Hispano and Native American Farmers in New Mexico

Submitted by
Center of Southwest Culture, Inc.

To
Bioneers Dreaming New Mexico Project

March 15, 2009

INTRODUCTION

The objective of this research project is to provide solid data, as well as to assess the availability of current data, on New Mexico Hispano and Native American farmers. The Center of Southwest Culture is collaborating with Bioneer’s Dreaming New Mexico Project to help provide a solid overview of farming in New Mexico. This information will be developed into documents, maps
and other data that can be used by all New Mexicans involved in the critical issues of land and water in the state.

Land-based Hispano and Native American communities face the prospect of losing water rights and arable land unless they can find new ways to use these critical resources. There has already been major erosion of land and water rights in Hispano communities. And while Native American communities maintain their land and water rights through treaty and state and federal law, these communities are having a difficult time finding tribal members willing to engage in sustainable agriculture. In order to offer reasonable plans for sustaining traditional farming communities, we need to know the current status of Native American and Hispanic land and water ownership. Hopefully, we can then project new approaches to sustainable agriculture.

We made several key assumptions for the research project. One was that Hispano farmers were losing land and water rights to the increasingly global economy (and the more difficult prospect of growing pasture grass and alfalfa for profit) and the gentrification of northern New Mexico as a playground for second homes for wealthy Americans.

The second assumption was that Native American communities were not losing water and land, but were losing the cultural agricultural practices that would bring younger farmers to the land. We assumed that much of the arable land being cultivated in Native American communities was due to leasing of land and water rights to commercial operators.

**REPORT OF FINDINGS**

**Hispano Farmers in New Mexico**

The US Department of Agriculture 2002 Census Report shows there was a total of 20,770,712 acres of farmland owned by Hispano farmers in New Mexico.[1] In its 2007 Census report, the USDA showed a decline in Hispano-owned farmland to 17,054,007 acres.[2] This decline of 3.7 million acres in arable land ownership among New Mexico Hispanics in the space of five years reflects the accelerating impacts on Hispano farmers. These impacts include the globalization of the economy that has made small farms increasingly non-viable, especially those farms that continue the traditional practice of planting pasture grasses and alfalfa to support small-herd ranching; the increasing gentrification of northern New Mexico, that is, the increasing sale of arable lands by Hispanics to wealthy outsiders who use northern New Mexico for second homes and for vacation home sites; and the increasing pressure to sell water rights downstream for business and urban growth.

All of these factors are compounded by the inability of Hispano farmers to make farm income keep pace with inflation. In fact, traditional Hispano farmers, in most cases, must earn a second salaried income to support what is rapidly becoming “farming as a hobby.” Given this grim outlook, few young Hispanics are willing to remain on the land, with the prospect of merely eking out a living, rather than creating a sustainable quality of life. Unless Hispano farmers fundamentally re-think how they are using their land and water resources, it is clear that Hispano farmers will go the way of the dinosaurs.
The USDA 2002 Census Report showed there were 4,499 Hispano principal operator farmers in New Mexico. USDA’s most recent 2007 Census Report documents a significant increase of 6,475 farmers.[3] Of these 6,475 farmers, only 4,621 have full ownership of their farms. The remaining 1,854 is broken down into part ownerships and tenants (300 tenants.)

In 2002, 52.3% of Hispano farmers operated small farms, that is, farms consisting of 49 or less acres of land. In 2007, the scale of Hispano farmers did not change significantly; it was 52.9%. Of that total, 27% are farms consisting of 9 acres or less. (See Table 1.1.)

What this data reveals is that the historic tradition of land inheritance among Hispano farmers continues unabated. That tradition is for parents to divide land among heirs into smaller and smaller plots. As this tradition continues, Hispano farmers end up with smaller pieces of land that make it increasingly difficult to raise cattle or plant enough alfalfa or pasture grass to earn a profit. In fact, land ownership patterns among Hispano farmers go directly against the economic reality that raising beef cattle requires large tracts of land and access to significant water resources. Within a larger context, there is a growing awareness that raising beef cattle is leaving a huge negative carbon imprint on the planet. This growing awareness will likely end human consumption of beef, as a matter of human survival.

### Table 1.1 Hispano Farmers Farm Sizes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-9 acres</td>
<td>1,204 (26.7%)</td>
<td>1,749 (27.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-49 acres</td>
<td>1,155 (25.6%)</td>
<td>1,683 (25.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-179 acres</td>
<td>780 (17.3%)</td>
<td>1,145 (17.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180-499 acres</td>
<td>514 (11.4%)</td>
<td>752 (11.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500+ acres</td>
<td>846 (18.8%)</td>
<td>1,146 (17.7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(The tables and statistics are according to the 2002 and 2007 USDA Census)

According to the 2002 Census there are 1,978 principal operators. In 2007, there are 2,875 principal operators of livestock and poultry. See Table 1.2.

### Table 1.2 Hispano Farmers Livestock and Poultry Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of Livestock &amp; Poultry</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle ranching &amp; farming</td>
<td>2377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle feedlots</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hog/Pig farming</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry &amp; egg production</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep &amp; goat farming</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>871</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Specialization varies depending on the size of the farm. For instance, smaller farms are more likely to specialize in raising beef cattle, other grazing livestock, or a variety of field crops. On the other hand, large-scale farms tend to produce poultry, hogs, and high-value crops. Both medium-scale farms and large family farms are prone to specialize in grain.[4]

Based on 2002 and 2007 United States Department of Agriculture data, some Hispano farmers tended to be engaged in high-value crop farming such items as fruit trees and nut farming as well as other crop farming, but most are engaged in raising pasture crops like alfalfa and pasture grass. See Table 1.3.

Table 1.3 Hispano Farmers Crop Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of Crops</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oil seed &amp; grain farming</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable &amp; melon farming</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit tree &amp; nut farming</td>
<td>691</td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse, nursery, floriculture production</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other crop farming</td>
<td>1,032</td>
<td>1,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton farming</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other crop farming</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>1,707</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Traditional Hispano farmers tend to grow crops such as corn, squash, chile, tomatoes, and green beans. However, a few Hispanics, mainly in Rio Arriba and Santa Fe counties, do have orchards. A greater majority (80%) of Hispano farmers’ crops consists of pasture crops, i.e. pasture grass or alfalfa.

The pasture crops popularity derives from its less labor intensive farming activity, since most agriculturists do not have the proper equipment for traditional farming. In fact, many of these pasture crop farmers are employed in work outside of farming and only farm on the side. These individuals can afford to pay for someone to cut the pasture and there is already a built-in market; thus, they do not have to search out a market.[5]

For instance, the Santa Fe Farmers Market has been extremely successful in getting individuals to plant more “truck crops.” A problem, however, is those buyers who frequent these markets tend to prefer organically grown crops and do ask to inspect their organic licenses.[6] To receive
official organic farming recognition requires a three-year process. Few Hispano farmers have the knowledge, time or money to receive the three-year organic farmer certification, which makes it highly unlikely that the number of Hispano organic farmers will increase significantly in the near future.

Additionally, organic farming in northern New Mexico is a “gentrified” activity. More and more of the people engaging in organic farming in northern New Mexico are White, middle-class and non-native born. This gentrification of the organic farming movement, for example, is reflected in the composition of the board of the Santa Fe Farmers’ Market and its sister organization, the Santa Fe Farmers’ Market Institute. A review of the Santa Fe Farmers Market and Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute web sites reveals that five of 15 Farmers Market board members have Spanish-surnames; and only one of six staff members has a Spanish-surname.

Similarly, the Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute lists 13 board members. It lists two Spanish-surnamed board members, but one appears to be a White woman married to a Spanish-surnamed individual. Essentially, the institute has only one Hispano on its board.

Perversely, the success of the organic farming movement in northern New Mexico, as presently constituted, may result in the continued loss of Hispano-owned arable lands as these White organic farmers continue to purchase Hispano farms for their own uses.

Intrinsically related to land ownership is water rights. Arable lands, by definition, mean access to water for irrigation. Paula Garcia, Executive Director of the New Mexico Acequia Association, finds that a “major threat to the communal system of management characteristic of acequias is the private, individual ownership of water rights that are transferable to other places or uses outside the acequia.”

