



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.

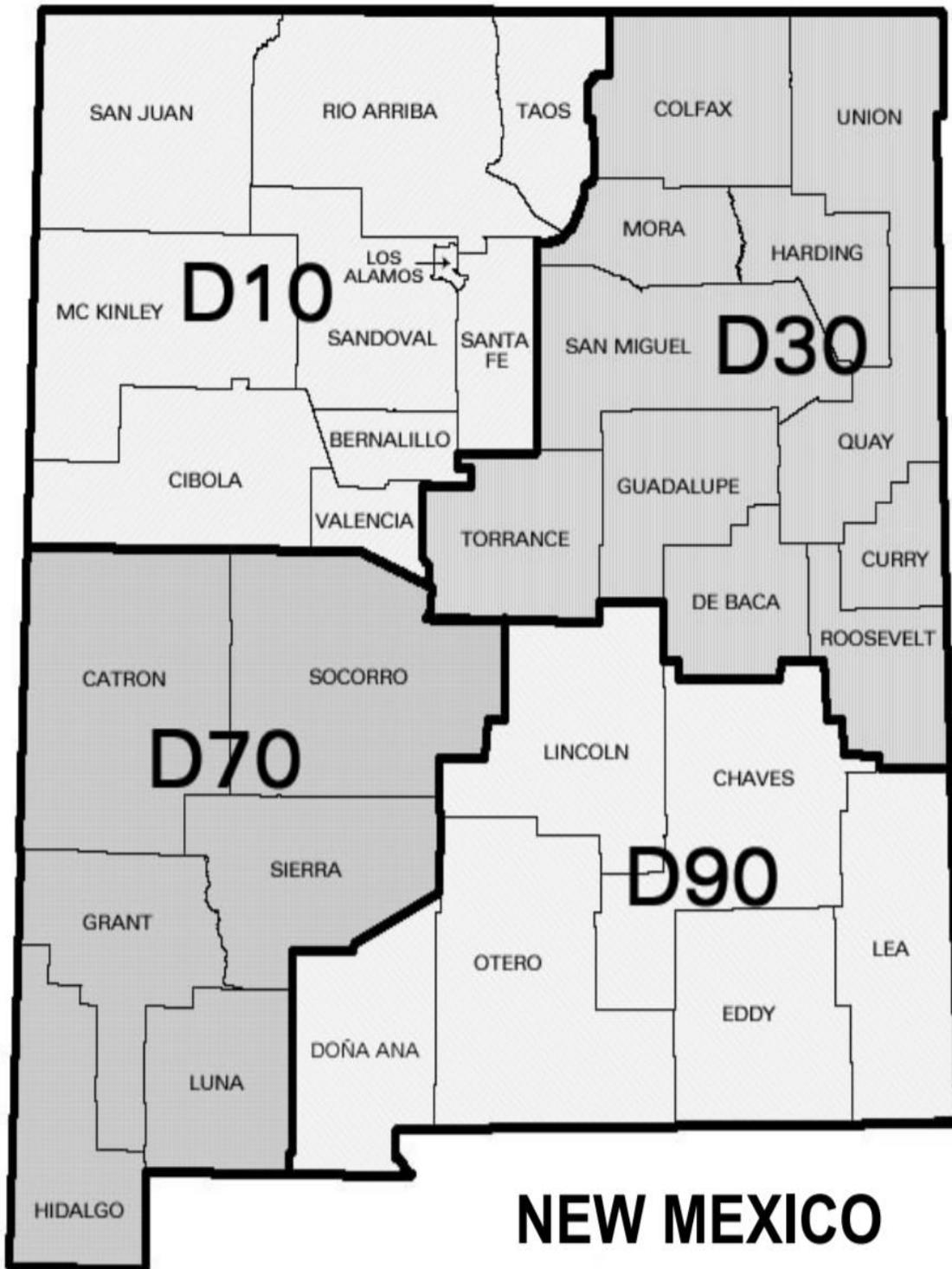


“Food and agriculture is a core industry of New Mexico. It is vital to any resident who cares about individual health, viable rural and tribal communities, or regional economic strength and security. The industry benefits from many diverse stakeholders who share a common goal: to support an agriculture 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 (number)	Land in Farms (1,000 acres)	Average Farm Size (acres)	Number of Farms (number)	Land in Farms (1,000 acres)	Average Farm Size (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.

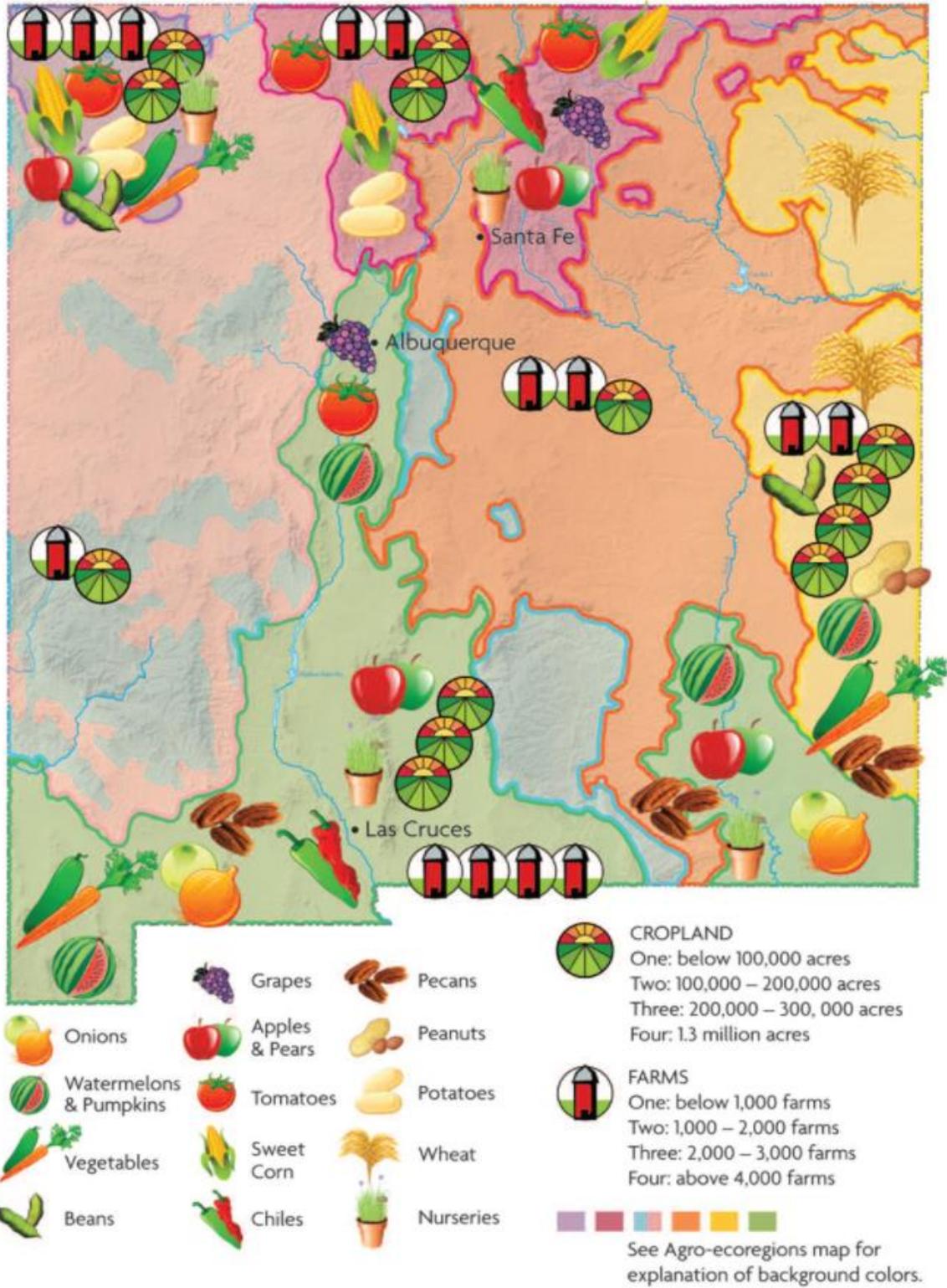
The state’s hardworking farmers and ranchers grow and raise important commodities including beef, milk, hay, pecans, corn, wheat, cotton, sorghum, peanuts, potatoes, and more. New Mexico continues to be among the nation’s leaders in chile pepper and pecan production, producing 33 and 29 percent of America’s 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



