

THE AGRICULTURE & RANCHING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



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Santa Fe County has a rich agricultural heritage. The valleys and ranges have been in production for thousands of years, supporting diverse populations throughout history. Farming and ranching are profoundly embedded in the local culture and economy, and have shaped lives and landscapes for generations. This deeply forged connection to place fuels a passion and a lifestyle that continues to the present day.

The first permanent settlements in Santa Fe County were villages with distinct settlement patterns and agricultural/mixed community land uses. Today, there are multiple acequia-based communities whose cultures are intrinsically tied to agriculture. There is a long history of families growing their own food. Currently, demand and economic opportunity are on the rise for fresh, local agricultural products which are increasingly incorporated into restaurant menus, school lunch programs, and highlighted in grocery stores.

Agricultural sustainability requires the protection of existing farm and ranch land. Agricultural land uses are in competition with non-agricultural development, and fewer land owners are able to keep their land in production due to social and economic factors such as advanced age, lack of resources, other job commitments, and children leaving rural communities. These factors undermine the capacity of the local food system, and yet they have inspired work to maintain and enhance the local agricultural economy which is seen as essential to the health, economic well-being and quality of life for county residents.



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INTRO: THE AGRICULTURE & RANCHING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

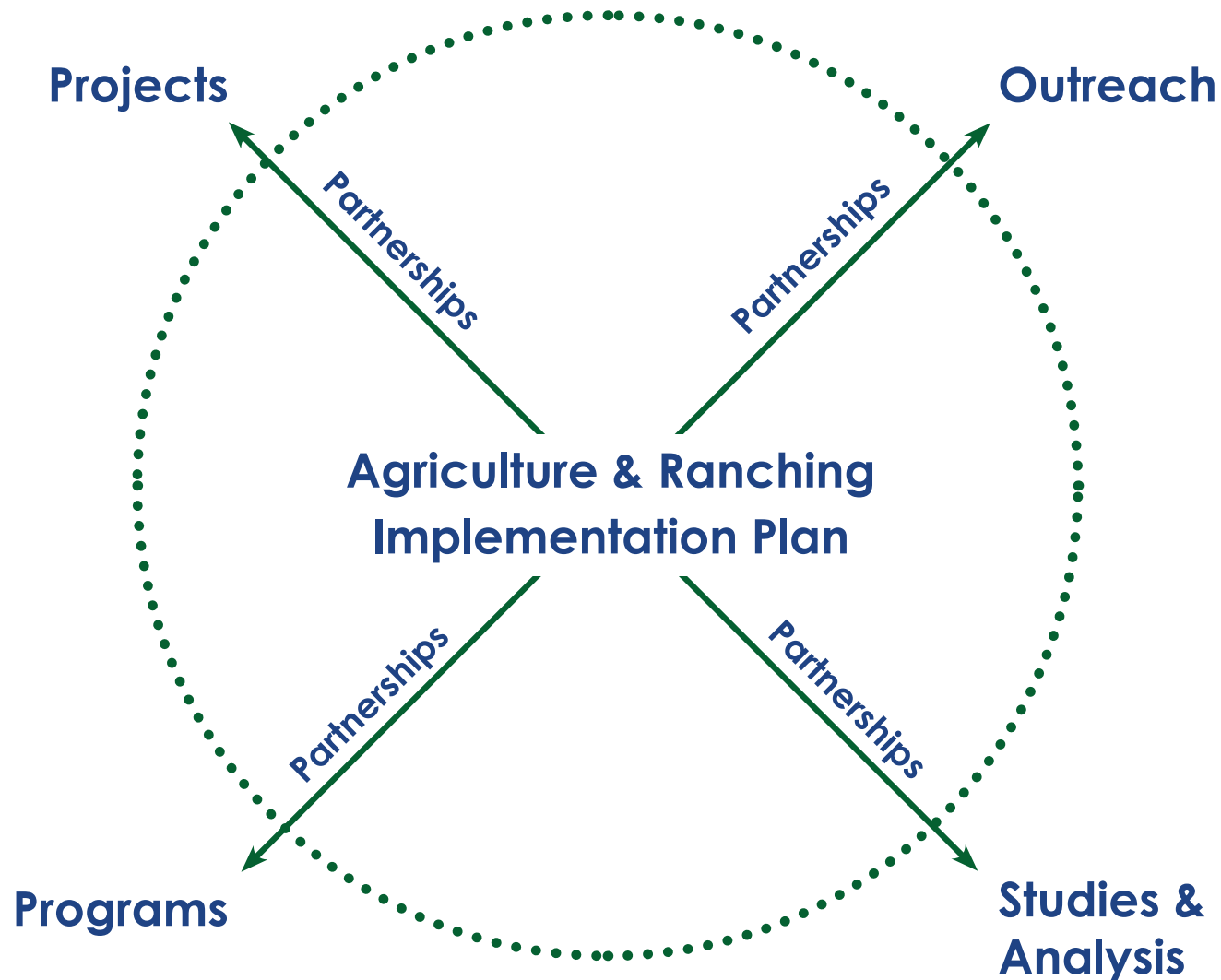
In 2016, the Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution 2016-5 to develop an Agriculture and Ranching Implementation (ARI) Plan. The ARI Plan includes extensive community input and builds upon past efforts and partnerships in the County. This plan is a guide for work being done through the Agriculture Revitalization Initiative which is an on-going effort to build a collective awareness of the importance of protecting agricultural resources, along with the challenges and opportunities in the County.

Implementing concepts and policies to revitalize agriculture requires a multi-faceted, action-oriented approach. The Agriculture and Ranching Implementation (ARI) Plan plays an important role in the Agriculture Revitalization Initiative, as it is designed with 'Focus Areas' which implement all twelve Agriculture and Ranching policies of the 2015 Sustainable Growth Management Plan. The ARI Plan outlines a critical path to enhance agricultural opportunity in Santa Fe County by:

- Promoting awareness of agricultural programs, incentives, financial and technical support;
- Connecting farmers and ranchers to resources;
- Demonstrating agricultural and ecological projects;
- Establishing baseline information regarding Santa Fe's capacity to produce food;
- Identifying market niches to strengthen the local food supply and demand chain; and
- Developing economic opportunity in the Agricultural sector.

The Agriculture Revitalization Initiative

The Agriculture Revitalization Initiative is an on-going effort to build a collective awareness of agricultural lands, resources, challenges and economic opportunities within the County.



AGRICULTURE POLICY AND REGULATORY ELEMENT

Santa Fe County has established an extensive policy and regulatory framework to support agriculture and ranching. The following documents contain the foundational goals and policies which have informed the Focus Areas of the Agriculture and Ranching Implementation Plan.

2015 Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP): The Agriculture and Ranching Element of the SGMP establishes several goals for the County to preserve and revitalize agriculture and ranching as critical components to local culture, economy and character. These goals are further articulated in policies and strategies for implementation of programs that will support and enhance agricultural opportunity in Santa Fe County. The agricultural goals of the SGMP include:

- Preserve, support, promote, and revitalize agriculture and ranching as critical components of the local economy, culture and character.
- Support local food systems and food security.
- Preserve and support community-based agriculture and the acequia system as an important part of the County's heritage and agricultural sustainability.

