14 MARCH 2026
 9 AM - 1 PM

'A Climate of Resilience'



3rd Annual
WOMEN IN AG STATE CONFERENCE
 Thursday & Friday
 March 5 & 6

La Plata & Archuleta Counties CSU Extension are hosting the third annual Colorado Women in Ag Conference, "A Climate of Resilience." This is an engaging and empowering two-day event focused on educational opportunities and networking for women across the state involved in all types of agriculture, from small farms and non-traditional agriculture to large cow-calf ranches.



Scan for more info and to register!
 Or visit www.lpcgov.org/WomenInAg

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
 La Plata County Fairgrounds




Colorado State University Extension is an equal access and equal opportunity University. Colorado State University Extension es un proveedor que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades. <https://csu.edu/EOAA>

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 16-HEALTHY SOILS GRANT WRITING 4-6PM EXT. OFFICE

FEBRUARY 21-SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH EXPO-MCGEE PARK

FEBRUARY 27-BACKYARD GARDENING 1-4-6PM EXT. OFFICE

MARCH 6- HEALTHY SOILS WORKSHOP, EXT. OFFICE

MARCH 13- BACKYARD GARDENING 2 4-6PM EXT. OFFICE

MARCH 14-FARMERS MARKET VENDOR TRAINING

MARCH 24-SJC CERTIFIED BURNER CLASS, AZTEC, 8AM-4PM

MARCH 27- BACKYARD GARDENING 3 EXT. OFFICE

APRIL 9-10 GRAPE SYMPOSIA, FMT AG SCIENCE CENTER

APRIL 10-BACKYARD GARDENING 4 EXT. OFFICE

APRIL 16-PESTICIDE APPLICATION TRAINING EXT. OFFICE

APRIL 18- LANDSCAPE 1: DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPES

APRIL 24: BACKYARD GARDENING 5 EXT. OFFICE

APRIL 25: LANDSCAPE 2: BUILDING HEALTH IN LANDSCAPES

MAY 8: BACKYARD GARDENING 5 EXT. OFFICE

MAY 9: LANDSCAPE 3: WATER CONSCIOUS IRRIGATION

MAY 15-FMT AG SCIENCE CENTER PLANT SALE

MAY 16: LANDSCAPE 4: PROPER PLANTING PRACTICES

MAY 21-22 INDIAN LIVESTOCK DAYS MCGEE PARK



[HTTPS://SANJUANEXTENSION.NMSU.EDU/AGANDHORT/AGANDHORT.HTML](https://sanjuanextension.nmsu.edu/agandhort/agandhort.html)