	★ Grassfed cattle, goat, poultry, pork	● Organic livestock operations
	Large: 500,000 – 610,000 beef cows Medium: 200,000 – 250,000 beef cows Small: 100,000 or fewer beef cows	 5,000 – 50,000 sheep and lambs
	Large: 100,000 – 150,000 milk cows Medium: 25,000 – 50,000 milk cows Small: 10,000 or fewer milk cows	 More than 1,000 meat goats.
	Large: 8,500 – 9,500 egg-layers Small: 3,000 – 5,000 egg-layers	 Bison
	Large: More than 900,000 tons of hay produced Small: 100 – 300,000 tons of hay produced	 Horses
	Alfalfa	
	Large: More than 2,000 ranches Medium: 1,000 – 2,000 ranches Small: Less than 500 ranches	
	Large: 8 – 10 million acres of rangeland/pasture Small: 4 – 6 million acres of rangeland/pasture	

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

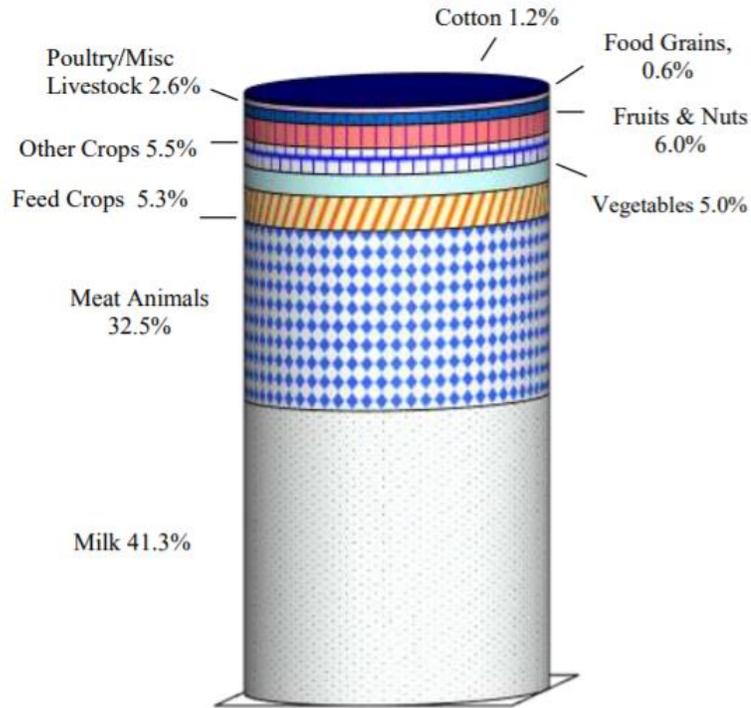
Ranked Items Within The U.S., 2012

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

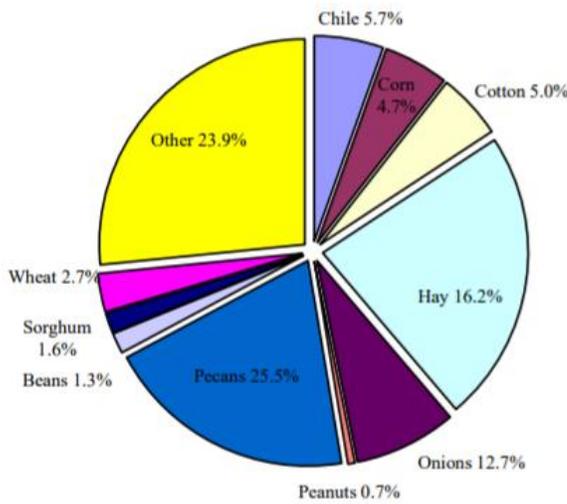
Economic Characteristics	Quantity
Farm by value of sales	
Less than \$1,000	10,524
\$1,000 to \$2,499	3,085
\$2,500 to \$4,999	2,575
\$5,000 to \$9,999	2,502
\$10,000 to \$19,999	1,714
\$20,000 to \$24,999	458
\$25,000 to \$39,999	750
\$40,000 to \$49,999	314
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,058
\$100,000 to \$249,999	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**

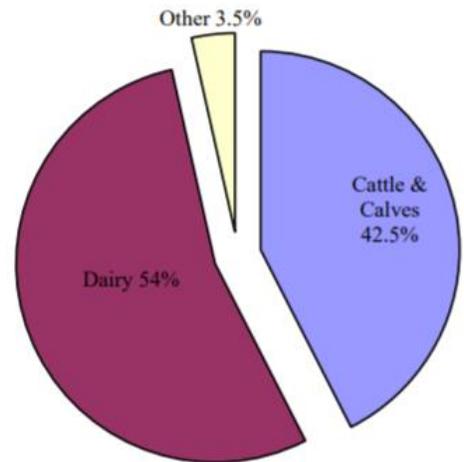
New Mexico Cash Receipts: 2015 All Commodities