The Santa Fe County Economic Development Plan identifies agriculture as one of six target industries for economic growth. The Plan outlines key directions for progress in this sector, including:

- Maintain and augment agricultural infrastructure;
- Continue policy and advocacy;
- Allocate capital resources; and
- Coordinate regional leadership initiatives

Santa Fe County Health Action Plan FY 2015-2017 has made increasing the consumption of healthy food a priority area of focus, and proposes community-wide actions and County Government Planned Actions. Several actions include increasing access to and awareness of fresh food for various demographics, for example:

- Increase the availability of local food provides in school lunches;
- Enhance the regional food economy through ‘buy local’ education and initiatives;
- Develop food and agriculture business resource guides; and
- Support community gardens at senior centers

The Santa Fe Food Plan: Planning for Santa Fe’s Food Future ‘Querencia, a Story of Food, Farming and Friends’ identifies goals in 3 categories: Getting Food, Learning About Food, and Growing Food. The following are examples of actions identified in the Food Plan to protect local agricultural production capacity in order to expand residents’ access to fresh food, and to meet increasing demand for locally grown/raised food:

- Increase the amount of local fresh food provided through City and County operated institutions and schools;
- Promote self-reliance, family gardening and food preservation techniques;
- Increase the viability and presence of local gardens, farms and ranches; and
- Develop agricultural incentives and innovative programs to support small farmers and maximize food production in our regional foodshed.

The 2015 Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC) implements the policy framework outlined in the SGMP. The SLDC contains sections that were designed to facilitate continued agricultural land uses in the County, including:

- Section 8.5.2 Grazing and Ranching of Livestock allowed anywhere in the County
- Section 8.11.2 Rural Commercial Overlay
- Section 8.11.7 Agriculture Overlay (to be developed)
- Section 10.3.2.4 Agricultural, Grazing and/or Ranching Structures
- Section 12.14 Transfer of Development Rights
- The Agricultural, Forestry, and Conservation/Open Space Section of the Use Matrix



Community Plans have been developed over the years and have emphasized the importance of agriculture. The following communities have identified important agricultural challenges and opportunities:

The Agua Fria Community Plan was adopted in 2006, updated in 2015, and includes a vision to honor the area's historical, agricultural, livestock, and residential traditions. The Plan envisions land use and growth management practices which preserve the rural character and enhance farming and agricultural activities.

- A majority of agricultural land uses are permitted within the community.
- The community is interested in developing historical maps of acequias and diversion points of the Santa Fe River.

The Pojoaque Valley Strategic Plan was adopted in 2007, and was updated in 2015. The Plan includes 3 themes which were distilled through an analysis of strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats. Through the Plan update, the community specified several action items relating to agriculture:

- The 'rural character' theme includes topics of acequias, agriculture, history and culture.
- Create agricultural demonstration initiatives, community farms, markets, and classes;
- Design a formalized "land exchange" program;
- Conserve open space and contiguous irrigated agricultural land; and
- Develop preservation techniques such as an Agricultural Overlay to prioritize the protection of agricultural resources.

The Tesuque Community Plan was adopted in 2013, and contains an entire section dedicated to agriculture, acequias, and riparian areas. The plan recommends a three-pronged approach to enhancing opportunities for agricultural production and riparian restoration:

- Form a Stewardship Committee to educate and work with property owners to establish conservation and/or agricultural easements on their properties;

- Stewardship Committee will also work with property owners to implement existing programs to remove or control invasive species, such as elms, tamarisk, and restore the native vegetation in the Bosque and acequia irrigated lands; and
- Create incentives and provisions for parcels measuring at least 3 acres to receive density bonuses for transfer or compact development in exchange for setting aside a percentage of the lot for agricultural production or open space.

The Chimayo Community Plan was adopted in 2015 and contains several specific action items relating to agriculture, including:

- Agricultural Conservation Easements- Secure and/or purchase conservation easements that enable continuation of crop production;
- Agricultural Land Directory- Create a local directory for agricultural land owners and farmers looking for land to farm in order to keep agricultural land in production; and
- Agricultural Demonstration/Environmental Education Sites- Assess locations for agricultural demonstration sites and/or natural environment interpretive parks that are within walking distance of the Chimayo Elementary School such as the Chimayo Conservation Corps Tree Nursery Site and prepare strategic master plan.

The La Cienega and La Cieneguilla Community Plan was adopted in 2002 and updated in 2015. The plan includes an overarching goal to maintain and expand agriculture in the plan area, by limiting the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. Action steps outlined in the plan to support this goal include:

- Create an inventory of agricultural lands in the planning area;
- Create a representative committee of stakeholders to develop a community managed agricultural land protection program using methods such as land trusts, conservation easements and transfer of development rights;
- Support public land access for grazing, as it is a community tradition and directly tied to sustaining economically viable agricultural enterprises in the planning area;
- Establish a Transfer of Development Rights program and designate 'sending' and 'receiving' sites within the La Cienega-La Cieneguilla Community District.
- Develop an agricultural support program to help revitalize traditionally irrigated lands and agricultural activities such as small-scale farming and ranching in the planning area.



Santa Fe County Resolutions Pertaining to Agriculture have been adopted over the years demonstrating County support for various facets of local agriculture:

2002-82- Related to concern regarding local agricultural conditions in Santa Fe County.

2005-58- Supporting Federal Funding for the Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Stations.

2006-150- To Support of the Chimayo Chile Project through the Participation and Membership of the Chimayo Chile Coordination Committee.

2006-184- To Support of the Agricultural Revitalization Initiative.

2007-9- To Support of a “Declaration of Deed Sovereignty: A Living Document for New Mexico.”

2010-60- To Establish a Clearly Delineated Santa Fe County policy to Encourage and Assist Landowners Who Choose to Voluntarily Protect, In Perpetuity, The Open Space Character of Their Agricultural Land.

2010-222- Supporting State of New Mexico Legislation Increasing the Preference Advantage for the New Mexico Agriculture Sector For Both New Mexico Fresh Produce and Processed Products Purchased by Government and Other Public and Private Entities.

2011-188- Supporting 2012 Farm Bill Priorities as a Means to Securing a Regional Food System That is Just and Accessible for All Members of Santa Fe County Community.

2014-131- To Adopt the 2014 Food Plan, “Planning for Santa Fe’s Food Future: Querencia, A Story of Food Farming, and Friends.”

2015-173- In Support of the New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for School Meals Program.

2016-5- To Develop an Agriculture and Ranching Implementation Plan in Santa Fe County to Support the 2015 Sustainable Growth Management Plan.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ELEMENT

What We've Done

Santa Fe County recognizes that public involvement is important for successful planning efforts. Outreach is a critical component of this implementation process in that the communities are aware of very specific agricultural opportunities and challenges that are unique to their local context. These leverage points help inform the County's strategic actions.