She states that although the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo provided for the protection of the rights of Mexican citizens in the ceded territories; and the New Mexico constitution confirmed existing water rights, much of the power of acequias to manage water was undermined by the privatization of water rights, so that individuals rather than communities could control water. [7]

For Tawnya Laveita, Executive Director of Farm to Table, some of the most threatening issues facing farmers today revolve around land and water rights issues. Laveita notes that farmers find it hard to resist selling farm land. This becomes a problem particularly when land value rises, as farmers face harsh economic times, and when there are family disputes regarding what to do with the land. Ironically, farmers who make the decision to hold onto their land find that property values have risen to the point that they are unable to pay their property taxes.

The other threat facing farmers is water rights to their land. Some farmers do not have adequate access to water for their needs. On the other hand, some farmers, again, are tempted to sell, particularly when the price for their water rights can be as high as $25,000 per acre foot. [8]
National Resource Conservation Service District Conservationist Paul Montoya shed further insight into the plight of New Mexico Hispano farmers. He said that there are a number of problems that face the farmers here in New Mexico. Some involve traditional problems such as the weather, particularly frost. For example, frost reduces crop yield sizes. New Mexican farmers are being outcompeted by other states, primarily Washington State.

Also, to make a living off of farming requires a full-time commitment, physical stamina to withstand the labor intensive farming, and start-up capital and equipment. Farmers have a limited time to harvest crops before they ripen. For example, there is a 3-day window to pick cucumbers. This window narrows for other crops such as corn which must be picked within 2 days and shipped immediately to market to sell.

Montoya adds that one of the biggest threats facing Hispanic farmers is the transfer of land use. As farmers are tempted to sell land, the land continues to get parcelled out. After a while, the land is no longer large enough to farm, resulting in a loss of income.

Hispano communities sometimes face a lack of farming equipment and/or the knowledge to utilize the equipment. Montoya feels that these communities are experiencing an overall lack of connection with the land. As they conform to the new economy, they begin to view farming as backward and they no longer see that a living can be made off of the land. [9]

Accessing markets to sell their crops is problematical. According to Tawnya Laveita of Farm to Table, in Santa Fe there are only 4 full-time dedicated farmers. In Taos, there are 3 and around the Albuquerque area there are 4. These farmers are making a living off of the raw product alone, not processed foods like salsa, bread, etc. [10]

Given the numerous obstacles that Hispanic farmers face, a number of organizations are attempting to bridge the farming gap. Organizations such as Farm to Table/Farm to School, the Southwest Marketing Network, New Mexico Farmer’s Market Association, New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council and schools such as Dragon Farm in Albuquerque’s South Valley region are working to educate young people on farming, farming techniques, and how to access resources.

For instance, Farm to Table/Farm to School focuses on enhancing marketing opportunities for farmers. In addition, they encourage family farming, farmers’ markets and the preservation of agricultural traditions. Aware of the impacts that legislation has on farming they work to educate policy makers and citizens on how public policy impacts food systems. With their programs
they further an understanding of the links between farming, food, health and local economies.[11]

A number of organizations focus on educational outreach. The Taos County Economic Development Center provides internships to Hispanic youths. Sembrando Semillas, a program of the New Mexico Acequia Association also works with youth. Red Willow Center, headed by Ryan Rose in Taos Valley takes a broader perspective. Rose makes progress through the entire agricultural corridor. His view is that agriculture should be accessible to everyone who has an interest in it, regardless of background. Red Willow Center provides knowledge of resources and technology. Dragon Farm is a mentorship program in a school setting that encourages children and youth to become active and view farming in a different light.

There are additional farming development programs in New Mexico. From the Albuquerque and Santa Fe area these include Grain Growers Guild, a farming development program in the South Valley of Albuquerque. In Santa Fe, there is an organization called Earth Care International. In Southern New Mexico, New Mexico State University recently opened the Small Farm Institute.[12]

Part of educational outreach is cultivating a relationship with the land. Former Coordinator of youth projects at the New Mexico Acequia Association, Miguel Santistevan states that this relationship and awareness should develop before funding. He states, “funding can complicate things...small grants, i.e. for tools work the best.” He adds that this training goes beyond hosting food security meetings. In addition, he feels that the economic difficulties of farming should be addressed because the economic livelihood sometimes can be detrimental to an ecological focus. In his view the primary focus should be fostering a relationship with nature.[13]

Ultimately, as a group, Hispano farmers must understand larger socio-economic forces impacting them if they are to have any chance of surviving. Along with this heightened awareness of socio-economic forces at play, Hispano farmers must adapt their uses of land and water to find sustainable and competitive niches in a modern economy. While it is difficult to predict what all of these market niches might be, there are clear indicators that suggest a change from planting and harvesting pasture grasses and alfalfa to organic vegetable farming, organic fruit orchards and other truck farming ventures might be a viable and effective survival strategy. All of these new efforts must create enough wealth to lure younger Hispanics into farming. Otherwise, a longstanding agricultural tradition will fade and disappear from northern New Mexico’s landscape.

**Native American Farmers in New Mexico**

The US Department of Agriculture 2002 Census Report shows there was a total of 7,594,430 acres of farmland owned by American Indian farmers in New Mexico. In its 2007 Census report, the USDA showed a decline in American Indian farmland to 7,351,220 acres. This relatively small decline in arable land was likely the result of land going fallow rather than of alienation of the land from tribes.

The largest threat to American Indian farming in New Mexico is the lack of interest in farming by tribal members. This unwillingness to farm is caused by the proliferation of gambling
enterprises on many of the Native American lands. More than half of New Mexico’s Pueblos now operate gambling establishments, as do both Apache tribes and the Navajo Nation. The income from these gambling operations has spiked the quality of life among most of the tribes who are engaged in gambling. For example, Sandia Pueblo has been able to construct new housing, a new health clinic, a wellness center, a new church and provide full education tuition for all of its approximately 500 members—all from income generated by gambling.

This decline in agricultural production, despite the fact American Indians have aboriginal water rights and federally-protected arable lands, has not gone unnoticed among Native American farmers in the state.

The loss of irrigated acres due to non-use by Native Americans began in the late 1930s. Between 1938 and 1964, tribes in New Mexico, on average, lost more than 60% of their arable lands to non-use by tribal members.[14] This loss was acerbated by the hostility of non-tribal agencies, in particular the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, the federal Bureau of Reclamation, and Federal Courts in rulings on water rights tribes had historically claimed. In essence, the MRGCD, the BOR and federal judges severely limited tribal water rights.

But many tribes have fought to reclaim agricultural traditions on their lands. As early as 1967, the All Indian Pueblo Council, under the leadership of Domingo Montoya, instituted a series of agricultural demonstration plots in all of the 19 Pueblos.[15]

And in 1987, the Southern Pueblos Agency led an effort to return tribes to their agricultural roots. Sandia Pueblo initiated a pick-and-grow vegetable operation; San Felipe Pueblo combined traditional and modern farming methods in a demonstration project; Picuris Pueblo began clearing new lands for agriculture, including vegetables, wheat and alfalfa.[16]

This re-commitment to agriculture among Native Americans in New Mexico continued through the 1990s and continues today. Among the leading Pueblos in the back-to-the-land movement are Tesuque, San Juan, Zuni, and Laguna. In addition, the Navajo Nation launched a major commercial farming operation called Navajo Nation Farms in the northeast quadrant of the state, but it has proven to be a mixed bag in terms of return on investment.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture 2002 Census Report there were 403 Native American principal operators. Their most recent 2007 Census Report documents a significant increase of 4,493. However, data on Native American farmers is hard to interpret and can often be very unreliable. This is caused by the fact that Native Americans are often reluctant to share data, since it has been used against them in the past, and as sovereign nations, each Pueblo tracks its own data. The above-mentioned fact about a huge increase in Pueblo farmers is most likely incorrect, so we cannot offer any useful interpretation of that piece of data.

