



NEW MEXICO MEP AGRICULTURE REVIEW

This review has been compiled to assist MEP staff in understanding what factors are affecting the farmers of NM in all different agriculture sectors. These often have a direct impact on the number of migrant families coming in and out of the state for work in agriculture.

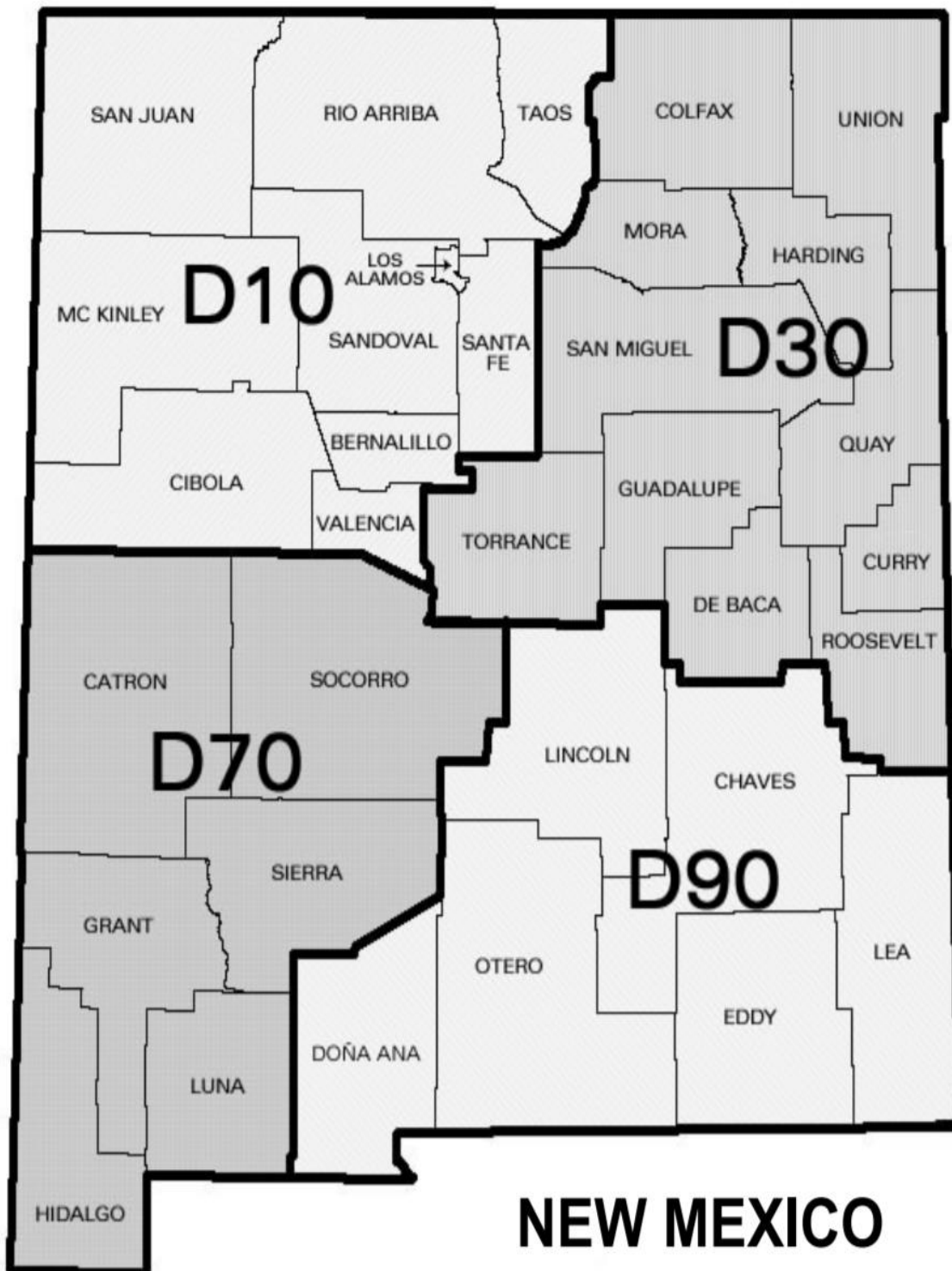


“Food and agriculture is a core industry of New Mexico. It is vital to any resident who cares about individual health, viable rural and tribal communities, or regional economic strength and security. The industry benefits from many diverse stakeholders who share a common goal: to support an agriculture sector with staying power in New Mexico. Such a food system can serve the needs of all residents in our state – but only if it is truly resilient. Agriculture in New Mexico faces unprecedented challenges to the health of the industry. We have an aging population of farmers and ranchers, increasing pressure on water and other natural resources, rising costs for land, energy, equipment and other production needs, unsustainable farmer and rancher incomes, and complex regulations. Incremental approaches are not sufficient to address the systemic challenges facing agriculture in our state.”

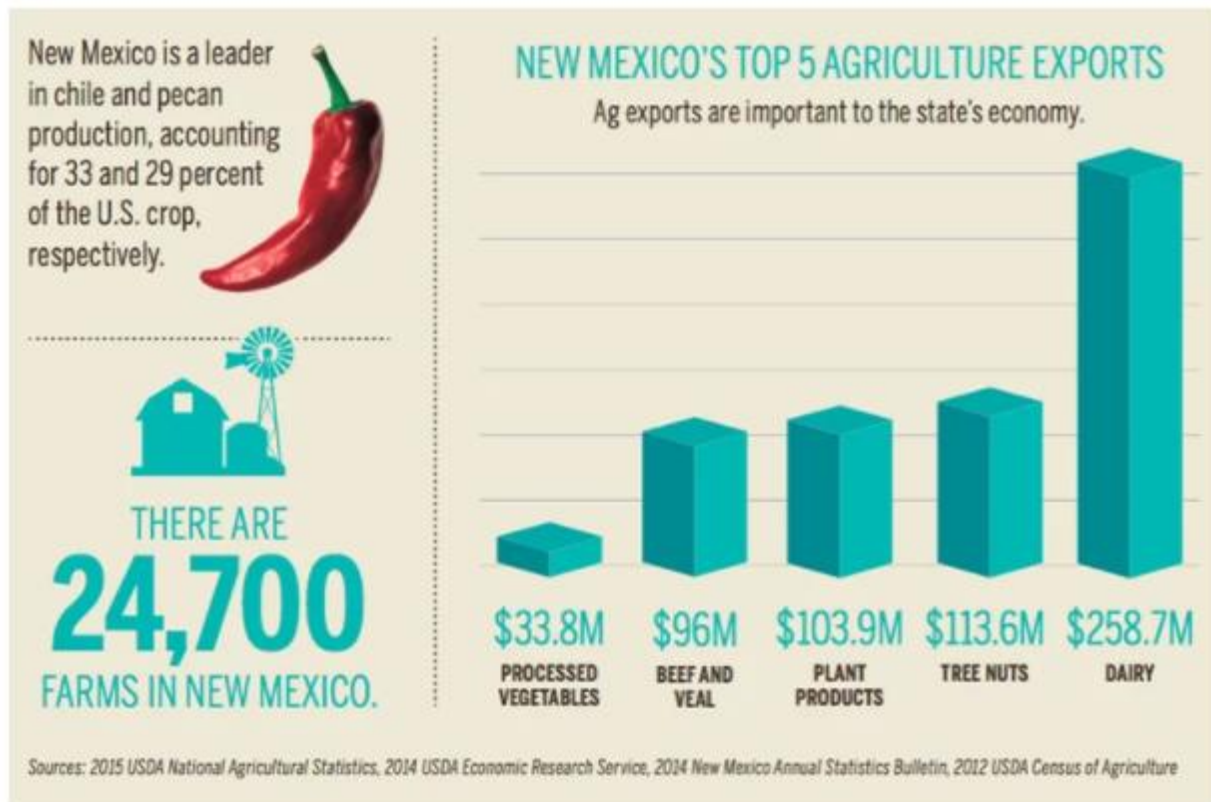
-Background Report: Resilience in NM Agriculture

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State Agriculture Overview Profile



Number of Farms, Land in Farms and Average Farm Size - New Mexico and United States: 2006 - 2015^{1/}

| Year | New Mexico | | | United States | | |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| | Number of Farms | Land in Farms | Average Farm Size | Number of Farms | Land in Farms | Average Farm Size |
| | (number) | (1,000 acres) | (acres) | (number) | (1,000 acres) | (acres) |
| 2006 | 17,500 | 43,100 | 2,463 | 2,088,790 | 925,790 | 443 |
| 2007 | 21,000 | 43,200 | 2,057 | 2,204,950 | 921,460 | 418 |
| 2008 | 20,900 | 42,900 | 2,053 | 2,184,500 | 918,600 | 421 |
| 2009 | 21,200 | 43,200 | 2,038 | 2,169,660 | 917,590 | 423 |
| 2010 | 22,000 | 43,400 | 1,973 | 2,149,520 | 915,660 | 426 |
| 2011 | 23,800 | 43,100 | 1,811 | 2,131,240 | 914,420 | 429 |
| 2012 | 24,700 | 43,200 | 1,749 | 2,109,810 | 914,600 | 433 |
| 2013 | 24,800 | 43,200 | 1,742 | 2,102,010 | 914,030 | 435 |
| 2014 | 24,700 | 43,200 | 1,749 | 2,085,000 | 913,000 | 438 |
| 2015 | 24,700 | 43,200 | 1,749 | 2,067,000 | 912,000 | 441 |

^{1/} Places with annual sales of agricultural products of \$1,000 or more.

Source NM Agriculture Statistics 2015 Annual Bulletin

**Census Number of Farms and Ranches by County –
New Mexico: 2002, 2007, and 2012**

| District/County | 2002 | 2007 | 2012 | District/County | 2002 | 2007 | 2012 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Northwest | 4,703 | 9,471 | 12,688 | Northeast (cont.) | | | |
| Bernalillo | 618 | 635 | 1,006 | Roosevelt | 804 | 876 | 680 |
| Cibola | 155 | 317 | 522 | San Miguel | 565 | 765 | 877 |
| Los Alamos | 6 | 7 | 9 | Torrance | 461 | 561 | 589 |
| McKinley | 150 | 2,624 | 2,297 | Union | 419 | 380 | 353 |
| Rio Arriba | 988 | 1,312 | 1,892 | Southwest | 1,404 | 1,755 | 2,079 |
| Sandoval | 347 | 652 | 1,029 | Catron | 206 | 259 | 351 |
| San Juan | 808 | 1,897 | 2,628 | Grant | 272 | 327 | 407 |
| Santa Fe | 460 | 489 | 715 | Hidalgo | 144 | 162 | 171 |
| Taos | 453 | 637 | 983 | Luna | 171 | 206 | 190 |
| Valencia | 718 | 901 | 1,607 | Sierra | 223 | 265 | 256 |
| Northeast | 4,739 | 5,389 | 5,316 | Socorro | 388 | 536 | 704 |
| Colfax | 284 | 302 | 290 | Southeast | 4,324 | 4,315 | 4,638 |
| Curry | 677 | 681 | 600 | Chaves | 604 | 584 | 595 |
| De Baca | 188 | 173 | 203 | Doña Ana | 1,691 | 1,762 | 2,184 |
| Guadalupe | 208 | 258 | 372 | Eddy | 510 | 543 | 551 |
| Harding | 129 | 168 | 202 | Lea | 554 | 572 | 460 |
| Mora | 410 | 589 | 597 | Lincoln | 343 | 361 | 362 |
| Quay | 594 | 636 | 553 | Otero | 622 | 493 | 486 |
| State | | | | | 15,170 | 20,930 | 24,721 |

Source USDA Census Statistics

In 2015, New Mexico agriculture was valued at a whopping \$4 billion, including forest products sold and other farm income, thanks to the 24,700 farms covering 43.2 million acres across the state. New Mexico farms are large with the average size ringing in at 1,749 acres.

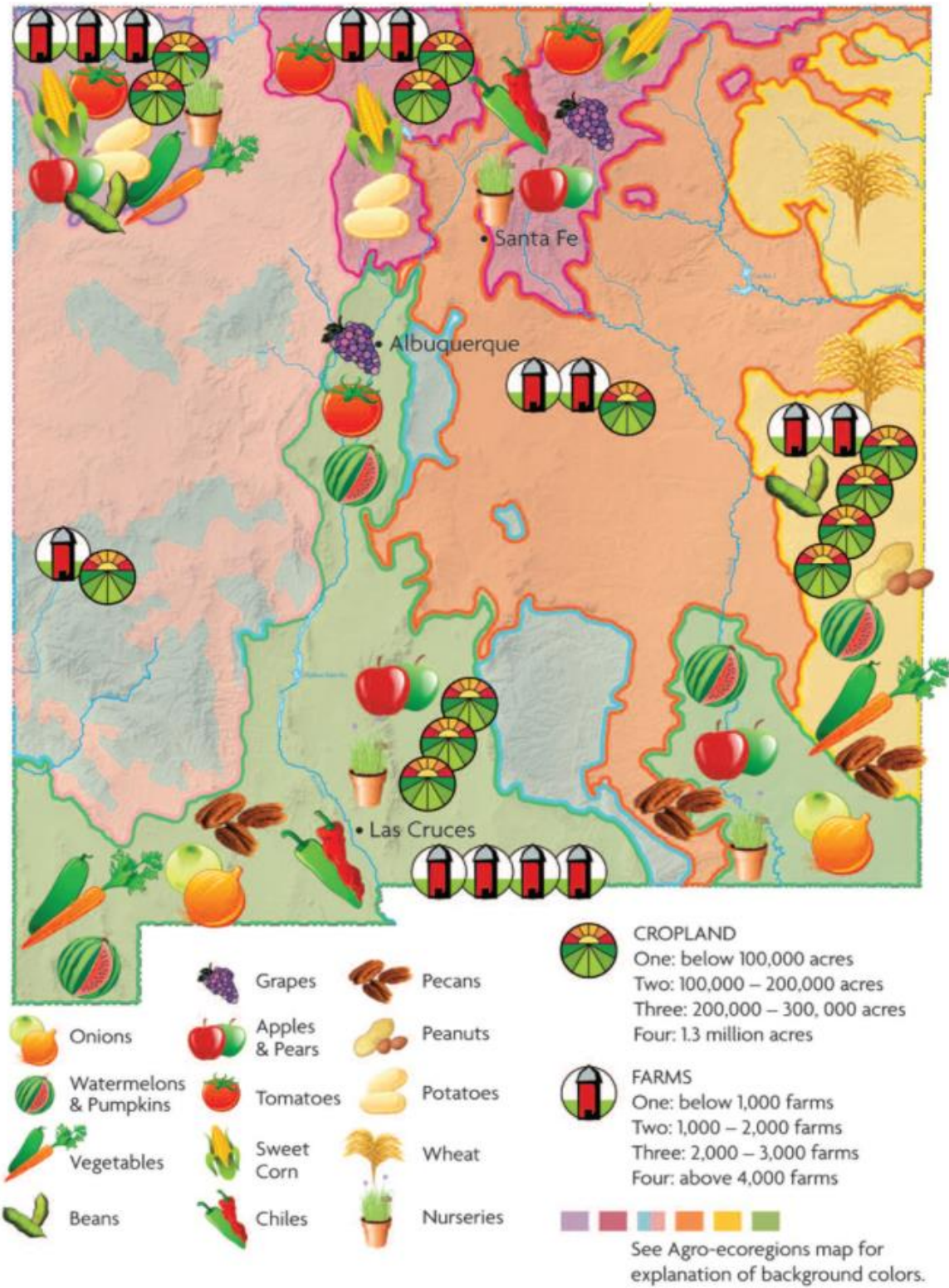
The state's hardworking farmers and ranchers grow and raise important commodities including beef, milk, hay, pecans, corn, wheat, cotton, sorghum, peanuts, potatoes, and more. New Mexico continues to be among the nation's leaders in chile pepper and pecan production, producing 33 and 29 percent of America's total production, respectively. Additionally, New Mexico ranks in the top 10 nationally for both cheese and milk production.

New Mexico is a major player in value-added agriculture with specialty foods produced in the state sold worldwide.

Not only are the crops diverse in New Mexico, but so are the people who grow them. In the past several years there has been an increase in the number of both young New Mexican farmers and minority New Mexican farmers. According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, the number of Hispanic-operated farms grew from 6,475 in 2007 to 9,377 in 2012. The number of farmers under the age of 34 also rose, increasing from 818 in 2007 to 1,200 in 2012.¹

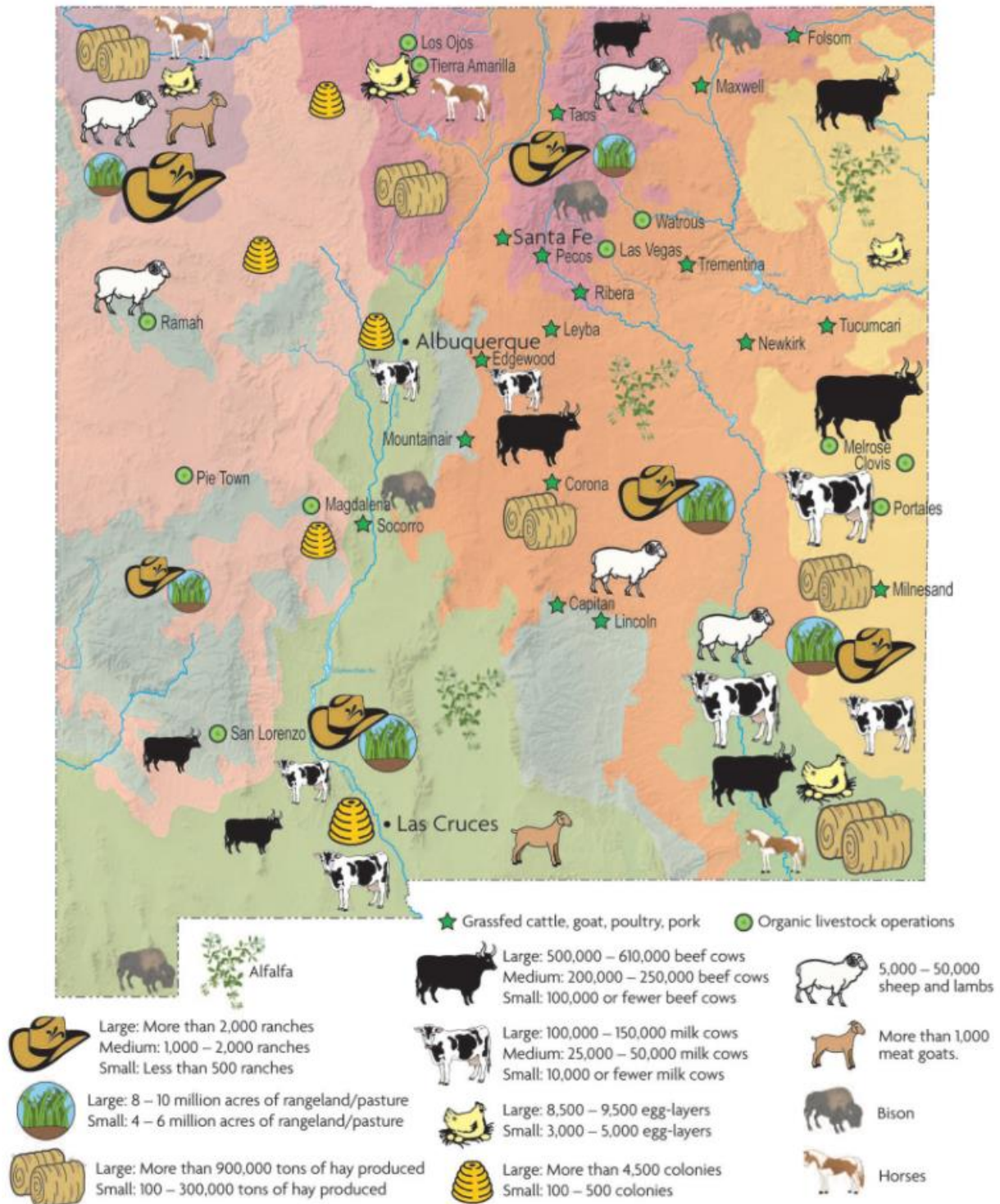
¹ Bertone, Rachel. "New Mexico's Diverse Agriculture." *Farm Flavor*, 2016, <http://www.farmflavor.com/new-mexico/new-mexicos-diverse-agriculture/>.

FARMS AND CROPS



[Map Source- Dreaming New Mexico Farms and Crops Map](#)

RANCHES, DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK



Map Source [Dreaming New Mexico Ranches, Dairy & Livestock](#)

Cash Receipts - New Mexico: 2013 – 2015^{1/}

| Commodity | 2015 Rank | Percent of US | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| -----1,000 Dollars----- | | | | | |
| All Commodities | | .8 | 3,217,306 | 3,652,779 | 3,038,775 |
| Livestock Products | | 1.2 | 2,527,293 | 2,956,316 | 2,321,786 |
| Meat Animals | | | 955,873 | 1,085,386 | 987,939 |
| Cattle and Calves | 2 | 1.3 | 955,387 | 1,084,794 | 987,573 |
| Hogs and Pigs | 16 | | 486 | 592 | 366 |
| Dairy Products: Milk | 1 | 3.5 | 1,506,068 | 1,798,049 | 1,254,029 |
| Poultry and Eggs ^{2/} | 7 | | 19,867 | 27,540 | 38,805 |
| Miscellaneous Livestock | | | 45,486 | 45,341 | 41,014 |
| Honey | 14 | .3 | 653 | 931 | 1,062 |
| Mohair | 17 | 1.0 | 48 | 42 | 42 |
| Wool | 15 | 2.3 | 797 | 1,040 | 903 |
| Crops | | .4 | 690,012 | 696,463 | 716,989 |
| Food Grains: Wheat | 10 | .2 | 23,942 | 21,577 | 19,293 |
| Feed Crops | | | 187,442 | 207,124 | 161,020 |
| Corn Grain | 9 | .1 | 39,901 | 36,012 | 33,682 |
| Hay | 4 | 1.7 | 141,565 | 162,662 | 115,970 |
| Sorghum Grain | 11 | .6 | 5,975 | 8,450 | 11,368 |
| Cotton | 8 | | 36,586 | 32,724 | 35,846 |
| Cotton Lint, Long Staple | | 1.9 | 3,163 | 6,000 | 7,050 |
| Cotton Lint, Upland | | .6 | 26,223 | 21,891 | 23,076 |
| Cottonseed | | .6 | 7,200 | 4,834 | 5,720 |
| Oil Crops: Peanuts | 13 | .4 | 10,243 | 1,284 | 4,852 |
| Vegetables | | | 130,804 | 131,630 | 151,975 |
| Beans, Dry | 12 | 1.0 | 12,812 | 11,530 | 9,255 |
| Onions, Summer Nonstorage | 5 | 9.2 | 40,919 | 57,222 | 91,392 |
| Chile Peppers | 6 | 30.3 | 49,478 | 38,695 | 41,090 |
| Fruits and Nuts | | | 136,800 | 140,700 | 182,500 |
| Pecans | 3 | 32.6 | 136,800 | 140,700 | 182,500 |
| All Other Crops | | | 164,196 | 161,424 | 161,502 |

^{1/} Does not include cash receipts for livestock grazing. May not sum due to rounding.

^{2/} Poultry and Eggs include farm chickens and eggs, turkeys, ducks, geese, etc.

SOURCE: USDA, Economic Research Service.