In April and May of 2016, Santa Fe County hosted five community dialogues with agricultural stakeholders as a foundation for the development of the Agriculture and Ranching Implementation Plan. At least one meeting was held in each Growth Management Area (GMA), in order to get a broad perspective of agricultural needs throughout the County. The meetings were community dialogues about the status of local agriculture throughout the County. Staff also introduced the Agriculture Revitalization Initiative and topics of discussion included:

- Community perspectives
- Transfer of Development Rights Program
- The New Mexico Land Link Program
- The Agricultural Resource Inventory.

The following is a brief summary of some of the themes from each meeting:

El Norte GMA- Pojoaque Valley

Community members at the meeting recognized the large potential demand for local food in the valley, yet there are complicated challenges for agriculture in the community.

There are people growing food in the valley, it is a fertile region with access to water and more land could be in production. The residents possess knowledge, passion, and skill sets, and a focus on connecting people to equipment, resources and markets would greatly benefit the agricultural community. A permanent and prominent farm stand with people selling produce would be a resource for growers, as would an agricultural demonstration site. Community members who participated were interested in continuing the conversations to strengthen agriculture in the valley.

El Centro GMA- La Cienega

Participants shared information and stories about their agricultural land and experiences. They identified challenges including invasive species (both plant and animal), water availability, a shifting ecosystem, floods, lack of equipment and limited access to labor. Several local agricultural operations were highlighted, including vineyards, wholesale and retail production and innovative projects using green technology to produce New Mexico Algae. The Green Tractor Farm is a family farm selling produce at the Santa Fe Farmers' Market. They were highlighted as having won an award for managing the farm to maximize the land's productive capacity. The community members were very interested in learning more about additional market opportunities.



Estancia GMA- Stanley

Participants discussed that the historical nature of agriculture in the Estancia Basin was dryland farming and ranching, and that farmers and ranchers currently grow crops to supplement their income. Challenges to growing food include low water availability, invasive species further drawing down the water table, and no Organic Certified meat processing facilities in the state. There was a discussion of a proposed Edgewood-based agricultural demonstration project in the town's recreation area. Community members also discussed the Edgewood Senior Center Garden as an example for sustainable gardening with harvested water. They discussed how the fresh vegetables are currently distributed in a CSA fashion and were interested in using the produce for meals prepared at the facility. They noted that the garden could be more integrated into the community. There was also interest in using harvested rainwater for food production in other areas of the Basin.

Galisteo GMA- Cerrillos

Community members discussed various types of agriculture in the Galisteo Basin, including ranching, subsistence livestock and food production, backyard gardening, and sustainable farming utilizing harvested water. Participants also discussed the growing interest in integrated agricultural systems, such as aquaponics and hydroponics, which create closed loops in controlled environments among the water, nutrients, and microbes necessary for food production. Agricultural challenges that were discussed included limited access to financing for small scale growers, limited access to technical support for grant applications, difficulty finding high quality organic or non-GMO feed, limited water availability, zoning and land use regulations for greenhouses, and lack of viable markets for local products such as wool. The discussion highlighted a need for connecting community members with resources to support agriculture. Suggestions were made to increase efforts in soil building; utilize permaculture guidelines for landscape and structural design; collaborate with agencies to increase the number of people applying for state and federal grants; and increase availability of various types of agricultural equipment through partnerships.



El Norte GMA- Chimayo

The community participants indicated that many people would be interested in the agricultural dialogues with the County in order to become aware of opportunities to support their long term ability to produce food in rapidly changing growing conditions. Participants recognized that there are several parciantes on the ditches that would not show up in any kind of census report or even qualify for agricultural exemptions because they produce food and raise animals more on a subsistence scale. Everyone agreed that developing appropriate outreach to this demographic is important. There was also extensive discussion surrounding a very important community resource, Los Potreros. Points raised included collaborating with all associated landowners to improve upon the acequia and other infrastructure in order to manage the landscape to its highest potential. It was noted that change can cause resistance, and it is important to demonstrate positive change for the community. It is also important to use the Los Potreros Open Space Management Plan as a guide, as it was created with extensive community input. Several community members were interested in follow up agricultural conversations through the Agricultural Resource Inventory.

What We'll Do - Outreach, Partnerships, and Collaboration

The County will continue to reach out to communities and host agricultural dialogues to build relationships and momentum around key areas of work identified in the ARI Plan. Staff will also continue to collaborate with partners on initiatives as outlined in the ARI Implementation Matrix through:

- Community Organization - Registered Organization program notification
- Agricultural stakeholder meetings
- Partnering organizations' communication networks

The following section highlights several agencies, organizations and institutions who are all actively engaged in work to create and maintain viable markets for local products, connect farmers and ranchers with agricultural resources, preserve agricultural land, and cultivate knowledge, leadership and skill sets within the agricultural community.

There are several areas of intersection with existing agricultural initiatives where the County can play a definitive role in supporting and advancing efforts:

- To maintain and improve agriculture, ranching and acequia systems.
- To preserve and support agriculture and ranching practices through tools and incentives
- For proactive approaches to addressing food security and sustainable food systems.
- To develop economic opportunity in the agricultural sector.

The Ag Implementation Matrix expands upon action steps and identifies partnerships.



PARTNERSHIPS ELEMENT

Relationships are being developed and enhanced through the Agriculture and Ranching Implementation (ARI) Plan. The ARI Plan will connect and build upon work being done by existing groups. The following is an initial list of partners and a brief summary of the work they are already doing to support agriculture in our region. Santa Fe County has historically worked with several of these groups, and helped establish agricultural projects. The County anticipates expanding upon this list through on-going efforts to support the local agricultural economy.

Santa Fe Food Policy Council

The Santa Fe Food Policy Council was established by a joint resolution between the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County. The County actively participates in the Food Policy Council; staff hold two of the 13 positions. Staff also participate in subcommittees, including the Land Use subcommittee, and the Education and Outreach subcommittee.

The mission of the Santa Fe Food Policy Council is to develop and promote policies that create and maintain a food system that nourishes all people in our community in a just and sustainable manner.

In October of 2014, Santa Fe County adopted the Food Plan, *Planning for Santa Fe's Food Future: Querencia, a Story of Food Farming and Friends*. This guide is divided into 3 sections, 'Getting Food, Growing Food, and Learning About Food.' The Food Policy Council has developed a work plan through a 2016 Strategic Planning Session, and the following Food Plan goals have been prioritized:

- Align public transportation routes with food outlets that offer a full range of whole and fresh food options.

- Increase access to knowledge of existing food assistance (and food-related) programs.
- Align and publicize wellness policies throughout the Santa Fe Region
- Increase the viability and presence of local gardens, farms and ranches
- Develop agricultural incentives and innovative programs to support small farmers and maximize food production/distribution in our regional foodshed
- Increase the number of school gardens aimed at helping youth learn about food, farming, and healthy lifestyles

Farm to Table

The mission of Farm to Table is to promote locally based agriculture through education, community outreach and networking. Farm to Table enhances marketing opportunities for farmers; encourages family farming, farmers' markets and the preservation of agricultural traditions; informs public policy; and, furthers the understanding of the links between farming, food health and local economies.

