

Grow with us

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Rural Agricultural Improvement and Public Affairs Project

RAIPAP increased wool sales by more than 1,000% over three years.



Sheep shearing, an important industry in Northern New Mexico, is just one example of RAIPAP's priorities in helping those in the state.

About

Honoring an 800-year tradition of farming in Northern New Mexico, a group of NMSU Extension specialists strives to help family-owned farms and ranches to prosper. The Rural Agricultural Improvement and Public Affairs Project (RAIPAP), has established itself within CES as the small farm/ranch and minority producer Extension specialist program. The project has assisted more than 5,000 Hispanic and Native American families with one-on-one educational programs since its inception in 1991.

Housed at NMSU's Sustainable Agriculture Science Center in Alcalde, RAIPAP is accelerating Extension and research efforts for limited-resource, small-acreage Hispanic and Native American farmers/ranchers through research-based educational efforts in four program areas: sustainable agriculture, small business development, value-added agriculture, and leadership and organizational development.

RAIPAP works very closely with the Northern New Mexico county Extension agents (who make up the Small Farm Task Force), the Sustainable Agriculture Science Center at Alcalde staff and local Extension advisory groups comprised of Hispanic and Native American farmers and ranchers. Through this coordination and collaboration, RAIPAP develops and implements its Extension and outreach educational programs targeted exclusively for the area's agricultural producers.

The projects address a wide range of concerns. Some examples include: organic farming in the

Sangre de Cristo Mountains, livestock permittee range monitoring in the Carson National Forest, farm record keeping classes taught at Acoma Pueblo, healthier herds for the Sangre del Cristo Livestock Growers Association members, the reestablishment of alfalfa production in Pueblo de Cochiti, and chemical-free insect control on the Santo Domingo Pueblo farm through the reintroduction of chickens.

As part of RAIPAP, NMSU experts taught woolgrowers in the state various methods for increasing their revenue. Improved shearing techniques and herd health practices mean that the woolgrowers of Acoma and Laguna pueblos, along with those in the Navajo Nation and Jicarilla Apache tribe, earn more for their sheep's wool.

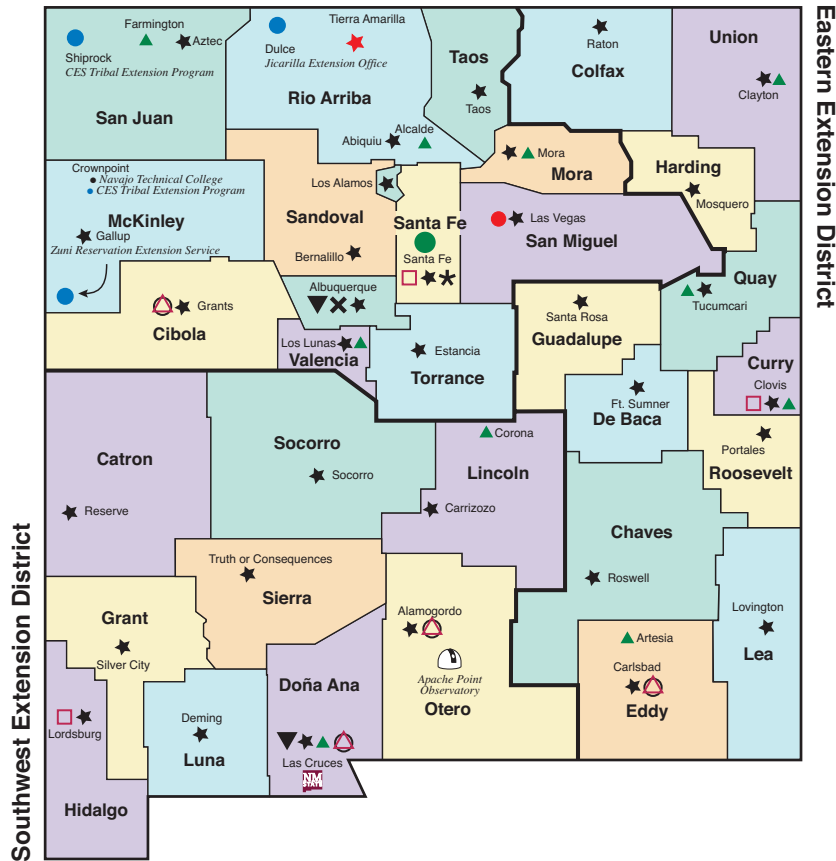
Before RAIPAP	10¢ to 19¢/pound of wool
2005	75¢/pound
2006	95¢/pound
2007	>\$1/pound

The project sold more than 40,000 pounds of graded and sorted wool to a major warehouse, thus increasing previous wool sales by more than 1,000 percent.

Contact

For more information on this program, call (505) 852-2668 or visit <http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/raipap>.

Northern Extension District



Facility Locations

- | | |
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| ★ County Cooperative Extension Service Offices | ✕ Admissions Office |
| ★ Satellite County Office | ● Santa Fe Ranch Demonstration Site |
| ● Tribal Cooperative Extension Service Offices | NMSU NMSU Main Campus |
| ▲ Agricultural Science and Research Centers | 🕒 Apache Point Observatory |
| □ Cooperative Extension Service District Offices | ▼ CES/New Mexico Works Program |
| ★ University Government Affairs | ● Memorial Middle School Agricultural Extension and Education Center |
| 🏫 NMSU Community Colleges | |

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