In 2002, 44.3% of Native American farmers operated small farms consisting of 49 or less acres of land. In 2007, data show that 79.5% of Native American farmers owned farms of 49 acres or less. Again, it is important to note that the ESDA Census data for Native Americans is not very accurate. See Table 2.1.
Table 2.1 Native American Farm Sizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-9 acres</td>
<td>89 (22%)</td>
<td>2,707 (60.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-49 acres</td>
<td>90 (22.3%)</td>
<td>866 (19.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-179 acres</td>
<td>70 (17.4%)</td>
<td>407 (9.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180-499 acres</td>
<td>34 (8.4%)</td>
<td>218 (4.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500+ acres</td>
<td>120 (29.8%)</td>
<td>295 (6.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on an interview with National Resource Conservation Service District Conservationist Paul Montoya, Native American farmers are growing traditional vegetables. These include corn, squash, chile, tomatoes, and green beans. Alfalfa is another popular crop. However, as noted, it is difficult to estimate how many farmers are planting that crop as statistics on Native American farms are harder to come by.

Some pueblos (Tesuque) are planting non-traditional/non-typical crops that are labor intensive. These crops would include raspberries, lettuce, and dwarf fruit.[17]

Table 2.2 Native American Farmers Livestock and Poultry Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock Characteristics</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef cattle ranching &amp; farming</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>1,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle feedlots</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy cattle and milk production</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hog and pig farming</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry and egg production</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep and goat farming</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal aquaculture and other animal</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>production</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Navajo Nation tends to herd sheep and goats, with herd sizes ranging from 10-30 in size, while the Pueblo tribes tend to herd cattle. Their herd sizes generally range between 5-6 head to 40-50 head. However, the herd size of 40-50 is the exception to the rule. Most herds fall under 50 head. One or two members of the pueblo may have 40-50 head, but the average on the pueblo would be around 20.[18]

CONCLUSION

For somewhat different reasons, Hispano and Native American communities are losing their capacity to continue traditional agriculture. Hispano farms continue to be divided into smaller
and smaller areas as heirs receive land from their parents. Gentrification of northern New Mexico continues to impact the number of Hispano farms; the global economy is making traditional planting of alfalfa and pasture grass economically impossible to maintain.

Native American communities are losing interest in traditional farming and are turning to gambling and other non-agricultural pursuits as a way of earning income. Tribes are diverting water rights into non-agricultural uses, especially golf courses for resort developments.

Unless new agricultural crops are introduced into New Mexico and unless Hispano and Native American youth can be engaged in farming, Hispano and Native American farming will rapidly become a thing of the past.
Bibliography


Laveita, Tawnya. Interviewed by Center of Southwest Culture, Inc., 17 February 2009.

Montoya, Paul. Interviewed by Center of Southwest Culture, Inc., 17 February 2009.

Santistevan, Miguel. Interviewed by Center of Southwest Culture, Inc., 17 February 2009.

United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. “2002 Census of


Addendum

Albuquerque Journal (New Mexico)

September 20, 1999, Monday
Seeds of Change

**BYLINE:** Morgan Lee Journal Staff Writer

**SECTION:** Pg. 1

**LENGTH:** 933 words

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

The results of experiments could alter what will be planted in northern N.M.

SAN JUAN -- Chile farmer Orlando Casados Jr. rotates an alfalfa crop through his fields to make sure he has a hot commodity in large supply come September.

The alfalfa replenishes nutrients in the soil at his 50-acre farm in the upper Espanola Valley. It gives the land time to recover from the demands of the sweet corn and chile that produce stew-stocking posole, red-chile powder and atole, the fine blue corn meal prepared as a hot cereal.

Directly across the Rio Grande from Ranch O. Casados, an experiment is under way that could give a boost to farmers like Casados, one of a handful of full-time commercial chile producers in northern **New Mexico** who make a risky living during a short growing season.

Researchers at the state-sponsored Alcalde Sustainable Agricultural Science Center are planting chile in the same rows as potassium-producing legumes and livestock forage crops such as kale and turnips.

The **New Mexico** State University station has searched for a productive seed mix that will appeal to farmers in a region that plants mostly forage crops but also relies on high-value crops like chile and sweet corn.

Making the land more productive could be important in the future when water may become more expensive and scarce.

The research center will release the results of the interseeding tests Oct. 3 during a site walk at the Alcalde station.

Word also should spread through the university's agricultural publications or academic **agriculture** journals.
Chile and turnips did not fare well together, Alcalde associate professor and superintendent Steven Guldan said. He walked through a demonstration patch Wednesday where chiles appeared to have overwhelmed the turnips, Guldan said. "It's possible there was some antagonism."

The other combinations were more fruitful.

Growers will decide whether the interseeding techniques make economic sense, he said. Casados, for one, had not heard of the research project last week.

The last time the research station produced innovations that were adopted by the chile industry was 1984, when it released a new hybrid, the "Espanola Improved."

It brought together the quick-ripening, flavorful quality contained in native "heirloom" chile from the Espanola area with the meaty pods of non-native chiles.

Developing additional strains of chile today for the high country makes little economic sense in a county that plants about 250 acres of chile a year, according to Guldan.

"It would be nice to develop another chile variety," he said. "But there are only so many acres" and limited state funds.

Interseeding isn't a new practice or concept, he said. Native Americans did it by planting corn, beans and squash together.

The research center is located on a former dude ranch in Rio Arriba County, where the per capita income was $7,859 during the last census. It's a region where most of the irrigated agricultural acreage belongs to small-scale, resource-limited, farmers with less than 20 acres of land.

Ranch O. Casados is prosperous by those standards thanks, in part, to food magazines, movie makers and journalists who have harvested the farm's charm for more than a decade.

It was featured in a Charles Kuralt fiery food television special, magazine articles by Vogue, National Gardening and Saveur, a chile manual endorsed by celebrity restaurateur Mark Miller of Coyote Cafe and in a German salsa commercial.

Casados said he turned away location scouts for "The Milagro Bean Field War" because he would have had to plant beans, not chiles.

The publicity earned the ranch a following and a steady stream of long-distance orders. This season's stack of handwritten requests for dried chile, and occasionally fresh green chile, is three inches thick with return addresses from Neptune Beach, Fla., Brooklyn, N.Y., and Wilmington, Calif.
Food articles about the ranch once touted Jo Ann's Ranch O. Casados Restaurant in Espanola, operated by Orlando's former wife. The articles praised the wood-fired horno ovens at the ranch, which add flavor to the chile powder and chicos, a smoky corn grain.

The Casadoses have since divorced and the hornos won't be fired this year, Orlando said. He cut back on operations this year after coming down in the spring with "farmer's lung." Dust in the fields aggravates the respiratory ailment that hounds the nonsmoker.

Casados planted just three acres of chile this spring, down from the usual 12 to 15 acres. A cool spring with high winds stunted the crop and some plants succumbed to a virus called leaf wilt, named after its symptoms.

The adverse circumstances shared by large chile farms in southern New Mexico increased chile prices, easing the strain on farmers, including Casados, who charged $20 a bushel instead of the usual $15.

Two chile pickers worked the fields at Ranch O. Casados on Wednesday, picking the largest chiles and filling more than 21 bushels. The daily ritual continues until the first hard frost, which Casados forecast to arrive with the next full moon.

"Farm life is a gamble so I can't afford to go to the casinos," Casados said.

PHOTOS BY: EDDIE MOORE/JOURNAL

PHOTO: Color

CASH CROP: Marcos Baeza picks chiles in one of Orlando Casados' fields in El Guique.

PHOTO: Color

FRUITS OF LABOR: Chiles picked from one of Orlando Casados Jr.'s fields will be used to make green-chile sauce.

PHOTO: b/w

IN THE FIELDS: An estimated 250 acres of chile are planted each year in Rio Arriba County.
More than 700 American Indians so far have signed onto a lawsuit against the U.S. Agriculture Department.
The $19 billion lawsuit, filed in November 1999, accuses the Agriculture Department of discriminating against Indians in the granting of loans over a 20-year period.

The Indians contend they were told USDA loans were not available when they were, that loans were delayed until it was too late to raise their crops, or that the approved loans would be less than requested, causing financial and property losses.

The Agriculture Department has said it is committed to serving American Indians and in upholding their civil rights.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit are from New Mexico, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Arizona.

The government has filed a motion to dismiss the case.

A judge has not yet ruled on any of those motions.