Crops



Livestock



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

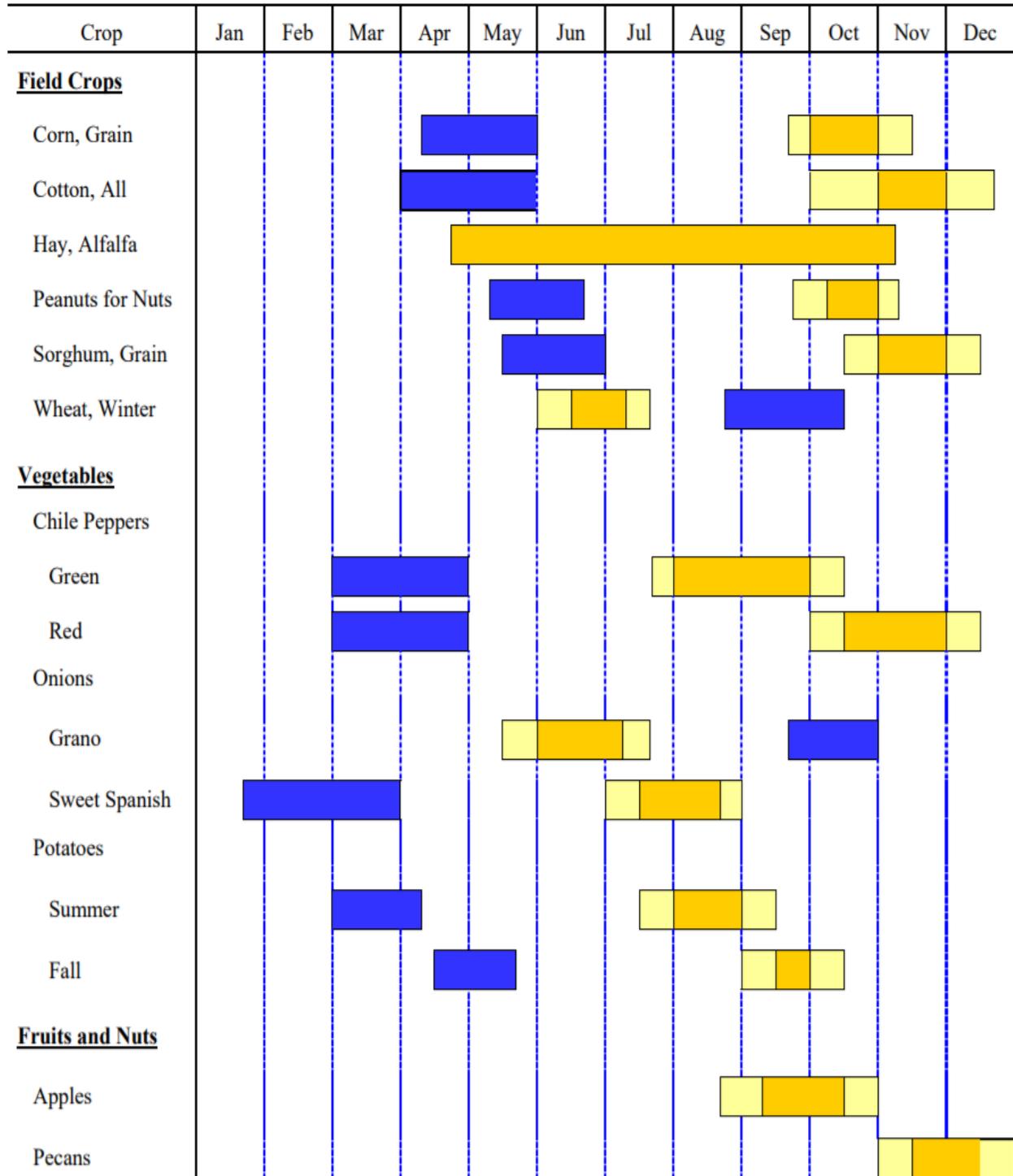
**Rank and Quantity Produced, Selected Commodities —
New Mexico, Leading State, and United States: 2015**

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.

Planting and Harvesting Dates: New Mexico



Usual Planting Dates

Begin Harvest Most Harvested End Harvest

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	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Luna	Deming	4,300	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
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

9 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

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Statistics for Major Commodity Groups and Top Producing Counties New Mexico, 2012

Commodity	Farms	Number/ Acres/ Amount	Top Producing Counties			Total	Number of Producing Counties
			1st	2nd	3rd		
Beef Cows <i>Number</i>	11,004	461,595 -	Chaves 6.3%	San Miguel 4.8%	Lea 4.6%	15.7%	32
Milk Cows <i>Number</i>	410	318,878 -	Chaves 23.8%	Curry 23.2%	Roosevelt 16.0%	63.0%	30
Hogs and Pigs <i>Number</i>	211	1,294 -	Valencia 13.8%	San Juan 7.6%	Sandoval 7.4%	28.7%	29
Sheep and Lambs <i>Number</i>	3,385	89,745 -	McKinley 26.2%	San Juan 21.5%	Chaves 11.9%	59.6%	32
Layers <i>Number</i>	1,768	66,653 -	San Juan 3.9%	Valencia 3.5%	Bernalillo 3.4%	10.8%	32
Corn for Grain <i>Bushels</i>	132	33,101 6,348,748	Union 29.0%	Lea 3.4%	Socorro 0.6%	33.0%	20
Corn for Silage or Greenchop <i>Tons</i>	300	81,866 1,918,665	Chaves 18.9%	Torrance 13.3%	Curry 12.8%	45.0%	17
Wheat for Grain <i>Bushels</i>	264	87,504 2,613,145	Curry 28.0%	Roosevelt 10.2%	Lea 7.4%	45.6%	20
Winter Wheat for Grain <i>Bushels</i>	255	86,434 2,581,809	Curry 28.4%	Lea 7.5%	Union 7.1%	43.0%	20
Oats for Grain <i>Bushels</i>	27	158 7,924	Sandoval 13.1%	Bernalillo 3.8%	San Juan 3.2%	20.1%	8
Sorghum for Grain <i>Bushels</i>	114	19,445 751,733	Curry 63.4%	Luna 20.7%	Roosevelt 9.3%	93.4%	13
Sorghum for Silage or Greenchop <i>Tons</i>	76	17,288 233,781	Curry 44.8%	Roosevelt 24.1%	Chaves 14.4%	83.2%	13
All Cotton <i>Bales</i>	195	39,994 87,541	Lea 43.2%	Doña Ana 21.5%	Eddy 14.7%	79.3%	9
Forage <i>Tons</i>	6,578	343,032 1,441,883	Doña Ana 11.6%	Chaves 11.5%	San Juan 11.2%	34.3%	33
Sunflower Seed <i>Pounds</i>	6	7 7,000	Sandoval 100.0%	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	100.0%	1
Peanuts for Nuts <i>Pounds</i>	21	6,652 18,714,380	Lea 64.7%	Roosevelt 35.3%	n/a n/a	100.0%	2
Vegetables Harvested for Sale <i>Acres</i>	2,085	28,162 -	San Juan 29.2%	Doña Ana 23.8%	Luna 14.6%	67.7%	29
Land in Orchards <i>Acres</i>	3,443	45,722 -	Doña Ana 63.4%	Eddy 10.7%	Chaves 6.6%	80.7%	30