Crops - Planted, Harvested, Yield, Production, Price (MYA), Value of Production ¹
Sorted by Value of Production in Dollars

| Commodity | Planted All Purpose Acres | Harvested Acres | Yield | Production or Sales | Price per Unit | Value of Production or Sales in Dollars |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|---|
| PECANS | | | | | | |
| PECANS, UTILIZED, IN SHELL | | | 1,800 LB / ACRE | 72,000,000 LB | | 213,120,000 |
| PECANS | | 40,000 | | | 2.96 \$ / LB | |
| HAY | | | | | | |
| HAY | | 275,000 | 3.71 TONS / ACRE | 1,019,000 TONS | 162 \$ / TON | 163,491,000 |
| HAY, ALFALFA | | 190,000 | 4.6 TONS / ACRE | 874,000 TONS | 165 \$ / TON | 143,336,000 |
| HAY, (EXCL ALFALFA) | | 85,000 | 1.7 TONS / ACRE | 145,000 TONS | 139 \$ / TON | 20,155,000 |
| HAY & HAYLAGE | | | | | | |
| HAY & HAYLAGE | | | | | | 163,491,000 |
| HAY & HAYLAGE, ALFALFA | 25,000 | | | | | |
| PEPPERS | | | | | | |
| PEPPERS, CHILE | 9,200 | 8,700 | 159 CWT / ACRE | 1,383,000 CWT | 36.7 \$ / CWT | 50,590,000 |
| PEPPERS, CHILE, PROCESSING | | | | | 720 \$ / TON | 40,320,000 |
| PEPPERS, CHILE, FRESH MARKET | | | | | 39.5 \$ / CWT | 10,270,000 |
| PEPPERS, CHILE, UTILIZED | | | | 1,380,000 CWT | | |
| COTTON | | | | | | |
| COTTON, UPLAND | 47,000 | 41,000 | 1,030 LB / ACRE | 88,000 480 LB BALES | 0.618 \$ / LB | 29,664,000 |
| COTTON, COTTONSEED | | | | 33,000 TONS | 238 \$ / TON | 9,282,000 |
| COTTON | 55,000 | 48,800 | 1,007 LB / ACRE | 102,400 480 LB BALES | | |
| COTTON, PIMA | 8,000 | 7,800 | 886 LB / ACRE | 14,400 480 LB BALES | (D) \$ / LB | (D) |
| CORN | | | | | | |
| CORN, GRAIN | | 41,000 | 150 BU / ACRE | 6,150,000 BU | 3.8 \$ / BU | 23,370,000 |
| CORN, SILAGE | | 75,000 | 23 TONS / ACRE | 1,725,000 TONS | | |
| CORN | 120,000 | | | | | |
| WHEAT | | | | | | |
| WHEAT | 340,000 | 205,000 | 22 BU / ACRE | 4,510,000 BU | 3.3 \$ / BU | 14,883,000 |
| WHEAT, WINTER | 340,000 | 205,000 | 22 BU / ACRE | 4,510,000 BU | 3.3 \$ / BU | 14,883,000 |
| WHEAT, WINTER, IRRIGATED | 115,000 | 32,000 | 45 BU / ACRE | 1,440,000 BU | | |
| WHEAT, WINTER, NON-IRRIGATED | 225,000 | 173,000 | 17.7 BU / ACRE | 3,070,000 BU | | |
| SORGHUM | | | | | | |
| SORGHUM, GRAIN | | 85,000 | 41 BU / ACRE | 3,485,000 BU | 5.65 \$ / CWT | 11,027,000 |
| SORGHUM, NON-IRRIGATED, GRAIN | | 73,300 | 34.8 BU / ACRE | 2,553,000 BU | | |
| SORGHUM, SILAGE | | 18,000 | 13 TONS / ACRE | 234,000 TONS | | |
| SORGHUM, IRRIGATED, GRAIN | | 11,700 | 79.7 BU / ACRE | 932,000 BU | | |
| SORGHUM, NON-IRRIGATED | 86,000 | | | | | |
| SORGHUM, IRRIGATED | 24,000 | | | | | |
| SORGHUM | 110,000 | | | | | |
| PEANUTS | | | | | | |
| PEANUTS | 8,000 | 8,000 | 2,800 LB / ACRE | 22,400,000 LB | 0.2 \$ / LB | 4,525,000 |
| BEANS | | | | | | |
| BEANS, DRY EDIBLE | | | | | (NA) \$ / CWT | (NA) |

(NA) Not Available

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations

(S) Insufficient number of reports to establish an estimate

(X) Not Applicable

(Z) Less than half the rounding unit

Source: USDA Quick Stats 2016

Census State Profile: New_Mexico

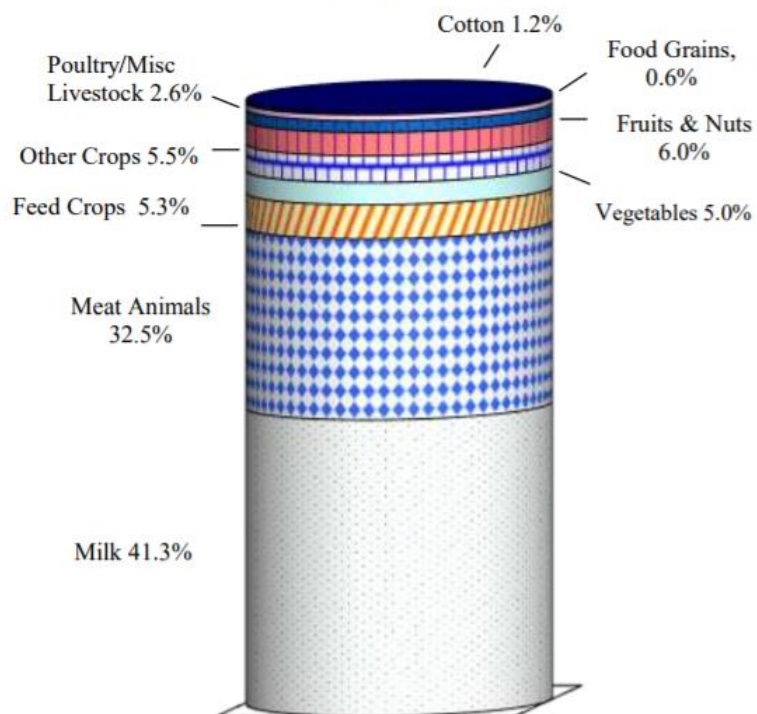
Ranked Items Within The U.S., 2012

| Item | Quantity | U.S. Rank | Universe ¹ |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000) | | | |
| Total value of agricultural products sold | 2,550,147 | 35 | 50 |
| Value of crops, including nursery and greenhouse | 616,938 | 37 | 50 |
| Value of livestock, poultry, and their products | 1,933,209 | 28 | 50 |
| VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000) | | | |
| Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas | 125,148 | 39 | 50 |
| Tobacco | - | - | 19 |
| Cotton and cottonseed | (D) | 16 | 17 |
| Vegetables, melons, potatoes and sweet potatoes | 96,329 | 24 | 50 |
| Fruit, tree nuts, and berries | 110,875 | 16 | 50 |
| Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod | 44,888 | 39 | 50 |
| Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops | (D) | 48 | 49 |
| Other crops and hay | 206,131 | 28 | 50 |
| Poultry and eggs | 3,346 | 46 | 50 |
| Cattle and calves | 630,837 | 26 | 50 |
| Milk from cows | 1,251,065 | 9 | 50 |
| Hogs and pigs | 392 | 49 | 50 |
| Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, and milk | 7,725 | 29 | 50 |
| Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys | 24,219 | 14 | 50 |
| Aquaculture | 6,909 | 29 | 50 |
| Other animals and other animal products | 8,715 | 31 | 50 |
| TOP CROP ITEMS (acres) | | | |
| Forage-land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop | 343,032 | 37 | 50 |
| Wheat for grain, all | 87,504 | 35 | 49 |
| Winter wheat for grain | 86,434 | 33 | 48 |
| Corn for silage | 81,866 | 22 | 49 |
| Pecans, all | 41,331 | 4 | 39 |
| TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number) | | | |
| Cattle and calves | 1,354,240 | 22 | 50 |
| Sheep and lambs | 89,745 | 17 | 50 |
| Layers | 66,653 | 47 | 50 |
| Horses and ponies | 50,723 | 36 | 50 |
| Goats, all | 30,981 | 26 | 50 |

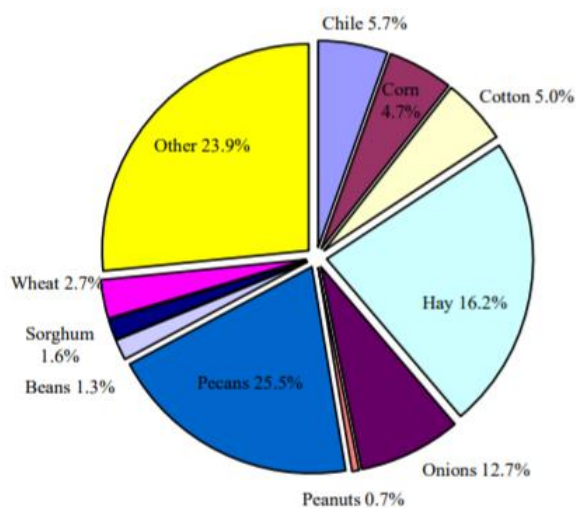
| Economic Characteristics | Quantity |
|--|-----------|
| Farm by value of sales | |
| Less than \$1,000 | 10,524 |
| \$1,000 to \$2,499 | 3,085 |
| \$2,500 to \$4,999 | 2,575 |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999 | 2,502 |
| \$10,000 to \$19,999 | 1,714 |
| \$20,000 to \$24,999 | 458 |
| \$25,000 to \$39,999 | 750 |
| \$40,000 to \$49,999 | 314 |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 | 1,058 |
| \$100,000 to \$249,999 | 771 |
| \$250,000 to \$499,999 | 412 |
| \$500,000 or more | 558 |
| Total farm production expenses (\$1,000) | 2,459,316 |
| Average per farm (\$) | 99,483 |
| Net cash farm income of the operations (\$1,000) | 234,870 |
| Average per farm (\$) | 9,501 |

**Source: USDA Agriculture
Census Statistics 2012**

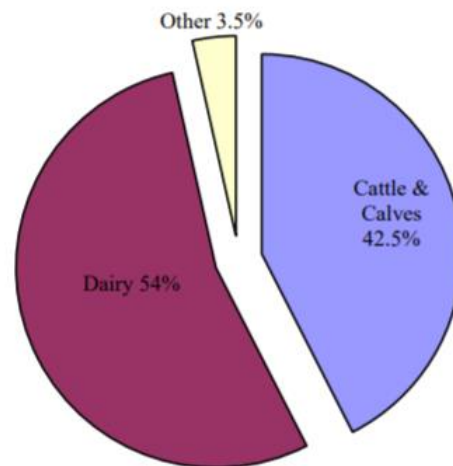
New Mexico Cash Receipts: 2015 All Commodities



Crops



Livestock



Source: New Mexico Annual Bulletin - (2015) USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Rank and Quantity Produced, Selected Commodities — New Mexico, Leading State, and United States: 2015

| Commodity | Unit | New Mexico | | Leading State | | United States | New Mexico Percent of U.S. Total |
|---|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|---------------|--|
| | | Rank | Quantity | State | Quantity | | |
| Farms | (number) | 32 | 24,700 | Texas | 242,000 | 2,067,000 | 1.19 |
| Land in Farms | (1,000 acres) | 6 | 43,200 | Texas | 130,000 | 912,000 | 4.74 |
| Average Size of Farm | (acres) | 3 | 1,749 | Wyoming | 2,621 | 441 | |
| Livestock ¹ | | | | | | | |
| Cattle and Calves | (1,000 head) | 22 | 1,380 | Texas | 11,700 | 91,988 | 1.50 |
| Beef Cows | (1,000 head) | 24 | 425 | Texas | 4,290 | 30,330 | 1.40 |
| Milk Cows | (1,000 head) | 9 | 315 | California | 1,775 | 9,315 | 3.38 |
| Milk | (1,000 lbs.) | 9 | 7,831,000 | California | 40,898,000 | 208,633,000 | 3.75 |
| Cheese | (1,000 lbs.) | 5 | 768,028 | Wisconsin | 3,070,202 | 11,838,425 | 6.49 |
| Sheep | (1,000 head) | 15 | 90 | Texas | 735 | 5,320 | 1.69 |
| Goats, Angora | (1,000 head) | 3 | 10 | Texas | 78 | 150 | 6.67 |
| Hogs and Pigs | (head) | 45 | 1,500 | Iowa | 20,900,000 | 68,869,000 | |
| Field Crops | | | | | | | |
| Beans, dry, production | (1,000 cwt) | 12 | 264 | North Dakota | 8,901 | 30,121 | 0.88 |
| Corn, grain, production | (1,000 bu.) | 35 | 7,200 | Iowa | 2,505,600 | 13,601,198 | 0.05 |
| Corn, silage, production | (1,000 tons) | 18 | 2,075 | Wisconsin | 18,915 | 126,894 | 1.64 |
| Cotton, PIMA, production | (bales) | 4 | 13,000 | California | 361,000 | 433,000 | 3.00 |
| Cotton, upland, production | (bales) | 16 | 60,000 | Texas | 5,720,000 | 12,455,000 | 0.48 |
| Cottonseed, production | (1,000 tons) | 16 | 24 | Texas | 1,844 | 4,043 | 0.59 |
| Hay, all, production | (1,000 tons) | 35 | 1,091 | Texas | 9,720 | 134,388 | 0.81 |
| Hay, alfalfa, production | (1,000 tons) | 21 | 893 | California | 5,451 | 58,974 | 1.51 |
| Hay, other, production | (1,000 tons) | 40 | 198 | Texas | 9,200 | 75,414 | 0.26 |
| Peanuts, production | (1,000 lbs.) | 10 | 15,000 | Georgia | 3,473,190 | 6,210,590 | 0.24 |
| Sorghum, grain, production | (1,000 bu.) | 11 | 4,230 | Kansas | 281,600 | 596,751 | 0.71 |
| Sorghum, silage, production | (1,000 tons) | 4 | 348 | Kansas | 1,575 | 4,475 | 7.78 |
| Wheat, grain, production | (1,000 bu.) | 34 | 4,750 | North Dakota | 370,023 | 2,051,752 | 0.23 |
| Vegetables | | | | | | | |
| Chile, production | (1,000 cwt) | 2 | 1,334 | California | 2,424 | 4,034 | 33.07 |
| Onion, summer production ² | (1,000 cwt) | 2 | 3,264 | California | 3,750 | 9,167 | 35.61 |
| Nuts | | | | | | | |
| Pecans, production | (1,000 lbs.) | 2 | 73,000 | Georgia | 93,000 | 254,290 | 28.71 |

¹ Inventory January 1, 2016, for cattle, sheep, and goats; December 1, 2015, for hogs.

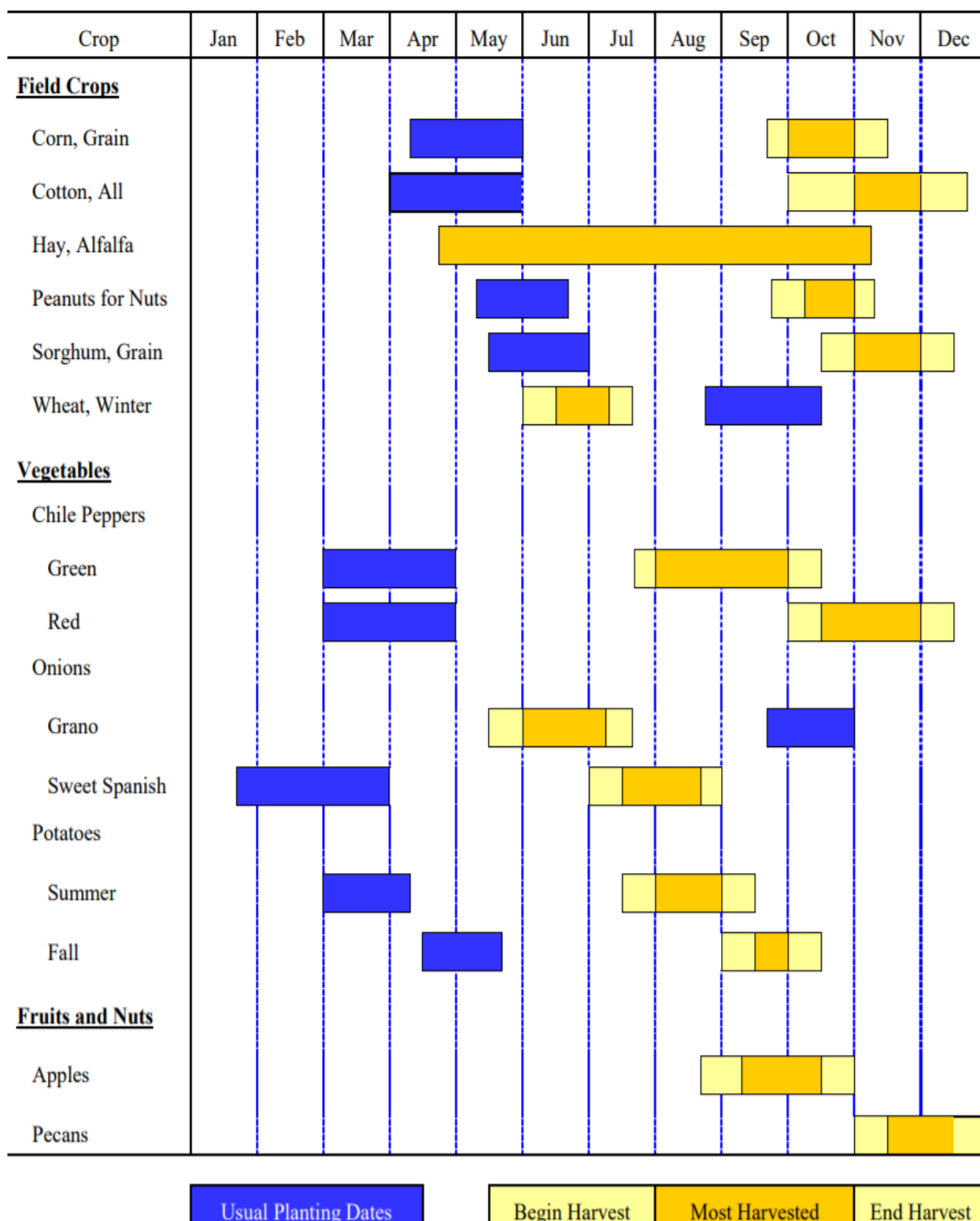
² Onion estimates and ranking are for summer non storage only.

New Mexico Annual Bulletin - (2015)

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Source: New Mexico Annual Bulletin - (2015) USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Planting and Harvesting Dates: New Mexico



WHAT'S GROWING?



IN-SEASON PRODUCE
CALENDAR FOR
NEW MEXICO

| PRODUCT | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Apples | | | | | | | | A | S | | | |
| Asparagus | | | M | A | | | | | | | | |
| Beets | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
| Blackberries | | | | | M | J | | | | | | |
| Blueberries | | | | | | J | J | | | | | |
| Broccoli | J | F | M | A | M | | | | | O | N | D |
| Cabbage | J | F | M | A | M | | | | | | | |
| Carrots | J | F | M | A | M | | | | | | | |
| Celery | J | F | M | A | M | | | | | | | |
| Cucumbers | | | | A | M | J | J | A | | | | |
| Figs | | | | | | J | J | A | | | | |
| Grapes | | | | | | | J | A | | | | |

| PRODUCT | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Melons | | | | | | J | J | A | | | | |
| Nectarines | | | | | | J | J | | | | | |
| Peaches | | | | | | | J | A | | | | |
| Pears | | | | | | | | A | | | | |
| Plums | | | | | | J | J | A | | | | |
| Pumpkins | | | | | | | | A | S | O | N | |
| Raspberries | | | | | | | J | A | S | O | | |
| Spinach | J | F | M | A | | | | | | O | N | D |
| Strawberries | | F | M | A | | | | | | | | |
| Summer Squash | | | | A | M | J | J | A | S | | | |
| Sweet Corn | | | | | | J | J | A | S | | | |
| Tomatoes | | | | | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | |
| Winter Squash | | | | | | | | A | S | O | | |

source: <http://www.pickyourown.org/NMharvestcalendar.htm>

Climate: New Mexico 2015 Summary

| County | Station | Elevation (Feet) | Freeze Date | | | Annual Precipitation | | |
|------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | | | Years of Record | Last Spring Freeze | First Fall Freeze | Years of Record | Normal (Inches) | 2015 |
| Bernalillo | Albuquerque ^{1/} | 5,310 | 85 | 04/17 | 11/06 | 85 | 9.45 | 11.49 |
| Catron | Quemado | 6,878 | 90 | 05/28 | 10/08 | 92 | 12.37 | 15.30 |
| Chaves | Roswell Ind. AP | 3,649 | 65 | 03/07 | 11/06 | 65 | 13.34 | 18.00 |
| Cibola | El Morro National Mon. | 7,223 | 78 | 06/02 | 10/14 | 78 | 15.14 | *17.45 |
| Colfax | Cimarron | 6,540 | 112 | 05/09 | 10/17 | 112 | 17.81 | *26.31 |
| Curry | Clovis 13 N | 4,435 | 67 | 04/21 | 11/06 | 67 | 18.35 | 31.07 |
| De Baca | Sumner Lake | 4,306 | 41 | 04/17 | 11/06 | 41 | 14.51 | 26.07 |
| Doña Ana | Las Cruces ^{2/} | 3,886 | 57 | 03/07 | 11/18 | 57 | 9.74 | 12.60 |
| Eddy | Hope | 4,085 | 74 | 03/27 | 11/07 | 79 | 14.49 | *16.33 |
| Grant | Gila H. S. | 5,636 | 57 | 05/24 | 10/24 | 57 | 16.26 | 22.65 |
| Guadalupe | Dilia | 5,150 | 72 | 04/29 | 10/26 | 75 | 16.04 | 26.66 |
| Harding | Rosebud 7NW | 4,780 | 12 | 04/20 | 11/06 | 12 | 17.69 | 20.76 |
| Hidalgo | Antelope Wells | 4,687 | 26 | 06/24 | 10/24 | 26 | 13.69 | 20.71 |
| Lea | Hobbs | 3,660 | 100 | 03/15 | 11/20 | 102 | 17.92 | *17.93 |
| Lincoln | Picacho | 4,990 | 36 | 04/18 | 11/05 | 36 | 15.47 | *21.10 |
| Los Alamos | Los Alamos | 7,424 | 93 | 05/10 | 10/28 | 101 | ^{3/} | ^{3/} |
| Luna | Deming | 4,300 | ^{3/} | ^{3/} | ^{3/} | ^{3/} | ^{3/} | ^{3/} |
| McKinley | Gallup | 6,471 | 43 | 05/20 | 10/13 | 43 | 11.45 | *13.73 |
| Mora | Ocate 2 NW | 7,655 | 53 | 05/20 | 10/14 | 56 | 19.78 | 25.76 |
| Otero | Tularosa | 4,422 | 104 | 03/06 | 11/11 | 104 | 11.52 | 13.71 |
| Quay | Tucumcari 4 NE | 4,086 | 112 | 03/26 | 11/06 | 112 | 17.10 | 28.07 |
| Rio Arriba | Chama | 7,850 | 116 | 05/26 | 09/18 | 116 | 23.52 | 30.41 |
| Roosevelt | Portales | 4,010 | 108 | 04/29 | 11/06 | 108 | 17.33 | 26.02 |
| San Juan | Farmington | 5,625 | 38 | 05/10 | 10/28 | 38 | 8.59 | 11.58 |
| San Miguel | Conchas Dam | 4,244 | 80 | 03/08 | 11/08 | 80 | 16.12 | *25.22 |
| Sandoval | Jemez Dam | 5,388 | 26 | 04/18 | 11/06 | 26 | 12.26 | *11.95 |
| Santa Fe | Santa Fe Seton | 7,000 | 15 | 05/17 | 10/24 | 15 | 15.69 | 17.22 |
| Sierra | Elephant Butte Dam | 4,571 | 97 | 03/07 | 11/13 | 97 | 10.58 | 10.10 |
| Socorro | Bosque Del Apache | 4,512 | 122 | 04/29 | 11/01 | 122 | 9.88 | *14.49 |
| Taos | Cerro | 7,650 | 106 | 05/29 | 10/14 | 106 | 14.66 | 18.22 |
| Torrance | Moriarty 1 NE | 6,220 | 18 | 05/11 | 10/13 | 18 | 13.67 | *22.60 |
| Union | Grenville | 6,002 | 76 | 05/22 | 10/28 | 76 | 17.63 | 26.72 |
| Valencia | Los Lunas 3 SSW | 4,840 | 59 | 04/20 | 10/28 | 59 | 9.77 | 12.49 |

* Insufficient or partial data if 1-9 daily values are missing.

^{1/} National Weather Service Forecast Office - International Airport.

^{2/} Station is officially known as "State University."

^{3/} Data not available.