Farm to Table coordinates the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council, and currently is involved with projects and initiatives such as Farm to School, Farm To Restaurant, farmer training and development, the role of pollinators, policy advocacy, for example the New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals and Double Up Food Bucks, and New Mexico Grown, a strategic collaboration of partners dedicated to building resiliency in our local food system.



Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute

The Santa Fe Farmers' Market Institute (SFFMI) advocates for farmers, ranchers and other land-based producers; provides equitable access to fresh, local food; owns and operates a year-round venue for the Santa Fe Farmers' Market; and manages programs to help sustain a profitable, locally-based agricultural community.

SFFMI offers the following programs:

- **Double Up Food Bucks** for EBT and Food Stamps where one EBT dollar equals twice the amount in Farmers Market tokens up to \$50 per day.
- **Children's Nutrition Program** which educates local elementary school students about the importance and benefits of fresh, local fruits and vegetables and allows them to sample and purchase fresh produce at the Market.
- **Micro Loans for Farmers** which allows any current vendor at the Santa Fe Farmers' Market to apply for a loan of \$250 to \$5000.
- **Resource Guide for Northern New Mexico Agricultural Producers** is a listing of resources purchased by the vendors who received micro loans from the Institute. It has been compiled so that northern New Mexico agricultural producers could have access to reliable sources for a variety of products and needs.
- **Small Agricultural Land Conservation Initiative** was convened in collaboration with the local Land Trust community because of a shared belief that small agricultural landowners should qualify for tax credits when they put their land into a conservation easement.
- **'Shoring Up Water Resources'** is a program that helps farmers to develop water conservation techniques and irrigation contingency plans on their farms, and advocates for water rights within the community.

Santa Fe Farmers Market

The Santa Fe Farmers Market exists to provide economic opportunities for our Members to prosper by creating a Market where authentic, locally grown products are made available to the Community. The Santa Fe Farmers Market represents over 150 active vendors and features hundreds of different agricultural products. To further meet Santa Fe's demand for fresh, local produce, the Market began operating year-round in 2002, and with more and more farmers using extended growing techniques, the "off season" becomes more successful every year.

La Montanita Co-op

The Co-op is New Mexico's largest community-owned natural foods market. The Co-op is a neighborhood store where the community can stop by for beautiful produce from farmers down the road. The Co-op is a leader in the local foods movement, and they support local farmers through the Foodshed Project. This initiative helps local farmers and producers get their products into more markets. Over 1,100 local products from 400 local producers make it to small community grocers, restaurants, and commercial kitchens as a result of the Co-op Distribution Center. The Co-op believes in the shared benefits of healthy food, sound environmental practices and a strong local economy with results that justify the resources used. La Montanita Co-op supports:

- Increased access to, and purchase of, healthy foods.
- A growing regenerative agriculture sector that uses sound environmental practices.
- A thriving and sustainable local economy that benefits members and community.
- A strengthened co-operative community.





Quivira Coalition

The Quivira Coalition's mission is to build resilience by fostering ecological, economic and social health on western landscapes through education, innovation, collaboration and progressive public and private land stewardship. They host the following programs:

- The Land and Water Program is designed to embody the four principles found in Quivira's tag line...education, innovation, restoration...one acre at a time. For each acre restored with the innovative ideas of our partners, we aim to educate volunteer participants in the ways of healing the ground.
- The New Agrarian Program offers apprenticeships in regenerative agriculture through partnership with mentor ranchers and farmers who are part of the Quivira community. In particular, this program aims to build resilience on Western lands by training the next generation of stewards in agricultural best practices, and by training ranchers and farmers to be mentors.
- Tribal Partnership with Hasbídító, which consists of three chapters on the Navajo Nation, Ojo Encino, Torreon, and Counselor. Currently, Quivira is assisting Hasbídító to expand their efforts to build economic and ecological resilience, principally by helping them develop the capacity for as many families as possible to grow healthy food at their homes. A group of these growers are actively involved in producing product for Mobile Farmer's Market sales, providing an immediate source of healthy food in these communities and a means of economic development.
- Quivira also hosts an annual conference in Albuquerque, and releases publications that disseminate lessons learned from our Land and Water, New Agrarian, and Outreach Programs, as well as share knowledge and experience from similar efforts around the West, via our journal Resilience, books, field guides, case studies, and other media. Topics include land health, riparian restoration, progressive livestock management, sustainable food production, the radical center, carbon ranching, young agrarians, resilient working landscapes, diverse partnerships, and building community capacity.

New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association (NMCGA)

The purpose of the Association is to advance and protect the cattle industry of New Mexico; work toward solutions of industry problems, promote the well-being of the industry; provide an official and united voice on issues of importance to the cattle producers and feeders; and create and maintain an economic climate that will provide members of the Association the opportunity to obtain optimum return on their investment.

NMCGA has been the voice of the beef industry in New Mexico since 1914. With members in 32 of the state's 33 counties as well as 19 other states, the Association represents cattlemen and their supporters from the Roundhouse in Santa Fe to the halls of Congress and everywhere in between. NMCGA is a grass-roots, membership-based organization with some 20 committees addressing the issues that affect ranchers and private property owners daily ranging from Theft & Health to Promotion & Marketing to Wildlife and much more.

Today's Association is heavily involved in many activities to promote and protect the livestock industry in New Mexico and across the West. NMCGA provides numerous learning opportunities annually, including the Cattlemen's College and participation in the New Mexico State University Short Course. The Association also understands that it is the youth of today that will emerge as the leaders of tomorrow. This is why the Association dedicated a committee to the younger generation, the Young Cattlemen's Leadership Committee and the Junior Cattle Growers' Association.

NMCGA founded the New Mexico Ag Leadership Program to identify and develop effective leadership within the food, agricultural, and natural resources of New Mexico. The program aids in developing and cultivating their skills to serve as better leaders. Curriculum topics include public relations, social economic, and cultural issues, international issues, and state and national government processes.



New Mexico Land Conservancy

The New Mexico Land Conservancy's mission is to preserve New Mexico's land heritage by helping people conserve the places they love. In 2002, the New Mexico Land Conservancy was formed. To date, NMLC has conserved more than 153,000 acres of land throughout the state at community, watershed, and landscape scales. They have set a 25 year goal of expanding that to one million acres. NMLC plans to meet that goal by partnering with others who share the same desire to preserve New Mexico's land and resources for the benefit and enjoyment of local communities, the public, and future generations of New Mexicans.

Santa Fe Conservation Trust

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust is dedicated to preserving the spirit of place among the communities of northern New Mexico by protecting open spaces and critical wildlife habitat, by creating trails, and by protecting the traditional landscapes of our diverse cultures. This mission aims to protect and enhance key natural areas, ranch and agricultural lands, river and stream corridors, trails, and the natural open lands that define and sustain the rich and memorable landscape. SFLT accomplishes their mission by working with people in culturally diverse communities in ways that enhance community values, create meaningful connections between people and the land, preserve heritage and encourage collaborative action. By providing landowners with tools to place their lands into voluntary conservation status, SFCT now oversees protection of more than 36,000 acres in northern New Mexico.

