Presentation for the Water & Natural Resources Committee

NM Grown in K-12, Early Childhood, and Senior Centers

Liz Anichini, Program Manager
Healthy Universal School Meals
Student Success and Wellness Bureau

August 18, 2025

A Presentation by the New Mexico Public Education Department

NM Grown Successes in K-12

- 10 Year History of NM Grown in Public Education Department
  - Foundational for NM Grown expanding to other Agencies
  - NM is hosting National Farm to Cafeteria Conference in December 2025
- NM Grown purchasing is a core healthy universal school meals quality improvement strategy

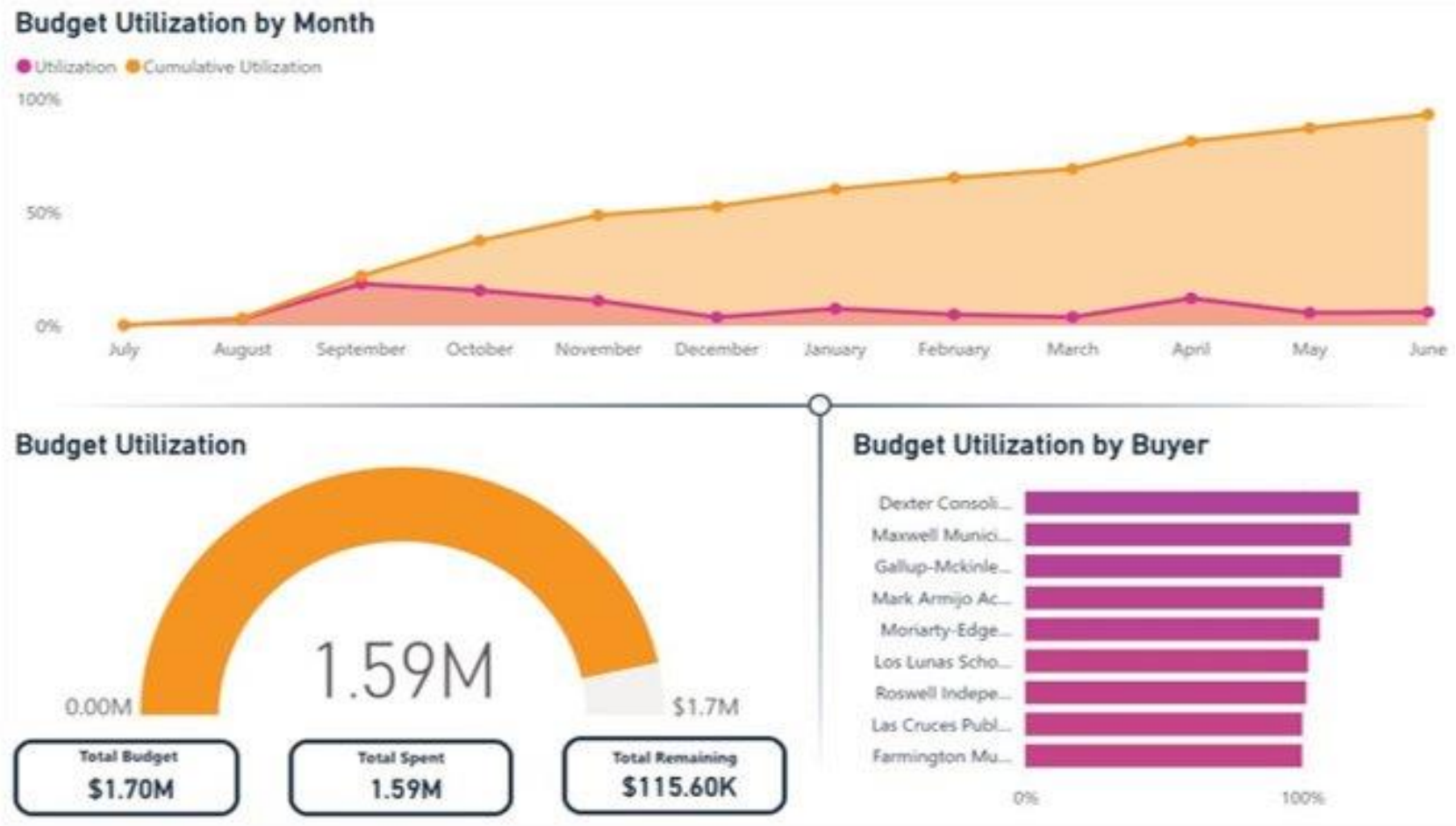
Success in NM Grown Across State Agencies