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

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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		All Orchards (Acres)	Daña Ana	Otero
All Vegetables				Mostly Pecan	Otero	Luna	Doña Ana
Acres	San Juan	Rio Arriba	Santa Fe	Largley Pecan but Also Other	Rio Arriba	Bernalillo	Lincoln
Number of Farms	San Juan	Rio Arriba	Santa Fe	Little Pecan and Other	Rio Arriba	Otero	Santa Fe
Asparagus	Rio Arriba	//	//	Apples	Rio Arriba	Otero	Lincoln
Snap Beans	Luna	Rio Arriba	Santa Fe	Apricots	Rio Arriba	Otero	Santa Fe
Beets	Bernalillo	Santa Fe	Sandoval	Grapes**	Bernalillo	<>	<>
Broccoli	Rio Arriba	Santa Fe	//	Sweet Cherries	Otero	Rio Arriba	Santa Fe
Head Cabbage	Taos	San Juan	<>	Tart Cherries	Sandoval	Taos	Bernalillo
Cantaloupes & Muskmelons	San Juan	Doña Ana	Sandoval	Figs**	Bernalillo	<>	<>
Carrots**	Rio Arriba	<>	<>	Nectarines	Valencia	Sierra	Rio Arriba
Cauliflower	Rio Arriba	Sandoval	<>	Peaches	Rio Arriba	Valencia	Bernalillo
Cucumbers & Pickles	Rio Arriba	San Juan	Santa Fe	Pears	Lincoln	Rio Arriba	Taos
Eggplant	Santa Fe	Bernalillo	Rio Arriba	Plums and Prunes	Rio Arriba	Sandoval	Valencia
Garlic**	Rio Arriba	Taos	Bernalillo	Pomegranates	Sierra	<>	<>
Herbs**	Taos	Santa Fe	Rio Arriba	Pecans	Doña Ana	Eddy	Chaves
Honeydew Melons	San Juan	Sandoval	//	Pistachios	Otero	<>	<>
Kale	Rio Arriba	Bernalillo	//	All Berries**	Rio Arriba	Santa Fe	Bernalillo
Lettuce (All)	Doña Ana	Bernalillo	Santa Fe	Notes:			
Mustard Greens	Rio Arriba	//	-	-- Counties shown are the only counties reporting production of the commodity.			
Okra	Otero	//	//	<>Due to suppressed data, not all of the top counties could be listed.			
Dry Onions	Doña Ana	Luna	Sierra	//Production in remaining counties is very small and is not shown, even if the county is among the top three producers.			
Green Onions	Cibola	//	//	**Due to suppressed data, the top counties represent general lists and may exclude one or more other top counties where production is not available.			
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				

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

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Top Producing Counties-Crop (Field & Seed) Commodities, 2012

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)			
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

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

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
		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	Unit	Rank
		Hay, Alfalfa	6,000	3.10	18,500	Tons	9
		Hay, Other	3,500	1.75	6,200	Tons	6

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	Unit	Rank
		Corn, Grain	2,600	180.80	470,000	Bushels	2
		Corn, Silage	25,900	23.00	597,000	Tons	1
		Hay, Alfalfa	3,000	5.25	15,800	Tons	10
		Hay, Other	13,000	2.4	31,000	Tons	2

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	Unit

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	Unit

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	Unit

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

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
		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

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

¹¹ 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 (1,000 acres)	Area Harvested (1,000 acres)	Yield per Acre (pounds)	Production (1,000 cwt)	Price per Cwt ¹ (dollars)	Value of Production (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.

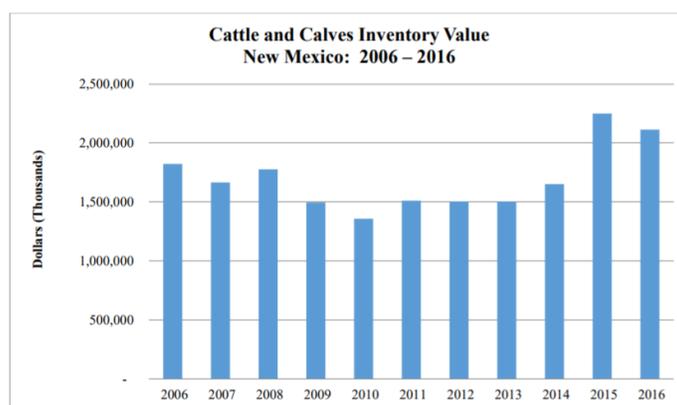
People traveling across the areas will also start fires. “In Arizona, some of the catastrophic forest fires they have had have been from people traveling through. They will start a fire so someone will come find them,” says Cowan.

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

New Mexico Annual Bulletin - (2015)

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

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.

New Mexico Annual Bulletin - (2015)

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.

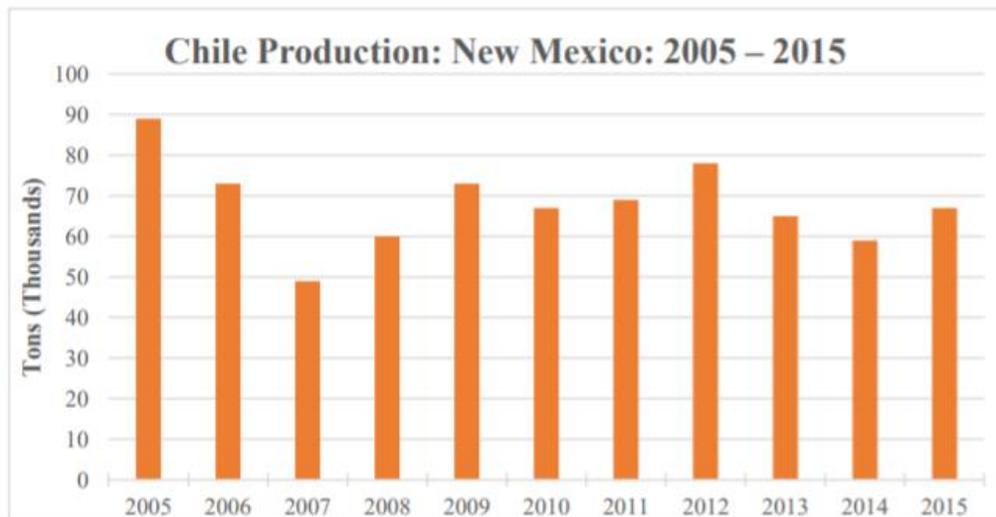
With border security as tight as it is, with the anti- immigration rhetoric as sharp as it has been, the American dream has faded for many Mexicans, she said. Working in Chihuahua, people from southern states plant and pick crops, save their money and go home in the winter to rest until the spring.

“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>.