LOAD-DATE: September 12, 2000

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Copyright 2000 Albuquerque Journal
WASHINGTON (AP) - Hispanic farmers are the latest minority group to sue the Agriculture Department for racial discrimination, alleging in a case filed Friday that they were unfairly denied loans and other assistance.

The department settled last year with black farmers, and a lawsuit filed on behalf of American Indian producers is pending.
"The general feeling among the Hispanic community is that white males pretty much control (the department), and Hispanics get put at the end of the line," said Alexander Pires, the lead attorney in all three lawsuits.

The latest lawsuit, which lists three farm families as plaintiffs, was filed on behalf of 20,000 Hispanic farmers and seeks $20 billion in damages. It alleges that USDA officials in California, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and other states told the farmers that money for loans was not available when it was. Loans that were granted often were insufficient or too late to help, the lawsuit says.

One of the plaintiffs, identified only as "Mr. X," is an employee of the department and himself had farmed until 1988.

USDA officials had not seen the lawsuit and declined to comment on it.

Department spokesman Andy Solomon said the USDA "has done a real turnaround on civil rights" in recent years "and has significantly changed the way it operates, both in the way it treats its employees and its customers. That's something that most people who deal with the department and who work here see on a day-to-day basis."

New employees undergo mandatory civil-rights training and workers are graded on their compliance with civil-rights rules as part of their performance evaluations, Solomon said.

The department's civil-rights office, which investigates complaints against the USDA, has been plagued by problems because of an inexperienced, incompetent staff, according to investigators inside and outside the department.

The department says the number of discrimination complaints filed by farmers and other beneficiaries of USDA programs dropped by half this year.

The payments to black farmers from last year's settlement are expected to cost taxpayers about $1 billion. Some 22,000 farmers have filed claims. About 18,000 of those have been processed and 11,000 have been approved. The claims are reviewed by an independent company.
Albuquerque Journal (New Mexico)

October 19, 2000, Thursday

N.M. Gets Millions In Agriculture Bill

BYLINE: Michael Coleman Journal Washington Bureau

SECTION: Pg. A9

LENGTH: 334 words
WASHINGTON A $74.5 billion agricultural spending bill headed for President Clinton's desk contains millions of dollars for New Mexico projects ranging from university research to tourism to tribal water improvements.

The Senate voted 86-8 Wednesday to approve the bill, which contains money for major national programs such as food stamps, child nutrition and agricultural disaster aid.

Clinton has said he will sign the bill into law.

The bill spends millions of dollars on research and development at New Mexico State University. One such project would spend $369,000 to develop plants that could better withstand arid conditions. Another would give the university $1.5 million to establish a food safety and agricultural products testing lab in Dona Ana County.

Colonias, or Southwest communities with substandard housing, water and sewer systems, would get $20 million for improvements. At least 35 New Mexico communities meet the colonias standard, according to the office of Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M.

"This is a good bill," Domenici said. "I am particularly excited about all the research being conducted at New Mexico State University."

A $24 million amendment authored by Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., to pay for water and sewer improvements for the poorest Indian tribes was included in the final version of the bill. The amendment, co-sponsored by Domenici, would also provide money for capital improvements at tribal colleges.

"This funding is meant to help tribes and pueblos make the necessary investments in their communities and, in turn, attract good jobs," Bingaman said.

The bill includes $280,000 to increase tourism in rural counties with high unemployment rates. It also contains $3.1 million to help Texas and New Mexico develop more efficient irrigation research.

If Clinton signs the bill, NMSU would receive $138,000 through the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service to accelerate research on chile root rot disease, or chile wilt.

LOAD-DATE: October 19, 2000

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
Indian Farming Forum Kicks Off Lecture Series
* Village-sponsored events to provide residents agricultural information

The Village of Los Ranchos will kick off its second season of free agricultural forums today with a lecture on traditional **Native American agriculture**.

University of **New Mexico** biology professor Carol Brandt will present "Traditional **Agriculture of Native Americans in New Mexico**" at 6 p.m. at the Los Ranchos Village Hall, 6718 Río Grande NW.

The lecture is part of a series sponsored by the village to provide a forum for area residents to learn more about agricultural issues, according to Sue Brawley, who serves on the village's Agricultural Committee. All speakers are donating their time.

Brandt will talk and present a slide presentation about the agro-ecology of American Indians in the Southwest, including their ability to conserve soil and water and the well-adapted crops they continue to grow.

Topics include heirloom **Native American** crops, the harvest of water from the desert landscape, and traditional practices that modify microhabitats.

March forums include helpful information on topics ranging from native plants and xeriscaping to the effect of urbanization on bees.

Here is the full 2001 schedule of Agricultural Forum lecture series:

* Today at 6 p.m.: "Traditional **Agriculture of Native Americans in New Mexico.**" Dr. Carol Brandt, UNM Biology Department.

  * March 8 at 6 p.m. "Got Bees?" by Gary Moses, **New Mexico** Beekeepers Association. Discussion of the impacts of urbanization on bees and the importance of bees for **agriculture** and health.

  * March 20 at 6 p.m.: "Xeriscape" by Claude Ceniceros, city of Albuquerque. Discussion of xeriscaping principles, plant selection, design strategies, drip irrigation, and how to qualify for a rebate under the city's Xeriscape Retrofit Incentive Program.
* March 29 at 6:30 p.m.: "Native Plants" by Gail Haggard, Plants of the Southwest. Slide presentation and discussion of native plants and planning a garden taking into account various microclimates and water zones.

* April 10 at 7 p.m.; "Rio Grande Community Farms" by Jim Malone. Discussion and slide presentation of various projects sponsored by the Community Farms.

* April 17 at 6 p.m.: "Organic and Biodynamic Gardening/CSA" by Marie Nord, Erda Gardens. Discussion of organic and biodynamic gardening and community-supported agriculture (CSA).

Erda Gardens, occupying a small plot on the Los Poblanos Inn property, is a model of community-supported agriculture. The CSA concept provides a direct link between consumers and producers by establishing a partnership based on shared responsibility, risk and gain.

Members of Erda Gardens purchase a share of the season's harvest (approximately 200 pounds of produce from May to October) and the money is used to cover the farm's operating expenses. For more information, contact Nord at 342-0514.

* May 15 at 6 p.m.: "How to Grow Lavender" by Randy Murray, For the Love of Lavender (part of the Lavender in the Valley offerings).

* June 19 at 6 p.m.: "Ditches and Water Issues" by Sterling Grogden, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

* Aug. 16 at 6 p.m.: "Growing Grapes and Making Wine" by Gil Benavides, New Mexico Vine and Wine Society.

* Aug. 21 at 6 p.m.: "Lore and Lure of Lavender" by Amy Henne, Lavender Blue (part of the Lavender in the Valley offerings)

* Sept. 18 at 6 p.m.: "Composting" by Larry Kloeppel, master composter.

* Oct. 16 at 6 p.m.: "Attracting and Identifying Backyard Birds" by Wild Birds Unlimited and Partners for Wildlife.

If you go

WHAT: Agricultural forums

WHERE: Los Ranchos Village Hall, 6718 Rio Grande NW

WHEN: Today through Oct. 16

ADMISSION: Free, open to the public

LOAD-DATE: February 20, 2001
Members of 18 northern and southern Indian pueblos along the Rio Grande can learn about livestock, crops and agricultural assistance programs during free, two-day workshops March 1-2 in Alcalde and April 26-27 in Albuquerque.

New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service and the northern and southern pueblo offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs are jointly sponsoring the workshops. Events are open to the public but are designed to strengthen agriculture on the reservations, said Edmund Gomez, executive director of NMSU's Rural Agricultural Improvement and Public Affairs Project, based in Alcalde.

"We want to get as much information to pueblo producers as possible about assistance programs and educational opportunities available to them," Gomez said. "We plan to work a lot more with the Rio Grande pueblos in the future."

The workshops offer a variety of classes, including cattle vaccination, water issues, specialty crops, alfalfa production and insect control.

"We want to give a little of everything and then get feedback from participants about issues that merit more detailed workshops later on," Gomez said. "It's also a great opportunity for pueblo producers to meet extension agents and specialists that work in the counties where they reside."
The Alcalde and Albuquerque workshop agendas are virtually identical.

During the first day, extension specialists will teach livestock marketing strategies, cattle vaccination techniques and beef quality assurance. They will discuss animal diseases such as mad cow and foot-and-mouth and will offer a hands-on seminar on horse care.