SOURCE: Climatological Data Annual Summary, New Mexico, 2015, Volume 119-Number 13, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

County Crop Quick View Summaries

Source: "New Mexico
Agriculture." *Regional Review*, 2014

| <div>9</div> Number & Size of Farms New Mexico, 2012 | | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| County | Number | Acres | Acres/ Farm |
| New Mexico | 24,721 | 43,201,023 | 1,748 |
| San Juan | 2,628 | 2,580,319 | 982 |
| McKinley | 2,297 | 3,022,704 | 1,316 |
| Doña Ana | 2,184 | 659,970 | 302 |
| Rio Arriba | 1,892 | 1,432,897 | 757 |
| Valencia | 1,607 | 669,727 | 417 |
| Sandoval | 1,029 | 950,133 | 923 |
| Bernalillo | 1,006 | 350,638 | 349 |
| Taos | 983 | 313,414 | 319 |
| San Miguel | 877 | 2,350,432 | 2,680 |
| Santa Fe | 715 | 717,704 | 1,004 |
| Socorro | 704 | 1,271,368 | 1,806 |
| Roosevelt | 680 | 1,349,222 | 1,984 |
| Curry | 600 | 880,822 | 1,468 |
| Mora | 597 | 778,031 | 1,303 |
| Chaves | 595 | 2,482,827 | 4,173 |
| Torrance | 589 | 1,864,589 | 3,166 |
| Quay | 553 | 1,518,085 | 2,745 |
| Eddy | 551 | 1,141,956 | 2,073 |
| Otero | 486 | 1,223,746 | 2,518 |
| Lea | 460 | 1,981,988 | 4,309 |
| Grant | 407 | 1,064,487 | 2,615 |
| Guadalupe | 372 | 1,643,213 | 4,417 |
| Lincoln | 362 | 1,553,184 | 4,291 |
| Union | 353 | 1,967,370 | 5,573 |
| Catron | 351 | 1,077,534 | 3,070 |
| Colfax | 290 | 1,962,965 | 6,769 |
| Sierra | 256 | 1,250,136 | 4,883 |
| De Baca | 203 | 1,068,067 | 5,261 |
| Harding | 202 | 1,034,059 | 5,119 |
| Luna | 190 | 550,174 | 2,896 |
| Hidalgo | 171 | 930,271 | 5,440 |

Based on both market value of products sold and cash receipts, Curry, Chaves, and Doña Ana counties lead the state in agricultural production. Exhibit 10 provides farm statistics, including market value and cash receipts of products sold, for all of New Mexico's counties. Curry County generated the greatest market value of commodities sold

| Commodity | Farms | Number/ Acres/ Amount | Top Producing Counties | | | Total | Number of Producing Counties |
|---|--------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| | | | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | | |
| Beef Cows Number | 11,004 | 461,595 | Chaves 6.3% | San Miguel 4.8% | Lea 4.6% | 15.7% | 32 |
| Milk Cows Number | 410 | 318,878 | Chaves 23.8% | Curry 23.2% | Roosevelt 16.0% | 63.0% | 30 |
| Hogs and Pigs Number | 211 | 1,294 | Valencia 13.8% | San Juan 7.6% | Sandoval 7.4% | 28.7% | 29 |
| Sheep and Lambs Number | 3,385 | 89,745 | McKinley 26.2% | San Juan 21.5% | Chaves 11.9% | 59.6% | 32 |
| Layers Number | 1,768 | 66,653 | San Juan 3.9% | Valencia 3.5% | Bernalillo 3.4% | 10.8% | 32 |
| Corn for Grain Bushels | 132 | 33,101 | Union 29.0% | Lea 3.4% | Socorro 0.6% | 33.0% | 20 |
| Corn for Silage or Greenchop Tons | 300 | 81,866 | Chaves 18.9% | Torrance 13.3% | Curry 12.8% | 45.0% | 17 |
| Wheat for Grain Bushels | 264 | 87,504 | Curry 28.0% | Roosevelt 10.2% | Lea 7.4% | 45.6% | 20 |
| Winter Wheat for Grain Bushels | 255 | 86,434 | Curry 28.4% | Lea 7.5% | Union 7.1% | 43.0% | 20 |
| Oats for Grain Bushels | 27 | 158 | Sandoval 13.1% | Bernalillo 3.8% | San Juan 3.2% | 20.1% | 8 |
| Sorghum for Grain Bushels | 114 | 19,445 | Curry 63.4% | Luna 20.7% | Roosevelt 9.3% | 93.4% | 13 |
| Sorghum for Silage or Greenchop Tons | 76 | 17,288 | Curry 44.8% | Roosevelt 24.1% | Chaves 14.4% | 83.2% | 13 |
| All Cotton Bales | 195 | 39,994 | Lea 43.2% | Doña Ana 21.5% | Eddy 14.7% | 79.3% | 9 |
| Forage Tons | 6,578 | 343,032 | Doña Ana 11.6% | Chaves 11.5% | San Juan 11.2% | 34.3% | 33 |
| Sunflower Seed Pounds | 6 | 7 | Sandoval 100.0% | n/a n/a | n/a n/a | 100.0% | 1 |
| Peanuts for Nuts Pounds | 21 | 6,652 | Lea 64.7% | Roosevelt 35.3% | n/a n/a | 100.0% | 2 |
| Vegetables Harvested for Sale Acres | 2,085 | 28,162 | San Juan 29.2% | Doña Ana 23.8% | Luna 14.6% | 67.7% | 29 |
| Land in Orchards Acres | 3,443 | 45,722 | Doña Ana 63.4% | Eddy 10.7% | Chaves 6.6% | 80.7% | 30 |

Source: "New Mexico Agriculture." *Regional Review*, 2014

21 Top Producing Counties-Vegetable, Berry & Orchard Commodities, 2012

| Commodity | Top Producing Counties (by acre) | | | Commodity (Acres) | Top Producing Counties (by acre) | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | San Juan | De Baca | Luna | | Doña Ana | Eddy | Chaves |
| All Vegetables | | | | | | | |
| Acres | San Juan | Rio Arriba | Santa Fe | | Rio Arriba | Bernalillo | Lincoln |
| Number of Farms | | | | | | | |
| Asparagus | Rio Arriba | // | // | | | | |
| Snap Beans | Luna | Rio Arriba | Santa Fe | | | Otero | Lincoln |
| Beets | Bernalillo | Santa Fe | Sandoval | | | Otero | Santa Fe |
| Broccoli | Rio Arriba | Santa Fe | // | | Bernalillo | <> | <> |
| Head Cabbage | Taos | San Juan | <> | | Otero | Rio Arriba | Santa Fe |
| Cantaloupes & Muskmelons | San Juan | Doña Ana | Sandoval | | Sandoval | Taos | Bernalillo |
| Carrots** | Rio Arriba | <> | <> | | Bernalillo | <> | <> |
| Cauliflower | Rio Arriba | Sandoval | <> | | Valencia | Sierra | Rio Arriba |
| Cucumbers & Pickles | Rio Arriba | San Juan | Santa Fe | | Rio Arriba | Valencia | Bernalillo |
| Eggplant | Santa Fe | Bernalillo | Rio Arriba | | Lincoln | Rio Arriba | Taos |
| Garlic** | Rio Arriba | Taos | Bernalillo | | Rio Arriba | Sandoval | Valencia |
| Herbs** | Taos | Santa Fe | Rio Arriba | | Sierra | <> | <> |
| Honeydew Melons | San Juan | Sandoval | // | | Doña Ana | Eddy | Chaves |
| Kale | Rio Arriba | Bernalillo | // | | Otero | <> | <> |
| Lettuce (All) | Doña Ana | Bernalillo | Santa Fe | | | | |
| Mustard Greens | Rio Arriba | // | - | | Rio Arriba | Santa Fe | Bernalillo |
| Okra | Otero | // | // | | | | |
| Dry Onions | Doña Ana | Luna | Sierra | | | | |
| Green Onions | Cibola | // | // | | | | |
| Green Peas | Socorro | Santa Fe | Rio Arriba | | | | |
| Bell Peppers | Bernalillo | Rio Arriba | // | | | | |
| Other Peppers, Incl. Chile** | Doña Ana | Luna | Sierra | | | | |
| Potatoes** | Rio Arriba | Santa Fe | Bernalillo | | | | |
| Pumpkins** | San Juan | Luna | Chaves | | | | |
| Radishes | Rio Arriba | Bernalillo | Socorro | | | | |
| Spinach | Rio Arriba | Bernalillo | // | | | | |
| Squash** | San Juan | McKinley | Santa Fe | | | | |
| Sweet Corn** | San Juan | Roosevelt | Rio Arriba | | | | |
| Tomatoes (in the open) | Santa Fe | Rio Arriba | Bernalillo | | | | |
| Watermelons | Lea | Luna | <> | | | | |
| Other Vegetables | San Juan | Sandoval | Rio Arriba | | | | |

Notes:

-- Counties shown are the only counties reporting production of the commodity.

<>Due to suppressed data, not all of the top counties could be listed.

//Production in remaining counties is very small and is not shown, even if the county is among the top three producers.

**Due to suppressed data, the top counties represent general lists and may exclude one or more other top counties where production is not available.

Notes:

-- Counties shown are the only counties reporting production of the commodity.

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**Due to suppressed data, the top counties represent general lists and may exclude one or more other top counties where production is not available.

Source: "New Mexico Agriculture." *Regional Review*, 2014

| Commodity | Top Producing Counties (by amount) | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Field Crops | | | |
| Barley for Grain (Bushels) | Chaves | -- | -- |
| Canola (Lbs) | San Juan | -- | -- |
| Corn for Grain (Bushels) | San Juan | Union | <> |
| Upland Cotton (Bales) | Lea | Doña Ana | Eddy |
| Pima Cotton (Bales) | Doña Ana | <> | <> |
| Dry Edible Beans (Cwt) | San Juan | <> | <> |
| Dry Edible Peas (Cwt) | Curry | -- | -- |
| Oats for Grain (Bushels) | Mora | <> | <> |
| Peanuts for Nuts (Lbs) | Lea | Roosevelt | -- |
| Popcorn (Lbs, Shelled) | Santa Fe | San Juan | -- |
| Proso Millet (Bushels) | Luna | -- | -- |
| Rye for Grain (Bushels) | Valencia | -- | -- |
| Sorghum for Grain (Bushels) | Curry | Luna | Roosevelt |
| Soybeans for Beans (Bushels) | San Miguel | -- | -- |
| Sunflower Seed, Oil & Non-Oil Varieties (Lbs) | Sandoval | -- | -- |
| Winter Wheat for Grain (Bushels) | Curry | Lea | Union |
| Durum Wheat for Grain (Bushels) | Roosevelt | -- | -- |
| Field and Grass Seed Crops | | | |
| Alfalfa (Lbs) | Bernalillo | Chaves | Eddy |
| Bermuda (Lbs) | Doña Ana | -- | -- |
| Fescue (Lbs) | Santa Fe | -- | -- |
| Forage (Hay, Haylage, Grass Silage, Greenchop) | Doña Ana | Chaves | San Juan |
| Alfalfa Hay (Dry, Tons) | San Juan | Doña Ana | Chaves |
| Small Grain Hay (Dry, Tons) | Curry | Lea | Chaves |
| Other Tame Hay (Dry, Tons)** | Rio Arriba | Colfax | Socorro |
| Wild Hay (Dry, Tons) | Guadalupe | Roosevelt | Curry |
| Haylage for Greenchop from Alfalfa (Green, Tons) | Roosevelt | Socorro | Curry |
| Other Haylage, Grass (Green, Tons)** | Curry | Roosevelt | Doña Ana |
| Corn for Silage or Greenchop (Tons) | Chaves | Torrance | Curry |
| Sorghum for Silage or Greenchop (Tons) | Curry | Roosevelt | Chaves |

Notes:

-- Counties shown are the only counties reporting production of the commodity.

<>Due to suppressed data, not all of the top counties could be listed.

//Production in remaining counties is very small and is not shown, even if the county is among the top three producers.


**Due to suppressed data, the top counties represent general lists and may 'exclude one or more other top counties where production is not available.

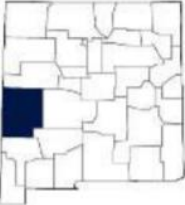
Source: "New Mexico Agriculture." *Regional Review*, 2014


Source:**New Mexico Annual Bulletin - (2015)**


USDA. National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with New Mexico Department of Agriculture


County Estimates — New Mexico: 2016 Livestock Inventory, 2015 Crop Production


| Census 2012 | | Bernalillo County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|-------|------|
| Number of Farms | 1,006 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 8,000 | 31 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 350,638 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 500 | 20 |
| Sheep and Lambs | 765 | | | | | | |
| Value of Products Sold | \$18,131,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$18,023 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$23,168 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | -\$4,262 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | | | | | | |


| Census 2012 | | Catron County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|--|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 351 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 27,000 | 17 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,077,534 | | | Beef Cows | | 15,800 | 12 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 3,070 | | | | | | |
| Value of Products Sold | \$12,742,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$36,301 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$43,923 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | -\$3,922 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | | | | | | |


| Census 2012 | | Chaves County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|---------------|---|--------|-------------------------|------------|---------|------|
| Number of Farms | 595 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 179,000 | 2 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 2,482,827 | | | Beef Cows | | 26,500 | 1 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 4,173 | | | Milk Cows | | 80,000 | 1 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$388,099,000 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 11,200 | 3 |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$652,267 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$608,242 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$59,098 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Corn, Silage | 14,300 | 27.50 | 392,000 | Tons | 2 |
| | | Cotton, Upland | 900 | 1,307 | 2,450 | Bales | 4 |
| | | Pecans | --- | --- | 7,100,000 | Pounds | 2 |


| Census 2012 | | Cibola County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|-----------|---|--|-------------------------|-------|--------|------------|
| Number of Farms | 522 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 12,200 | 29 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,558,974 | | | Beef Cows | | 8,000 | 21 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 2,987 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 2,700 | 9 |
| Value of Products Sold | // | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | // | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$13,937 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | -\$2,675 | | | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production |
| | | | | | | Unit | Rank |


| Census 2012 | | Colfax County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|--|-------------------------|-------|--------|------------|
| Number of Farms | 290 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 19,900 | 22 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,962,965 | | | Beef Cows | | 10,700 | 16 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 6,769 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 200 | 21 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$35,744,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$123,256 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$116,096 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$37,468 | | | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production |
| | | | | Hay, Alfalfa | 6,000 | 3.10 | 18,500 |
| | | | | Hay, Other | 3,500 | 1.75 | 6,200 |
| | | | | | | Unit | Rank |


| Census 2012 | | Curry County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|---------------|---|--|-------------------------|--------|---------|------------|
| Number of Farms | 600 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 230,000 | 1 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 880,822 | | | Beef Cows | | 7,900 | 22 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 1,468 | | | Milk Cows | | 75,000 | 2 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$447,315,000 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 200 | 21 |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$745,526 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$666,016 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$107,850 | | | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production |
| | | | | Corn, Grain | 2,600 | 180.80 | 470,000 |
| | | | | Corn, Silage | 25,900 | 23.00 | 597,000 |
| | | | | Hay, Alfalfa | 3,000 | 5.25 | 15,800 |
| | | | | Hay, Other | 13,000 | 2.4 | 31,000 |
| | | | | | | Unit | Rank |


| Census 2012 | | De Baca County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 203 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 16,600 | 26 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,068,067 | | | Beef Cows | | 9,900 | 19 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 5,261 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 600 | 16 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$23,967,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$118,064 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$112,653 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$26,516 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 8,000 | 4.75 | 38,000 | Tons | 5 |


| Census 2012 | | Doña Ana County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|---------------|---|--------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 2,184 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 85,000 | 5 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 659,970 | | | Beef Cows | | 7,500 | 23 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 302 | | | Milk Cows | | 37,000 | 4 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$351,032,000 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 800 | 14 |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$160,729 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$150,695 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$13,245 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Chile | 1,900 | --- | 22,000 | Tons | 2 |
| | | Cotton, Upland | 2,000 | 1,116 | 4,650 | Bales | 3 |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 19,000 | 6.85 | 130,000 | Tons | 1 |
| | | Pecans | --- | --- | 54,100,000 | Pounds | 1 |


| Census 2012 | | Eddy County | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank | |
|------------------------|---------------|---|-------------------------|-------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 551 |  | Cattle and Calves | | 54,000 | 7 | |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,141,956 | | Beef Cows | | 16,400 | 10 | |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 2,073 | | Milk Cows | | 10,700 | 7 | |
| Value of Products Sold | \$119,564,000 | | Sheep and Lambs | | 1,900 | 10 | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$216,994 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$189,252 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$35,318 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Cotton, Upland | 4,600 | 1,012 | 9,700 | Bales | 2 |
| | | Pecans | --- | --- | 6,700,000 | Pounds | 3 |


| Census 2012 | | Grant County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|--|-------------------------|-------|--------|------------|
| Number of Farms | 407 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 27,500 | 15 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,064,487 | | | Beef Cows | | 17,500 | 5 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 2,615 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 100 | 27 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$14,543,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$35,732 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$39,907 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$1,974 | | | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production |
| | | | | | | | |


| Census 2012 | | Guadalupe County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|--|--|-------------------------|-------|--------|------------|
| Number of Farms | 372 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 22,000 | 19 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,643,213 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 3,100 | 7 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 4,417 | | | | | | |
| Value of Products Sold | \$17,709,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$47,605 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$49,082 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$8,751 | | | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production |
| | | | | | | | |


| Census 2012 | | Harding County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|--|-------------------------|-------|--------|------------|
| Number of Farms | 202 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 21,500 | 20 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,034,059 | | | Beef Cows | | 11,700 | 15 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 5,119 | | | | | | |
| Value of Products Sold | \$13,495,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$66,807 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$66,313 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$10,143 | | | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production |
| | | | | | | | |


| Census 2012 | | Hidalgo County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 171 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 27,500 | 16 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 930,271 | | | Beef Cows | | 16,000 | 11 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 5,440 | | | | | | |
| Value of Products Sold | \$29,154,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$170,488 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$120,495 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$60,858 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 5,000 | 7.80 | 39,000 | Tons | 4 |


| Census 2012 | | Lea County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|---------------|--|--------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 460 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 87,000 | 4 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,981,988 | | | Beef Cows | | 19,700 | 3 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 4,309 | | | Milk Cows | | 31,000 | 5 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$188,926,000 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 1,500 | 12 |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$410,708 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$374,667 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$51,555 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Cotton, Upland | 16,100 | 882 | 29,600 | Bales | 1 |


| Census 2012 | | Lincoln County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 704 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 28,500 | 13 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,271,368 | | | Beef Cows | | 17,300 | 6 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 1,806 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 8,700 | 4 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$77,247,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$109,726 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$106,229 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$7,714 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | | | | | | |


| Census 2012 | | Luna County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 190 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 19,000 | 24 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 550,174 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 100 | 27 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 2,896 | | | | | | |
| Value of Products Sold | \$62,482,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$328,852 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$292,674 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$49,327 | | | | | | |
| | | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Chile | 2,200 | --- | 31,500 | Tons | 1 |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 7,400 | 6.10 | 45,000 | Tons | 3 |


| Census 2012 | | McKinley County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|-------------|--|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 2,297 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 27,500 | 14 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 3,022,704 | | | Beef Cows | | 18,400 | 4 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 1,316 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 26,500 | 1 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$8,389,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$3,652 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$8,386 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | -\$4,269 | | | | | | |
| | | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 500 | 1.80 | 900 | Tons | 15 |


| Census 2012 | | Mora County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 597 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 14,300 | 28 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 778,031 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 200 | 21 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 1,303 | | | | | | |
| Value of Products Sold | \$11,623,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$19,468 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$21,228 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$2,895 | | | | | | |
| | | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 3,000 | 2.50 | 6,500 | Tons | 14 |
| | | Hay, Other | 4,000 | 1.50 | 6,000 | Tons | 7 |


| Census 2012 | | Otero County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 486 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 17,700 | 25 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,223,746 | | | Beef Cows | | 10,600 | 17 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 2,518 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 2,800 | 8 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$14,635,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$30,112 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$36,701 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$3,654 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | | | | | | |


| Census 2012 | | Quay County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|--|--------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 553 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 33,500 | 11 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,518,085 | | | Beef Cows | | 16,600 | 9 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 2,745 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 600 | 16 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$36,789,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$66,526 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$77,029 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$9,259 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 1,500 | 4.35 | 6,500 | Tons | 13 |
| | | Hay, Other | 9,000 | 2.40 | 21,500 | Tons | 3 |
| | | Sorghum, Grain | 13,400 | 39.60 | 531,000 | Tons | 2 |


| Census 2012 | | Rio Arriba County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 1,892 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 26,500 | 18 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,432,897 | | | Beef Cows | | 17,200 | 7 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 757 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 3,200 | 6 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$18,979,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$10,031 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$14,179 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | -\$1,791 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | | | | | | |


| Census 2012 | | Roosevelt County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|---------------|---|--------|-------------------------|------------|---------|------|
| Number of Farms | 680 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 110,000 | 3 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,349,222 | | | Beef Cows | | 13,200 | 13 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 1,984 | | | Milk Cows | | 50,000 | 3 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$264,324,000 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 200 | 21 |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$388,712 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$390,616 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$16,490 | | | | | | |
| | | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Corn, Silage | 10,400 | 22.50 | 235,000 | Tons | 3 |
| | | Hay, Other | 27,500 | 2.15 | 37,500 | Tons | 1 |
| | | Sorghum, Grain | 36,100 | 48.10 | 1,738,000 | Bushels | 1 |


| Census 2012 | | Sandoval County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|--|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 1,029 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 16,000 | 27 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 950,133 | | | Beef Cows | | 10,400 | 18 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 923 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 1,800 | 11 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$10,586,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$10,287 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$12,978 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | -\$1,100 | | | | | | |
| | | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | | | | | | |


| Census 2012 | | San Juan County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|--------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 2,628 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 21,000 | 21 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 2,580,319 | | | Beef Cows | | 12,800 | 14 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 982 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 14,400 | 2 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$71,311,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$27,135 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$28,802 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$247 | | | | | | |
| | | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 23,000 | 5.15 | 118,000 | Tons | 2 |


| Census 2012 | | San Miguel County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 877 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 35,000 | 10 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 2,350,432 | | | Beef Cows | | 20,500 | 2 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 2,680 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 200 | 21 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$18,631,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$21,244 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$26,475 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | -\$1,681 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Hay, Other | 1,000 | 2.40 | 2,400 | Tons | 8 |


| Census 2012 | | Santa Fe County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|--|-------|-------------------------|------------|-------|------|
| Number of Farms | 715 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 9,300 | 30 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 717,704 | | | Beef Cows | | 3,900 | 25 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 1,004 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 600 | 16 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$12,776,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$17,869 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$30,717 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | -\$9,769 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 4,500 | 2.95 | 13,300 | Tons | 12 |
| | | Hay, Other | 700 | 2.30 | 1,600 | Tons | 9 |


| Census 2012 | | Sierra County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 256 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 19,100 | 23 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,250,136 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 200 | 21 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 4,883 | | | | | | |
| Value of Products Sold | \$39,347,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$153,697 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$145,573 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$15,884 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 3,000 | 6.35 | 19,000 | Tons | 8 |

| Census 2012 | | Socorro County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 704 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 48,000 | 8 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,271,368 | | | Beef Cows | | 17,000 | 8 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 1,806 | | | Milk Cows | | 10,900 | 6 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$77,247,000 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 700 | 15 |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$109,726 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$106,229 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$7,714 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 7,500 | 4.80 | 36,000 | Tons | 6 |

| Census 2012 | | Taos County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|-------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|-------|------|
| Number of Farms | 983 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 5,300 | 24 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 313,414 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 600 | 16 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 319 | | | | | | |
| Value of Products Sold | \$8,415,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$8,560 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$10,924 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | -\$1,204 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 8,500 | 1.60 | 13,500 | Tons | 11 |

| Census 2012 | | Torrance County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 589 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 44,000 | 9 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,864,589 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 5,000 | 5 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 3,166 | | | | | | |
| Value of Products Sold | \$58,520,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$99,355 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$98,833 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$9,583 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Hay, Alfalfa | 5,500 | 5.00 | 27,600 | Tons | 7 |
| | | Hay, Other | 2,000 | 4.45 | 8,900 | Tons | 5 |

| Census 2012 | | Union County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|--------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 353 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 63,000 | 6 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 1,967,370 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 100 | 27 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 5,573 | | | | | | |
| Value of Products Sold | \$98,138,000 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$278,013 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$231,871 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | \$61,227 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | Corn, Grain | 12,100 | 200.7 | 2,428,000 | Bu. | 1 |
| | | Hay, Other | 5,000 | 2.10 | 10,400 | Tons | 4 |

| Census 2012 | | Valencia County | | Livestock – Jan 1, 2016 | | Head | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Number of Farms | 1,607 |  | | Cattle and Calves | | 32,000 | 12 |
| Land in Farms (Acres) | 669,727 | | | Beef Cows | | 9,600 | 20 |
| Avg. Size of Farm | 417 | | | Milk Cows | | 8,000 | 8 |
| Value of Products Sold | \$55,765,000 | | | Sheep and Lambs | | 1,000 | 13 |
| Avg. Farm Value Sold | \$34,701 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Farm Expenses | \$39,585 | | | | | | |
| Avg. Net Farm Income | -\$3,672 | Crops 2015 | Acres | Yield | Production | Unit | Rank |
| | | | | | | | |

¹⁷ Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farm or ranch.

Crop Information

Beans

Beans, Dry Edible Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production, Price, and Value New Mexico: 2006 – 2015

| Year | Area Planted | Area Harvested | Yield per Acre | Production | Price per Cwt ¹ | Value of Production |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (pounds) | (1,000 cwt) | (dollars) | (1,000 dollars) |
| 2006 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 2,400 | 197 | 26.00 | 5,122 |
| 2007 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 2,180 | 181 | 39.00 | 7,059 |
| 2008 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 2,300 | 214 | 50.00 | 10,700 |
| 2009 | 12.5 | 12.4 | 2,220 | 275 | 45.00 | 12,375 |
| 2010 | 13.8 | 13.8 | 2,330 | 322 | 31.00 | 9,982 |
| 2011 | 12.5 | 12.4 | 2,230 | 277 | 50.00 | 13,850 |
| 2012 | 9.8 | 9.8 | 2,200 | 216 | 60.00 | 12,960 |
| 2013 | 10.0 | 9.5 | 2,040 | 194 | 60.00 | 11,640 |
| 2014 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,900 | 200 | 60.00 | 12,000 |
| 2015 | 12.9 | 12.9 | 2,050 | 264 | 29.00 | 7,656 |

¹ Marketing year average price.

New Mexico Annual Bulletin - (2015)

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Cattle and Calves

New Mexico producers raised 1.3 million cattle and calves in 2015, earning a production value of \$757.9 million. ²

The beef industry is completely domestic-export oriented. More than 91% ship out to Texas, Colorado, Kansas and a few other states for finishing, slaughter, and packing. Gross income of \$909,000 (2006). In-State commercial slaughter: 11,000. The state has between 85 and 102 feedlots (mostly small) for beef cattle (both finishing and complete feeding); 32 in the High Plains and 19 in the Arid Lowlands. ³

The lack of cattle processing facilities in the state is an issue for many New Mexico ranchers, regardless of their size. Over 95 percent of cattle in the U.S. were processed in large-scale plants (100,000 head or greater capacity) in 2015. The number of small federally inspected plants (10,000 head or less) has fallen significantly in recent years to 565 in 2015. As of January 2016, there were 12 (five federally inspected) livestock slaughter facilities in New Mexico, down from 17 in 2015.

A take-away point here is that New Mexico's ranchers, many of whom are in remote areas, must drive long distances and pay high processing costs to sell their meat products in national or local markets. For example, if a local restaurant wants to serve beef that was raised in New Mexico, the product was probably shipped out-of-state for slaughter and processing and then transported back to New Mexico for sale. Higher costs and environmental

² Stovall, Brittany. "New Mexico's Top Agriculture Commodities." *Farm Flavor*, 2016, <http://www.farmflavor.com/new-mexico/new-mexicos-top-agriculture-commodities/>.

³ "Facts — Dreaming New Mexico." *Dreamingnewmexico.Org*, 2015, <http://www.dreamingnewmexico.org/food/ff-livestock/ff-livestock-facts>.

impacts associated with transportation of meat products come into play. Stakeholders suggested increased funding and regulatory support to improve and further develop meat processing plants in New Mexico.⁴

Some areas of the country are more difficult than others in which to raise cattle. Southwestern New Mexico is one of these regions, although for a couple of reasons that may be unexpected.

To begin with, this area of the country has very limited resources in terms of water and feed. The stocking rate for cattle is approximately five to six cows per section, or 640 acres. Water is scarce, and a lot of the area utilizes windmills, according to Dr. John Wenzel, extension veterinarian for New Mexico State University.

“The most common grasses we have are black gramma, tobosa grass, and alkali sacaton,” says Lawrence Hurt of Hurt Cattle Co. in Hatchita, New Mexico. “To survive out here, you must stock conservatively and feed as needed. Moisture is the biggest challenge.”

However, the climate is fairly mild, and that is a big advantage, especially since there is little rainfall. “We can produce a calf with very little rain. We rarely get more than 10 inches of rain. For the last 15 years or so, we have only received 5 to 7 inches of rain a year,” Hurt explains.

Generally, for cattle to survive in this climate, “they have to have a little bit of ear,” or Brahman influence. The majority of cows are crossbreds and are crossed with purebred-type bulls. The cows are usually a combination of Red Angus, Black Angus, Charolais, Brangus, and Beefmaster, according to Wenzel.