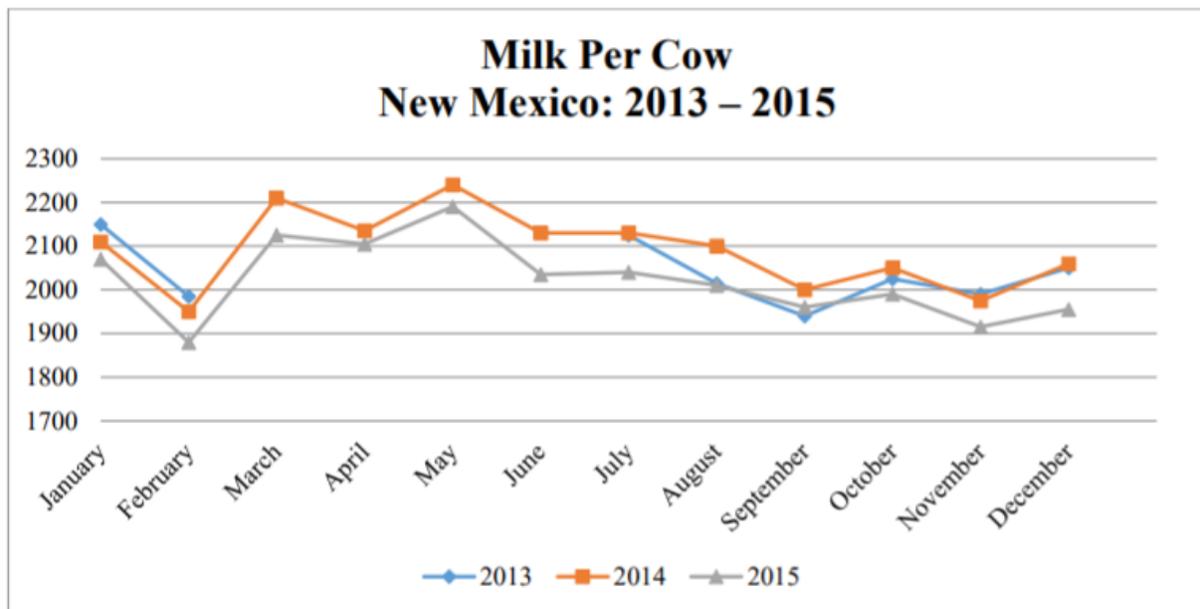
With value-chain additions for labor, transport, processing, and products, the dairy industry produced close to \$2.7 billion in cash receipts. Dairy industry generates about 2,900 direct full-time jobs; 5,700 indirect jobs and 8,600 part-time related jobs. **Total: 17,200 jobs.**¹⁹

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	
	2015	2016	-----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 Aribe, 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.

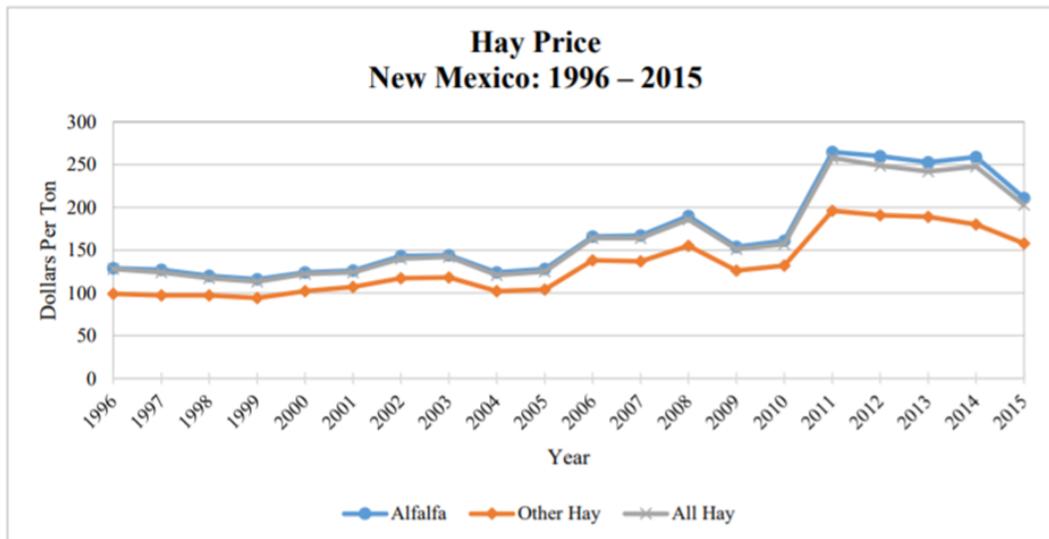
Mark Marsalis, NMSU Extension forage specialist, reflected on the importance of forage. “The impact of forage goes well beyond the direct value of the marketed product. The ripple effect of a hay, pasture, or silage feed is far-reaching and impacts our daily lives in many different ways that many people 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.

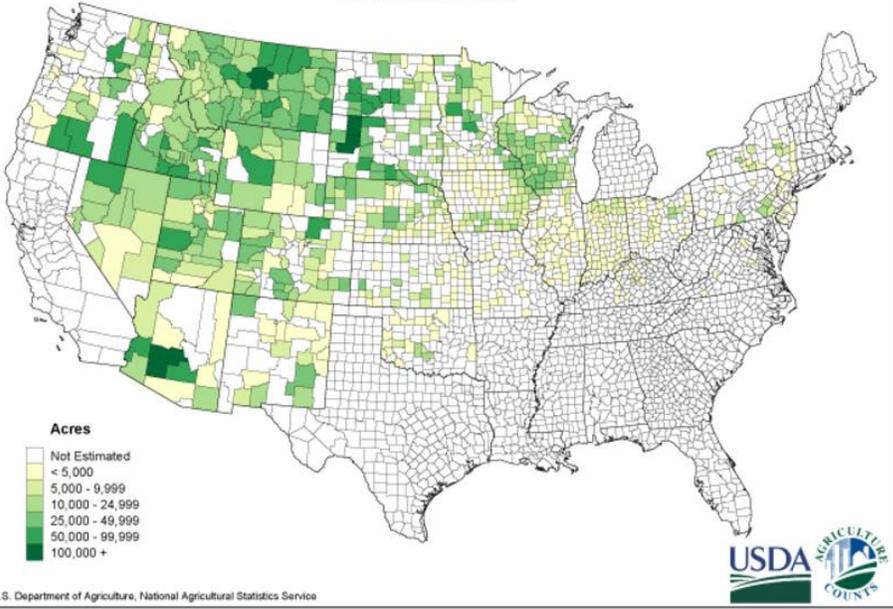
Alfalfa Hay Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production, Price, and Value New Mexico: 2006 – 2015

