



# College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

## Northern Extension District

Cooperative Extension Service • [extension.nmsu.edu](http://extension.nmsu.edu) • 575-646-4615



### Mission Statement

The Mission of the Cooperative Extension Service Northern District is to provide research-based and community-driven educational programming to the citizens in the 13 counties in the Northern District to improve their quality of life.

### Quick Facts

- With a population of 1,419,867—67% of the total state population—the district is extremely diverse, covering 41,623 sq. miles and includes the state's largest urban population as well as viable agricultural-based economies in the rural areas. Culturally and visually, no other region exemplifies the unique tri-culture environment and beauty for which New Mexico is known.
- Northern District faculty reached over 127,153 clientele in 2023 through county-based Extension programs at work- shops, conferences, field days, school programs, and one-on-one consultations.
- Northern District faculty reached 635,244 clientele through mass media outlets, including radio, television, news- paper, and social media.
- Northern District generated \$3,917,447 in grant funding to support programming efforts.

### ACES Pillars for Economic and Community Development



### Selected Program Impacts

- **Community Health and Wellness** addresses physical, emotional, and mental health. Agents in the Northern District have provided programs including Walk with Ease, Mind Matters, Mental Health First Aid, and Living with Inflation.
- **Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition (ICAN)** is a series of food and nutrition education classes for limited-resource families and youth to teach them menu planning, healthy food choices, and meal preparation. Seven counties in the Northern District support an ICAN Program. The Northern District delivered 1,434 programs reaching 14,602 participants, of which 8,313 were youth.
- **Master Food Preservers** provides research-based food preservation for our communities. Trained Agents serve as a trusted resource in the community to provide the public with research-based information from New Mexico State University and USDA. The Master Food Preserver program creates an extension of this resource through a volunteer-based group of certified trainers, allowing NMSU to reach a broader audience, providing hundreds and potentially thousands of hours of educational services to our communities.
- **Homesteading and Small Acreage Stewardship Series** aims to demonstrate to an ever-growing population of contemporary landowners the skills of customary artisan cultures, self-sustainability practices, land stewardship and animal husbandry. USDA statistics state that 62.1% of farm & ranches are classified as "small" and Northern New Mexico counties have experienced an influx of people purchasing small acreage homesteads and a paradigm shift to a more rural and self-sufficient way of life in terms of growing and processing one's own food and fiber as well as becoming good stewards of the natural resources.
- **New Mexico Tribal Extension Program** is serving New Mexico's Native American population by incorporating the values and traditions of these communities as they introduce new and innovative ideas that enhance the lives of their clientele. Northern District is home to five Tribal Extension positions who focus on food security and sustainability, economic development, enhancement of traditional ag production, family health and wellness, and culturally based 4-H projects.
- **New Mexico Indian Livestock Days** aims to educate Native American livestock producers on various aspects of livestock management, ranging from herd health and rangeland management to facilities and water systems. NMILD has reached hundreds of Native American livestock producers in its 24-year run.
- **Extension Master Gardener Program** trains volunteers to be effective community educators in horticulture and provide their communities with relevant, unbiased, research-based gardening information. Extension Master Gardener Volunteers (EMGVs) assist their County Extension Offices in answering gardening questions, maintaining learning gardens, youth activities, and delivering gardening and home food production classes and workshops. Master Gardener Interns contributed a minimum of 30 volunteer hours to their county extension offices, increasing its ability to provide current reliable home horticulture information and programming to residents. With a value of \$31.80 per hour, the dollar value of their service exceeded \$112,572.
- **4-H Youth Development** maintains a strong tradition of providing research-based education through traditional community clubs as well as the expanded program which include non-traditional audiences in schools, military bases, and special-interest youth groups.
- **Farm to School; Farm to Institution** is a collaboration between Extension the NM Farmers Marketing Association to assist New Mexico School children and Institutionalized residences have limited access to nutritious, high quality, fresh produce. Together a three-pronged approach was developed to help farmers of varying scales reach the goal of selling produce to a local school district or institution which includes Produce Safety Alliance Training, Tier 1 and 2 Food Safety Trainings, and on-site farm visits.



## Selected Partnerships and Collaborators

- Mid-Region Council of Governments
- County Governments
- Community Colleges
- New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council
- Tribal Governments
- USDA Agencies: FSA, NRCS, APHIS
- Agricultural Non-Profit Organizations and Producer Groups
- New Mexico Public Agencies such as Income Support Division, Department of Health, Livestock Board, Department of Agriculture
- New Mexico Public and Private Schools
- County Fair Boards

## Faculty, Areas of Expertise, and Location

### Department Head

- Christina Turner, Northern District Department Head

### Bernalillo County - 505-243-1386

- John Garlisch, County Director/Horticulture
- Diane Christensen, FCS
- Phillip Alden, 4-H/FCS
- Joseph Delgado, Horticulture
- Vacant position, 4-H Agriculture
- Brittany Sonntag, Urban 4-H

### Cibola County - 505-287-9266

- Chase Elkins, County Director/Agriculture/4-H

### Los Alamos County - 505-662-2656

- Desiree Jimenez, County Director/ FCS/4-H
- Angela Prada, Horticulture/4-H

### McKinley County - 505-863-3432

- Kathy Landers, County Director/4-H Agriculture
- Patricia Largo, FCS/4-H

### Mora County - 575-387-2856

- Vacant position, County Director/Agriculture/4-H

### Rio Arriba County - 505-685-4523

- Donald Martinez, County Director/Agriculture
- Joy Russel Czmyrid, FCS/4-H
- Vacant Position, 4-H/Agriculture

### San Juan County - 505-334-9496

- Bonnie Hopkins Byers, County Director/Agriculture
- Richard Griffiths, FCS Augusta Ahlm, FCS/4-H
- Cheyenne Radojits, 4-H/Agriculture San Miguel
- Melissa Wright, County Director/Agriculture/4-H

### Sandoval County - 505-867-2582

- Madeline Gurney, County Director/FCS/4-H
- Brittany Johnson, 4-H/Agriculture
- Vacant Position, Agriculture

### Santa Fe County - 505-471-4711

- Tom Dominguez, County Director/Agriculture
- Michelle Stizza, FCS
- Sunny Finley, 4-H/Agriculture
- Paige Marez, 4-H/FCS

### Taos County - 575-758-3982

- Will Jaremko, County Director/Agriculture/4-H

### Torrance County - 505-246-4745

- Deborah Maberry, County Director/4-H/FCS
- Angela Hurst, 4-H/Agriculture

### Valencia County - 505-565-3002

- Sierra Cain, County Director/Agriculture
- Vacant Position, 4-H/Agriculture
- Crystal Anaya, FCS/4-H

### Valencia County

- Shellby Yazzi, 4-H Agriculture, Navajo Nation - 505-863-3432
- Richard Lopez, Agriculture, Navajo Nation - 505-863-3432
- Charlene Carr, 4-H/Agriculture, Southern Pueblos - 505-659-8983
- Vacant Position, 4-H/Agriculture, Northern Pueblos
- Vacant Position, 4-H Agriculture, Jicarilla Apache Nation