“If you get a set of cows that work, you can raise some pretty good ones. We have large pasture load stocking-type ranches, and it’s a lifestyle these ranchers are accustomed to. These guys that survive are pretty good at it. The cattle are uniquely fit for that area, and the cattle perform pretty well,” explains Wenzel.

This area of the country is best fit for raising livestock, since the land is not suitable for raising crops. “It is the only way to harvest these lands. It is not good enough in most areas for any type of a crop production, and cattle grazing uses that reusable resource to turn into food,” states Caren Cowan, executive director of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association.

The majority of these ranches are several thousand acres, and that is predominantly federal or state land. “To be able to get a grazing lease, you have to have base property, with either deeded land or water in New Mexico,” she says.

Ranchers utilize their own land, in addition to leases on public land, to graze their cattle. “This year has been an issue for ranchers because their rates are based off the high cattle prices from last year, and since that time, the market has dropped out.

Even with these tough conditions, that is not the biggest threat to ranchers in this area: It is border security. Ranchers in this area fear for their lives on a daily basis because of the people who are coming across the U.S./Mexico border.

Most ranchers will agree it is not immigrants coming to the U.S. looking for work that are the problem, but those who are trafficking drugs, as well as criminals. These people have killed ranchers, kidnapped people doing business and stolen personal property.

⁴ Rader, Kelsey et al. *Resilience In New Mexico Agriculture: Opportunities, Challenges and Realities For New Mexico’s Farming and Ranching Future*. New Mexico First And New Mexico State University, 2016, <https://localfoodeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FinalAgReportFINALFINAL.pdf>.

"We deal with drug smugglers on a daily basis. Every day, we have to go look and find what they have been into and torn up. The biggest concern we have is getting yourself killed and being in the wrong place at the wrong time," explains Hurt.

In the past, ranchers would offer food and water to immigrants passing through that needed it, but those days are long gone. "We have seen these people around and try to help them, but now we are very, very cautious.

Our biggest concern is for our personal safety. We have to carry a weapon all the time to protect ourselves," he states.

The movement of people across pastures where cattle are is a problem as well. "With immigration or drug trafficking, the people are the direct disruption. They tend to keep cattle off of water, and that is a big problem," Wenzel states.

He continues, "A lot of the immigrant traffic will camp on water. In southwest New Mexico, there are very limited sources of water for cattle to drink from. We have had cattle die because they could not get to water."

This disruption causes problems in pregnancy rates and weight gain, both of which affect a rancher's bottom line.

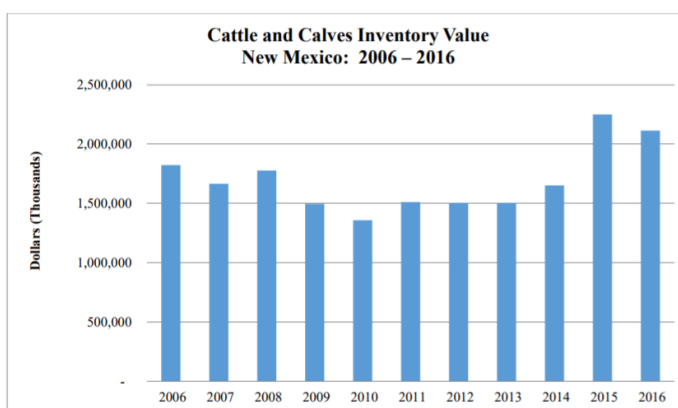
People traveling across the areas will also start fires. "In Arizona, some of the catastrophic forest fires they have had have been from people traveling through. They will start a fire so someone will come find them," says Cowan.

Drug traffickers tend to have little regard for personal property and will cut fences and leave gates open when they come across a rancher's property. A side effect of this issue is disease introduction. One of the biggest concerns is with trichomoniasis and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Trich is present in the U.S. and in Mexico, and FMD is present in South America.

A recent study conducted by the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua (UACH) and Thermo Fisher Scientific showed that nearly 25 percent of the bulls in the State of Chihuahua were infected with trich. When fences are cut in ranches on the border, cattle can commingle, which could potentially expose cattle to this disease.

FMD is the biggest risk to ranchers, according to Wenzel. Although Mexico is currently listed as FMD-free, as is the U.S., this disease is highly contagious and can be brought in through manure on shoes.

"The concern is that a lot of them may be from South America, where foot and mouth is. It is a risk because they have a backpack and prepared meat and foods, so that is always a concern," states Wenzel.⁵



Source: New Mexico Annual Bulletin - (2015) USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with New Mexico Department of Agriculture

⁵ Scherer-Carlson, Robyn. "Ranchers Battling to Survive in Southwest New Mexico." *Progressivecattle.com*, 2016, <http://www.progressivecattle.com/features/regional-features/7535-ranchers-battling-to-survive-in-southwest-new-mexico>.

County Estimates: Cattle¹ – New Mexico: January 1, 2015 – 2016

| County | All Cattle | | Beef Cows | | Milk Cows | |
|------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 |
| | (Head) | (Head) | (Head) | (Head) | (Head) | (Head) |
| Bernalillo | 7,600 | 8,000 | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) |
| Catron | 26,000 | 27,000 | 15,100 | 15,800 | (D) | (D) |
| Chaves | 165,000 | 170,000 | 25,500 | 26,500 | 85,000 | 80,000 |
| Cibola | 11,800 | 12,200 | 7,700 | 8,000 | (D) | (D) |
| Colfax | 19,100 | 19,900 | 10,200 | 10,700 | (D) | (D) |
| Curry | 220,000 | 230,000 | 7,600 | 7,900 | 76,000 | 75,000 |
| De Baca | 16,000 | 16,600 | 9,500 | 9,900 | (D) | (D) |
| Doña Ana | 82,000 | 85,000 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 37,000 | 37,000 |
| Eddy | 52,000 | 54,000 | 15,700 | 16,400 | 10,000 | 10,700 |
| Grant | 26,500 | 27,500 | 16,700 | 17,500 | (D) | (D) |
| Guadalupe | 21,500 | 22,000 | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) |
| Harding | 20,500 | 21,500 | 11,500 | 11,700 | (D) | (D) |
| Hidalgo | 26,500 | 27,500 | 15,300 | 16,000 | (D) | (D) |
| Lea | 83,000 | 87,000 | 18,900 | 19,700 | 31,000 | 31,000 |
| Lincoln | 27,500 | 28,500 | 16,600 | 17,300 | (D) | (D) |
| Luna | 18,300 | 19,000 | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) |
| McKinley | 26,500 | 27,500 | 17,600 | 18,400 | (D) | (D) |
| Mora | 13,800 | 14,300 | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) |
| Otero | 17,000 | 17,700 | 10,200 | 10,600 | (D) | (D) |
| Quay | 32,000 | 33,500 | 15,900 | 16,600 | (D) | (D) |
| Rio Arriba | 25,500 | 26,500 | 16,500 | 17,200 | (D) | (D) |
| Roosevelt | 110,000 | 110,000 | 12,700 | 13,200 | 54,000 | 50,000 |
| Sandoval | 15,000 | 16,000 | 9,800 | 10,400 | (D) | (D) |
| San Juan | 20,000 | 21,000 | 12,200 | 12,800 | (D) | (D) |
| San Miguel | 33,500 | 35,000 | 19,300 | 20,500 | (D) | (D) |
| Santa Fe | 9,000 | 9,300 | 3,700 | 3,900 | (D) | (D) |
| Sierra | 18,400 | 19,100 | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) |
| Socorro | 46,000 | 48,000 | 16,200 | 17,000 | 11,100 | 10,900 |
| Taos | (D) | (D) | 5,100 | 5,300 | (D) | (D) |
| Torrance | 42,500 | 44,000 | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) |
| Union | 60,000 | 63,000 | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) |
| Valencia | 30,500 | 32,000 | 9,100 | 9,600 | 9,000 | 8,000 |
| New Mexico | 1,330,000 | 1,380,000 | 407,000 | 425,000 | 323,000 | 315,000 |

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Counties with missing data are included in "Other Counties."

Source: New Mexico Annual Bulletin - (2015) USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Chile

The small village of Hatch in southern New Mexico is considered the “Chile Capital of the World.” In 2015, state chile farmers harvested 9,000 acres for a production value of more than \$41 million.⁶

According to the latest United States Department of Agriculture (USDA-NASS) statistics, 2016 turned out to be a productive year for chile growers across the state. Both the number of acres planted and tons of chile harvested in New Mexico were up compared to recent years. And after a number of slow years for the industry as a result of weather, the prospect for a harvest to match or surpass last year's profitable crop has many growers encouraged.⁷

Chile Peppers for Fresh Market and Processing Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production, Price, and Value — New Mexico: 2006 – 2015¹

| Year | Area Planted | Area Harvested | Yield per Acre | Production | Price per Cwt | Value of Production |
|------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | (acres) | (acres) | (cwt) | (1,000 cwt) | (dollars) | (1,000 dollars) |
| 2006 | 15,300 | 13,800 | 170 | 2,364 | 16.80 | 39,636 |
| 2007 | 12,000 | 11,000 | 145 | 1,620 | 17.70 | 28,677 |
| 2008 | 12,300 | 11,100 | 175 | 1,962 | 21.60 | 42,311 |
| 2009 | 12,800 | 12,300 | 195 | 2,385 | 24.10 | 57,369 |
| 2010 | 9,150 | 8,700 | 200 | 1,758 | 23.70 | 41,611 |
| 2011 | 10,000 | 9,500 | 145 | 1,377 | 33.90 | 46,716 |
| 2012 | 9,900 | 9,600 | 160 | 1,556 | 42.00 | 65,410 |
| 2013 | 9,000 | 8,600 | 150 | 1,300 | 38.10 | 49,478 |
| 2014 | 8,100 | 7,700 | 150 | 1,174 | 33.00 | 38,695 |
| 2015 | 8,300 | 7,700 | 175 | 1,334 | 30.80 | 41,090 |

¹ Chile peppers are defined as all peppers excluding bell peppers. Estimates include both fresh and dry product combined

Leading States for Chile Peppers — Rank, Production, and Percent of Total: 2015

| State | Rank | Production | Percent of U.S. total |
|---------------------|------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | | (1,000 Pounds) | (Percent) |
| California | 1 | 2,424,000 | 60.1 |
| New Mexico | 2 | 1,334,000 | 33.1 |
| Texas | 3 | 195,000 | 4.8 |
| Arizona | 4 | 81,000 | 2.0 |
| Top States | | 4,034,000 | 100.0 |
| United States | | 4,034,000 | 100.0 |

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⁶ Stovall, Brittany. "New Mexico's Top Agriculture Commodities." *Farm Flavor*, 2016, <http://www.farmflavor.com/new-mexico/new-mexicos-top-agriculture-commodities/>.

⁷ Hawkes, Logan. "NM Green Chile Growers Hope for Encore Season." *Southwest Farmpress*, 2017, <http://www.southwestfarmpress.com/vegetables/nm-green-chile-growers-hope-encore-season>.

Last year New Mexico farmers planted an estimated 9,200 acres of green chiles across the state, most of them in the Mesilla Valley region.

"Last year we planted a few more acres than in 2015," Local grower Mark Trujillo said, though not all of those acres produced good chile because of weather and some disease. "But we added to the total acres planted this year, and have no reason as of right now to think we might not exceed last year's harvest numbers. That's our goal at this point in the season."

USDA-NASS state statistician, Longino Bustillos, who operates out of the agency's Las Cruces office, says harvest numbers vary every year depending on several factors, including disease, drought and other climate and weather conditions, crop rotations, and the total number of acres planted that reached harvest stage without major incident. He said for last year's harvest production, only a few problems occurred throughout the growing season.

USDA estimates that out of the 9,200 acres of planted chiles last year, about 8,700 were actually harvested. Total production for 2016 managed to reach an estimated 69,000 tons, valued at about \$50 million. USDA says that compares with about \$41 million total crop value the year before (in 2015).

Officials at the New Mexico Chile Association credit the widening popularity of New Mexico's historical chile crop to better marketing nationwide.

TJ Runyan, another produce shipper in the Mesilla Valley, agrees. He says New Mexico chiles are starting to reach into new areas.

"Last year we had chiles being shipped to distant domestic locations like New York and other areas on the East Coast. Hatch chiles are becoming more in demand thanks in part to the success at branding the product," he said.

He warned, however, that branding efforts are challenged by large chile processors who tend not to recognize or differentiate between New Mexico chiles and other chile products produced in other areas. Some of the fiercest competition to New Mexico chiles are specialty farms cropping up in Northern Mexico where input costs, especially local labor costs, are much less.

New Mexico's chile producers admit that increasing competition, availability of water, and problems associated with finding enough farm laborers to pick the harvest are the biggest problems the New Mexico chile industry is facing. The most troublesome of the three may well be the labor issue.

More chile farms are popping up in Northern Mexico, and one-time migrant workers are finding it easier and nearly as profitable to stay on the Mexican side of the border and avoid paperwork and litigation involved in a temporary worker program in the United States.

They also point to possible future problems associated with trade issues between the U.S. and Mexico. While the North American Free Trade Agreement may not benefit New Mexico chile producers, a viable source of migrant workers does, and some fear that trade disagreements between the U.S. and Mexico may muddy those waters even more if tensions between the two neighboring nations increase.⁸

New Mexico's chile acreage has shrunk by nearly half over the past 15 years, from a peak of 17,500 acres in 2005 to 9,200 acres last year, and total production has fallen as well. Mexican farmers have been picking up the slack.

Chihuahua state alone is today planting roughly 90,000 acres of chile – an area equivalent to “every bit of agriculture south of Elephant Butte” in New Mexico, according to Dino Cervantes, head of chile producer Cervantes Enterprises Inc. in the Mesilla Valley.

⁸ Hawkes, Logan. "NM Green Chile Growers Hope for Encore Season." *Southwest Farmpress*, 2017, <http://www.southwestfarmpress.com/vegetables/nm-green-chile-growers-hope-encore-season>.

Farmers in Chile, pecans and onions south of the border “are going gangbusters,” Cervantes said, thanks to better access to migrant labor. “They only have access to labor through a similar process we used to do here: agriculture labor migrating from parts of the country to this area. The majority of the labor is coming from southern Mexico.”⁹

Luna and Doña Ana Counties lead the state in Chile production.¹⁰

Chile: Acreage and Production by County – New Mexico: 2013 – 2015

| | Planted Acreage | | | Harvested Acreage | | | Production (Tons) | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Luna | 2,500 | 2,300 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 25,540 | 23,600 | 31,500 |
| Doña Ana | 2,400 | 2,000 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 20,250 | 20,700 | 22,000 |
| Other Counties | 4,100 | 3,800 | 3,700 | 4,000 | 3,600 | 3,600 | 19,210 | 14,400 | 13,200 |
| STATE | 9,000 | 8,100 | 8,300 | 8,600 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 65,000 | 58,700 | 66,700 |

Chile: Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value by Variety – New Mexico: 2014 – 2015

| Variety | Acreage Harvested | | Yield per Acre ^{3/} | | Production | | Average Price per Ton | | Value of Production | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | 2014 ^{1/} | 2015 ^{2/} | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Green | | | -----Tons----- | | | | ----Dollars---- | | -----\$1,000----- | |
| Long Mild | 2,600 | 2,100 | 15.2 | 16.1 | 39,500 | 33,900 | 509 | 487 | 20,100 | 16,515 |
| Long Hot | 1,200 | 2,000 | 10.6 | 13.3 | 12,700 | 26,600 | 511 | 501 | 6,495 | 13,335 |
| Red | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paprika | 3,100 | 3,200 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 4,200 | 4,000 | 1,857 | 1,805 | 7,800 | 7,220 |
| Long Hot/Mild | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2,300 | 2,200 | 1,870 | 1,827 | 4,300 | 4,020 |
| Total | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7.6 | 8.7 | 58,700 | 66,700 | 659 | 616 | 38,695 | 41,090 |

^{1/} There were 800 acres harvested for both green and red, but only counted once in the total.

^{2/} There were 1,200 acres harvested for both green and red, but only counted once in the total.

^{3/} Yields influenced by lower yielding acreage harvested for both green and red.

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USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Meanwhile, nationwide in the U.S., demand for Hatch Chile has only grown. And while production per acre is way up from the 1980s – from fewer than 10 tons an acre to more than 20 tons, according to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture – total production has decreased.

New Mexico farmers produced 69,000 tons of Chile last year versus nearly 89,000 tons 15 years ago. In its spring survey, the USDA reported that fieldworkers were earning an average of \$12.22 an hour; pickers in New Mexico are guaranteed the state minimum wage of \$7.50 an hour.

“It’s labor; that’s what it boils down to,” said David Lucero, marketing division director for the state Department of Agriculture. “I think they have addressed some of their water issues with efficiencies in drip irrigation. But let’s face it: When you look at the average age of the average fieldworker, it’s getting up there.”

⁹ Villagran, Lauren. "Updated: Picking Up the Slack In Chile Cultivation." *Albuquerque Journal*, 2017, <https://www.abqjournal.com/1019661/chile-production-in-mexico-surges-on-demand.html>.

¹⁰ "Value Added Agriculture Key Industry." *Gonm.Biz*, 2017, <https://gonm.biz/why-new-mexico/key-industries/value-added-agriculture/>.

Mayté Luján runs a bed-and-breakfast in Casas Grandes, MX called Las Guacamayas and a gallery of fine local pottery. Her brother grows chile and pecans, she says – more each year – and he recruits migrant labor from the south as well.

“Chile has boosted the economy, but we don’t have the labor here,” she said. “They come from Oaxaca, Guerrero. They earn good money, very good,” compared with where they come from.

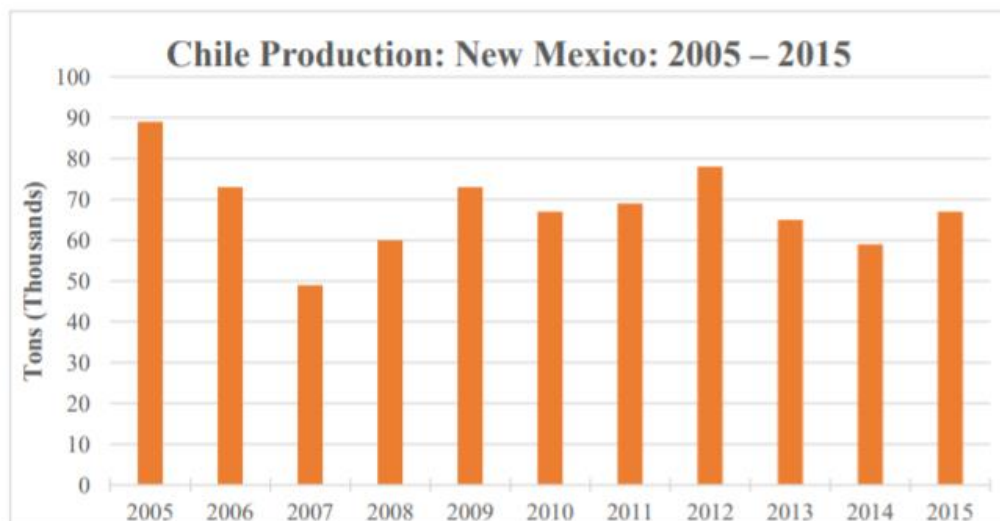
With border security as tight as it is, with the anti- immigration rhetoric as sharp as it has been, the American dream has faded for many Mexicans, she said. Working in Chihuahua, people from southern states plant and pick crops, save their money and go home in the winter to rest until the spring.

“Here they don’t have to risk their lives,” she said. “Here they aren’t discriminated against.”

“This is the new Mexican dream,” she said.¹¹

Chile: Fresh and Processed Production and Value

| | Fresh Production | Processed Production | Value of Fresh Production | Value of Processed Production |
|------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | -----Tons----- | | -----\$1,000----- | |
| 2014 | 9,000 | 49,700 | 6,390 | 32,305 |
| 2015 | 10,700 | 56,000 | 7,490 | 33,600 |



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¹¹ Villagran, Lauren. "Updated: Picking Up the Slack In Chile Cultivation." *Albuquerque Journal*, 2017, <https://www.abqjournal.com/1019661/chile-production-in-mexico-surges-on-demand.html>.

Experts have said developments in the mechanization of the green chile harvesting and de-stemming process will be important to that industry's future. And the 2016 figures show Luna County led in acreage and production. Doña Ana County — home of Hatch, which is known as the "Chile Capital of the World" — came in second.¹²

Last year, a pilot project tested the effectiveness of a new mechanical harvester. While some lauded the harvester as having the potential of being the answer to farm labor problems, others were not so optimistic.

According to New Mexico State University Extension specialists, chile bruises easily, which greatly affects the quality of the product. Too often, bruised chile will begin to turn during shipment, they say, sending an undesirable chile to market.

But the mechanical harvester designers have been fine-tuning their machine to be gentler during harvest operations and say they are still hopeful that tweaking the harvester will provide adequate handling of fresh chile as the bugs are worked out.¹³

Cotton

New Mexico is 16th in the nation for producing the most bales of cotton. In 2016, state farmers harvested more than 60,000 bales of upland cotton, earning \$16.5 million in production value.¹⁴

All Cotton Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production — New Mexico: 2006 – 2015

| Year | Area Planted (1,000 acres) | Area Harvested (1,000 acres) | Yield per Acre (pounds) | Production ¹ (1,000 bales) ² |
|------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 2006 | 63 | 61 | 897 | 113.0 |
| 2007 | 48 | 44 | 1,070 | 97.2 |
| 2008 | 41 | 37 | 964 | 74.1 |
| 2009 | 34 | 32 | 1,129 | 76.0 |
| 2010 | 51 | 50 | 1,134 | 117.4 |
| 2011 | 73 | 61 | 1,049 | 134.2 |
| 2012 | 47 | 40 | 1,048 | 88.0 |
| 2013 | 43 | 34 | 921 | 66.0 |
| 2014 | 48 | 38 | 907 | 72.4 |
| 2015 | 42 | 38 | 925 | 73.0 |

¹ Production ginned and to be ginned.

² 480-pound net weight bale.

New Mexico is one of 17 states that produce cotton, and production (in bales) ranks the state sixteenth. While the majority of production is Upland cotton, and overall production in New Mexico is much smaller than that in other cotton-producing states, New Mexico is one of only four states that produce Pima cotton (California, Texas, and Arizona being the other states). Upland cotton production is largest in Lea, Doña Ana, and Eddy counties. Doña Ana is the largest producer of Pima cotton production, with small production also found in Luna and Sierra counties.¹⁵

¹² DeWitt, Dave. "New Mexico Chile Production Bounces Back." *Dave Dewitt*, 2017, <http://www.dave-dewitt.com/2017/03/03/new-mexico-chile-production-bounces-back/>.

¹³ Hawkes, Logan. "Green Chile Harvest Gets Underway In New Mexico." *Southwest Farmpress*, 2016, <http://www.southwestfarmpress.com/vegetables/green-chile-harvest-gets-underway-new-mexico>.

¹⁴ Stovall, Brittany. "New Mexico's Top Agriculture Commodities." *Farm Flavor*, 2016, <http://www.farmflavor.com/new-mexico/new-mexicos-top-agriculture-commodities/>.

¹⁵ "New Mexico Agriculture." *Regional Review*, 2014, https://www.dws.state.nm.us/Portals/0/DM/LMI/Regional_Review_Summer_2014.pdf.

County Estimates: Cotton, Upland — New Mexico: 2014 and 2015 ¹

| District and County | Acres Planted | | Acres Harvested | | Harvested Yield | | Production | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|--------|------------|--------|
| | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
| | (Acres) | (Acres) | (Acres) | (Acres) | (Tons) | (Tons) | (Tons) | (Tons) |
| Other Counties | (D) | 6,500 | (D) | 6,000 | (D) | 808 | (D) | 10,100 |
| Northeast | (D) | 6,500 | (D) | 6,000 | (D) | 808 | (D) | 10,100 |
| Other Counties | (D) | 1,500 | (D) | 1,400 | (D) | 1,200 | (D) | 3,500 |
| Southwest | (D) | 1,500 | (D) | 1,400 | (D) | 1,200 | (D) | 3,500 |
| Chaves | (D) | 1,000 | (D) | 900 | (D) | 1,307 | (D) | 2,450 |
| Doña Ana | 4,900 | 2,100 | 4,800 | 2,000 | 1,370 | 1,116 | 13,700 | 4,650 |
| Eddy | 5,000 | 5,200 | 4,700 | 4,600 | 1,266 | 1,012 | 12,400 | 9,700 |
| Lea | 20,600 | 18,700 | 14,000 | 16,100 | 597 | 882 | 17,400 | 29,600 |
| Other Counties | 2,800 | | 2,600 | | 1,292 | | 7,000 | |
| Southeast | 33,300 | 27,000 | 26,100 | 23,600 | 929 | 944 | 50,500 | 46,400 |
| Other Districts | 9,700 | (D) | 6,900 | (D) | 939 | (D) | 13,500 | (D) |
| New Mexico | 43,000 | 35,000 | 33,000 | 31,000 | 931 | 929 | 64,000 | 60,000 |

(D)Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Counties with missing data are included in the appropriate district's "Other Counties."

Dairy

In the early 1970s, US Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz told farmers to, "Get big or get out." New Mexico's dairies have taken that advice to heart.

Today, they're mainly located in two regions: the southeast produces the most milk with Curry, Roosevelt, and Chaves counties accounting for two-thirds of all of the state's milk, and the south-central region, where Doña Ana County produces the most and is home to Dairy Row, a stretch southeast of Las Cruces where about a dozen dairies line a strip paralleling I-10.