- 242,046 K-12 students
- 7,530 early childhood student ages 0-5
- 4,191,156 meals to 50,680 Seniors
- Award funds are catalyst to build relationships and practice of local purchasing
- Schools and providers purchase beyond NM Grown Award
- Win for farmers, win for kids, win for communities
- Celebrates NM agricultural traditions

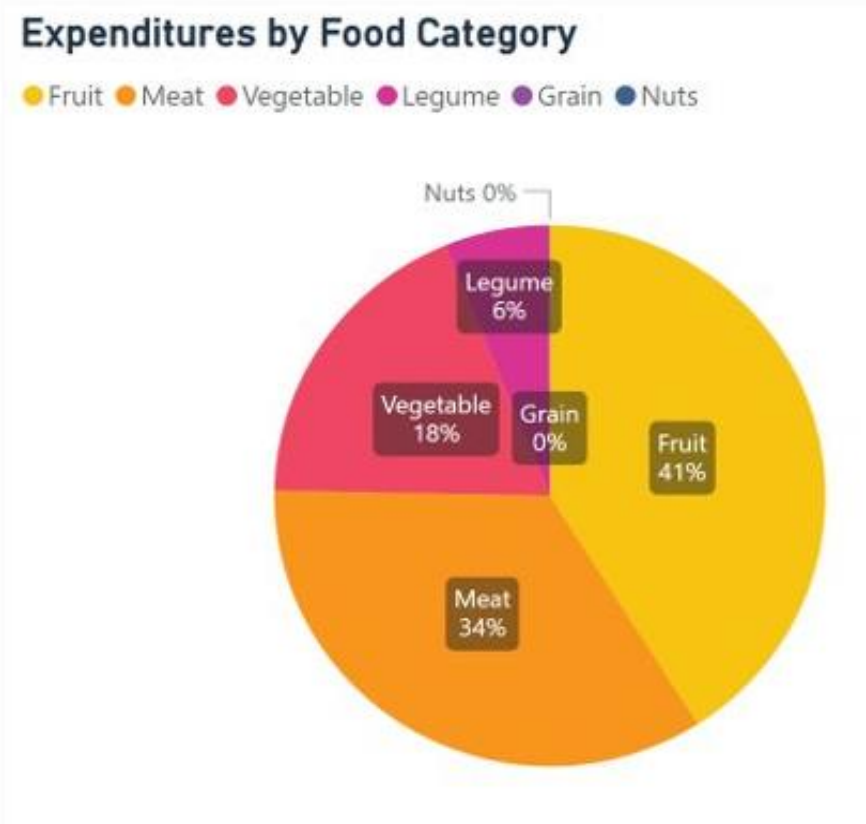
Recent NM Grown Participation Across Agencies

K-12 Schools				Early Childhood Care Centers			Senior Centers		
Fiscal Year	Number of Participating SFA's	NM Grown Award Amount	Percentage of Funds Expended	Number of Participating ECECD Centers	NM Grown Award Amount	Percentage of Funds Expended	Number of Participating Senior Providers	NM Grown Award Amount	Percentage of Funds Expended
FY23	57	$ 1,200,000	**87%**	29	$ 300,000	**49%**	22	$597,600	**81%**
FY24	61	$ 2,000,000	**89%**	30	$ 300,000	**87%**	32	$925,600	**100%**
FY25	56	$ 1,710,200	**92%**	28	$ 300,000	**93%**	66	$1,300,000	**98%**
FY26	66+	$ 2,000,000	-	43	$ 300,000	-	62	$800,000	-

Agencies Track NM Grown Through Local Food Data Portal



What are K-12 Schools Purchasing with NM Grown Awards?