First-day lectures include state water legislation, NMSU water research, water distribution techniques for proper range management and the Endangered Species Act. A panel discussion by extension, BIA and U.S. Department of Agriculture representatives will review producer assistance programs.

Second-day lectures will cover crops, irrigation and insect and weed control. Specialists will discuss specialty vegetables and fruits, alfalfa production, growing heirloom seeds and good agricultural practices to ensure food safety. There will be hands-on demonstrations on irrigation efficiency and invasive tree and brush control. Home economists will discuss diabetes and offer glucose screenings.

Participating agencies will set up information booths with free educational materials. Lunch and refreshments will be provided free to workshop participants.

The March 1-2 workshop will be held at NMSU's Sustainable Agriculture Science Center at Alcalde. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Seminars will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the first day and from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the second.

The schedule is identical for the April 26-27 workshop, which will be held at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

For more information, call Gomez at (505) 852-4241 or 852-2668.

LOAD-DATE: February 22, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Copyright 2002 Albuquerque Journal

Albuquerque Journal (New Mexico)
Agriculture, particularly blue corn production, is a staple of life on Santa Ana Pueblo

How about a steaming mug of roasted blue cornmeal instead of coffee for breakfast?

Atole, a breakfast drink of cornmeal, sugar and spices made with a cappuccino steamer, is one of the many items produced at Santa Ana Pueblo's grain mill.

U.S. Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M., announced recently an $85,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant that will be used for computerized packing machines and other improvements at the mill.

The mill pulverizes more than 21,000 pounds of corn a year and is an integral part of Santa Ana Agricultural Enterprises just as agriculture is an integral part of the pueblo's heritage.

"Agriculture is a staple of life for the Santa Ana people," Udall said in a news release. "More than just the management of soils and crops, agriculture is an integral component of their lifestyle and religion."

Unlike other businesses, Agricultural Enterprises isn't about making money, general manager Jerry Kinsman said Wednesday. "It's about preserving the Santa Ana Pueblo's cultural heritage."

He said the agricultural enterprises are self-supporting.

"Culturally, the Santa Ana are agrarian, and when we started, independent farming was dying out. We like to think that the tribal farm and other projects helped inspire pueblo members to hold firmly to their farming roots. We have a lot more people who farm now than we did when we first started."

The agricultural enterprises started with a blue corn demonstration in 1985 that was managed directly by tribal administration. It was so successful that the pueblo was able to secure a grant the following year for a multi-crop demonstration project.
Based on that project, the pueblo got another grant to start a tribal farm. The grant included money for other agricultural ventures, and the native plants nursery was the result.

The grain mill had been run by a consortium of small pueblos, including Santa Ana. Santa Ana purchased it in 1990 after the consortium's grant expired.

"It's all about adding value to the products," Kinsman said. "We sell most of our corn to the grain mill that, in turn, is able to sell products, like pancake mix, wholesale and retail.

"Without the mill, we would sell our corn for 27 cents a pound," Kinsman said. "Now, a bag of roasted blue cornmeal (used for atole) costs $5 for a 12-ounce bag."

The pueblo's largest buyer is the Body Shop, a cosmetics company in London, England. "They bought 6,600 pounds of cornmeal from us last year," Kinsman said.

The cornmeal is used in products ranging from face masks to lip scuff, which is used to exfoliate the lips before wearing lipstick.

The pueblo's Tamaya Blue corn products are also sold through its "The Cooking Post" catalogue.

The pueblo sells roasted and raw blue cornmeal, blue corn pancake and muffin mix and parched blue corn, a lightly salted snack similar to Cornnuts.

Mill operator Roy Leon said, "When I make 50 pounds of the parched corn, around five of them go for taste testing."

"The Cooking Post" features Native American food items from all over the country.

"We have cheese from Wisconsin and maple syrup from Minnesota," Kinsman said.

Three years after purchasing the mill, the pueblo opened a retail garden center near the Santa Ana Star Hotel and Casino.

The garden center is an outlet for the pueblo's native plants and tree nursery.

"Even though we're separate, we exist because of each other," said Carol Scrivner, the garden center manager. "Around 90 percent of our stock comes from the nursery."

Unlike other most other nurseries, the pueblo gathers native seeds and grows the plants outdoors.

"This makes a big difference in what people take home, Scrivner said. "Unlike plants that are grown at sea level and trucked here (to New Mexico), ours have a much better survival rate."

Scrivner also said that not having to make a big sale is a benefit to her and customers.

"We started out with the idea that profits weren't important," she said. "Consequently, we can ensure that we sell quality plants and give advice that people can really use, as opposed to selling them tomato plants knowing that they didn't have adequate space for them."
The garden center is scheduled to be at a new location near the intersection of N.M. 528 and N.M. 550 by the end of the year.

"The casino wants the parking," Kinsman said. "We've been here for five years, but it's a win-win situation. We'll be on the highway where people can see us."

For more information, visit "The Cooking Post" on the Web at www.cookingpost.com.

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: PHOTO BY: GREG SORBER/JOURNAL

PHOTO: b/w

NATIVE PLANTS: Pam Buethe, left, and Janice Dunsirn, both of Placitas, do some shopping at the Santa Ana Garden Center. The center, near the Santa Ana Star Hotel and Casino, will move to a location near the intersection of N.M. 528 and N.M. 550.

PHOTO: Color

TAMAYA BLUE: Some of the products made at the grain mill include roasted cornmeal, parched corn and blue corn pancake mix.

PHOTO: Color

KINSMAN: General manager of Santa Ana Agricultural Enterprises

PHOTO BY: GREG SORBER/JOURNAL

PHOTO: Color

BARREL OF BLUE: Ray Leon, mill operator at Santa Ana Pueblo's grain mill, uncovers a container of blue cornmeal, which could find its way into pancakes or as makeup in London, England.

PHOTO: Color

THE RIGHT TOOL: Equipment operator Roderick Reid drives the tribal farm's new hay baler.

Copyright 2002 Albuquerque Journal
How many Indian farmers are there in New Mexico?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says it knows of about 400 and thinks there are about 2,000 more.

New Mexico State University's agricultural agents and administrators say there are many more. An NMSU minority outreach coordinator believes as many as 10,000 Native Americans farm in New Mexico.

To address the conflict, the USDA is gathering together a task force to scour New Mexico and get a complete count of every Native American who meets the feds' definition of operating a farm.
"We'd like to get the count right. We want to get the most accurate picture," said Rich Allen, deputy administrator for programs and projects in the National Agriculture Statistics Service, the USDA branch that counts farmers.

In its latest agriculture census of the nation, the USDA said that of a total of 15,231 farms in New Mexico 430 were identified as operated by American Indians. In an appendix, the agency estimated there were about 2,500 Native American-operated farms, based on reports from reservations about their agricultural programs.

In order to be included in the agriculture census, farmers must fill out a detailed questionnaire. And in order for them to fill out the forms, the agency has to have identified them and sent them the forms.

Edmund Gomez, who directs NMSU's Rural Agricultural Improvement and Public Affairs Project, an outreach program that includes Indian farmers, said the federal agency didn't try hard enough to track down tribal members involved in agriculture.

Allen said the agency sent census forms to Indian farmers whose names and addresses they could obtain and asked tribal governments to help them enumerate others.

"Every one of our state statisticians made every effort to work with tribal governments to try to get names and addresses," Allen said. "We went to the reservations and talked to knowledgeable people."

Gomez said he can identify more than 2,500 farmers by name at the pueblos and the Jicarilla Apache reservation. He said he believes there are between 3,000 and 5,000 farmers on the pueblos, Jicarilla and the Mescalero Apache reservation and another 3,000 to 5,000 on Navajo lands in New Mexico.

"They work out of Las Cruces and Washington, D.C. I work out in the field," said Gomez, who is based in Alcalde. "I know."

Allen said he doubts it.

"I don't think it's going to be anywhere near that," Allen said. "I think it's going to end up being about 2,500 farms."

To qualify as a farmer under the USDA census, someone must have crops or livestock that could produce $1,000 in income in a year.

Gomez said he is concerned that undercounting of Indian farmers in New Mexico results in fewer federal funds coming here for cooperative extension programs and state experiment stations.