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

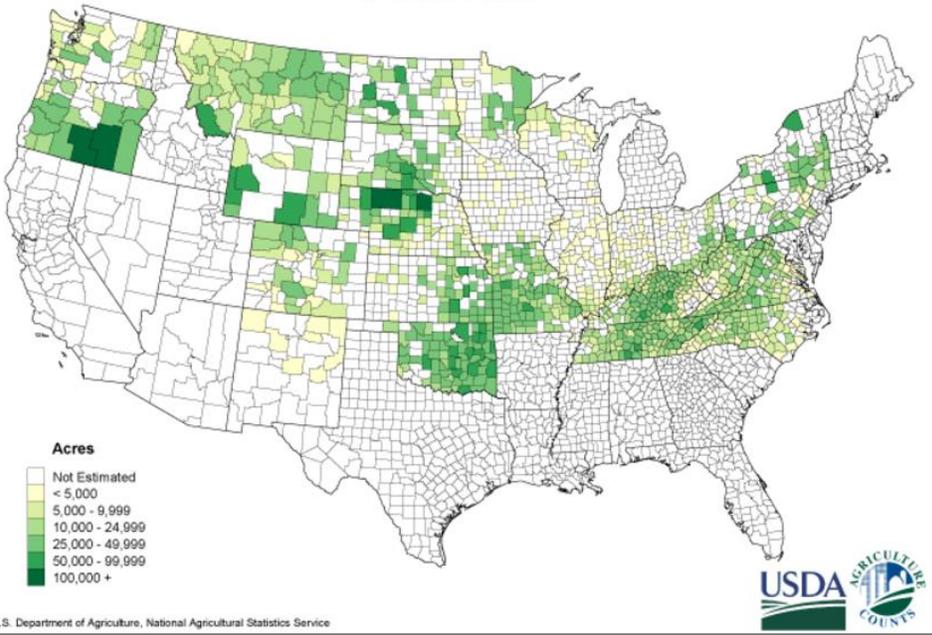
¹ Marketing year average price.

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>.

**Alfalfa Hay (Dry) 2016
Harvested Acres by County
for Selected States**



**Other Hay (Dry) 2016
Harvested Acres by County
for Selected States**



**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	Principal Counties
		Harvested	
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 (1,000 acres)	Area Harvested (1,000 acres)	Yield per Acre (pounds)	Production (1,000 pounds)	Price per Pound ¹ (dollars)	Value of Production (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,

Pecan Production

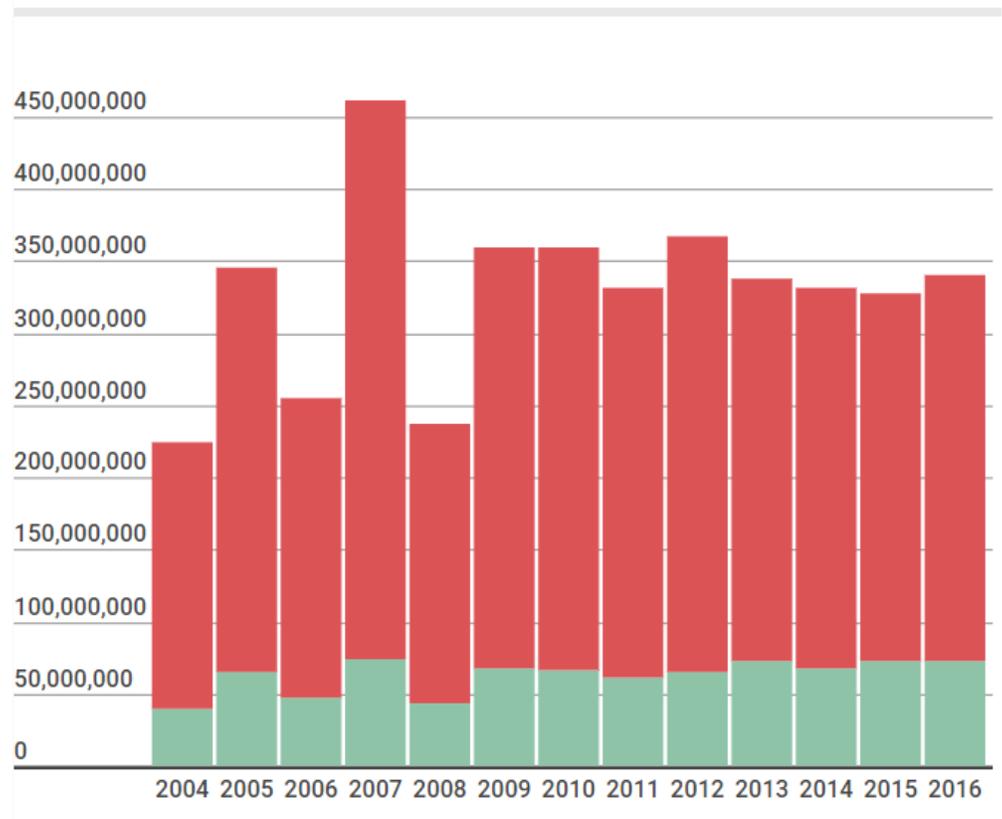


Image Source: [US Pecan Production Numbers Las Cruces Sun News](#)

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 (Dona 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/>.

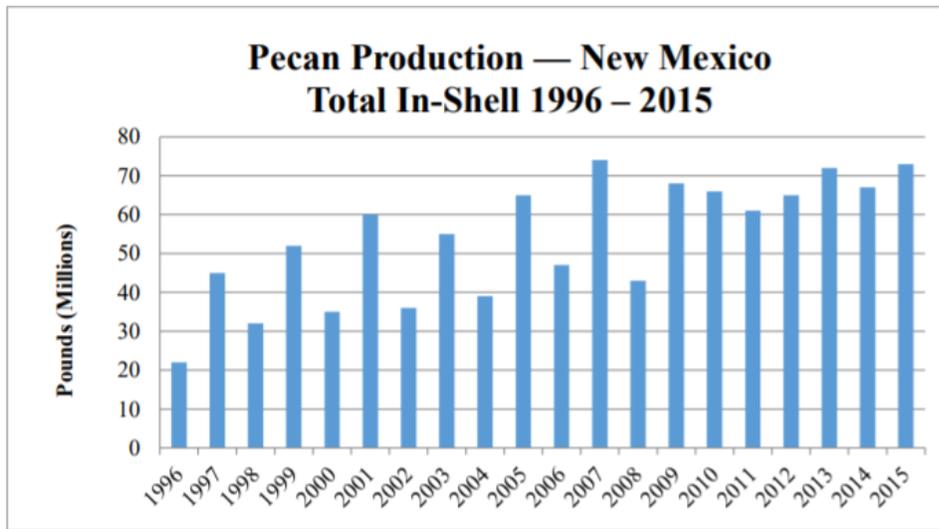
⁴² NMSU. "NMSU: New Mexico Pecans - The Pecan Industry Today." *Aces.Nmsu.edu*, 2017, <http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/pecans/the-pecan-industry-today.html>.

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

Year	Total Production (1,000 pounds)	Price (dollars)	Value of Production (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 (1,000 Pounds)	Percent of U.S. total (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 (Acres)	Number of Farms (Farms)	2013 (1,000 Pounds)	2014 (1,000 Pounds)	2015 (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.