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust began creating a Strategic Conservation Plan (SCP) for its region in 2010. The Conservation Planning process includes aspects such as compiling data on the biodiversity of the region and identifying conservation goals for the planning region (i.e. protection of productive farmlands, buffering existing protected areas and connecting wildlife corridors).

University of New Mexico

The UNM Sustainability Studies Program offers an undergraduate minor degree to students in any department or college on campus. The program provides interdisciplinary, hands-on, community-engaged learning that informs students' academic work, future careers, and personal lives. Among the many topics of sustainability covered in this program, the program has historically hosted Foodshed Field Schools, offers a Growers' Market Practicum, and they have initiated Flagship Farm on campus.

Santa Fe Community College

The School of Trades, Technology Sustainability, and Professional Studies offers a program in Greenhouse Management. In this program, students learn how Controlled- Environment Agriculture assists in efforts to revitalize agriculture production and supports local food systems. Specifically, students are taught greenhouse operations and management techniques, Aquaponic and Hydroponic systems, and a variety of sustainable methods to enhance all crop production efforts. A large part of the program involves a variety of hands-on experimental tasks in one of several operating systems. Students gain experience with crop production from seed to harvest in a variety of culture methods and locations. Operations in the existing geodesic dome greenhouse involve crop rotation, pest management, and pollination/pruning.

Currently, students can pursue either an Associate of Applied Science in Greenhouse Management or a Certificate in Greenhouse Management.





The !Sostenga! Commercial Kitchen- Northern New Mexico College

The !Sostenga! Commercial Kitchen on Northern's Española campus is a partnership between the College, Rio Arriba County and the Rio Grande Development Corporation's Siete del Norte.

According to Siete Del Norte, the goal of the project is to act as a business incubator, supporting the creation of new food businesses across northern New Mexico. It is designed to support regional farmers and ranchers interested in starting their own businesses by providing a facility to get them started. The kitchen will be an FDA licensed commercial kitchen outfitted with commercial-grade cooking and filling equipment. Clients will also have access to training and mentorship through the project and its partners.

The New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA)

The mission of the New Mexico Acequia Association is to protect water and our acequias, grow healthy food for our families and communities, and to honor our cultural heritage. NMAA hosts the following projects:

- **The Acequia Governance Project's** purpose is to strengthen acequia governance through community education, technical assistance, and legal assistance.
- **The Escuelita de las Acequias** is a service learning and leadership development program. NMAA works closely with adults and youth from various acequia communities throughout the state and hosts encuentros or gatherings which are intended to support the following:
 1. Enable community leaders to build relationships around shared values and work
 2. Share the concept of community education and organizing through the Escuelita de las Acequias, and
 3. To generate and share ideas, strategies and work plans for tareas or community service projects.
- **The Mayordomo Project** seeks to investigate and record the practical local knowledge of living mayordomos in order to develop a method and program for the transmission of this knowledge to a new generation of mayordomos. It aims to identify, describe, understand, and transmit knowledge that is common among all mayordomos as well as particular to a specific individual and location.

- **The Sembrando Semillas Network** works to cultivate a cadre of acequia leaders of all ages passionate about their identity as land-based people who express their *querencia* through working the land, sharing water, and growing food. Participants work on agricultural-related projects in their own communities with a strong focus on acequia traditions and values. Within the network, participants learn from each other by exchanging ideas, visiting each other's projects and communities, and doing hands-on activities together.
- **Food and Seed Alliance** works to continue, revive, and protect our native seeds, crops, heritage fruits, animals, wild plants, traditions, and knowledge of our indigenous, land- and acequia- based communities in New Mexico for the purpose of maintaining and continuing our culture and resisting the global, industrialized food system that can corrupt our health, freedom, and culture through inappropriate food production and genetic engineering.

The Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG)

The MRCOG hosts several meetings, activities and programs to support local food, including monthly Agricultural Collaborative meetings, the Local Food Festival and Field Day, the New Mexico LandLink Program, a Local Food Blog, E-Newsletter, Maps, and Local Food and Agriculture Events Calendar.





The North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD)

The NCNMEDD has established 13 goals, including:

- **Water** - To promote improved quality, utilization, conservation and development of the District's water resources.
- **Land** - Encourage coordinated land use policies which will maximize economic potential and minimize ecological threats.
- **Agriculture** - To improve agricultural techniques, income and productivity.
- **Industrial and Business Development** - Broaden the economic and financial base of the District in order to:
 - 1) decrease unemployment and increase per capita income for District residents; and
 - 2) provide access to capital and management skill to enhance business and entrepreneurial development.
- **Community Planning and Education** - To provide educational support and training to local governments in planning, resource inventory, citizen participation, program evaluation and community development.

New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD), and the Estancia and Santa Fe-Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Soil and Water Conservation Districts facilitate the conservation of natural resources in New Mexico by providing opportunities and quality support to local conservation districts and partners through representation and leadership. The following are some of the current Programs offered:

- **Farm Bill Program Technical Assistance.** The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) manages a Technical Service Provider Program (TSP) in New Mexico to provide services authorized under the United States Department of Agriculture's National Farm Bill Programs.
- **Restore New Mexico.** The purpose of the initiative is to address invasive species on range and woodland on private, state, and federal lands in New Mexico. NMACD has been coordinating funding from the NRCS-EQIP program and the BLM-Restore New Mexico program to provide funds to ranchers for addressing brush species.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. Financial Assistance

NRCS offers voluntary programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to provide financial and technical assistance to help manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. Through these programs the agency approves contracts to provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy, improve soil, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land.

- **The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)** helps agricultural producers use conservation to manage risk and solve natural resource issues through natural resources conservation. NRCS administers the AMA conservation provisions while the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Risk Management Agency implement other provisions under AMA.
- **The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.
- **The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

2. Technical Assistance

NRCS delivers conservation technical assistance through its voluntary Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA). CTA is available to any group or individual interested in conserving our natural resources and sustaining agricultural production in this country. This assistance can facilitate areas such as the implementation of better land management technologies, improved water quality, and diversified agricultural operations.



(NRCS continued)

3. Easements

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land.

Santa Fe County Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service provides the people of New Mexico with practical, research-based knowledge and programs to improve their quality of life. The Santa Fe County Extension Service is dedicated to meeting the needs of a diverse population, and specializes in Agriculture Programs, Horticulture, Xeriscape Landscaping, Home Economics, ICan, and 4-H programs.

Communities

By writing a community plan, residents are partnering with the County to document what is special about their home. Several communities have incorporated agriculture into community plan vision statements, historical sections, goals/strategies, and implementation matrices.

The following Focus Areas expand upon opportunities which have been identified by staff where collaboration could lead to tangible results in our local food system.



FOCUS AREA ELEMENT 1: PROTECTING LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

SGMP Policies:

14.1 Protect agricultural and ranching uses by limiting incompatible development in agricultural areas.

14.2 Support the practicality of agricultural uses to include financing tools such as Transfer of Development Rights and mechanisms such as an agricultural overlay to support the viability of agriculture.