Allen said the USDA census numbers are not used to determine funding for those or any other federal programs. Federal programs are funded according to the numbers of farms and farmers reported on the every-10-years U.S. Census, he said.
Gomez will be on the task force that will work in New Mexico. The goal of the New Mexico follow-up project is to develop a better way to count minority farmers that might be applied to other states, Allen said.

The work should be completed by December 2005.

LOAD-DATE: April 29, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

Copyright 2004 Albuquerque Journal

CQ Federal Department and Agency Documents

REGULATORY INTELLIGENCE DATA

October 29, 2004 Friday

USDA AWARDS GRANTS TO ASSIST SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS

LENGTH: 1394 words

CONTACT: 202-270-4623
CASA GRANDE, Ariz, Oct. 29, 2004--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today announced that USDA is awarding 22 competitive grants totaling more than $5.9 million to strengthen efforts aimed at serving minority and disadvantaged farmers.

"We are committed to helping the nation's minority and socially disadvantaged farmers," said Veneman. "The grants will help many farmers and ranchers to successfully acquire, own, operate and retain farms and ranches by delivering a wide range of outreach and assistance activities including farm management, financial management and marketing."

The grants announced today are part of the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (OASDFR) Program, also referred to as the 2501, and are administered by USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES). A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice without regard to their individual qualities.

Veneman said that USDA is working to improve services to minority and socially disadvantaged farmers including creating USDA's Office of Minority and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Assistance (MSDA), established almost two years ago to work with minority and socially disadvantaged farmers who have concerns and questions about loan applications. The office, operated by the Farm Service Agency, is open from Monday to Friday, 8 to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, and can be reached by calling 1-866-538-2610 (toll free) or 202-720-1584 (local). In addition, Vernon Parker, assistant secretary for Civil Rights, is increasing communications with various groups about improving access to USDA programs and insuring compliance with civil rights laws and regulations.

Of the 22 organizations that will receive an award, eight are 1890 land grant colleges and universities, one is a 1994 land grant college, nine are not-for-profit, one is a Hispanic Serving Institution, and three are from other universities that serve socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

Those receiving grants include:

* Developing Innovations in Navajo Education, Inc., Flagstaff, Ariz., $292,886, for promoting the distribution and adoption of effective traditional Navajo agricultural practices throughout the southwest region of the Navajo Nation. This project will also increase Navajo farmer access to vital USDA support services. * The Southside Community Land Trust, Providence, R.I., $62,918, to teach basic computer skills, risk management and learning to grow and market ethnic and tropical varieties of vegetables to new entry immigrant and minority farmers. * Kentucky State University, Frankfort, Ky., $300,000, to enhance the knowledge of socially disadvantaged farmers, specifically Native American and African American farmers in beef cattle and dairy beef operations and marketing systems. This endeavor will improve their farms' profitability by applying risk management strategies, farm management, and recordkeeping systems. * Virginia State University, Petersburg, Va., $208,231, to assist socially disadvantaged farmers, particularly African American farmers in developing and enhancing farm business management skills and computer technology; beginning farmers will also be assisted in identifying and adopting environmentally sound alternative enterprises through inexpensive and efficient production
practices. * Kansas Black Farmers Association, Omaha, Neb., $197,500, to assist Black farmers in Kansas and Nebraska in addressing issues related to improving and expanding farming opportunities including raising grain crops and developing markets. * Langston University, Oklahoma City, Okla., $300,000, to equip socially disadvantaged farmers, particularly Native American and African American farmers, to own and operate farms and ranches; and to develop business and entrepreneurial skills. * University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, Ark., $299,772, to assist African American and Hispanic socially disadvantaged farmers in learning the skills necessary in owning and maintaining farm lands. These farmers will also receive training in completing loan and grant applications, improving production practices, farm management, and utilizing alternative enterprises to increase farm profits. * Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Ala., $300,000, to work with minority farmers, specifically Native American and Hispanic/Latino farm families to develop, and implement programs so that eligible farmers and their family members may apply for and acquire farms, equipment and housing. * University of Hawaii, Hilo, Hawaii,$ 300,000, this project will enable the Molokai native Hawaiians to establish farms as a strategy to demonstrate and transfer appropriate technology to native Hawaiian farm families on the Island of Molokai. * Si Tanka (Big Foot) College, Eagle Butte, S.D., $299,748, for hands-on training to strengthen the skills of Native American farmers in value-added processing and marketing of cooperatives. * Coastal Enterprises, Inc, Portland, Maine, $300,000, to work with Latino farm workers and Somali farmers and assist them in building successful farm enterprises that are consistent with their culture and lifestyle. * University of Hawaii, Hilo, Hawaii, $300,000, to improve the technical and managerial skills of small scale farmers in the Federated States of Micronesia, the republic of the Marshall islands, Hawaii and Alaska so as to enhance production, business management and marketing skills through strengthening of regional extension network. * Texas/Mexico Border Coalition, $297,870, to provide training and technical assistance to Hispanic producers for computer usage through the USDA e-Government initiatives and also in gaining access to USDA programs and services. * Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas, $200,000, for work with African American and Hispanic farmers by teaching strategies for effective marketing practices, better farm management, and business decision making through computer applications. * Alcorn State University, Alcorn State, Miss., $300,000, for outreach in identifying socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers who can participate in USDA programs. A promotional program will be implemented statewide through media, and publications to enhance small farmers' awareness of USDA programs and offer them technical assistance. * Minnesota Food Association, St. Anthony, Minn., $299,000, for work with new immigrants from South East Asia, Hispanic and Latin countries and Africa on programs and services available through the USDA and assist these farmers in developing new market outlets. * Alabama A&M University, Normal, Ala., $300,000, to work one-on-one with agricultural producers, more specifically African American and Hispanic socially disadvantaged farmers to increase their awareness and understanding of alternative farm management concepts, tools and strategies. * Inter-Tribal Agriculture Council, Billings, Mont., $300,000, to develop an outreach educational program which will include establishing and maintaining an internet site which will serve American Indian tribes, Indian agricultural producers, Indian landowners, and Tribal Land Grant Institutions. * University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, $25,000 to identify the Filipino immigrant farmers who are willing to participate in outreach and assistance programs, and assess the needs of immigrant farmers in pesticide use and marketing. * Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Albany, Ga., $269,190 to strengthen the capacity of minority farmers,
particularly African American farmers to gain access into federal farm assistance programs, value-added enterprises, and cooperative marketing, enabling them to increase both gross sales and net earnings and position themselves for future success. * Mississippi Association of Cooperatives, Jackson, Miss., $299,787, for work with African American farmers in improving the management of small farm cooperatives and income of their members through farm and credit management training, marketing, and value-added processing. * New Mexico State University, Alcalde, N.M., $219,283, for outreach and technical assistance to Native American and Hispanic farmers and ranchers so they can enhance their capacity to improve upon their farm management and marketing skills.

LOAD-DATE: November 1, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

AGENCY: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SIC-MAJOR-GROUP: 09 - General Classification

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Other

Copyright 2004 Congressional Quarterly, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Once upon a time, people went to the well to draw water.

Nowadays, water draws people to the well - the federal and state well, that is, as a source of funding for much-needed water projects.

At a recent Albuquerque meeting of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Assistance Office and Sen. Jeff Bingaman's office, there was a standing-room only crowd to learn about potential grants and loans to assist tribal communities with water and wastewater infrastructure development.

According to Bingaman, the Native American Set-a-Side program has been in existence for six years now through legislation sponsored by his office. The program has assisted 11 projects in New Mexico over this time.

"It is really inexcusable that in America and in New Mexico we still have communities that do not have access to drinking water except through water being trucked in," he said. "One of the biggest concerns we hear in Washington, D.C., and here in New Mexico is the need for clean, potable water here in New Mexico and wastewater systems, especially on tribal lands."

Today, there are programs geared toward New Mexico colonias and for minority and Hispanic agricultural farmers to assist in economic development through water or wastewater.

The New Mexico Department of Finance also provides funding through the Capital Outlay Office, which will provide $3 million this year for tribal infrastructure development. This
includes water, wastewater, roads, housing and economic development projects. The total capital outlay budget for the entire state is $470 million dollars, of which $21 million was budgeted for tribal programs, including senior and community centers.