New Mexico's 148 dairies have around 320,000 cows, giving the state, with just under 2,200 cows per dairy, the largest average herd size in the country, according to statistics collected by New Mexico State University's agriculture extension. ¹⁶

New Mexico is the ninth highest milk-producing state. In 2015, local dairies produced 7.8 billion pounds of milk and produced 768 million pounds of cheese. The nation's largest cheese plant is in the state.¹⁷ New Mexico has the largest dairy herds in the nation (about 2,000 per herd). 98% of the herds exceeded 100 head; 0.2% had fewer than 100 (2004). In the upper Rio Grande (Bernalillo and Valencia), the herds average fewer than 500 head.¹⁸

¹⁶ Sorrentino, Joseph. "Which Milk: Practices On New Mexico Conventional Dairies' Factory Farms Are Hard to Swallow." Sfreporter.com, 2014, <http://www.sfreporter.com/santafe/article-9673-which-milk.html>.

¹⁷ Stovall, Brittany. "New Mexico's Top Agriculture Commodities." *Farm Flavor*, 2016, <http://www.farmflavor.com/new-mexico/new-mexicos-top-agriculture-commodities/>.

¹⁸ "Facts — Dreaming New Mexico." *Dreamingnewmexico.Org*, 2015, <http://www.dreamingnewmexico.org/food/ff-livestock/ff-livestock-facts>.

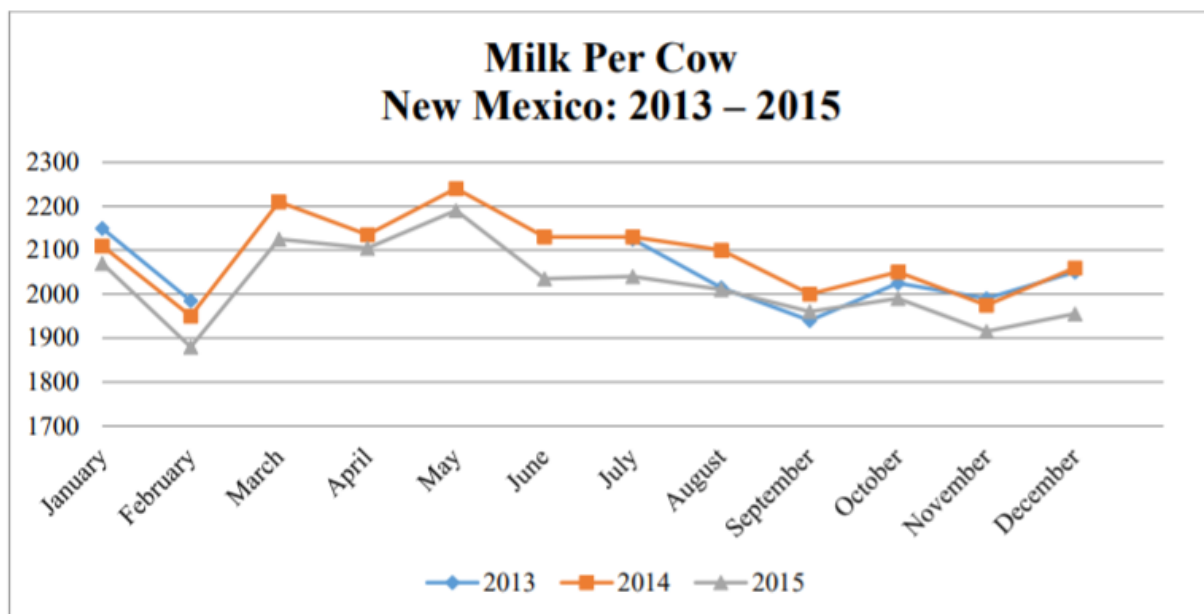
With value-chain additions for labor, transport, processing, and products, the dairy industry produced close to \$2.7 billion in cash receipts. Dairy industry generates about 2,900 direct full-time jobs; 5,700 indirect jobs and 8,600 part-time related jobs. **Total: 17,200 jobs.**¹⁹

Dairy Barns

Most milking barns have two raised platforms on which cows stand and an aisle between them. Two workers hurry down the aisle, cleaning the cows' teats with an iodine solution. A suction device—a several-inches long metal tube with a rubber end—is attached to each of the four teats. These are connected to plastic tubing that carries milk into containers. Milking takes less than five minutes—about eight hours for a herd of 2,000—and when it's done and the suction machines are removed, side gates open, the cows that are milked move out and the next group is hurried in. Workers frequently hose down the barns but the smell, a mix of mud and manure, can still be so strong that it stays in your mouth for hours.

Milk is collected in large vats, cooled, and eventually trucked to one of the state's 14 processing plants where it's pasteurized and bottled or made into other dairy products.²⁰

New Mexico has become a national leader in cheese and milk production and ranks in the top 10 for number of milk cows in the nation. The state produces approximately 642 million pounds of milk per month for a total of 7.711 billion pounds in 2016. New Mexico currently has 172 dairies that ship milk across state lines as well as 15 processing plants that produce a wide range of products from packaged fluid milk to cheese to whey protein concentrate. New Mexico is home to several cheese plants, two of the largest are Southwest Cheese, in Clovis, and Leprino Foods, in Roswell.²¹



¹⁹ "Facts — Dreaming New Mexico." *Dreamingnewmexico.Org*, 2015, <http://www.dreamingnewmexico.org/food/ff-livestock/ff-livestock-facts>.

²⁰ "Facts — Dreaming New Mexico." *Dreamingnewmexico.Org*, 2015, <http://www.dreamingnewmexico.org/food/ff-livestock/ff-livestock-facts>.

²¹ "Value Added Agriculture Key Industry." *Gonm.Biz*, 2017, <https://gonm.biz/why-new-mexico/key-industries/value-added-agriculture/>.

Southwest Cheese announced in 2015 that it will invest \$140 Million to expand in Clovis, New Mexico. The company plans to create more than 50 new high-paying jobs. This expansion will increase Southwest Cheese employee numbers to more than 400 in Clovis.

As part of the expansion, the company will increase its operational capacity by 30 percent. The plant will supply some of the world's leading food companies and meet cheese and whey demand both domestically and internationally. The company exports all their products outside of New Mexico, with at least 25 percent destined for international markets. The company broke ground on their expansion in early 2016. Additionally, Southwest Cheese will be increasing its consumption of locally sourced dairy milk.

"Southwest Cheese is proud to be expanding operations in Clovis as we seek to capture further domestic and international cheese and whey market share," said George Chappell, president of Southwest Cheese. "We are thankful for the support of Governor Martinez, Secretary Barela, and local leaders in Clovis."²²

According to CIDC Executive Director Chase Gentry, this is the third expansion the plant has had since its inception in 2005.

"This is phase three," he said. "Originally, it was \$200 million (for the first phase) and they hired 200 people."

Gentry said the second phase occurred in 2009 and added 70,000 square feet to the plant and increased their milk process from 7 million pounds to 10.5 million pounds of milk.

The plant currently employs 350 area residents, and after the expansion is complete, that number will be around 400, Gentry added.

All of the milk for the Clovis plant comes from within a 30-mile radius of the plant and over 75% from within a 15-mile radius. The milk is delivered by more than 140 articulated trucks running 24 hours per day. The plant produces blocks of cheddar cheese weighing up to 640 lb using 10.5Mlb of milk per day. Glanbia Foods' other operations make only 40lb blocks and 500lb (225kg) barrels. Many customers have requested the 640lb blocks as they lower waste and make it easier to create exact-weight packages for supermarket customers. In addition, most cheese-shredding companies have installed equipment which uses 640lb blocks.

The expansion has increased the processing capacity of the facility from 7Mlb to over 10.5Mlb of milk a day. It produces 70,000lb of value-added whey protein powder and 1.1Mlb of cheese a day. The plant produces American Cheddar, Colby, Colby-Jack, and Pepper Jack cheeses.

The facility is designed to produce 25,000lb of 640lb blocks per hour and 19,000lb of 40lb blocks per hour for a total manufacturing capacity of 44,000lb per hour. The plant also produces over 275,000lb of high quality WPC 80 whey protein per hour.²³

The joint venture between Southwest Cheese's parent company Glanbia and the dairy cooperatives of the Greater Southwest Agency, including Dairy Farmers of America and Select Milk Producers, currently processes over 220 truckloads of milk per day, making it one of the largest single site manufacturers of premium quality cheese and whey protein in the world.²⁴

²² "Southwest Cheese Invests \$140 Million To Expand Clovis, New Mexico, Production Hub - Area Development." *Area Development*, 2015, <http://www.areadevelopment.com/newsitems/11-17-2015/southwest-cheese-expansion-clovis-new-mexico543423.shtml>.

²³ "Southwest Cheese Production Facility, Clovis, New Mexico." *Food Processing Technology*, 2012, http://www.foodprocessing-technology.com/projects/southwest_cheese/.

²⁴ "Southwest Cheese Invests \$140 Million To Expand Clovis, New Mexico, Production Hub - Area Development." *Area Development*, 2015, <http://www.areadevelopment.com/newsitems/11-17-2015/southwest-cheese-expansion-clovis-new-mexico543423.shtml>.

Groundwater Contamination

Dairy farms in southern New Mexico have submitted a plan to the state that will help prevent groundwater contamination beneath their properties.

Shallow groundwater surrounding 11 neighboring dairy farms in southern New Mexico is contaminated with high levels of nitrates, chloride and salts. One source of that contamination comes from cow manure washing off the farms on rainy days. Dairymen like Ed De Ruyter, who runs a 2,000 cow farm just south of Las Cruces, are supposed to catch that wastewater in onsite lagoons.

Ed De Ruyter runs a 2,000-cow dairy farm in southern New Mexico. He lines his onsite waste water pits with plastic to help prevent ground water contamination.

"When we started here 40 years ago, we started with manure-lined lagoons and that was approved practice at the time," De Ruyter said.

At a public hearing this week, all 11 dairies agreed to line their lagoons with heavy plastic to prevent seepage. They'll also pay for routine groundwater monitoring and analysis.²⁵

Milk Production by County: New Mexico: 2014 – 2015

| County | January 1, Milk Cows | | Milk Production per Cow | | Total Milk Production | |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | | | -----Pounds----- | | -----1,000 lbs.----- | |
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Chaves | 85,000 | 80,000 | 22,700 | 22,500 | 1,930,000 | 1,800,000 |
| Curry | 76,000 | 75,000 | 24,300 | 24,500 | 1,850,000 | 1,840,000 |
| Doña Ana | 37,000 | 37,000 | 26,500 | 25,700 | 980,000 | 950,000 |
| Eddy | 10,000 | 10,700 | 22,500 | 20,600 | 225,000 | 220,000 |
| Lea | 31,000 | 31,000 | 22,900 | 22,300 | 710,000 | 690,000 |
| Roosevelt | 54,000 | 50,000 | 29,600 | 30,000 | 1,600,000 | 1,500,000 |
| Socorro | 11,100 | 10,900 | 27,000 | 25,700 | 300,000 | 280,000 |
| Valencia | 9,000 | 9,000 | 24,400 | 23,300 | 220,000 | 210,000 |
| Other Counties | 9,900 | 11,400 | 29,300 | 29,900 | 1,930,000 | 341,000 |
| STATE | 323,000 | 315,000 | 25,100 | 24,900 | 8,105,000 | 7,831,000 |

SOURCE: New Mexico Department of Agriculture: State production prorated using USDA AMS Milk Marketing Administrator's report.

Hay

Hay is New Mexico's No. 1 crop, and specifically, alfalfa hay. More than 30 percent of the state's production is exported. In 2015, the Land of Enchantment produced 893,000 tons of alfalfa hay, with a production value of \$188.4 million.

The hay itself is used for pasture, silage, and greenchop, and it is a significant contribution to the state's livestock industry, acting as food for cattle and more.²⁶

²⁵Ortiz Aribé, Monica. "New Mexico Dairy Farmers Aim To Protect Groundwater." *Fronteras Desk*, 2015, <https://fronterasdesk.org/content/9980/new-mexico-dairy-farmers-aim-protect-groundwater>.

²⁶ Bertone, Rachel. "New Mexico's Diverse Agriculture." *Farm Flavor*, 2016, <http://www.farmflavor.com/new-mexico/new-mexicos-diverse-agriculture/>.

Hay, All Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production, Price, and Value New Mexico: 2006 – 2015

| Year | Area Harvested | Yield | Production | Price per Ton ¹ | Value of Production |
|------------|-------------------|--------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| | (1,000 acres) | (tons) | (1,000 tons) | (dollars) | (1,000 dollars) |
| 2006 | 320 | 4.07 | 1,302 | 164.00 | 211,092 |
| 2007 | 350 | 4.32 | 1,512 | 164.00 | 244,584 |
| 2008 | 340 | 4.46 | 1,516 | 186.00 | 280,480 |
| 2009 | 320 | 4.33 | 1,384 | 151.00 | 208,656 |
| 2010 | 310 | 4.30 | 1,333 | 157.00 | 209,132 |
| 2011 | 280 | 4.43 | 1,239 | 258.00 | 318,192 |
| 2012 | 285 | 4.47 | 1,273 | 249.00 | 316,283 |
| 2013 | 230 | 4.18 | 962 | 242.00 | 231,930 |
| 2014 | 305 | 3.93 | 1,198 | 248.00 | 295,272 |
| 2015 | 280 | 3.90 | 1,091 | 203.00 | 219,707 |

¹ Marketing year average price.

In New Mexico, as well as the entire country, raising forage is an important part of the agricultural industry. Forages comprise the greatest amount of crop acres in the state, and the overall crop value is second to none. Without forage, the \$3.16 billion beef cattle and cow milk industry could not feed its animals.

Of all the forages grown in New Mexico, alfalfa is by far the most economically important, comprising more than 220,000 acres, worth more than \$280 million.

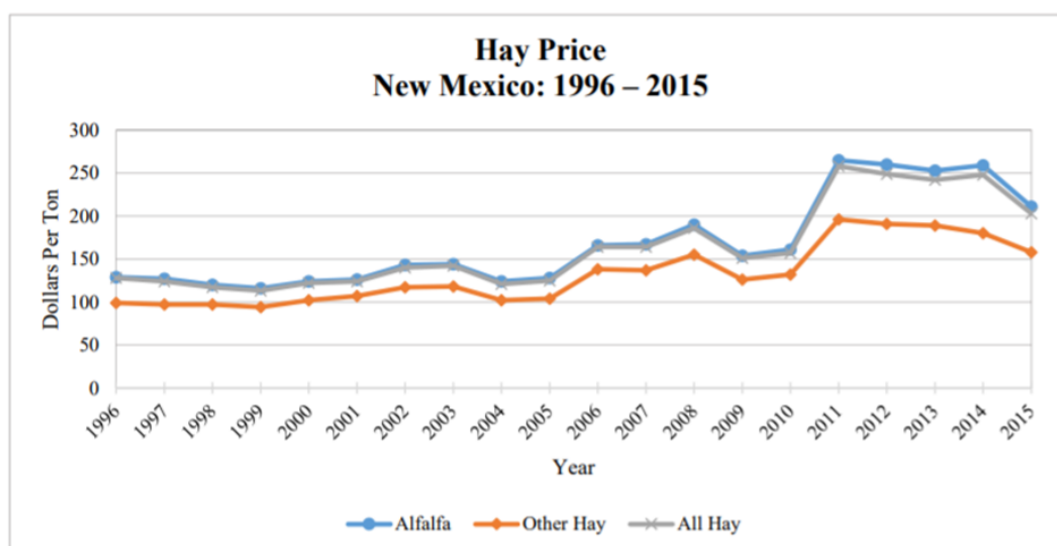
Mark Marsalis, NMSU Extension forage specialist, reflected on the importance of forage. "The impact of forage goes well beyond the direct value of the marketed product. The ripple effect of a hay, pasture, or silage feed is far-reaching and impacts our daily lives in many different ways that many people may not realize," Marsalis said.

"Forages contribute a significant amount to New Mexico's economy through support industry job creation; beef, dairy and wool operations; horse, goat, and alpaca industries; and even honey production; in addition to providing environmental benefits such as soil protection and improvement of wildlife habitat."

Forage crops in New Mexico include alfalfa and other hay, wheat for pasture, and corn, sorghum, and small grain silages. These crops are not only grown as stored feeds, they also are used for livestock pastures that are frequently visited by big game, migratory birds, and other wildlife.

"Hay acreage remains fairly constant from one year to the next in the state, and the value of New Mexico's hay per ton is usually higher than the national average," Marsalis said. "We have the perfect climate in New Mexico to grow excellent, high-quality hay – that is, as long as we have irrigation to do so."²⁷

²⁷ University News Release, Third in Total Earnings. "Forage Crops Important To New Mexico Agriculture, Third in Total Earnings." *Agweb - The Home Page of Agriculture*, 2015,



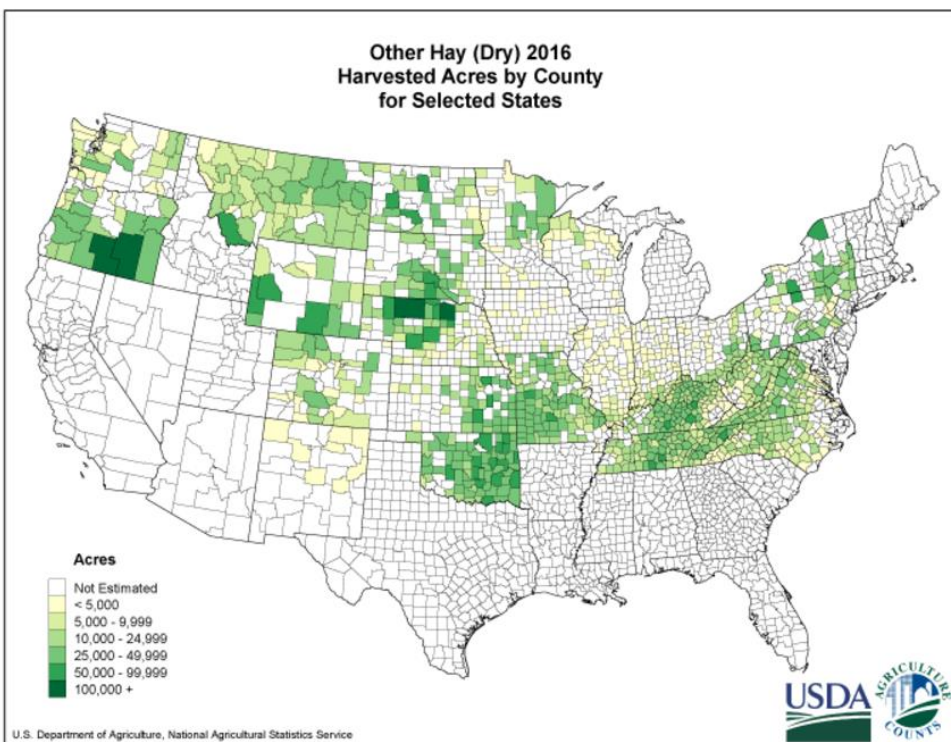
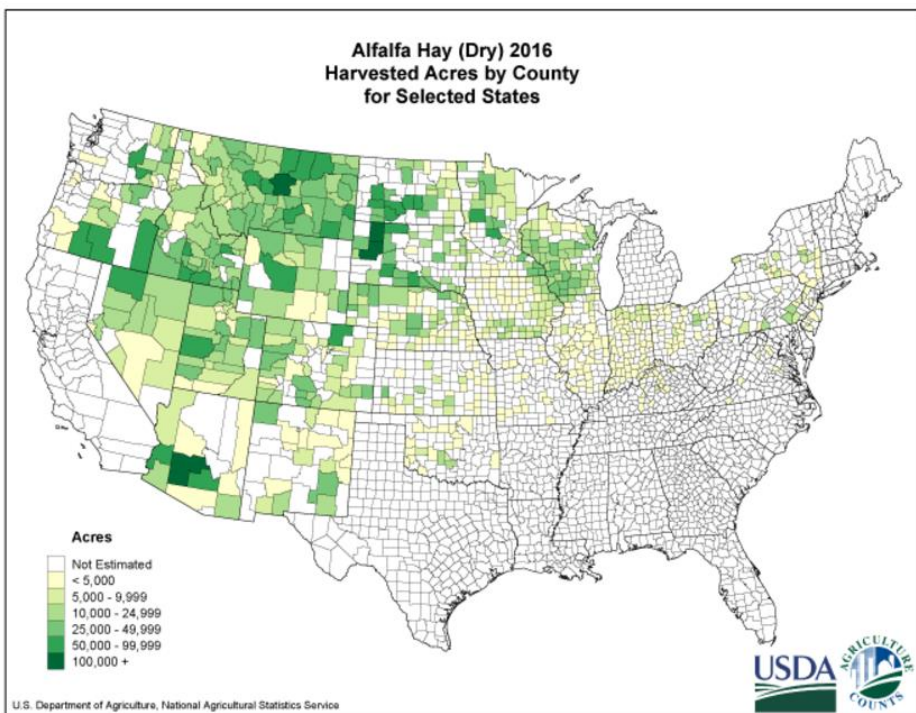
Despite perfect conditions prices are way down. The November 2016 U.S. average price paid to alfalfa hay producers at the farm level was \$130 per ton, down \$5 from October and \$17 less than a year earlier. Except for a small increase in March-April, 2016 alfalfa hay prices have been less than the previous month in nine of the past 11 months, and are at the lowest level in 70 months.²⁸ Trade has been slow and the demand is light.

Alfalfa Hay Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production, Price, and Value New Mexico: 2006 – 2015

| Year | Area Harvested (1,000 acres) | Yield (tons) | Production (1,000 tons) | Price per Ton ¹ (dollars) | Value of Production (1,000 dollars) |
|------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| 2006 | 220 | 5.10 | 1,122 | 166.00 | 186,252 |
| 2007 | 240 | 5.20 | 1,248 | 167.00 | 208,416 |
| 2008 | 250 | 5.20 | 1,300 | 190.00 | 247,000 |
| 2009 | 240 | 5.10 | 1,224 | 154.00 | 188,496 |
| 2010 | 220 | 5.20 | 1,144 | 161.00 | 184,184 |
| 2011 | 210 | 5.20 | 1,092 | 265.00 | 289,380 |
| 2012 | 200 | 5.30 | 1,060 | 260.00 | 275,600 |
| 2013 | 145 | 5.40 | 783 | 253.00 | 198,099 |
| 2014 | 210 | 4.80 | 1,008 | 259.00 | 261,072 |
| 2015 | 190 | 4.70 | 893 | 211.00 | 188,423 |

¹ Marketing year average price.

²⁸ Natzke, Dave. "U.S. Alfalfa Hay Prices At 70-Month Low – Hay Market Report Update for January 2017." *Progressive Forage*, 2017, <http://www.progressiveforage.com/news/hay-market-reports/u-s-alfalfa-hay-prices-at-70-month-low-hay-market-report-update-for-january-2017>.



County Estimates: Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures for Hay
New Mexico: 2014 and 2015 ¹

| District and County | Acres Harvested | | Harvested Yield | | Production | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|--------|------------|---------|
| | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
| | (Acres) | (Acres) | (Tons) | (Tons) | (Tons) | (Tons) |
| McKinley | 500 | 500 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1,000 | 900 |
| San Juan | (D) | 23,000 | (D) | 5.2 | (D) | 118,000 |
| Santa Fe | (D) | 4,500 | (D) | 3.0 | (D) | 13,300 |
| Taos | (D) | 8,500 | (D) | 1.6 | (D) | 13,500 |
| Other Counties | 73,500 | 24,500 | 3.4 | 2.2 | 245,000 | 54,300 |
| Northwest | 74,000 | 61,000 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 246,000 | 200,000 |
| Colfax | 3,500 | 6,000 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 11,000 | 18,500 |
| Curry | (D) | 3,000 | (D) | 5.3 | (D) | 15,800 |
| De Baca | 8,500 | 8,000 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 41,000 | 38,000 |
| Mora | 4,500 | 3,000 | 1.4 | 2.2 | 6,400 | 6,500 |
| Quay | (D) | 1,500 | (D) | 4.4 | (D) | 6,500 |
| Roosevelt | 2,500 | (D) | 5.2 | (D) | 13,000 | (D) |
| Torrance | 6,000 | 5,500 | 6.2 | 5.0 | 37,000 | 27,600 |
| Union | 1,000 | (D) | 6.2 | (D) | 6,200 | (D) |
| Other Counties | 9,000 | 8,000 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 29,400 | 22,100 |
| Northeast | 35,000 | 35,000 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 144,000 | 135,000 |
| Hidalgo | 3,500 | 5,000 | 6.0 | 7.8 | 21,000 | 39,000 |
| Luna | 6,500 | 7,400 | 7.9 | 6.1 | 51,000 | 45,000 |
| Sierra | 2,000 | 3,000 | 7.4 | 6.4 | 14,800 | 19,000 |
| Socorro | 12,000 | 7,500 | 5.1 | 4.8 | 61,000 | 36,000 |
| Other Counties | 1,000 | 1,100 | 4.2 | 5.5 | 4,200 | 6,000 |
| Southwest | 25,000 | 24,000 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 152,000 | 145,000 |
| Chaves | 33,000 | (D) | 5.8 | (D) | 190,000 | (D) |
| Doña Ana | 18,600 | 19,000 | 7.7 | 6.9 | 142,000 | 130,000 |
| Eddy | 20,400 | (D) | 5.6 | (D) | 114,000 | (D) |
| Other Counties | 4,000 | 51,000 | 5.0 | 5.6 | 20,000 | 283,000 |
| Southeast | 76,000 | 70,000 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 466,000 | 413,000 |
| New Mexico | 210,000 | 190,000 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 1,008,000 | 893,000 |

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Counties with missing data are included in the appropriate district's "Other Counties."