14.3 Protect agricultural operations and practices from nuisance claims, and minimize negative impacts on agricultural, natural and community resources.

15.5 Support and incent local agricultural production.

16.1 Revitalize the role of agriculture and acequias in the County

16.2 Protect water supply and appropriate use of water for agricultural uses.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program and Outreach

Santa Fe County has initiated the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program in accordance with the SGMP and the SLDC. The purpose of the TDR program is to promote the preservation of agriculture, rural open space, and character, scenic vistas, natural features, areas of special character or special historic, cultural or aesthetic interest or value, and environmental resources for the benefit of residents of Santa Fe County.

The TDR Program is a voluntary, incentive-based, market-driven approach to preserving agricultural land, open space and other environmental resources while encouraging development in designated County growth areas.

The TDR program consists of sending sites and receiving sites.

Sending Sites:

Sending Site areas are permanently preserved, remain in private ownership and are managed by private landowners. A landowner in a sending site can sell their development rights once the property is preserved through a conservation easement, which is developed by both the landowner and the County. Land owners may choose to retain some development rights on their property for future use.

Receiving Sites:

Receiving Site areas may have increased density and intensity of development through the acquisition of TDRs. Receiving sites are established in the SLDC and Zoning Map and have been identified for increased development based on the presence of adequate public facilities and services.

Sending Sites

Agricultural, Open Space & Critical Resource
Preservation & Economic Returns



Receiving Sites
Potential for increased
intensity of height, square
footage and/or number of
units.



The Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program

TDRs benefit agriculture in Santa Fe County by providing landowners a way to protect agricultural resources and maintain ownership of their land and water while generating revenue by selling their development rights.

Transfer of Development Rights Bank

A TDR Bank is an important element for a successful TDR program. The TDR Bank will provide a mechanism for the acquisition and sale of TDRs. It also will provide a clear, transparent structure for property owners interested in selling TDRs and developers who have an interest in purchasing TDRs to understand the price and availability of TDRs. The TDR Bank may provide criteria in order for the County to most efficiently identify and prioritize agricultural and ranching land for preservation and protection.

The County is moving forward to contract services for a TDR Bank Benefits Analysis.

The ARI Plan calls for:

- On-going outreach to communities and stakeholders Countywide to inform residents about TDR Options.
- Establishment of the role of the TDR Bank for the overall functionality of the TDR Program.
- Collaboration with partners to become familiar with other 'tools' in the land conservation tool kit to provide landowners a comprehensive range of options.

Summary of Action Steps – Expanded upon in the Implementation Element

- Develop on-going TDR Outreach Strategy
- Develop a 'tool kit' of land and water conservation options for protection of agricultural uses
- Complete a TDR Bank Benefits Analysis
- Develop criteria for the prioritization of land preserved for public benefit through the TDR Bank
- Develop incentives for the TDR Program
- Establish the TDR Bank



FOCUS AREA ELEMENT 2: SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

SGMP Policies:

14.1 Protect agricultural and ranching uses by limiting incompatible development in agricultural areas.

14.3 Protect agricultural operations and practices from nuisance claims, and minimize negative impacts on agricultural, natural and community resources.

14.4 Support agricultural options to include flexible mixed use zoning for agriculture and ranching.

15.1 Coordinate with local communities and organizations to establish an education and demonstration center to promote gardening, organic farming, food systems, traditional agriculture and practices through sustainability seminars in order to enhance local food production.

Supporting Agricultural Operations

Through work with communities and dialogues with farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural stakeholders, it is clear that more connections need to be made between people producing the food and the resources they need to do it. These resources range from equipment to technical/financial support and access to land, water, quality seed and helping hands. There are existing programs designed to provide these services to the agricultural community and the County will work with partners and community members to increase the awareness of these opportunities.

Connection- Access to Land and People through New Mexico Land Link

The ARI Plan identifies New Mexico Land Link as an example of a program designed to connect farmers, ranchers and resources. The 2015 Sustainable Growth Management Plan identifies 'Keys to Sustainability', which include the need to link potential new farmers and ranchers with elders who have experience in agriculture. The entry of a new generation of farmers and ranchers is critical to the future of local farming.

There is an increasing demand for locally grown food in Santa Fe County and around the state, but New Mexico faces challenges in providing consistent supply to meet this demand. The rising cost and loss of agricultural land coupled with an aging farmer and ranching population is contributing to a situation where we may see a decrease in yields for local food production in the coming years.

Mexico Land Link is a web-based clearing-house set up for “land holders” (those who have land and need someone to farm it) and “land seekers” (those who are looking for land to farm). The purpose of the program is to facilitate connections between land owners who are not actively farming their land, and farmers/ranchers who are looking for an opportunity to begin agricultural enterprises. LandLink also provides current listings of available internships, mentorships, and agricultural-related job opportunities. Besides serving as a ‘match-making’ resource, the program is dedicated to helping the next generation of farmers succeed by providing access to training and business development services. These include business planning, financing, technical field assistance, and management training. Available resources include sample copies of tenure, sales, and lease agreements.

The New Mexico Land Link website is a community-based tool, and partners play an important role in connecting farmers, ranchers and resources. The program is designed to highlight various scales and locations of land for aspiring farmers and ranchers to select from. Santa Fe County will work with partners from all areas of the County with the goal of increasing the number of participants and diversifying the options of land showcased on LandLink New Mexico.

SGMP Policies:

15.2 Support local initiatives and coordinate with agriculture-related organizations and stakeholders to support agriculture and economic development and maintain healthy food and lifestyle options for all residents.

15.3 Coordinate with government and other entities on agricultural initiatives.

15.4 Support local food system and security through consideration of a broad range of food access and supply issues.

15.5 Support and incent local agricultural production.

16.1 Revitalize the role of agriculture and acequias in the County.

16.2 Protect water supply and appropriate use of water for agricultural uses.

16.3 Develop and implement compatible acequia protection standards.



Making It Easier to Produce Food

Santa Fe County is committed to protecting arable agricultural land and to supporting the economic viability of existing and potential agricultural enterprises. A theme repeated during the Community Dialogues was the challenge farmers and ranchers face accessing support and essential resources in order to make agricultural use of the land a viable and profitable endeavor.

The 2015 Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP) foundational principles include agricultural production, environmental responsibility, economic strength and diversity, and community livability/quality of life:

- **How We Conserve and Protect:** Support agricultural and ranching activities
- **How We Produce:** Support and promote local food production, sustainable agriculture and growers and farmers markets.
- **How We Prepare:** Develop local food security
- **How We Evolve:**
 1. Support self-determination and self-sufficiency in all communities
 2. Retain young adults in our communities through high quality and creative employment opportunities
 3. Promote green energy technology

Specific examples of areas where improvements could be made based on community feedback and SGMP principles include:

- Enhance opportunities for season extension structures such as greenhouses, hoop-houses and other closed-loop food production structures using green energy technology for agricultural uses throughout the County
- Increasing access to financial assistance and crop insurance for smaller scale and diversified crop operations
- Ensuring reliable access to affordable equipment
- Providing technical support to achieve conservation goals in landscape management for long term sustainable production.