Family style dining with NM Grown local foods, A Gold Star Academy, Farmington NM

Next Steps for NM Grown

- Increased Participation Results in Smaller Awards
- Local purchasing power small in relation to overall budget
- Need more farmers to join Approved Supplier Program
- Need for consistent, stable funding across agencies
- PED will honor $0.10 per meal in statute moving forward
- PED is encouraging schools to use Healthy Universal School Meals Allocation to increase NM Grown purchasing
- Adding Bureau of Indian Education and Tribal Schools

NM Grown in Action Across the State

Roswell Independent School District, Kimberly Meeks

- Spends more than $1 million on NM Grown annually
  - $84,100 NM Grown Award, spent $1,046,509
  - 100% beef served is NM Beef
  - Consistent purchasing of lettuce for salad bars

NM Grown in Action Across the State

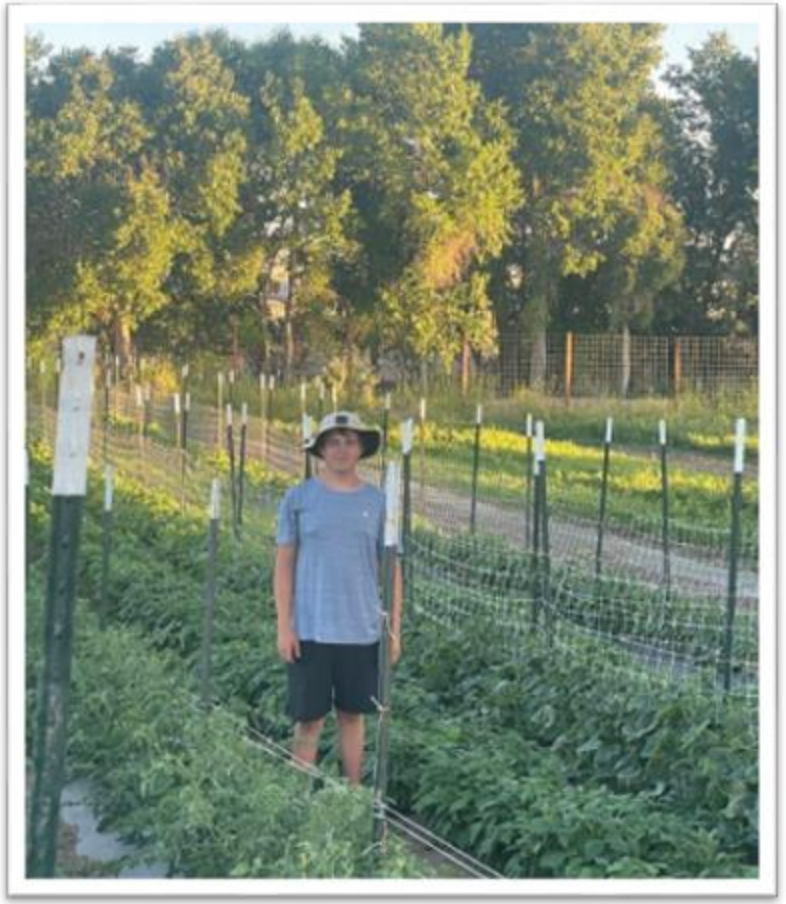
Bernalillo Public Schools, Debbie Trujillo

- Pairing NM Grown with Increased Scratch Cooking
  - Large purchaser of NM Pinto beans
  - Cooking 100% fresh beans in 25-26 school year

Grower Spotlight: Bluffs Farm

Bloomfield School District, Joanne Rodriguez

- Bluffs Farm
  - Carson Stark, learned about NM Grown as a student in Farmington, was inspired to become a farmer and sell to schools



Grower Spotlight: Manny Encinias

- Trilogy Beef, 6th generation farm, 13 generation New Mexicans
- Provides year-round market stability for Trilogy Beef and other businesses in local community
- Approved Supplier Program provides unique opportunity that doesn’t exist in commodity-based market.
- Feeding highly nutritious foods to multiple generations through schools and senior centers
- NM Grown created opportunity to pass farm and agricultural business onto his daughters that didn't exist 3 years ago.

Thank you!

For Questions

Liz Anichini
Healthy Universal School Meals Program Manager
Student Success and Wellness Bureau
Elizabeth.Anichini@Ped.nm.gov
(505) 660 – 1693

Anna Martin
Food Security Coordinator
Family Nutrition Bureau
Anna.Martin@ececd.nm.gov
(505) 618 – 0359

Denise King
Director
Aging Network Operations Division
Denise.King@altsd.nm.gov
(505) 469-1933