County Estimates: Other Hay — New Mexico: 2014 and 2015 ¹

| District and County | Acres Harvested | | Harvested Yield | | Production | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|--------|------------|---------|
| | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
| | (Acres) | (Acres) | (Tons) | (Tons) | (Tons) | (Tons) |
| Santa Fe | (D) | 700 | (D) | 2.30 | (D) | 1,600 |
| Other Counties | 15,500 | 14,300 | 1.65 | 1.40 | 25,200 | 19,900 |
| Northwest | 15,500 | 15,000 | 1.65 | 1.45 | 25,200 | 21,500 |
| Colfax | 2,000 | 3,500 | 1.40 | 1.75 | 2,800 | 6,200 |
| Curry | 12,500 | 13,000 | 2.75 | 2.40 | 34,200 | 31,000 |
| De Baca | 500 | (D) | 2.60 | (D) | 1,300 | (D) |
| Mora | 6,000 | 4,000 | 0.65 | 1.50 | 3,900 | 6,000 |
| Quay | 9,000 | 9,000 | 1.60 | 2.40 | 14,500 | 21,500 |
| Roosevelt | 22,000 | 17,500 | 1.40 | 2.15 | 31,000 | 37,500 |
| San Miguel | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1.20 | 2.40 | 1,200 | 2,400 |
| Torrance | 2,000 | 2,000 | 4.20 | 4.45 | 8,400 | 8,900 |
| Union | 5,000 | 5,000 | 3.00 | 2.10 | 15,000 | 10,400 |
| Other Counties | 1,000 | 2,000 | 2.70 | 2.55 | 2,700 | 5,100 |
| Northeast | 61,000 | 57,000 | 1.90 | 2.25 | 115,000 | 129,000 |
| Grant | 500 | (D) | 2.40 | (D) | 1,200 | (D) |
| Luna | 1,500 | (D) | 3.85 | (D) | 5,800 | (D) |
| Socorro | 3,000 | (D) | 4.15 | (D) | 12,500 | (D) |
| Other Counties | 1,000 | (D) | 2.30 | (D) | 2,300 | (D) |
| Southwest | 6,000 | (D) | 3.65 | (D) | 21,800 | (D) |
| Chaves | 2,500 | (D) | 4.00 | (D) | 10,000 | (D) |
| Eddy | 2,300 | (D) | 3.20 | (D) | 7,400 | (D) |
| Other Counties | 7,700 | (D) | 1.40 | (D) | 10,600 | (D) |
| Southeast | 12,500 | (D) | 2.25 | (D) | 28,000 | (D) |
| Other Districts | --- | 18,000 | --- | 2.65 | --- | 47,500 |
| New Mexico | 95,000 | 90,000 | 2.00 | 2.20 | 190,000 | 198,000 |

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Counties with missing data are included in the appropriate district's "Other Counties."

Miscellaneous Crop

Miscellaneous Crops and Livestock — New Mexico 2012 Census of Agriculture

| Crop | Farms | Acres Harvested | Principal Counties |
|---------------------------|-------|--------------------|--|
| Apples | 1,153 | 1,740 | Lincoln, Otero, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe |
| Apricots | 210 | 75 | Doña Ana, Otero, Rio Arriba |
| Cantaloupe | 446 | 208 | Doña Ana, San Juan, Sandoval |
| Cherries (Sweet) | 229 | 159 | Mora, Otero, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe |
| Cucumbers | 488 | 120 | Rio Arriba, San Juan |
| Grapes | 516 | 1,153 | Not published |
| Grass Seed | 12 | 283 | Not published |
| Lettuce | 93 | 543 | Doña Ana |
| Nursery Crops | 115 | 1,035 | Not published |
| Oats | 27 | 158 | Mora, Rio Arriba, Sandoval |
| Peaches | 605 | 230 | Bernalillo, Doña Ana, Rio Arriba, Valencia |
| Pears | 436 | 189 | Bernalillo, Lincoln, Rio Arriba, Taos |
| Pistachios | 76 | 513 | Not published |
| Pumpkins | 105 | 1,879 | Not published |
| Snap Beans | 423 | 216 | Luna, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe |
| Sod | 5 | 1,049 | Not published |
| Squash | 553 | 404 | McKinley, San Juan |
| Sweet Corn | 589 | 500 | Rio Arriba, Roosevelt, Sandoval, San Juan |
| Tomatoes | 758 | 220 | Bernalillo, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe |
| Watermelons | 593 | 1,458 | Not published |
| Livestock | Farms | Head | Principal Counties |
| Bison | 43 | 5,156 | Not published |
| Ducks | 171 | 4,868 | Not published |
| Geese | 131 | 3,036 | Not published |
| Horses | 7,635 | 50,723 | Doña Ana, McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan |
| Llamas and Alpacas | 70 | 1,051 | Bernalillo, Santa Fe |
| Mules, Burros and Donkeys | 798 | 1,860 | Colfax, McKinley, San Juan, Valencia |
| Turkeys | 220 | 6,425 | Not published |

Onions

With more than 5,100 acres of onions harvested in 2015, New Mexico is the eighth leading state for the crop. Onion farmers earned \$91.3 million in production value.³⁰

In 2015, New Mexico produced slightly more than one out of three summer onions sold in the United States that weren't bound for storage, according to federal numbers. The state's crop, valued at \$91.4 million, weighed more than 326 million pounds.

Doña Ana County and Luna County are the major onion-producing counties in New Mexico.³¹ New Mexico onion growers begin their growing and harvesting season much earlier than growers in other states.

Onion harvesters in New Mexico got into the fields earlier than usual this year — in some cases, way earlier, growers said.

"Because of the warm winter, we're harvesting earlier than we ever have," said Marty Franzoy, manager/owner of Hatch, N.M.-based grower-shipper Skyline Produce.

The Hatch area, for example, saw only 15 days where low temperatures were at or below freezing through January and February and 15 days of 60-degree highs in January, according to the National Weather Service.

Rain was ample, and the combination set up conditions for a "beautiful crop," Franzoy said.

"We've got good quality, size, and yields," he said.

Las Cruces-based Barker Produce is anticipating "better than usual" yields this year, said Brandon Barker, vice president.

"I like our yields. We haven't had a good yield the last couple of years because we've been hit by hailstorms," he said.

Springtime growing conditions were largely dry, said Longino Bustillos, spokesman with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

"But the onion fields I have seen look pretty good," he said.

Growers said acreage is in line with 2016, with summer non-storage onion acreage at 6,200, compared to 5,700 a year earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Volume was 3.54 million cwt., with a per-acre yield of 580 cwt.

The total value of utilized production was \$94.47 million in 2016, compared to \$106.62 million in 2015, the USDA reported.

Hatch-based Shiloh Produce Inc. packed red, yellow, and white onions by mid-May — weeks ahead of a normal early-June start, said Stormy Adams, owner.

"We had a really mild winter, so the crop basically has never stopped growing, and that's why the size is so good," he said.

Big onions were the story at Adams Produce Inc. in Hatch, said Scott Adams, owner.

³⁰ Stovall, Brittany. "New Mexico's Top Agriculture Commodities." *Farm Flavor*, 2016, <http://www.farmflavor.com/new-mexico/new-mexicos-top-agriculture-commodities/>.

³¹ Alba Soular, Diana. "Onion Harvest in Full Swing In Doña Ana County." *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 2016, <http://www.lcsun-news.com/story/news/local/county/2016/06/19/onion-harvest-full-swing-do-ana-county/85926174/>.

| U.S. Onion Acreage Estimates | |
|--|--------|
| State | Acres |
| Washington | 24,110 |
| Idaho-Eastern Oregon | 22,800 |
| California | 17,170 |
| Georgia | 12,400 |
| New York | 9,150 |
| Texas | 7,600 |
| West/Central Oregon | 7,100 |
| New Mexico | 6,200 |
| Colorado | 4,323 |
| Nevada | 3,850 |
| Michigan | 2,550 |
| Utah | 1,640 |
| Wisconsin | 1,640 |
| N. Dakota/Minnesota/Ohio | 1,389 |
| Other (FL, IA, IL, IN, MA, NC, NE, NJ, PA, SC, etc.) | 915 |
| Arizona | 800 |

"The early crop is big — jumbo, colossal and super(-colossal) will dominate," he said. As we get into the tail end, we'll have more jumbo and medium."

Image Source: Onions USA

An ideal size mix likely would be "20% mediums, probably 50% to 60% jumbo, and the balance colossal and super," Adams said.

The size mix appears to be right for the customer base at Arrey, N.M.-based Desert Springs Produce LLC, said Bill Coombs, salesman.

"We have a strong retail and

foodservice following and need a good mix for our customers," he said.

The crop at Hatch-based Hatch Valley Produce was sizing up well, said Debbie Porter, co-owner.

Pleasant Grove, Utah-based National Onion Inc., which bases its New Mexico production in Las Cruces, was about 10 days ahead of schedule with its crop there, said Steve Smith, president.

"Yield looks normal — looks like it will be pretty good," he said. "There's a fair amount of jumbos coming, and quality looks excellent."

Market conditions were looking up, too, Franzoy said.

In the USDA's first report of the season May 23, 50-pound sacks of yellow onions from southern New Mexico shipping for \$9-12 for super-colossal; \$9-11, colossal; \$8-10, jumbo; and \$6-8, medium.

A month into the season, June 26 prices for 50-pound sacks of yellow onions had dropped to \$8-9 for super-colossal and colossal; \$7-8, jumbo; and \$9-10, medium. Year-ago prices ranged from \$11-14 for all sizes.

White onion prices June 26 were \$12-14 for 50-pound sacks of jumbos, the same as a year ago.

Red globe type onions were \$6-8 for 25-pound sacks of jumbos, down from \$12 a year ago.³²

³² Offner, Jim. "Weak Market For New Mexico Onions After Early Start | The Packer." *Thepacker.Com*, 2017, <http://www.thepacker.com/shipping-profiles/new-mexico-onions/weak-market-new-mexico-onions-after-early-start>.

Summer Nonstorage Onions for Fresh Market and Processing Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production, Price, and Value — New Mexico: 2006 – 2015

| Year | Area Planted | Area Harvested | Yield per Acre | Production | Price per Cwt | Value of Production |
|------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | (acres) | (acres) | (cwt) | (1,000 cwt) | (dollars) | (1,000 dollars) |
| 2006 | 6,600 | 6,400 | 480 | 3,072 | 17.40 | 53,453 |
| 2007 | 7,300 | 7,100 | 500 | 3,550 | 20.80 | 73,840 |
| 2008 | 7,000 | 6,600 | 500 | 3,300 | 14.40 | 47,520 |
| 2009 | 5,200 | 5,000 | 550 | 2,750 | 19.60 | 53,900 |
| 2010 | 6,000 | 5,900 | 560 | 3,304 | 27.40 | 90,530 |
| 2011 | 6,100 | 5,900 | 460 | 2,714 | 15.90 | 43,153 |
| 2012 | 5,500 | 5,400 | 530 | 2,862 | 19.60 | 56,095 |
| 2013 | 6,200 | 6,100 | 430 | 2,623 | 15.60 | 40,919 |
| 2014 | 5,200 | 5,100 | 600 | 3,060 | 18.70 | 57,222 |
| 2015 | 5,200 | 5,100 | 640 | 3,264 | 28.00 | 91,392 |

Leading States for Onions, Summer Nonstorage — Rank, Production, and Percent of Total: 2015

| State | Rank | Production | Percent of U.S. total |
|---------------------|------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | | (1,000 Pounds) | (Percent) |
| California | 1 | 3,750 | 40.9 |
| New Mexico | 2 | 3,264 | 35.6 |
| Washington | 3 | 760 | 8.3 |
| Top States | | 7,774 | 84.8 |
| United States | | 9,167 | 100.0 |

Produce

Organic food sales in the U.S. have grown exponentially, and New Mexico is positioned to show strong growth. There are currently 194 organic and certified organic farms across the state, with 48 more farms positioning for organic status. The New Mexico Department of Agriculture provides organic certification, assists farmers in selling their product, and provides a variety of training to the industry. Skarsgard Farms, Coonridge Organic Goat Cheese, Shepard's Lamb, and Soaring Eagle Ranch are just a few of the organic companies that call New Mexico home.³³

The state is also ranked amongst the top 10 states for lettuce production (in acres). This ranking is mostly driven by production of head lettuce. Doña Ana, by far, has the largest acreage of lettuce, with other counties only measuring a few acres each.

The state is a large producer of pumpkins, watermelons, and cantaloupes; ranking seventeenth in pumpkin and watermelon acreage, as of 2012, and in the top 25 states for cantaloupe acreage (note that rankings are general estimates, as some states' production is not disclosed). San Juan has the most acres dedicated to pumpkin and cantaloupe production, with Lea and Luna having larger acreage dedicated to watermelon production. The state, of course has the largest number of acres dedicated to the production of peppers other than bell, including chile

³³ "Value Added Agriculture Key Industry." *Gonm.Biz*, 2017, <https://gonm.biz/why-new-mexico/key-industries/value-added-agriculture/>.

peppers. As of 2012, over 9,570 acres were used to grow peppers other than bell peppers. Doña Ana, Luna, and Sierra counties all had the greatest pepper acreage.³⁴

Peanuts

Peanut acreage in New Mexico can be found in Lea, Curry, and Roosevelt Counties.³⁵

It's been a rough road in recent years for Valencia peanut producers in Eastern New Mexico and western parts of the Texas Panhandle.

Starting over five years ago, devastating drought for several years running rocked agriculture across the region, drying up crops and forcing cattle producers to cull herds as water tables dropped lower and lower, soil moisture all but disappeared and rivers and streams ran dry.

For peanut growers in the area, the problem was exaggerated in the fall of 2012 when the Sunland Peanut plant in Portales, New Mexico, was shuttered by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) after a nationwide salmonella outbreak that sickened 41 people across 20 states was traced back to problems at the plant. The company was the largest organic peanut butter processor in the nation at the time and produced both organic and non-organic products at the Portales facility.

The incident developed at a critical time for Eastern New Mexico and West Texas Valencia peanut producers, most of whom were caught with a healthy and abundant crop of freshly harvested peanuts, leaving many growers in a quandary. Most of those peanuts had been delivered to Sunland, the buyer, and many farmers were either partially paid for their crop, never paid at all, or were forced to take a court settlement that in some cases offered only pennies on the dollar.

Valencia was the peanut variety of choice at Sunland because of its sweet flavor. Most Valencia varieties were grown in eastern New Mexico and western parts of Texas until the failure of the Sunland plant, so the unexpected closure hit local growers hard.

Back in September, three years after the plant closed, Ready Roast Nut Company of California reopened the Portales plant, celebrating what many hoped would be an economic boost to the region. At the official reopening ceremony, new owners announced they will be hiring between 100 and as many as 400 workers to operate the plant, which would include many of Sunland's laid-off work force.

But while the new plant will aid the general economy of eastern New Mexico, a check with farmers and Extension officials across the region indicates most Valencia growers have moved on and are not planning on growing peanuts in the foreseeable future.

"To be honest, I don't expect we will see regional growers returning to peanuts as a crop of choice," says New Mexico State University Extension Agent Patrick Kircher in Roosevelt County. "The new plant is relying on Valencias grown and shipped in from other areas and most of the farmers in Roosevelt County have moved on to other choices to keep down production costs and to explore other alternatives."

³⁴ "New Mexico Agriculture." *Regional Review*, 2014, https://www.dws.state.nm.us/Portals/0/DM/LMI/Regional_Review_Summer_2014.pdf.

³⁵ "Value Added Agriculture Key Industry." *Gonm.Biz*, 2017, <https://gonm.biz/why-new-mexico/key-industries/value-added-agriculture/>.

The primary catalyst for dropping peanuts from their rotation has been the absence of a local peanut buyer. A few growers were still owed money from Sunland at the time the plant failed and that may have left a "bad taste" in the mouth for many.

The length of time of the closure and disagreement over the bidding process to sell the property caused further delays and more disappointment. When the plant was finally sold to Golden Boy foods, instead of reopening the plant, new owners almost immediately entered into negotiations with Ready Roast and the entire delay in getting the plant up and running apparently turned out to be the last straw for many local producers who had already replaced peanuts with other crops.

"Some moved on to corn and even corn silage," Kircher said. "A few switched to cotton. We also grow a lot of forage, even alfalfa in this area, and with improved soil moisture (from) the return of rains this year and last, we are seeing an increase in dryland grain and forage crops, especially more milo by area farmers."

As far as peanut production, Kircher said he only knows of one grower across the region who harvested peanuts this year and, so far, hasn't heard any talk about returning to peanuts in the year ahead.³⁶

Peanuts Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production, Price, and Value — New Mexico: 2006 – 2015

| Year | Area Planted | Area Harvested | Yield per Acre | Production | Price per Pound ¹ | Value of Production |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (dollars) | (1,000 dollars) |
| 2006 | 12.0 | 12.0 | 3,600 | 43,200 | 0.185 | 7,992 |
| 2007 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 3,200 | 32,000 | 0.200 | 6,400 |
| 2008 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 3,200 | 25,600 | 0.242 | 6,195 |
| 2009 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 3,100 | 21,700 | 0.293 | 6,358 |
| 2010 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 3,400 | 34,000 | 0.322 | 10,948 |
| 2011 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 3,000 | 19,800 | 0.539 | 10,672 |
| 2012 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 2,600 | 26,000 | 0.489 | 12,714 |
| 2013 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 3,100 | 21,700 | 0.334 | 7,248 |
| 2014 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3,500 | 15,750 | 0.303 | 4,772 |
| 2015 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 3,000 | 15,000 | 0.216 | 3,240 |

¹ Marketing year average price.

New Mexico State University peanut breeder Naveen Puppala explained that rain can be a factor in the harvest of the peanuts. That's because of the two-step process of harvesting peanuts, which are first dug up and laid out on the ground, then allowed to dry out. After drying about a week on the ground, the peanuts are usually ready to be threshed from the peanut plant and then delivered to a processing plant. If rainstorms are unseasonably heavy during the harvest season, though, it may delay the second part of the process.

For those growers who dug and harvested the peanuts by the end of September, the weather was ideal. By planting early in the season, they were in a better position as they escaped the abundant rainfall in the fall. Those growers who planted late in the season had problems with heavy rainfall at harvest, which resulted in discoloration of the peanuts. Fortunately, the discoloration does not significantly affect yield or grade of the crop.

"Untimely rainfall during the harvest has resulted in discoloration without hampering the yield and grade," Puppala said. "In-shell Valencia peanuts are paid a premium of \$50 per ton if they are bright-colored. It has been an unusual year for peanuts like this."

³⁶ Hawkes, Logan. "Valencia Peanuts Decline In New Mexico And Texas." *Southwest Farmpress*, 2015, <http://www.southwestfarmpress.com/peanuts/valencia-peanuts-decline-new-mexico-and-texas>.

Puppala said he anticipates a moderate year, with the peanut crop generating an average yield of about 3,200 pounds per acre. As a result, Puppala expects this year's peanut crop to generate \$30 million to \$40 million in economic impact for the state's producers.

Eastern New Mexico and West Texas are favorable places for organic peanut crops due to the relatively modest rainfall and abundant sunshine when compared to other areas where peanuts are grown, like Georgia, Alabama, Florida, North and South Carolina. New Mexico is the number one grower of organic peanuts in the United States. Puppala said farmers in New Mexico grow Valencia peanuts, which are known for their reddish seed color and sweet taste. The three- to four-seeded pods are often sold to the consumer as an in-shell peanut.³⁷

Total U.S. production reached a peak in 2012, with 3.4 million farmer stock tons. That dropped to 2.08 million in 2013, rebounded to 2.52 million in 2014, 3.10 million in 2015, then down to 2.84 million in 2016.

"U.S. millers can process 280,000 to 290,000 farmer stock tons per month," Marshall Lamb, research director of the National Peanut Research Laboratory at Dawson, Ga. says. "From Aug. 1 until new crop deliveries come in about three months later, we need about 900,000 tons to keep mills operating. In 2011, when we had only 380,000 tons of carryout that represented only a bit over a month's supply for the mills. And that short supply is why, at the end of 2011, the price of uncontracted peanuts shot to \$1,000 per ton.

"In 2012, we increased that to 1.26 million tons of carryout — way too many peanuts. In 2013, that dropped to 928,800 tons, and 883,000 tons in 2014. This time last year, we were projecting 1.34 million tons carryout — a tremendous number, and the reason we were seeing very low contract offers, and not much optimism for the 2016 crop year. With a projected production of 2.84 million tons in 2016, things weren't looking good.

"But then India's crop hit the skids, Argentina had enormous problems with rain, China had problems with its crop, and we got a July surprise when the numbers for available stocks were reduced. As a result of all that, we're now looking at 2016 carryout into the 2017 marketing year of only 787,210 tons. We've gone from a projected oversupply to a tight supply, which is why the market is now offering growers contracts of \$475 to \$500 for 2017 peanuts. On top of that, they're offering roughly the same for last year's peanuts that are still in the loan."

Within the domestic market, Lamb says, "I think we can continue the upward trend in consumption. We've got a great message. But peanuts are already present in about 94 percent of U.S. households, so we're not going to get much further penetration. Our challenge now in the U.S. is to continue to increase per capita consumption, and internationally, the major question is whether we can keep our export market strong."

India received monsoon rains for their current larger crop, he says, "As a result, they're selling their peanuts somewhat cheaply now. Argentina's crop is also making good progress as they near their mid-pod set stage, and China is expecting a larger crop due to an increase in acres."

In 2015 and into early 2016, in relation to Argentina and India, the U.S. was "completely competitive in the international market," Lamb says. "We moved a tremendous amount of peanuts because of value. But now that India is starting to sell peanuts, in the last three months their price has dropped significantly below China, the U.S., and Argentina. Remember, China usually buys on price — and that could be the bear in the woods in for U.S. exports.

"The peanut market can change so fast. We grow roughly 74 percent of the U.S. crop in Georgia, Florida, and Alabama, and weather problems there can have a tremendous impact. China is by far the world's largest producer, followed by India, and interruptions there can have an enormous impact on the market. Although Argentine

³⁷ Pehr, Darrell. "NMSU Peanut Expert Reports Good Season Despite Excess Rainfall For New Mexico Growers." *NMSU News Center*, 2016, <https://newscenter.nmsu.edu/Articles/view/11657/nmsu-peanut-expert-reports-good-season-despite-excess-rainfall-for-new-mexico-growers>.

production is small, they export virtually all of their crop, so if they have a problem, that affects the European market. These four producers — China, India, U.S., Argentina — can have a huge impact on the market, and an interruption in one of those places can change the market in a hurry.”³⁸

Pecans

The pecan (*Carya illinoensis* (Wangenh.) K.Koch) is not generally considered a native of New Mexico. Although a few large trees producing seedling-type pecan nuts were or are growing in southern New Mexico, there is evidence that some of these were brought to the area from central Texas and north-central Mexico in the late 1800s or early 1900s. Few of these original pecan trees remain today. One, considered the largest pecan tree in the state, still grows near the town of Mesilla, NM.

The oldest known planting of the so-called improved (named) varieties was made at the Fabian Garcia Agricultural Center of New Mexico State University in Mesilla Park, NM in 1915 and 1916. At the time it was planted, the four-acre planting was the largest pecan planting in New Mexico. Many of these trees remain in their original planting sites.

One of the early pioneers of pecan promotion in the Mesilla Valley was J.W. Newberry of Fairacres, NM. Newberry grew, propagated, and sold pecan trees. The first large-scale planting of pecans in New Mexico, however, was made by the late Deanne F. Stahmann. This 30-acre planting was made on the Snow Ranch, a farm south of Las Cruces in 1934 and 1935. Stahmann mainly planted 'Western' with 'Burkett' as the pollinator. He made subsequent additional plantings on the remainder of the Snow Ranch, as it is still known today. What is known today as Stahmann Farms was land that was cleared and leveled for planting later. Other smaller plantings were made by other growers in southern Doña Ana County and in the Rio Grande Valley below El Paso, TX, shortly after the Snow Ranch plantings.

Pecan production in New Mexico has been recorded since 1920, when only 626 pounds were harvested. New Mexico pecan orchards totaled about 6,000 acres in 1963, but this increased production in the 1960s was mostly from Stahmann Farm plantings.³⁹

New Mexico ranks No. 3 in the nation for pecan acreage. In 2015, state farmers yielded 73 million pounds for a \$182.5 million production value. The state is also home to the No. 1 pecan-producing county Dona Aña in the U.S.⁴⁰

New Mexico pecan crop prices set a new record-high in 2016. Some Doña Ana County farmers said the high prices were nice while they lasted, but may backfire on the industry if food producers switch to other kinds of nuts, causing negative ripple effects in the market that could affect growers this year.

On average, pecan farmers in the state received \$2.96 per in-shell pound for last year's crop, which was harvested in the winter of 2016-17, according to numbers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The crop overall was valued at \$213 million — the second highest among pecan-producing states. Only Georgia's crop, at \$272 million, was valued higher.

³⁸ Hembree, Brandon. "2016 Was A Turnaround Year for U.S. Peanuts." *Delta Farm Press*, 2017, <http://www.deltafarmpress.com/peanuts/2016-was-turnaround-year-us-peanuts>

³⁹ "NMSU: Historical Background Of Pecan Plantings In The Western Region." *Aces.Nmsu.Edu*, 2015, http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h/H626/.

⁴⁰ Stovall, Brittany. "New Mexico's Top Agriculture Commodities." *Farm Flavor*, 2016, <http://www.farmflavor.com/new-mexico/new-mexicos-top-agriculture-commodities/>.

"Am I happy about high prices? Of course I am," said Las Cruces pecan farmer John Clayshulte. "I'm selling them (the pecans). But I also realize there's such a thing as too high."

New Mexico's previous record price high was in 2010, when an average of \$2.83 per-pound was paid for the crop, according to USDA numbers.

Doña Ana County growers and experts said at the start of 2017 that they were seeing higher-than-ever prices in the New Mexico market, likely because of crop problems in other states, which shrinks the overall supply of nuts. The recent federal report, dated June 27, confirms that the prices were the highest to date.

A problem with extremely high prices is that companies buying pecans to incorporate into other products will simply stop buying them, Clayshulte said. That's because their operations are not equipped to handle huge spikes in prices for the crop. And rather than buy pecans, they'll switch to almonds or walnuts.

Some farmers still have pecans in cold storage they didn't sell during the 2016 season. Other farmers made deals to sell their crop, but the transactions never finalized because of the market shifting, Clayshulte said.

"I know for a fact there are just are some people who aren't going to get paid," he said.

Clayshulte said the prices already have dipped, a harbinger for 2017's harvest.

"It's not going to be much fun this coming year," he said.