Considering there are 21 pueblos and tribes in New Mexico, it is readily apparent that state funding priority for this area is a financial drop in the bucket - especially tribal gaming revenues through the revenue sharing compacts with New Mexico contribute toward the overall funding of all projects statewide.

One of the dilemmas confronting tribes is in establishing eligibility and coordinating the leveraging of these programs when projects often run into the millions of dollars. Or when a project is bringing water to an isolated location and the costs involved in bringing water to individual households become insurmountable.

A uniform application process is being developed to assist applicants in meeting eligibility and increasing the potential to get projects off the ground. It will be available online in September at www.state.nm.us/capitalprojects/.

Richardson, along with the Legislature, put a priority on the improvement of the quality of life for all New Mexicans as evidenced in its funding of almost $100 million for community centers, parks and recreation and senior centers. The governor's and Bingaman's offices are making a concerted effort to get more tribal projects eligible and funded by providing more technical assistance in the application process.

As tribal leaders set priorities and develop social and economic plans, addressing the need to replace old, outdated or even nonexistent infrastructure will be vital to the success of any project. It serves all of New Mexico to find areas of collaboration and partnership. Until the next time.
SAN FELIPE PUEBLO - Until recently, Candelario Sanchez of San Felipe Pueblo drove hundreds of miles every week to sell fruit and vegetables at markets in northern New Mexico.

"I used to drive all the way to San Juan just to sell corn," Sanchez said. "I was on the road all the time."

But now, Sanchez sells all his produce at a local market that San Felipe Pueblo established in 2002.

"With the market right here, I'm earning, like, twice as much as before," Sanchez said. "It's eliminated my transportation costs, and there's no vendor fee to sell here."

Like Sanchez, dozens of pueblo growers are benefiting from the new market, and from other tribal programs to shore up agriculture on the reservation. The programs aim to increase family
income and help pueblo members reconnect with their cultural roots, said Felice Lucero, farm services program manager.

"One or two generations ago, most of our people made a living off the land, but now the majority work in Albuquerque and other places," Lucero said. "We want to bring agriculture back as a central source of income and as a source of cultural pride."

San Felipe is not alone. Many tribal governments in New Mexico are promoting a return to their agricultural roots, said Gerald Chacon, northern district director for New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service.

"Native American culture is firmly grounded in agriculture but in recent generations farming has steadily declined," Chacon said. "The tribes want to reverse that trend, not just to promote economic development but to reinforce traditional customs and values."

To assist them, NMSU formed a Tribal Extension Task Force in 2004 that includes leaders from 22 Indian reservations, said Paul Gutierrez, Extension director and associate dean of NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

"The task force is working to reinforce tribal agriculture and provide educational opportunities for youth," Gutierrez said. "Education is critical for tribal members to develop the know-how and leadership skills to preserve agriculture in the long term."

Farm tradition revived

Extension specialists are helping tribes statewide. This spring, Extension fruit specialist Ron Walser helped Jemez Pueblo plant a 2.5-acre orchard with hundreds of fruit trees, grape vines and berry plants. Walser helped install state-of-the-art irrigation, and he's teaching innovative growing techniques, such as pruning, using trellis systems to increase yields and incorporating organic weed and pest controls.

"Farming has declined immensely at Jemez Pueblo, but we're working to revive it," said Steve Blodgett, head of Jemez Pueblo's Resource Protection Department. "We want to promote sustainable economic development projects that reinforce traditional values and cultural heritage, and the orchard is a key part of that."

Extension this month is launching a new beef qualityassurance program at most pueblos. Specialists will teach Native American ranchers about proper vaccination and herd health, feed programs, animal genetics, record keeping, range management and marketing, said Edmund Gomez, head of Extension small farm programs. It will benefit tribes with small and large herds, ranging from just 150 head at Cochiti Pueblo to 2,000 head at Isleta.

And, this spring, Extension will help the Ramah Navajo Chapter increase vegetable production with solar-heated cold frames that extend the growing season.

At San Felipe Pueblo, Extension is helping to increase forage crops.
"They planted sorghum-Sudan grasses in 2003 based on our recommendation," said agricultural specialist Del Jimenez. "Those are fastgrowing, drought-tolerant legumes that are good for crop rotation with alfalfa."

Jimenez and other agents are teaching workshops on topics such as tractor safety and maintenance, soil testing and using plastic row covers and other techniques to extend the growing season.

'It helps a lot'

The tribe now grows about 100 acres of alfalfa and alternative forage worth about $260,000 annually, Lucero said. In addition, the pueblo plans to grow blue corn and other varieties for off-reservation sales.

To increase alfalfa production on individual plots, the tribe assists pueblo growers in planting and harvesting their fields, Lucero said.

"We plow fields and plant alfalfa for growers for a nominal fee, and we often harvest and bale alfalfa for them," Lucero said. "We provide consulting and technical assistance on everything."

Candelario Sanchez said growers really take advantage of those services. "The pueblo plows and seeds our lands for just $15 an acre," Sanchez said. "It's so cheap everybody signs up for it. They need more workers out there to handle all the requests."

The farm-services program and the growers market have greatly increased agricultural production, with about half the pueblo's 3,000 members now growing vegetables and legumes, Lucero said.

Many people who already grew for home consumption are now diversifying and expanding production to sell at growers markets.

"I've been growing vegetables all my life, but I never tried to sell anything before," said Juan Rey Sandoval, a retired construction worker. "I began selling when they started the market. It helps a lot. I'm making out pretty well."

Kevin Robinson-Avila is an Albuquerque-based agent with the Cooperative Extension Service. He can be reached at 323-8604.

LOAD-DATE: November 7, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
Felice Lucero, left, examines alfalfa at San Felipe Pueblo with Del Jimenez - agricultural agent with NMSU's Cooperative Extension Service - and pueblo staff members William Candelaria and Harold Garcia. The field is planted in AV-120 alfalfa, a cold-hardy, high-protein variety that Jimenez recommended.

Candelario Sanchez, center, sells fresh vegetables and ristras at the weekly growers market at San Felipe Pueblo with his wife, Dori Sanchez, and 7-year-old nephew, Kevin Candelaria. Sanchez's income has doubled since the pueblo established the market in 2002.
ESPAÑOLA - They came from Taos, Abiquiu and Mora, among other places. One expressed concern about local grazing rights. A few were worried about the effects of genetically modified seeds. Whatever the subject, most had strong opinions.

About 60 people gathered on Sunday at Northern New Mexico College for a forum geared toward the area's small-scale farmers and ranchers, especially Hispanics and American Indians. The purpose, according to co-organizer Paula Garcia, was to educate them about this year's farm bill and solicit opinions about the policies northern New Mexicans hope to see implemented.

The bill, a complex piece of federal legislation that includes funding authorization and policies for agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service, must be voted on by Congress by Sept. 31.

Food stamps, rural development, commodity subsidies and grazing rights are just a few of the items the farm bill covers.

Re-authorization takes place every five years, and although Congress can re-authorize the bill with essentially the same language as the 2002 version, several new proposals are making their way through subcommittees in the House of Representatives, Garcia said.

"There is a window of opportunity to influence the farm bill," said Garcia, executive director of the New Mexico Acequia Association.

Recommendations from Sunday's forum will be compiled and presented to New Mexico's congressional delegation in the next two weeks, she said.

Officials from the offices of Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M. and Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M., were present at the discussion.

Many of those in attendance said they wanted more funding for New Mexico's "socially disadvantaged" farmers and ranchers.

Literature handed out at the forum said that although Hispanic farmers make up about 25 percent of the documented farmers in the western United States, they make up less than 1 percent of the beneficiaries of the USDA's Western Sustainable Agriculture Research Education Program.
"If you're a person of color and you get a grant, it's like winning the lottery," said Don Bustos of Santa Cruz Farms and Greenhouses.

"There's a big disparity between what large agribusinesses are getting and what small farmers are getting," Garcia said.