Several agencies offer programs designed to provide smaller scale agricultural producers with assistance and resources, including the Natural Resource Conservation Service, County Extension Office, and the Estancia and Santa Fe-Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Connecting farmers and ranchers to resources will allow the County to continue building relationships and developing innovative programs. The result of keeping land in agriculture will support increased food production to meet local market demand.

The ARI Plan calls for:

- On-going outreach to communities and stakeholders Countywide to build relationships and provide information.
- Development of clear policies and land use regulations to allow greenhouses and other enclosed production structures for agricultural uses in the County.
- Identification of community-based resources to support farmers' needs for more efficient food production.
- Collaboration with partners to compile information on various agricultural resources and programs.

Summary of Action Steps – Expanded upon in the Implementation Element:

- Develop an outreach strategy for NM Land Link
- Develop Agricultural Overlay framework
- Collaborate with community members, agencies and organizations to develop localized equipment share programs
- Collaborate with agencies and organizations to increase farmer and rancher access to appropriately scaled financial resources
- Provide information about technical support opportunities to local farmers and ranchers
- Develop a comprehensive guide for local agricultural resources and programs



FOCUS AREA ELEMENT 3: PROMOTING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO AGRICULTURAL USE OF COUNTY PROPERTIES

SGMP Policies:

15.1 Coordinate with local communities and organizations to establish an education and demonstration center to promote gardening, organic farming, food systems, traditional agriculture and practices through sustainability seminars in order to enhance local food production.

15.2 Support local initiatives and coordinate with agriculture-related organizations and stakeholders to support agriculture and economic development and maintain healthy food and lifestyle options for all residents.

15.3 Coordinate with government and other entities on agricultural initiatives.

15.4 Support local food system and security through consideration of a broad range of food access and supply issues.

15.5 Support and incent local agricultural production.

Agricultural & Ecological Demonstration Projects

Agricultural and Ecological (Argo-Ecological) Demonstration Projects provide opportunities to showcase the mutually beneficial dynamics of well-designed agricultural and ecological systems in a landscape in order to increase land productivity/grazing potential and improve water quality, wildlife habitat, erosion control, and flood resiliency while producing food. The ARI Plan aligns with and supports project and management plans for several Open Space properties.

Santa Fe County is developing Open Space Management Plans for multiple properties in the County. The plans identify property specific needs, existing site conditions, community and stakeholder vision, management goals, and action steps to be addressed through on-going strategic planning and maintenance. Los Potreros Open Space (LPOS), and La Cieneguilla Open Space (LCOS) were identified as areas where agricultural uses may be appropriate in conjunction with certain ecological restoration efforts.

Los Potreros Open Space (LPOS)

The Los Potreros Open Space is a 40-acre County Open Space property, in the far northern part of Santa Fe County in Chimayo, at the confluence of the Rio Quemado and Rio Santa Cruz. Through the management planning processes, Los Potreros Open Space has been identified as a potential candidate for a pilot Agro-Ecological Demonstration Project. The LPOS offers a unique scenic backdrop to El Santuario de Chimayo. More than half of the LPOS consists of historic grassland, or “Potrero” (foal pasture), while the eastern part consists of foothills lined with acequias and dry juniper savannah at higher elevations, bordering BLM land. The LPOS property includes a unique wetland and riparian ecosystem, and much of the pastures are currently wetlands.

The LPOS has maintained a historic, pastoral character, and local residents of Chimayo have strongly advocated for the preservation of these qualities. The LPOS Management Plan outlines the potential for some agricultural uses that have been considered carefully and are designed to minimize the impact on the land. The property may include some grazing activities contingent upon the restoration of grassland health, the development of an appropriate lease system. The property may also be used for educational opportunities.

Specific Management Objectives of the LPOS relating to an Agro-Ecological Demonstration Project include:

- **Scenic & Interpretive.** Maintain the area’s scenic, pastoral, and historical qualities, and provide and maintain locally appropriate interpretive education, which may include simple signage
- **Ecological Health.** Maintain the ecological health, resilience, and productivity of the LPOS wetlands, pastures and riparian areas, and maintain wildlife habitat qualities
- **Grazing.** Establish a managed, restorative grazing program (and rest periods) as a way to improve grassland and wetland health
- **Agriculture.** Develop locally appropriate, small-scale agricultural opportunities, and, therefore, maintain water rights and acequia use
- **Education.** Explore educational and research opportunities

La Cieneguilla Open Space (LCOS)

The LCOS is a 150-acre County Open Space property along the Santa Fe River in La Cieneguilla, just west of the City of Santa Fe, located in the center of what used to be the La Cieneguilla Land Grant. The La Cieneguilla Open Space (LCOS) has also been identified as a County Open Space property with potential agricultural and/or grazing uses in the longer term. These uses are recommended as secondary to other primary uses.

SGMP Policies:

16.1 Revitalize the role of agriculture and acequias in the County.

16.2 Protect water supply and appropriate use of water for agricultural uses.

16.3 Develop and implement compatible acequia protection standards.



The LCOS property includes unique natural resources associated with the Santa Fe River and with grasslands and former agricultural fields on old river terraces. The area includes a unique riparian ecosystem and valuable wildlife habitat and corridors. The property has 360-degree views of the Santa Fe County landscape and conveys a sense of the rural, open landscape of the historic La Cieneguilla Land Grant. The LCOS is located north of the settlement of La Cieneguilla and is close to many prehistoric cultural sites.

The LCOS Management Plan contains strategies to maintain a healthy ecosystem with native grasslands, and native wildlife habitats. Agricultural activities may be appropriate, as long as they are managed to protect and regenerate the grasslands. Educational opportunities may also be appropriate for the public to learn about the land, water, ecology, human history, and past and current uses of the place.

Specific Management Objectives of the LCOS relating to an Agro-Ecological Demonstration Project include:

- **Ecological Health.** Maintain the ecological health, resilience, and productivity of the LCOS uplands and riparian area, and maintain wildlife habitat qualities and connectivity across the landscape
- **Grasslands.** Evaluate the removal of some junipers to improve the regeneration of the grasslands while maintaining visual benefits.
- **Grazing.** Explore and use – when appropriate – managed, restorative grazing practices (and rest periods) as a way to improve grassland health
- **Education.** Provide and maintain interpretive education, and explore and use educational and research opportunities

The Pojoaque Recreation Complex

This County-owned recreational complex provides an opportunity for a variety of community functions. The site conditions of the southeast corner require revegetation and drainage improvements. Vegetation appropriate for the site includes native plants intermixed with native or naturalized edible species, ranging from stone fruit tree varieties, to wild asparagus, chokecherry, to traditional medicinal and culinary herbs. This Agro-Ecological Demonstration site could be designed as a 'Forage Forest', requiring minimal on-going upkeep once established, and providing an opportunity for interpretive signage.