Overall, New Mexico pecans accounted for more than a quarter of the total pecans produced in the United States in 2016, according to the federal report. It was the second-largest volume of nuts, again behind Georgia.

New Mexico totaled about 72 million pounds — a relatively high volume for what otherwise was expected to be a light production, or "off" year in Doña Ana County, one of the main growing-areas. Pecan trees tend to have a two-year pattern that yields a light crop one year and a heavy crop the next. The 2016 crop was only 1 million pounds less than 2015's total production; often, the difference can be greater.

Experts have said trees on the eastern part of the state,

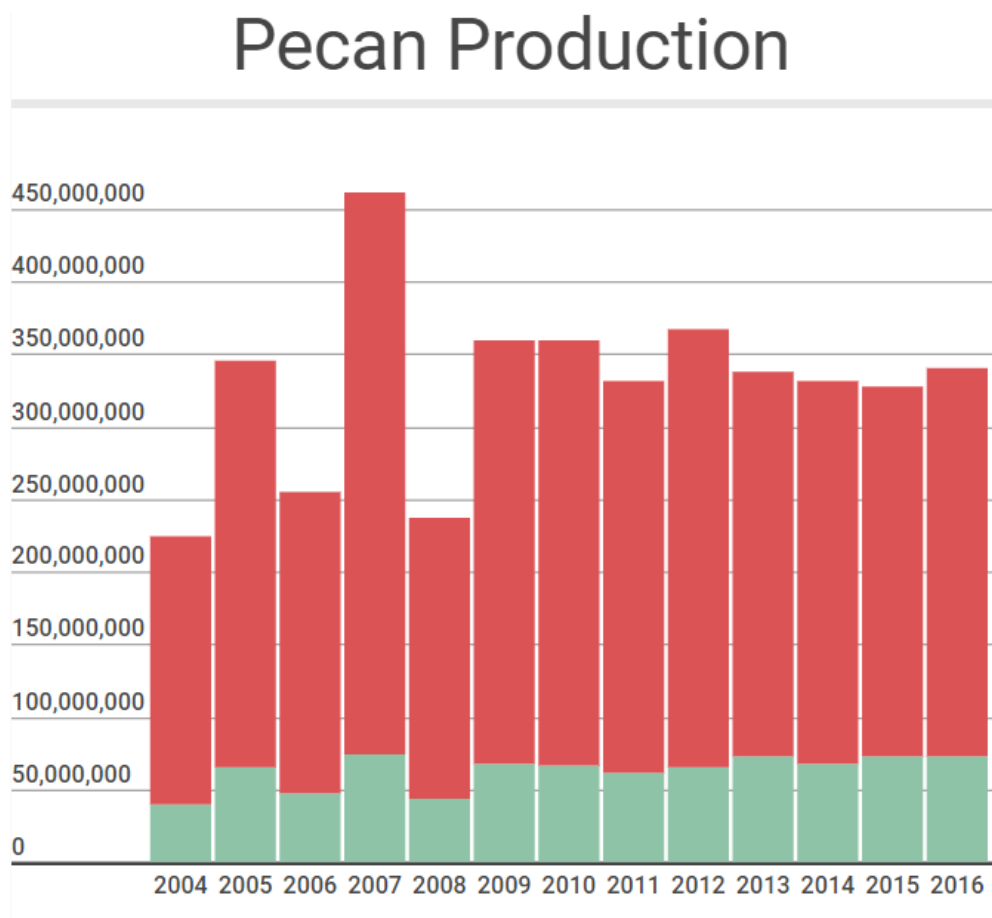


Image Source: [US Pecan Production Numbers Las Cruces Sun News](#)

because of weather, have flip-flopped with respect to orchards in Las Cruces, which has tended to reduce the production differences from year to year. Also, growers are improving their production practices to keep their trees from having wild swings in the amount of pecans they yield. Also, some trees planted over the past decade are maturing, adding to overall production.

New Mexico Pecan Crop

2004: \$2.28 / 39 million lbs.

2005: \$1.70 / 65 million lbs.

2006: \$1.85 / 47 million lbs.

2007: \$1.30 / 74 million lbs.

2008: \$1.45 / 43 million lbs.

2009: \$1.76 / 68 million lbs.

2010: \$2.83 / 66 million lbs.

2011: \$2.67 / 61 million lbs.

2012: \$1.70 / 65 million lbs.

2013: \$1.90 / 72 million lbs.

2014: \$2.10 / 67 million lbs.

2015: \$2.50 / 73 million lbs.

2016: \$2.96 / 72 million lbs.

Farmers said pecan trees — a high-water-use crop — for the most part are doing well in 2017, but it's too early to say how the crop might fare at the end of the year. The harvest won't take place until November or December.

Hill said his pecan orchard had problems with aphids, a type of insect, but "it's since cleared up."

"So far, the trees look happy and healthy," he said.

Hail hasn't been a problem for pecan farmers in Doña Ana County, growers said.

EBID Manager Gary Esslinger said the district allots to farmers two feet of Rio Grande water — also called surface water — per acre, a number higher than in recent years.

While pecans take a lot of water, "so does alfalfa and other crops," Esslinger said.

"The combination of our ground water and our surface water is what our farmers are utilizing to grow their crops on," he said. "Our aquifer isn't cratering."

Overall, the amount of land being farmed has shrunk over recent decades, as growers have shifted their water rights from one parcel to the next to make sure they have enough water, Esslinger said.

Hill said when pecan trees are flood-irrigated, they don't use all of the water. A portion trickles into the groundwater table.

"It does utilize irrigation to help our groundwater," he said.⁴¹

Small pecan acreages are now found in Quay, Curry, De Baca and Valencia Counties, but the New Mexico pecan industry is largely centered in the southern counties. Seventy percent of the industry acreage is in the Mesilla Valley (Doña Ana County). Twenty percent of the acreage is in the Pecos River Valley (in Chaves and Eddy Counties) and five percent is in the Tularosa Basin (in Otero County). Luna, Sierra, Lea and Roosevelt Counties also have small pecan acreages.⁴²

⁴¹ Alba Soular, Diana. "NM Pecan Prices Set Record High; Maybe Too High, Farmers Worry." *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 2017, <http://www.lcsun-news.com/story/news/local/agriculture/2017/07/02/nm-pecan-prices-set-record-high-worrying-farmers/445027001/>.

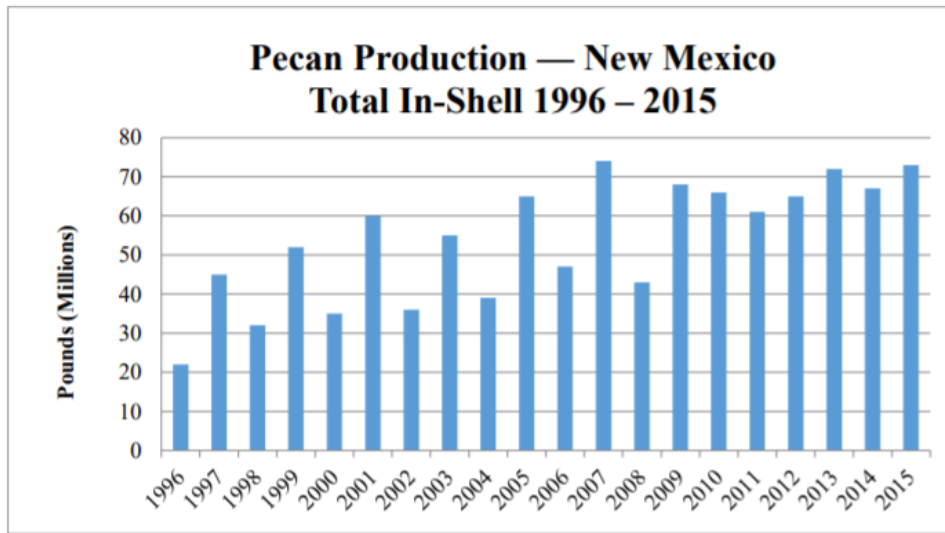
⁴² NMSU. "NMSU: New Mexico Pecans - The Pecan Industry Today." *Aces.Nmsu.edu*, 2017, <http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/pecans/the-pecan-industry-today.html>.

**Pecan Production, and Value —
New Mexico: 2006 – 2015**

| Year | Total Production | Price | Value of Production |
|------------|---------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| | (1,000 pounds) | (dollars) | (1,000 dollars) |
| 2006 | 47,000 | 1.85 | 86,950 |
| 2007 | 74,000 | 1.30 | 96,200 |
| 2008 | 43,000 | 1.45 | 62,350 |
| 2009 | 68,000 | 1.76 | 119,680 |
| 2010 | 66,000 | 2.83 | 186,780 |
| 2011 | 61,000 | 2.67 | 162,870 |
| 2012 | 65,000 | 1.70 | 110,500 |
| 2013 | 72,000 | 1.90 | 136,800 |
| 2014 | 67,000 | 2.10 | 140,700 |
| 2015 | 73,000 | 2.50 | 182,500 |

**Leading States for Pecans — Rank,
Production, and Percent of Total: 2015**

| State | Rank | Production | Percent of U.S. total |
|---------------------|------|----------------|--------------------------|
| | | (1,000 Pounds) | (Percent) |
| Georgia | 1 | 93,000 | 36.6 |
| New Mexico | 2 | 73,000 | 28.7 |
| Texas | 3 | 35,000 | 13.8 |
| Arizona | 4 | 22,500 | 8.8 |
| Oklahoma | 5 | 13,000 | 5.1 |
| Top States | | 236,500 | 93.0 |
| United States | | 254,290 | 100.0 |



Pecan County Estimates — New Mexico: 2013 – 2015 ¹

| District and County | 2012 Census | | Production | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Total Acres | Number of Farms | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| | (Acres) | (Farms) | (1,000 Pounds) | (1,000 Pounds) | (1,000 Pounds) |
| Chaves | 2,974 | 100 | 5,100 | 4,200 | 7,100 |
| Doña Ana | 28,729 | 1,514 | 57,000 | 46,800 | 54,100 |
| Eddy | 4,830 | 97 | 5,300 | 9,700 | 6,700 |
| Other Counties | 1,592 | 141 | (NA) | (NA) | 1,900 |
| Southeast | 38,125 | 1,852 | (NA) | (NA) | 69,800 |
| Other Districts | 3,206 | 219 | (NA) | (NA) | 3,200 |
| New Mexico | 41,331 | 2,071 | 72,000 | 67,000 | 73,000 |

(NA) Not available.

¹ Counties with missing data are included in the appropriate district's "Other Counties".

Pistachios

New Mexico is one of the top 3 producing states for pistachios along with California and Arizona. The production of pistachios for these states combined is 99.99% for the nation. Pistachio farms in New Mexico can primarily be found in Otero County.⁴³

Growth in production and a positive outcome in front of the Federal Trade Commission at recent anti-dumping hearings could bode well for the near-term for American pistachio farmers.

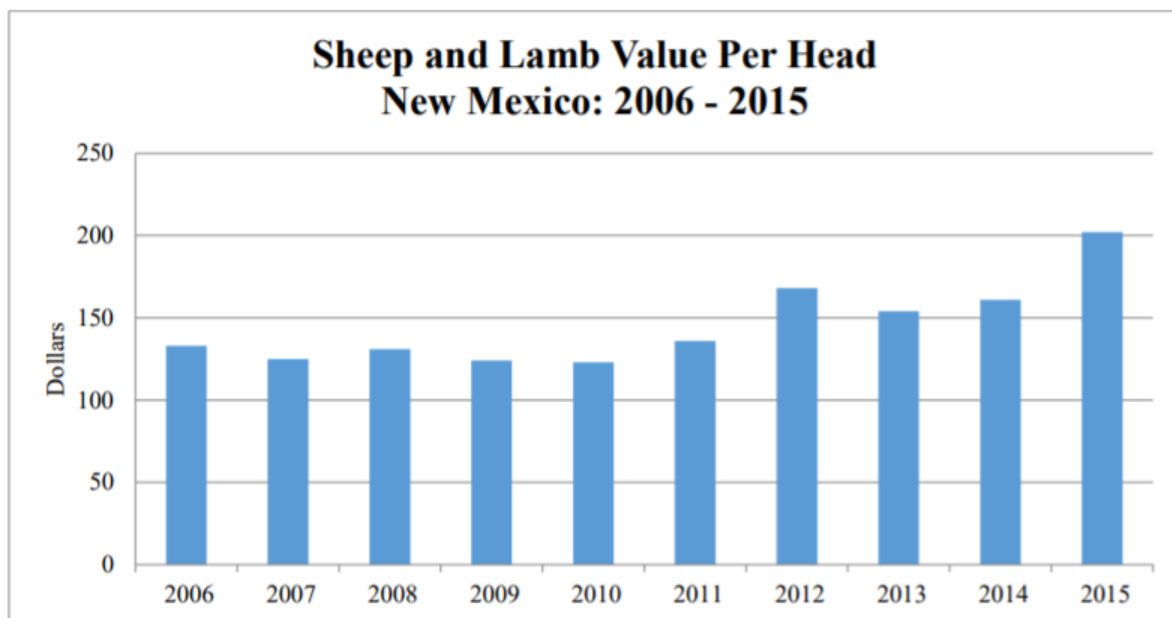
The five-year extension of the U.S. anti-dumping tariff on imports of raw, in-shell pistachios from Iran is big news for the industry, especially as Iran apparently doesn't have the ability to store pistachios for more than a year and must sell what's grown that given year, according to American Pistachio Growers (APG) Executive Director Richard Matoian.

As acreage grows across the West – nearing 250,000 bearing acres in California alone – nut production in 2016 grew to over 900 million pounds, a far cry from the crop failure of the previous year and almost double what the industry tracked from 2010 through 2014.

Pistachios are also produced in Arizona and New Mexico. APG, a voluntary trade association which targets generic pistachio marketing, says acreage data are not available from the two states though production figures are.⁴⁴

[American Pistachio Growers Association](#)

Sheep & Lamb



⁴³ "Value Added Agriculture Key Industry." *Gonm.Biz*, 2017, <https://gonm.biz/why-new-mexico/key-industries/value-added-agriculture/>.

⁴⁴ Fitchett, Todd. "Record Pistachio Exports Follow 2017 Bumper Crop." *Western Farmpress*, 2017, <http://www.westernfarmpress.com/tree-nuts/record-pistachio-exports-follow-2017-bumper-crop>.

New Mexico is ranked seventeenth in the nation in inventory of sheep and lambs, although the value of sales of sheep and lambs ranks the state twenty-ninth.⁴⁵

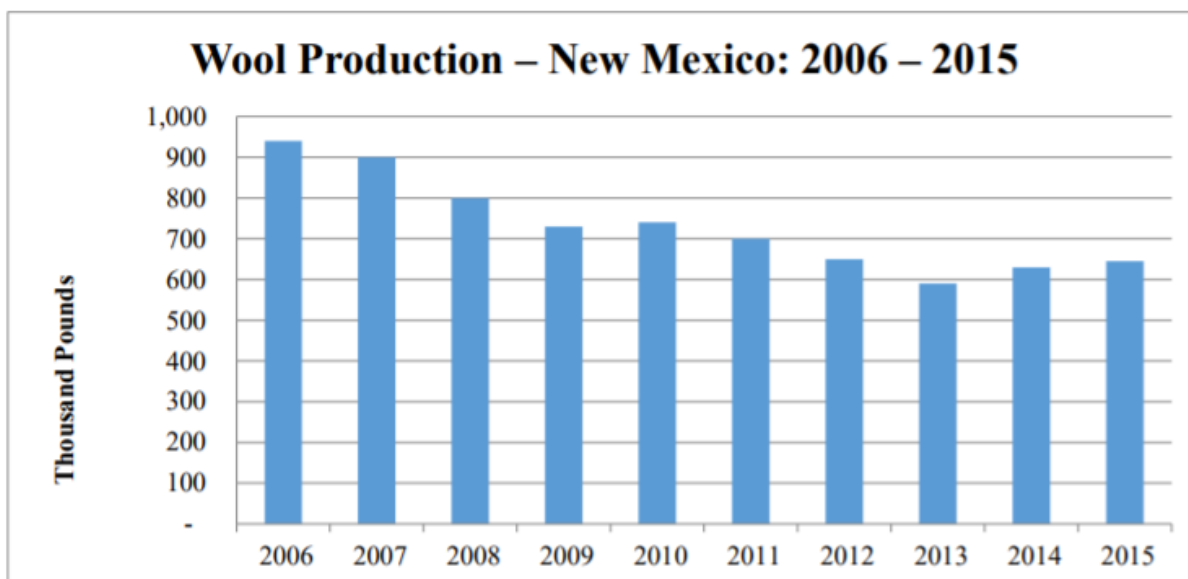
County Estimates: Sheep¹ — New Mexico: January 1, 2014 – 2016

| County | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Bernalillo | 400 | 500 | 500 |
| Catron | (D) | (D) | (D) |
| Chaves | 10,200 | 11,200 | 11,200 |
| Cibola | 2,500 | 2,700 | 2,700 |
| Colfax | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Curry | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| De Baca | 500 | 600 | 600 |
| Doña Ana | 700 | 800 | 800 |
| Eddy | 1,700 | 1,900 | 1,900 |
| Grant | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Guadalupe | 2,700 | 3,100 | 3,100 |
| Harding | (D) | (D) | (D) |
| Hidalgo | (D) | (D) | (D) |
| Lea | 1,400 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Lincoln | 7,900 | 8,700 | 8,700 |
| Luna | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| McKinley | 24,000 | 26,500 | 26,500 |
| Mora | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Otero | 2,600 | 2,800 | 2,800 |
| Quay | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| Rio Arriba | 2,900 | 3,200 | 3,200 |
| Roosevelt | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Sandoval | 1,600 | 1,800 | 1,800 |
| San Juan | 12,500 | 14,400 | 14,400 |
| San Miguel | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Santa Fe | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| Sierra | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Socorro | 600 | 700 | 700 |
| Taos | 500 | 600 | 600 |
| Torrance | 4,500 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Union | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Valencia | 900 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| New Mexico | 81,000 | 90,000 | 90,000 |

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Counties with missing data are included in "Other Counties."

⁴⁵ "New Mexico Agriculture." *Regional Review*, 2014,
https://www.dws.state.nm.us/Portals/0/DM/LMI/Regional_Review_Summer_2014.pdf.



Wineries

New Mexico's sunbaked soils and chilly high-desert nights provide fertile ground for a wide variety of varietals. Wine was first produced in New Mexico in 1629 by Spanish missionaries. NM wineries produce approximately 350,000 gallons annually. Festivals are held throughout the state each summer and early fall.⁴⁶

Today the New Mexico wine industry is expanding rapidly, according to Bernd Maier, Extension viticulture specialist in New Mexico State University's Extension Plant Sciences Department. He reports that production is expanding by 10 percent to 15 percent annually. The New Mexico Wine Growers Association website lists more than 50 wineries spread around the state. Economic impact in the state exceeds \$60 million.

People passing by NMSU's Fabian Garcia Research Center might notice new wine trellises supporting leafy vines in a field near the landscape gardens. Planted in 2010, the 500 plants of this demonstration and research vineyard cover about one third of an acre.

Maier will be conducting formal research on six varieties of wine grapes planted in that test plot, four reds and two whites: Cabernet Sauvignon, Negroamaro, Montepulciano, Durif, Picpoul Blanc, and Gewurztraminer. Bordering the plot are examples of some 24 additional varieties that will provide preliminary indications of their viability in this area and will be available for demonstration purposes.

"The reason we have chosen these varieties is all with respect to their acidity and their popularity here in the state," Maier said. "We concentrate here on Mediterranean varieties because of the New Mexico climate – very hot, very dry – and these plants are from an area with a similar climate ... with the exception of Cabernet Sauvignon. So, we expect them to be already acclimated to our Southwestern climate."⁴⁷

⁴⁶ "Value Added Agriculture Key Industry." *Gonm.Biz*, 2017, <https://gonm.biz/why-new-mexico/key-industries/value-added-agriculture/>.

⁴⁷ Rodman, Jay. "New Mexico's Wine Industry Expanding Rapidly." *Western Farmpress*, 2011, <http://www.westernfarmpress.com/grapes/new-mexicos-wine-industry-expanding-rapidly>.

The New Mexico Tourism Department in 2017 lists [52 wineries in the state](#). New Mexico is expected to reach 60 wineries by the end of the calendar year, according to the press release.

Nationally, the wine industry continues to grow. Sales growth has risen at least 7.5 percent in every year since 2009, with an 8.7 percent leap from 2015 to 2016. [Wine sales neared \\$60 billion in the U.S. in 2016](#).

[New Mexico Wine Association](#)

Wild Hogs

There actually is enough lipstick to make New Mexico's feral pig problem look better: a \$1 million eradication program coordinated by the United States Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services.

In the past 18 months, the program has eliminated feral swine from 10 of the state's 17 counties where the pigs had been reported, said Alan May, state director of the USDA's Wildlife Services. The eradication program is being done in collaboration with 20 other state and federal agencies, as well as the Mescalero Apache tribe, he said.

More than 750 feral swine have been removed from 5.3 million acres in New Mexico, May said. While some mature hogs can get up to 300 pounds, most adults weigh in the neighborhood of 150 pounds. About 60 percent of them have been shot from the air by trappers in helicopters and fixed wing aircraft; the remaining 40 percent were trapped and shot on the ground.

Trappers also use what they call the "Judas" technique. "When we trap a group of feral swine we euthanize all except one sow," he explained. "We put a radio telemetry collar or ear tag on her and turn her loose to lead us to the next group of feral pigs. That's been a primary way of finding them. Hunters don't generally have much luck in New Mexico because feral pigs are so widely scattered."

And because feral pigs are "pretty wily," if one escapes from a trap, "it's harder to get them in a trap the next time," May said. "They learn." Feral pigs are also "extremely adaptable, which is why they're one of the most serious invasive vertebrate pests in the world, not just the U.S."

From 2004 through 2012, the number of counties with feral swine problems jumped from two to seventeen, "primarily in the eastern and southeastern part of the state, with an isolated group in Hidalgo County," in the Bootheel portion of the state.

Also during this time, the amount of confirmed damage from feral hogs jumped from \$300 a year to \$250,000. Nationwide, feral swine cause about \$1.5 billion in property damage, May said.

Most of that damage is a result of the rooting they practice as part of their feeding habits. In New Mexico, which is largely rural, the majority of damage has been to stock tanks, water supplies, rural roads, pastures, and rangeland. In less rural parts of the country, feral swine have damaged golf courses and yards.

Feral swine are "the ultimate omnivore," May said. "They will eat nearly anything," including plant material, small mammals, ground-nesting birds, toads, lizards, snakes and more. They compete with livestock for food and water, threaten already fragile species such as sand dune lizards and lesser prairie chickens, and prefer riparian environments and wetlands, where their wallowing habits destroy habitat for native species, May said.

They are also a public health hazard as well as a health hazard to livestock and pets, said New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands Ray Powell, who is also a licensed veterinarian. Feral swine carry more than 30 different diseases that can cross species boundaries and make livestock, pets, and people ill.

They have commonly tested positive for: Giardia, swine brucellosis, toxoplasmosis, leptospirosis, salmonella, E. coli, tuberculosis, and pseudorabies.

The aggressive nature of New Mexico's eradication program was undertaken to prevent the feral hogs from multiplying out of control, as they have done in many states, including neighboring Texas, Powell said. There, hunters kill more than 750,000 each year and still can't keep up with the estimated 2.6 million that are found in 240 of that state's 254 counties.

Unlike javelina, which are a native New Mexico species and game animal for which hunting licenses are issued, feral swine are classified in New Mexico as domestic livestock gone wild, Powell said. Individuals can hunt them but may not conduct commercial hunts. Nor can feral pigs be imported, held, released, or sold.⁴⁸

The hogs range in territories of several hundred to several thousand acres and can run up to 30 miles an hour.

"They could ruin someone's organic farm within a matter of hours," says Jose Varela Lopez, the president-elect of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, who has a small cattle operation in La Cieneguilla, 15 miles southwest of Santa Fe.

Lopez, who is also the vice-chairman of the Santa Fe/Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District, is particularly concerned about hogs spreading disease to his cattle and contaminating his water. His property has two springs (cieneguilla means "little swamp") that would make perfect hog habitat.

"I worry about this old traditional community, with all the small farms we have, and the irrigation systems. It would be a major impact," if the hogs invaded, Lopez says.⁴⁹

Other Factors

Economic Challenges for Farmers

According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, New Mexico's farmers have become more diverse with the number of both minority and young farmers increasing significantly.

Currently, the state has 9,377 Hispanic-operated farms, up from 6,475 five years before. There is also an increase in young farmers, specifically those under the age of 34. The average age of a New Mexican farmer is around 60 years old.⁵⁰

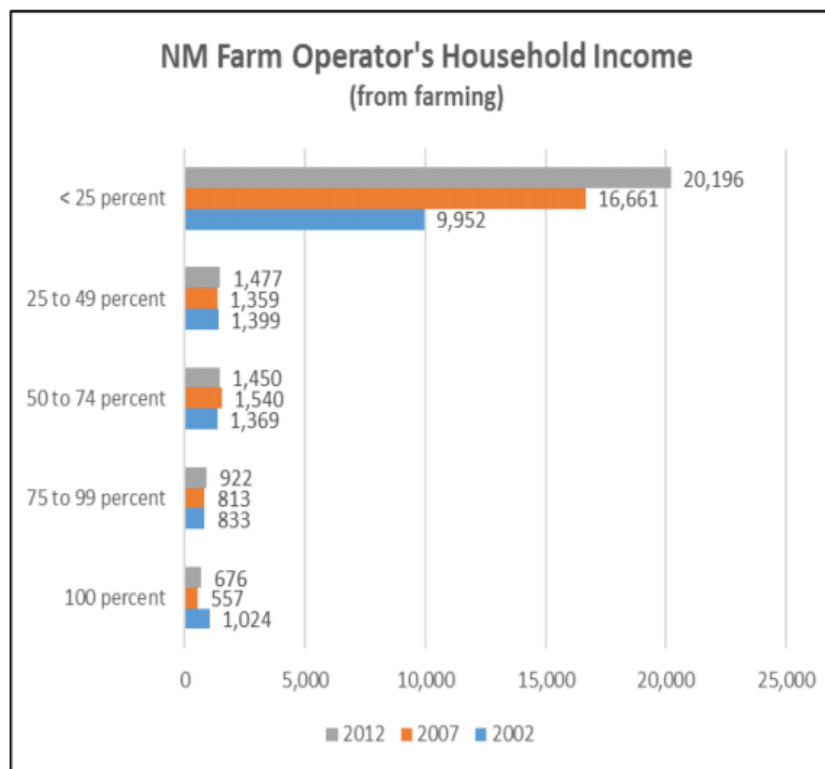
⁴⁸ Writer, Rick. "NM Feral Pig Problem Looking Better." *Abqjournal.Com*, 2014, <https://www.abqjournal.com/420025/feral-pig-problem-looking-better.html>.