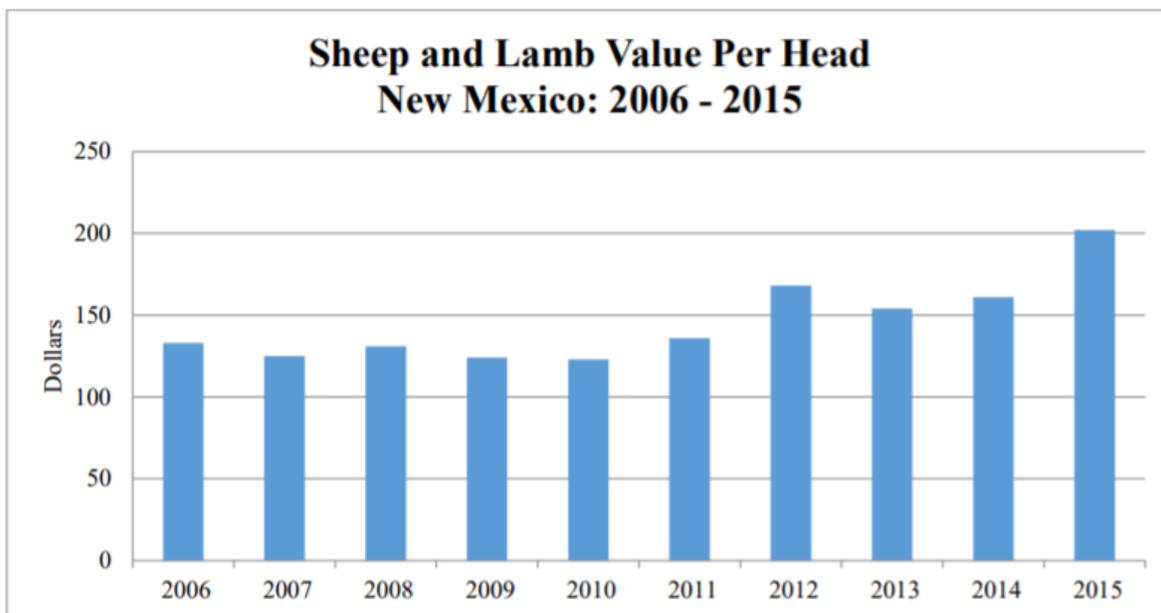
The five-year extension of the U.S. anti-dumping tariff on imports of raw, in-shell pistachios from Iran is big news for the industry, especially as Iran apparently doesn't have the ability to store pistachios for more than a year and must sell what's grown that given year, according to American Pistachio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

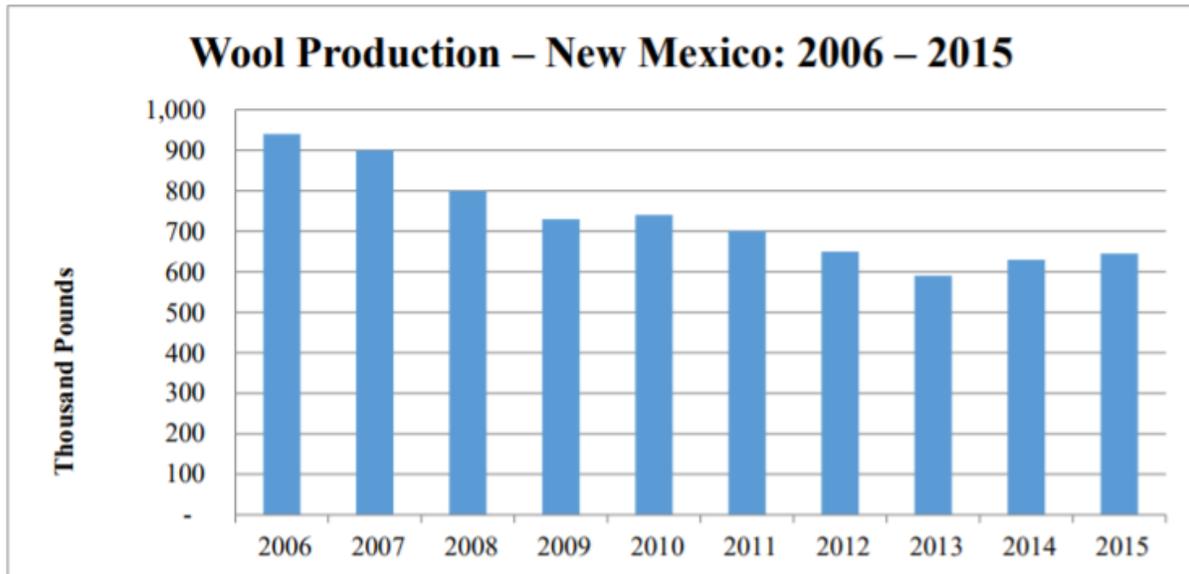
New Mexico is ranked seventeenth in the nation in inventory of sheep and lambs, although the value of sales of sheep and lambs ranks the state twenty-ninth. ⁴⁵

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

County	2014 (Number)	2015 (Number)	2016 (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 varieties. 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

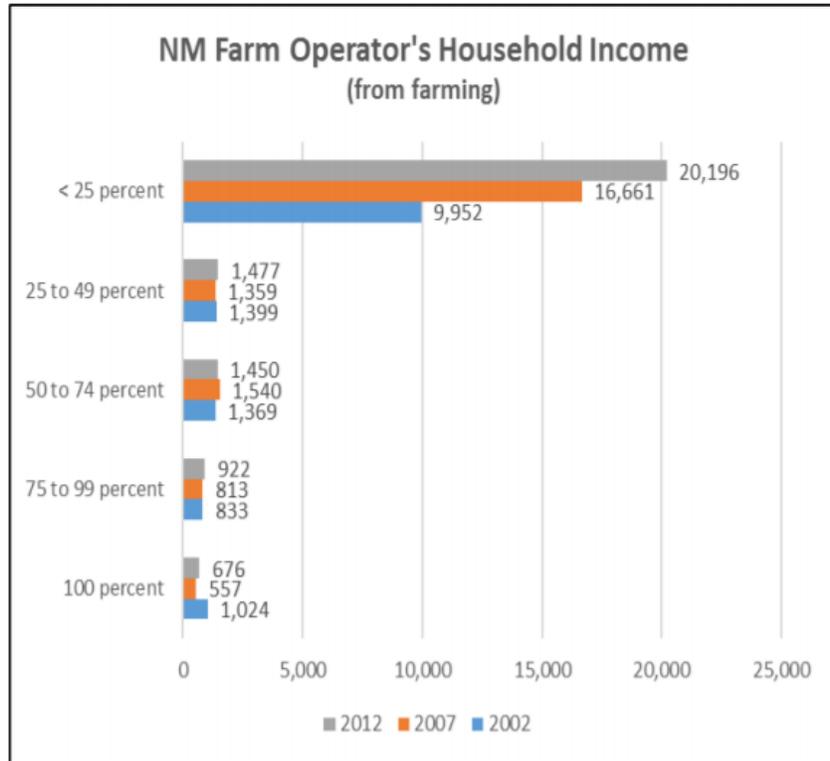
⁴⁸ Writer, Rick. "NM Feral Pig Problem Looking Better." *Abqjournal.Com*, 2014, <https://www.abqjournal.com/420025/feral-pig-problem-looking-better.html>.