Romero Park Community Garden

Romero Park is located in the historic Village of Agua Fria. The property includes a 30 acre park site and is the largest park operated by Santa Fe County. In 2016, the County completed Phase I of new improvements to the park including park infrastructure improvements, improved parking areas, irrigation systems, a community lawn space, a community plaza space, a shade structure at the exiting restroom building and playground improvements. Future phases may include improvements to existing recreation facilities, new recreation facilities, trails, a community garden, public spaces and integration of the park with the Santa Fe River Greenway.

Existing/Future County Facilities

Water harvesting technology can be integrated into new and existing structures to irrigate an agricultural demonstration project and produce food sustainably while conserving water. Roofs are resources that provide impermeable surfaces which can effectively harvest over 95% of the rainwater that falls on them. Just a small rain storm can produce large amounts of water runoff and if the storage capacity of the tanks is calibrated appropriately, the water is available for irrigation, even in times of drought.

The Santa Fe County Edgewood Senior Center is a successful example of how rainwater harvesting, dedicated gardeners and fertile earth can produce fresh food for the health and enjoyment of local people. The gardens also enhance the overall beauty of the center. This model can be applied to new and existing buildings where adjacent food gardens could provide aesthetic charm, educational opportunities, and access to fresh food.



The ARI Plan calls for:

- Considering agro-ecological demonstration projects on County properties
- Integrating agriculture within the surrounding ecological context
- Incorporating low maintenance edible species or community garden spaces into County landscaping projects, where appropriate.
- Aligning existing and future water harvesting systems with food production.

Summary of Action Steps – Expanded upon in the Implementation Element

- Develop acequia management systems to maintain and improve infrastructure and drainage where appropriate
- Develop Pasture & Grazing Management Plans where appropriate
- Develop the County Grazing Lease process
- Plant riparian buffer strips of native vegetation where appropriate
- Develop dryland gardening demonstration projects where appropriate
- Plant a variety of edible, native or naturalized species where appropriate
- Develop interpretive education program for agro-ecological demonstration projects.
- Integrate food gardens into the programming and design of future County facilities where appropriate
- Equip or augment appropriate County structures with rainwater catchment systems designed to irrigate food gardens and other landscaping



FOCUS AREA ELEMENT 4: UNDERSTANDING THE CAPACITY OF OUR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

SGMP Policies:

14.1 Protect agricultural and ranching uses by limiting incompatible development in agricultural areas.

14.2 Support the practicality of agricultural uses to include financing tools such as Transfer of Development Rights and mechanisms such as an agricultural overlay to support the viability of agriculture.

15.1 Coordinate with local communities and organizations to establish an education and demonstration center to promote gardening, organic farming, food systems, traditional agriculture and practices through sustainability seminars in order to enhance local food production.

15.2 Support local initiatives and coordinate with agriculture-related organizations and stakeholders to support agriculture and economic development and maintain healthy food and lifestyle options for all residents.

Santa Fe County Agricultural Resource Inventory

Today's local food systems consist of supply and demand chains. Agricultural resources encompass various scales of production, water, and also the people and places that purchase and distribute local food. It is essential to understand existing conditions of local agriculture to strategically plan for the viability of future local food supply and demand.

The Agricultural Resource Inventory will establish baseline data regarding the current status of agriculture and ranching in Santa Fe County, and provide information about market niches, production capacity of the County, and average values for select agricultural products. The inventory is intended to be a dynamic tool that is updated as conditions change.

The information will be available to community members, policy makers, business owners, researchers, and agricultural producers for the purposes of building resiliency and networks in the local foodshed.

Reaching out to Farmers and Ranchers

The County's history of community planning has yielded relationships with community members, and the County will design a coordinated approach to reach various producers in the local food system, from parciantes who grow food for their families, to market farmers to wholesale producers. The goal is to learn more about the current capacity to grow food in Santa Fe County. Future phases of this work may include forecasting potential food production capacity if strategically identified underutilized lands were rehabilitated to support agriculture.

In order to obtain information from farmers and ranchers to develop the Agricultural Resource Inventory, the County will be asking growers questions relating to what they grow and/or raise, how many acres are in production, what types of land use practices they employ, and what challenges they face. In addition to requesting this information, County will also be connecting farmers and ranchers to resources.

This information will help to paint a picture of how much local food is actually being produced, which is crucial to understand as there is an increasing demand for local food.

The County will compile information regarding average yields per acre for various crops, based on research and community input. Where gaps in local food production are identified, next steps may include targeted efforts to connect growers to markets niches.

The Agriculture Resource Inventory will provide information, and also focus on relationship building with members of the agricultural community. Stories from the fields are living history, and there is both economic potential and important local character embedded in those stories. By speaking with community members on the topic of agriculture, the County will have a better understanding of the needs and challenges faced by local growers, and will be better positioned to offer targeted support specific to a community's context.

Learning About Local Markets

As the County develops an understanding of the local production capacity, there will be a simultaneous effort to identify the various market opportunities for local growers. The data analysis is intended to guide new or existing growers who may be interested in expanding or diversifying production by providing current information from entities that purchase and/or distribute local food.

The inventory will document existing market conditions, and identify key crops or food products that are not currently available in sufficient supply. There may also be a step-by-step guide outlining the necessary steps a grower would need to complete in order to sell to a specific buyer. For example, if a grower were interested in selling products through the Santa Fe Public Schools, the application protocols, deadlines, and requirements would be available for a grower to review and compare to other wholesale opportunities. The Agricultural Resource Inventory will also provide an estimated range of value per crop in a variety of sales venues, based on current average wholesale and retail prices.

SGMP Policies:

15.3 Coordinate with government and other entities on agricultural initiatives.

15.4 Support local food system and security through consideration of a broad range of food access and supply issues.

15.5 Support and incent local agricultural production.

16.1 Revitalize the role of agriculture and acequias in the County.

16.2 Protect water supply and appropriate use of water for agricultural uses.

16.3 Develop and implement compatible acequia protection standards.

The ARI Plan calls for:

- Baseline data to support the Agricultural Revitalization Initiative and associated projects
- Relationship building with the local agricultural community in order to learn about what is grown and raised here and to increase awareness of agricultural market opportunities
- Focused agricultural economic development efforts to facilitate connections between local growers and niche markets
- On-going community dialogues about agriculture
- Identification of the infrastructural requirements of a functional food system supply and demand chain

Summary of Action Steps – Expanded upon in the Implementation Element

- Develop an Agricultural Stakeholder Outreach Plan
- Conduct outreach to agricultural producers throughout the County
- Develop Agricultural Resource Maps
- Develop Local Food System Analysis Report
- Design an 'Agricultural Clearinghouse'
- Establish an Agriculture Steering Committee
- Identify capital improvement needs in our local food system to facilitate the storage and distribution of products.



AGRICULTURE IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

The Agriculture Implementation Matrix lists actions that the County and partners will consider initiating in order to achieve many of the agricultural goals and objectives identified in each focus area element. It provides a quick look at recommendations that are presented in greater detail in the body of the plan. Implementing the strategies, projects, programs and activities will be on-going and evolve as conditions change. The matrix should be periodically updated and amended to meet the on-going needs and expectations of the community. The strategies, projects, programs and activities will be initiated and implemented through a variety of approaches, partnerships, and funding sources.