⁴⁹ Doland, Gwyneth. "Wild Hogs - How A Plan to Kill Every Wild Pig In New Mexico Earned Across-The-Board Support—And Why It Appears to Be Working." *Sfreporter.Com*, 2013, <http://www.sfreporter.com/santafe/article-7595-wild-hogs.html>.

⁵⁰ Bertone, Rachel. "New Mexico's Diverse Agriculture." *Farm Flavor*, 2016, <http://www.farmflavor.com/new-mexico/new-mexicos-diverse-agriculture/>.

New Mexico growers make about \$35,000 less annually than the average U.S. farmer. As shown by the accompanying graph, the majority of New Mexico farmers (82 percent) derive less than 25 percent of their household income from sales of agricultural products and government payments. Many consistently incur a net loss from agricultural activities and thus depend on off-farm income to cover living expenses.

Other measures of financial stability present concerns as well. Farm net cash income is a short-term measure of cash flow, a very important indicator of farm stability. Net cash income for New Mexico farmers and ranchers decreased by 36 percent from 2007 to 2012.



Source: USDA

Another important gauge of economic well-being for all U.S. farmers and ranchers is the number of operations with net gains versus net losses. Net losses occur when expenses exceed the amount of income produced in a given



Source: USDA Economic Research Service

amount of time, while net gains occur when revenue exceeds a business' expenses. The number of farms with net gains has lagged behind those with net losses.

From 2002 to 2012, the number of farms in the U.S. with net losses increased from 1,134,879 to 1,136,858 (0.2 percent increase). The change in New Mexico was much more dramatic, from 9,284 to 16,842 (81.4 percent). The average number of U.S. farms with net gains actually declined 2.2 percent over the same time period. In New Mexico the change was both positive and relatively dramatic, up by just under 33 percent. The gain or loss position of farm and ranch operations is a complex issue and will likely remain a significant challenge in the future.⁵¹

Farm Labor Gets Workers Comp

In New Mexico, the agriculture industry employs only 1.4 percent of the New Mexico workforce. Between 2009 and 2014, the agriculture industry gained 578 jobs for a five percent increase, the fifth largest gain of all New Mexico industries in that time period. However, according to the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, agriculture employment is forecasted to decrease by almost six percent by 2022.

Agriculture employment includes crop, livestock, and nursery workers, as well as supervisors and managers. Farm and ranch workers can include family members, contract specialists (such as veterinarians), as well as migrant farmworkers. The number of New Mexico farms with hired farmworkers grew by about 28 percent from 2002 to 2012 to just over 5,400 farms, while the total number of farmworkers declined by five percent to almost 22,000. There was a notable decline in the "seasonal" (< 150 days) category of just over 12 percent, while the "full-time" category increased by seven percent.

Hired farmworkers continue to be one of the most economically disadvantaged groups in the United States. According to the USDA Farm Labor survey, the real average hourly earnings of non-supervisory farm laborers has been between \$10.50 and \$10.80 since 2007. The average number of hours worked per week in New Mexico and Arizona was 47.4 hours.¹¹² In New Mexico, the mean annual wage of the farming, fishing and forestry occupation category is \$21,940, ranking it 21 in earnings of the 23 occupation categories tracked by the New Mexico Department of Labor.⁵²

Two agricultural laborers were injured during their employment in the New Mexico agriculture industry. Aguirre was injured while picking chile for M.A. & Sons Chili Products. Rodriguez was injured while working as a dairy laborer and herdsman for Brand West Dairy. Both sought workers' compensation benefits. Both were denied benefits based upon the New Mexico Workers' Compensation Act provision that excludes agricultural laborers from coverage. The workers appealed this denial, arguing that the exclusion violates their right to equal protection under the NM Constitution. Their cases were consolidated for appellate purposes.

In *Rodriguez v. Brand West Dairy*, the New Mexico Court of Appeals held that a provision excluding farm and ranch laborers from workers comp coverage is unconstitutional as it violates the Equal Protection Clause of the New Mexico Constitution. This ruling came in 2015. It was the second victory for New Mexico's farmworkers in less than a year - and that's big news in a low-wage sector made up primarily of immigrant workers, where victories tend to be few and far between.

⁵¹ Rader, Kelsey et al. *Resilience In New Mexico Agriculture: Opportunities, Challenges and Realities For New Mexico's Farming and Ranching Future*. New Mexico First And New Mexico State University, 2016, <https://localfoodeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FinalAgReportFINALFINAL.pdf>.

⁵² Rader, Kelsey et al. *Resilience In New Mexico Agriculture: Opportunities, Challenges and Realities For New Mexico's Farming and Ranching Future*. New Mexico First And New Mexico State University, 2016, <https://localfoodeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FinalAgReportFINALFINAL.pdf>.

The first victory came in August 2014 when farmworkers finally started getting paid the correct minimum wage. Farmworkers were routinely, and incorrectly, paid the federal minimum when they were entitled to the New Mexican minimum wage, which is 25 cents per hour higher. It only amounts to \$8 or \$10 a week, but it is significant for these workers, who are among the poorest in the United States.

And now, after six years of legal battles, the state Court of Appeals has upheld a District Court ruling that New Mexico's farmworkers are not to be excluded from workers' comp protection.⁵³

Farm work is among the most dangerous jobs in the United States, consistently ranking in the top 10 for injuries and death. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that 167 agricultural workers are injured every day. Despite this, only 12 states require full workers' comp for farmworkers (13 now, including New Mexico); it's optional in 16 states and required but limited in 21 others. Until the Court of Appeals' decision, workers' comp wasn't required for New Mexico's field workers or for ranch employees who worked directly with animals. That meant that on a dairy, for example, truck drivers and bookkeepers were covered, but milkers and workers moving the cows weren't.⁵⁴

Invasive Pests

New Mexico State University entomologists say a combination of a wet winter and spring and the encroachment of new and varied invasive insect pests from surrounding states and Mexico could cause problems this year for agricultural producers across the Southwest, including risks to New Mexico's prized alfalfa and chile crops.

Jan Pierce, NMSU Extension entomologist, warns that concerns over the introduction of new invasive pest species could also adversely affect fruit and vegetable crops.

New invasive pest species come not only from Mexico but also from adjoining states. For example, sugarcane aphids from South Texas will most likely infiltrate grain sorghum fields in New Mexico this year, and spotted-winged drosophila flies in Colorado could move south and plague the state's fruit industry.

The list of invasive pests on New Mexico's doorstep continues to grow. Tree-killing emerald ash borers were confirmed in Colorado, Arkansas, and Louisiana in 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively. Japanese beetles are established in parts of Colorado and the eastern parts of Oklahoma and Kansas, where significant amounts of nursery stock are sourced for New Mexico's nursery industry.

Exotic fruit flies from Mexico, Central America or elsewhere pose a particular threat since their larvae can be difficult to detect in the large amounts of imported fresh produce entering the U.S.; these invasive pests represent a threat not to just fruit growers (apple, cherry, peach) but also to the chile industry since chile pods are botanically fruits.

Pierce said the Southwest region of the United States also needs to be on the lookout for the brown marmorated stink bug, which is now common in much of the eastern U.S. It has previously been found in Texas and once in New Mexico.

⁵³ Dowell, Tiffany. "New Mexico Court of Appeals: Agriculture Exclusion To Workers' Compensation Act Unconstitutional - Texas Agriculture Law." *Texas Agriculture Law*, 2015, <http://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/2015/07/06/new-mexico-court-of-appeals-agriculture-exclusion-to-workers-compensation-act-unconstitutional/>.

⁵⁴ Sorrentino, Joseph. "New Mexico Field And Dairy Laborers Win Right To Workers' Comp." *Truthout*, 2015, <http://www.truthout.org/news/item/32006-new-mexico-field-and-dairy-laborers-win-right-to-workers-comp>.

Cropland is not the only economic issue. European honey bees have been plagued by invasive pests including honeybee tracheal mites, varroa mites and pathogens they transmit, and most recently, small hive beetles.⁵⁵

Soil Erosion

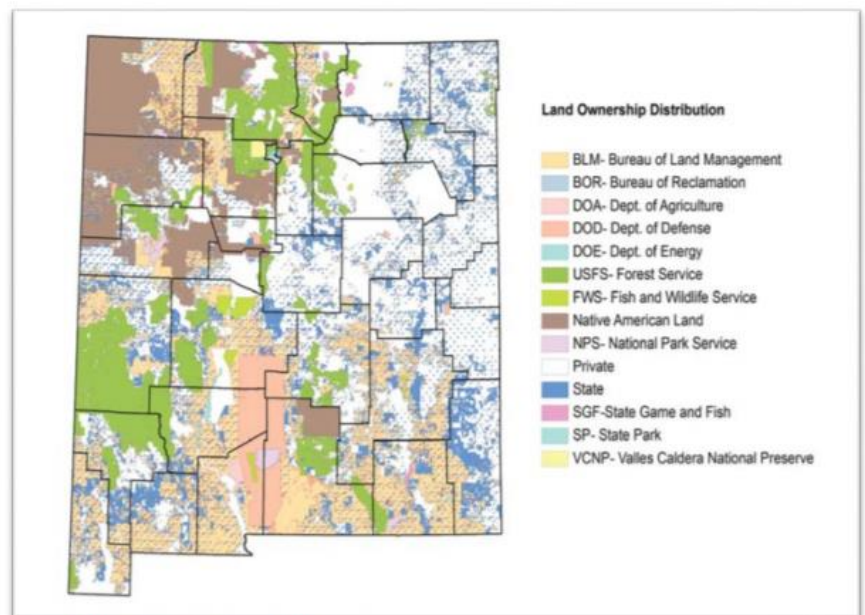
As farmers and ranchers face rising costs of water, chemicals, fuel, and transportation, some are adopting different land management practices (e.g., more drought resistant crops, seed exchanges, less fertilizer, insecticide, and pesticide use). Changed New Mexico land management practices include:

- 30 percent decrease in New Mexico acreage on which commercial fertilizers and conditioners were used since 2007
- Decline in chemical use to control insects (37 percent) and crop disease (21 percent) since 2007

Participation in conservation programs sponsored by the federal government is a strategy used by some farmers and producers. These programs work to address a number of conservation issues including:

- Protecting drinking water
- Reducing soil erosion
- Preserving wildlife habitat
- Restoring forests and wetlands
- Aiding producer land damaged by natural disaster.

Soil erosion causes a loss of topsoil, the layer of soil that is richest in both organic matter and nutrient value. Overall soil erosion on New Mexico cropland increased by 80 percent since 2002. Such erosion can occur because of wind, rain, or drought. Typical climate conditions in an arid or semi-arid environment like New Mexico leaves the state's topsoil particularly vulnerable.



Source: University of New Mexico 2011

Prime rural land, or land that retains the best physical and chemical characteristics for producing crops, decreased by 33 percent between 1982 and 2012 in New Mexico. Meanwhile developed land, land generally dedicated to residential, industrial, commercial or transportation uses, increased by 86 percent in the same time period.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ Hawkes, Logan. "Pest Invasion Likely Across Southwest." *Southwest Farmpress*, 2015, <http://www.southwestfarmpress.com/management/pest-invasion-likely-across-southwest>.

⁵⁶ Rader, Kelsey et al. *Resilience In New Mexico Agriculture: Opportunities, Challenges and Realities For New Mexico's Farming and Ranching Future*. New Mexico First And New Mexico State University, 2016, <https://localfoodeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FinalAgReportFINALFINAL.pdf>.

Water

In New Mexico, water rights are mind-bogglingly complicated. But the simplified version goes something like this: Water in streams and rivers belongs to the public and it's held in trust by the state. The state grants water rights (which are basically private property rights) to farmers, cities, or businesses who prove they can put the water to "beneficial use." The system was set up in the early 20th century, even before statehood.

Many farmers hold older, more senior water rights, while cities often possess junior rights. The pueblos in the Middle Rio Grande have the oldest and most senior water rights—and the amount of water they actually "own" has never been quantified.

In fact, the entire Middle Rio Grande remains unadjudicated: the state has never officially determined the extent and ownership of water rights in the river.

Currently, the state says it lacks the funding to complete adjudication in the Middle Rio Grande or to incorporate climate projections into the ongoing rewrite of the state's Water Plan.⁵⁷

In all but one corner of New Mexico, water managers are projecting shortages in drinking and irrigation supplies given expected demand and variability in rainfall over the next few decades.

Like many places in the West, the arid state is recuperating from an unprecedented drought that peaked in 2013. The sting has yet to go away as a month of record-setting temperatures and little rain have left dry conditions across the eastern plains and parts of southern New Mexico.

Managers in the state's 16 water planning districts have spent the past three years crunching numbers and analyzing historic data to help create a collection of plans that identify supply gaps and possible solutions.

The final two plans were adopted recently by the Interstate Stream Commission, setting the stage for a much-needed overhaul of the statewide roadmap for navigating the uncertainties of drought.

State officials call the work done so far a monumental accomplishment, but it could be another year before the state plan is complete.

New Mexico's chief water official, state engineer Tom Blaine, says revolutionary ideas are needed to ensure the demand can be balanced in the future.

"We are really working with a limited resource in the state, increased demands and variable water supplies from year to year," Blaine said Thursday. "Those are the challenges that we really need to be looking at when we start developing what our statewide plan looks like."

New Mexico developed its first water plan in 2003. The need to have more comprehensive and consistent information about the challenges in specific regions came to a head in 2013 as New Mexico approached 36 straight months of extreme drought conditions, making for the driest and hottest period in more than a century.

With the exception of the San Juan Basin in northwestern New Mexico, all the current regional plans project water shortages based on existing rights, traditional uses, population estimates, economic trends, and community development.

Along the Middle Rio Grande Valley, the state's most populated area, managers warn that the supply from the river and groundwater pumping would meet only half the region's demand in drought years.

⁵⁷ Paskus, Laura. "Is The Rio Grande Headed For "Permanent Drought"?." *New Mexico In Depth*, 2016, <http://nminddepth.com/2016/01/05/is-the-río-grande-headed-for-permanent-drought/>.

Agriculture is the top user in the district, consuming about two-thirds of the region's water. That's no different in other areas of the predominantly rural state.

On the lower Rio Grande, data shows 87 percent of the water irrigates chile, onions, pecans, and other crops.

Officials in southern New Mexico say they would like to maintain that region's values — including agriculture and the viability of rural communities — as water shortages are addressed. They suggested better stormwater capture, desalination, and improved efficiency among other options.

In southeastern New Mexico, managers say water from oil and natural gas production could be used to fill some of the gap.

Sam Fernald, director of the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute, said more integrated approaches are needed and that options like water banking, shortage sharing, and desalination will have to be part of the conversation.

He said the link between groundwater and surface water will also be a consideration as cities and farmers rely more on pumping and as aquifers have less opportunity to recover.

"That's a challenge around the whole West," he said. "Groundwater is a great resource to get through dry periods, but we have to think about how long we let the water be used in excess of recharge rates until the next wet period. That's a big question."⁵⁸

With an expansive 77.8 million acres of land, New Mexico is the fifth largest state in the nation. Despite its vastness and availability of affordable land, clean abundant water remains a challenge. Land and water are key ingredients for the success of any farm or ranch.

Water is considered the lifeblood of any agricultural operation, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas like New Mexico. Many people believe that New Mexico suffers from inadequate, or at minimum inconsistent, water planning funding, long-term plans for future water shortages, and a general lack of awareness of predicted future declines in water availability. Experts generally agree that new technologies will be needed to determine how farmers and other water users can sustain current operations and conserve water.

The New Mexico agriculture industry also struggles to access private water rights that are affordable and can adequately sustain operations. Until resolved, uncertainty regarding water availability was seen by farmers and ranchers as a major disincentive to making future plans and investments. Management under federal statutes governing water and obligations under Interstate Water Compacts also increase demands on New Mexico's water.

Land ownership and administration concerns reveal some of the tensions between the federal government and state sovereignty, as well as the strain imposed by increasing urbanization. The role of the federal government in owning and managing multiple uses on large tracts of land in the western states is a long-standing controversy. In 2012, the federal government owned almost 27 million acres, or about 35 percent of the total acreage in New Mexico. Federal land agencies must balance land use among energy development, recreation, grazing, and conservation. This multiple use management can result in limiting agricultural access to that land.

All water in New Mexico comes from precipitation, but water sources are categorized and managed as either groundwater or surface water. Surface water is water in above-ground rivers, lakes etc., and its flow is often controlled with dams and reservoirs. Groundwater is located in underground aquifers, which are geological formations that hold and carry water. Throughout the state, water availability is on the decline, and stakeholders

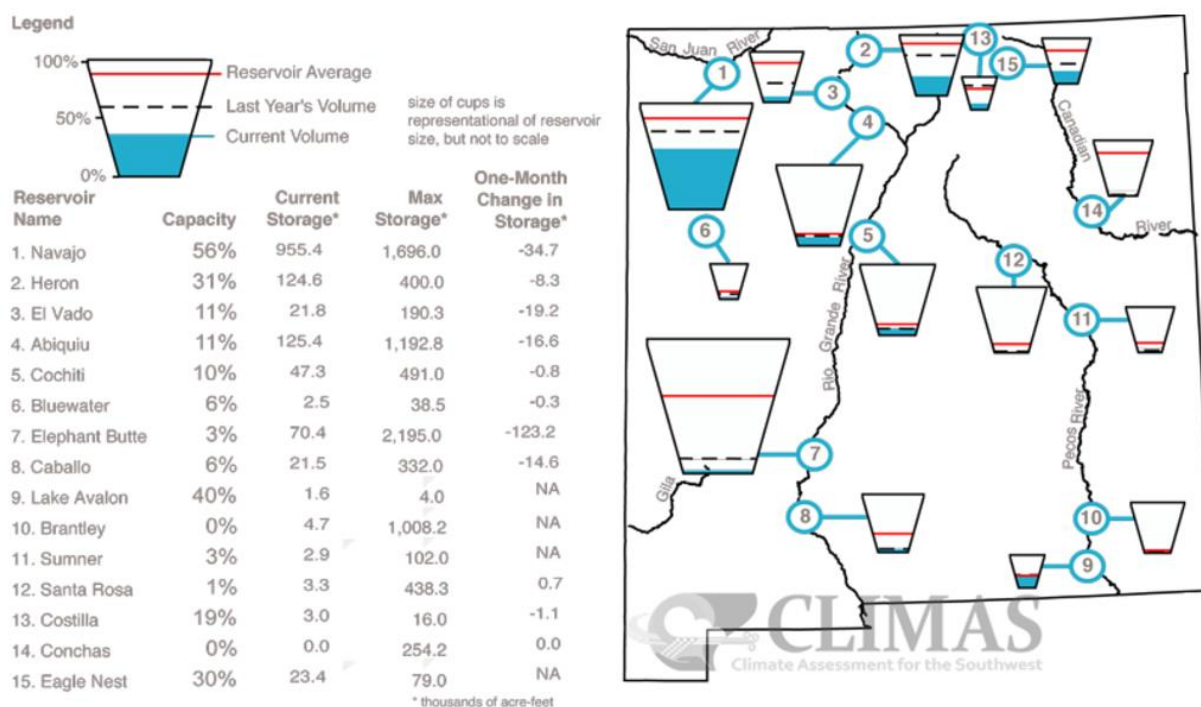
⁵⁸ Montoya Bryan, Susan. "Drought Planning: Water Shortages Expected In New Mexico." *Usnews.com*, 2017, <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-mexico/articles/2017-03-31/drought-planning-water-shortages-expected-in-new-mexico>.

at 12 of the 13 regional meetings expressed their concerns over this decline. As shown by the accompanying figure, almost all New Mexico's reservoirs, the source of much of New Mexico's surface water, are below average capacity.

The most current data from October 2016 shows the state's combined water reservoir storage is the lowest in 15 years. In all aquifers reported to the U.S. Geological survey, long-term water levels have dropped. Decreasing precipitation levels and recurring droughts are partly to blame. These conditions create uncertainty, inhibit farmer, rancher, and processor investments, and can result in more fallow land or land moving out of agricultural production for good. Conservation has been identified by stakeholders as a means to ease pressure on an increasingly limited water supply. Conservation methods that sustainably prevent water losses include:

- Conversion from water-intensive crops to low-water crops (e.g., sorghum)
- Improved water infrastructure (irrigation distribution system)
- Tracking and metering water usage
- New sources of water may also be sought in order to fulfill immediate needs.

Stakeholders and water policy experts have called for investments in economically viable ways of using brackish water. Changes in water storage practices, including capture and storage of storm water, either for use or to recharge aquifers, could also provide relief. Facing a future of increased water scarcity, stakeholders were aware

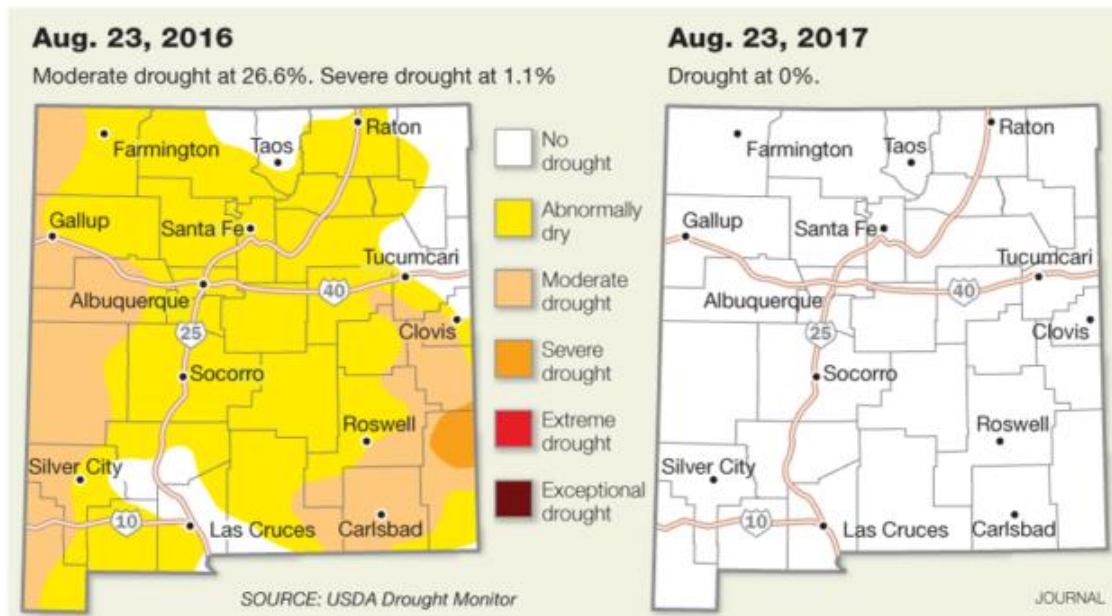


[Image Source: REPORT CLIMAS](#)

that reliance on past and current water use practices is not an option. Changing conditions ensure that the ways water is used must evolve if the state wants to sustain an agricultural industry.⁵⁹

For the first time in 18 years, New Mexico is drought free – at least for the short term.

The state's drought map shows no areas of drought or extreme dryness, courtesy of a cool, wet monsoon season, the National Weather Service said in August (2017).



That's a far-sight better than a year ago, when the drought map showed that 87 percent of the state was abnormally dry, 27 percent was in moderate drought, and 1.1 percent was in severe drought.

"This is the first time since the drought monitor started in late 1999 that New Mexico hasn't had any designation" of drought or abnormal dryness, said Royce Fontenot, senior hydrologist with the National Weather Service in Albuquerque.

A healthy drought map is particularly good for ranchers who rely on rainfall to green up their range lands, said John Fleck, director of the University of New Mexico Water Resources Program. New Mexico also continues to benefit from the best river flows since 2005, which benefits irrigators, he said.

But don't look for amber waves of grain growing on New Mexico's fruited plains anytime soon.

The drought monitor map provides a good snapshot of short-term drought conditions, but New Mexico remains locked in a 15-year dry period, as evidenced by historically low water levels at Elephant Butte Reservoir, Fleck said.

"It's good news in the short term," Fleck said of the state's healthy drought map. "But in the long term, we have to remember that this is still a dry state. The kinds of things we've been doing to manage in times of scarcity, we can't let up."

⁵⁹ Rader, Kelsey et al. *Resilience In New Mexico Agriculture: Opportunities, Challenges and Realities For New Mexico's Farming and Ranching Future*. New Mexico First And New Mexico State University, 2016, <https://localfoodeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FinalAgReportFINALFINAL.pdf>.

Elephant Butte Reservoir contained about 300,000 acre-feet of water on Thursday – just a fraction of its storage capacity of just over 2 million-acre feet.

“Elephant Butte Reservoir has started filling back up a little,” Fleck said. “But Elephant Butte doesn’t really respond to short-term drought relief like this drought map indicates.”

Elephant Butte Reservoir remained near capacity throughout the 1990s, but levels have dropped sharply since 2000, data shows.

Low levels at Elephant Butte and other New Mexico reservoirs show that the state’s water supply remains precarious, Fleck said.⁶⁰

⁶⁰ Writer, Olivier. "Updated: New Mexico Is Free Of Drought." *Abqjournal.Com*, 2017, <https://www.abqjournal.com/1053036/by-one-measure-new-mexico-is-drought-free.html>.