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:

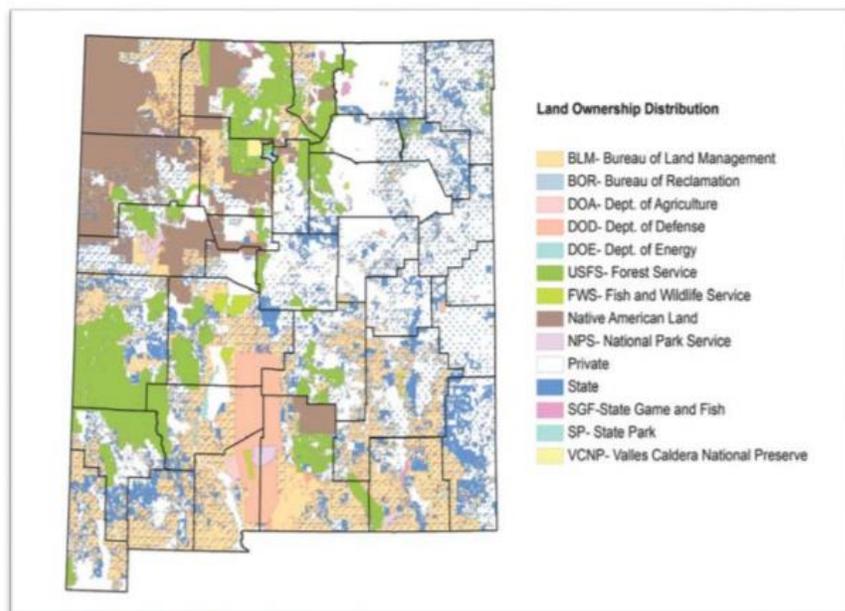
- 30 percent decrease in New Mexico acreage on which commercial fertilizers and conditioners were used since 2007
 - Decline in chemical use to control insects (37 percent) and crop disease (21 percent) since 2007

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.

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



Source: University of New Mexico 2011

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://nmindepth.com/2016/01/05/is-the-rio-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

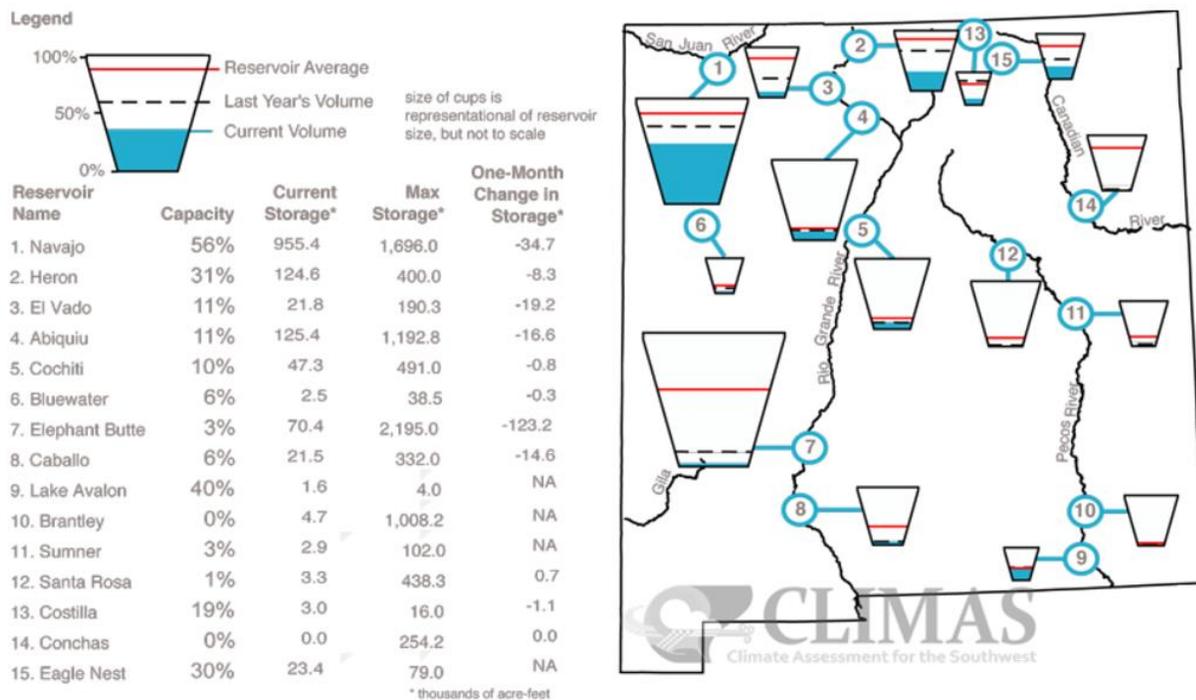
⁵⁸ Montoya Bryan, Susan. "Drought Planning: Water Shortages Expected In New Mexico." *Usnews.com*, 2017, <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-mexico/articles/2017-03-31/drought-planning-water-shortages-expected-in-new-mexico>.

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

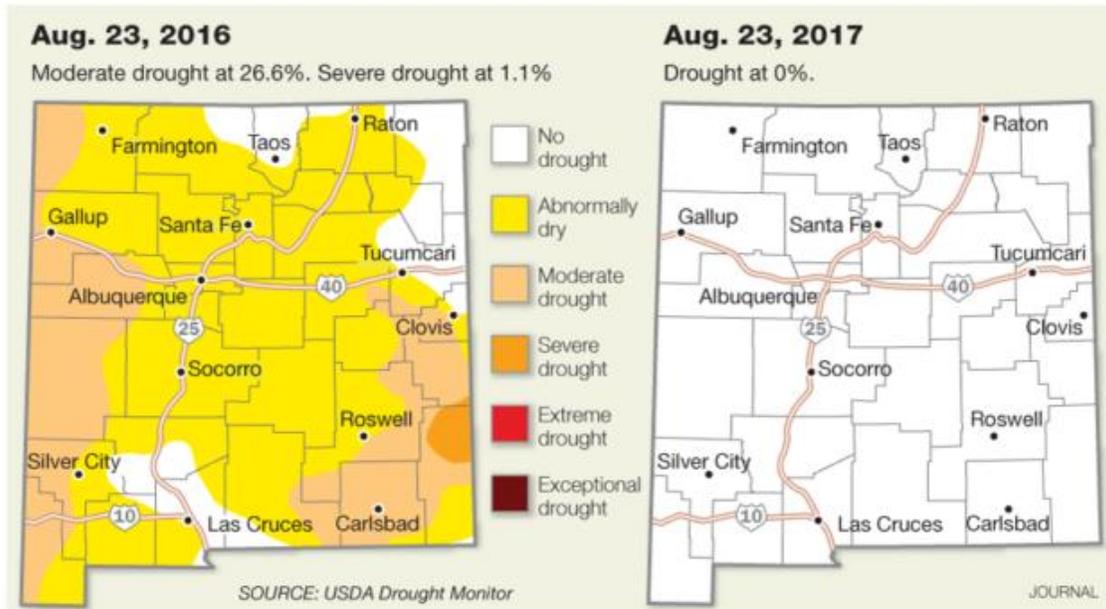


[Image Source: REPORT CLIMAS](#)

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>.