Organizers urged support of a bill, called the NOURISH Act, for Nutrition and Opportunities for the Underserved and Rural Incentives to Secure the Heartland Act of 2007, which Rep. Joe Baca, D-Calif., plans to introduce soon. The proposal would, among other things, provide greater access to USDA programs and services for minority farmers and ranchers. "I think we can do a lot better (for minorities) in this 2007 farm bill," said speaker Edmund Gomez. Gomez was part of a national advisory board that helped form the policies in Baca's bill. Sunday's forum was sponsored by the New Mexico Acequia Association, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension, Northern New Mexico College, American Friends Service Committee, the Northern New Mexico Stockmans Association and the Traditional Native American Farmers Association.

LOAD-DATE: July 10, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: JEFF GEISSLER/FOR THE JOURNAL JEFF GEISSLER/FOR THE JOURNAL
Don Bustos of Santa Cruz Farm and Greenhouses talks about how farm policies affect minority farmers and ranchers at the Northern New Mexico Farm Bill Forum in Española on Sunday.

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

Copyright 2007 Albuquerque Journal
WASHINGTON, Dec. 4, 2007 - Acting Agriculture Secretary Chuck Conner today appointed 20 members to serve on the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. Seven of the appointments are new; the other 13 are reappointments. This committee identifies ways to increase participation between federal and state programs to provide joint financing for beginning producers. Committee members also suggest agricultural opportunities that will help beginning farmers and ranchers.

"I was pleased to meet with committee members in July, and I appreciate their work to strengthen support of beginning farmers and ranchers," said Conner. "As the Administration's proposals for the 2007 Farm Bill demonstrate, helping beginning farmers and ranchers is a priority. I look forward to working together with this diverse, skilled team to build a strong future for our next generation of farmers and ranchers."

The Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 required the formation of the committee. Members serve for a two-year term, and can be reappointed for up to six consecutive years. The committee meets at least once a year and the meetings are open to the public.

The seven new members to the committee are:
Juan Carlos Hernandez of Miami, Fla.: Hernandez is a loan officer for Farm Credit of South Florida. Travis Jett of Laverne, Okla.: Jett is a beginning rancher and a senior at Oklahoma State University. Karen Kritz of Pemberton, N.J.: Kritz is involved in agricultural economic development at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Ryan Luter of Morrison, Okla.: Luter is a farmer and an Assistant Vice President at BancFirst Corp. in Oklahoma. Katherine Minthorn Good Luck of Pendleton, Ore.: Good Luck is the northwest regional representative of the Intertribal Agriculture Council and has a farming operation. Amarjit Sohal of Yuba City, Calif.: Sohal is an assistant vice president at Sacramento Valley Farm Credit in California.

William Zachary Penn of Deming, N.M.: Penn is a partner in Penn Farms. The 13 reappointments are:

Marian Beethe of Tecumseh, Neb.: Beethe heads a beginning farmer program for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Traci Bruckner of Wayne, Neb.: Bruckner assists in directing policy at the Center for Rural Affairs and also has a cow-calf operation. Richard Cates Jr. of Spring Green, Wis.: Cates directs a school for beginning farmers at the University of Wisconsin and has a cattle operation.

Ray Ellenberger of Belleville, Wis.: Ellenberger is USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) farm loan chief in Wisconsin. Timothy Harlow of Mylo, N.D.: Harlow is an outreach liaison for the National Tribal Development Association, which promotes economic opportunities for American Indians. He also operates a fruit and vegetable farm. Latrice Hill of Ridgeland, Miss.: Hill is an FSA outreach specialist in Mississippi. Janie Hipp of Washington, D.C.: Hipp is a National Program Leader for USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service in Washington, D.C. Lisa Koester of Wadesville, Ind.: Koester is part owner of Koester Brothers Farms, Inc. Trenton McKnight of Throckmorton, Texas: McKnight is a rancher and director of several banks in Texas. He served as vice-chairman of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers from 2006 through 2007 Ray Mobley of Tallahassee, Fla.: Mobley is an extension veterinarian at Florida AandM University and operates a small farm. Maria Moreira of Lancaster, Mass.: Moreira is the project director of Flats Mentor Farm and the immigrant farming project in Massachusetts. She also owns a dairy farm. Mary Peabody of Burlington, Vt.: Peabody is an associate professor at the University of Vermont and director of the Women's Agricultural Network Jeffrey Ward of Windsor Heights, Iowa: Ward is executive director of the Iowa Agricultural Development Authority and chairman of the National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs. All members have experience in agriculture.

The law requires committee members to include representatives from the following groups: state beginning farmer programs; educational institutions; lending institutions; nonprofit organizations; USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA); USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service; and other entities providing assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers. USDA also appoints farmers and ranchers to serve on the committee.

#

Release No. 0359.07
Acequia de Alcalde ditch commissioner Lucia Sanchez stood in a room full of fellow irrigators last month and asked them, quite seriously, if they had filled out their federal Agriculture Census forms.

"Several of them giggled," said Sanchez, a farmer and community outreach coordinator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's extension office in Alcalde.
She knew their temptation was to chuck the scary, tax-return-looking census form in the trash.

Fill it out instead, she urged them.

The census -- which counts things like farms, cattle, chickens and chile production across the country every five years -- is the foundation for vital information.

The data helps garner federal money for farm programs and, Sanchez believes, could help protect water rights in her Northern New Mexico village. "Our water hasn't been adjudicated yet," she said. "When it comes to making a case before the state engineer of how many acres are in production and how much water is used, the census numbers will be important."

Data gathered in the census is crucial to congressional policy on agriculture, said Rick Lopez, Farm Service Agency director in New Mexico. This year's census forms are due Feb. 4.

Five years ago, the federal Advisory Committee on Agricultural Statistics found the 2002 census had severely undercounted American Indian and small-scale Hispanic farmers, according to then-committee member Edmund Gomez. That low count cost the state millions of dollars in federal agriculture funds that help farmers and ranchers make their operations more efficient, pay them to provide wildlife habitat or help them recover from natural disasters.

The numbers also can be used for making decisions in other ways, he said. If a livestock disease breaks out, the state knows how many potential animals are involved.

The data also can help communities and tribes with long-term planning, Sanchez said.

So who should fill out an agriculture census? Anyone who produces for sale or consumption at least $1,000 worth of food or fiber a year and anyone with a horse. That includes backyard horse owners in Santa Fe County.

People who own a productive vegetable garden, a raspberry patch or a hive of honey bees should fill one out, too.

Sanchez, 27, is filling out a census form and urging her parents to do so as well. Together, they raise a variety of vegetables, fruits and hay on more than 50 irrigated acres in Alcalde. Until she started working with the agricultural extension office, she said, she didn't understand why the census was important.

Distrust of the government is a challenge, Sanchez said. Farmers and ranchers in her neighborhood consider the census invasive. "It asks how much they produce, what they produce, how much land they work," she said.

Individual names and information are confidential. It is the numbers that matter to the federal officials.

Many producers in the state never receive the census form. The National Agricultural Statistics Service, which collects the data, doesn't know they exist, Sanchez said. Others, especially among
Tribe and pueblos, may be counted as a single entity instead of separate farms. Those challenges meant a lot of New Mexico agricultural producers went uncounted in the last census.

Lopez said he and other agricultural staff members worked to get census information out to the state's three tribes and 19 pueblos this year through schools, chapter houses and other meeting places. He thinks it's working.

Sheryl LaRue, county executive director for the Santa Fe Farm Bureau Agency office, said she works with about 450 active producers around the county from La Cienega to Pojoaque. The office used to have as many as 1,500 producers, she said. LaRue said she's been helping producers with the census. "A lot of them are pretty uncomfortable with filling it out. They are intimidated by it," she said.

For more information or a copy of the agriculture census, see www.agcensus.nass.usda.gov or call a local agriculture extension or Farm Service Agency office. In Santa Fe, call LaRue at 988-6253.

Contact Staci Matlock at 470-9843 or smatlock@sfnewmexican.com
Economic growth in rural New Mexico
As the State Director of USDA Rural Development, I have the great privilege to travel to the far reaches of New Mexico and spend a lot of time in some of our more rural communities. In making these journeys, I've seen a large number of towns and villages in which good things are happening. I've also seen that there are some communities that are having a tougher go of it.

Regardless of which side of this equation a community happens to be on, there is an almost universal desire to increase the level of economic activity, if for no other reason than to give the local kids an opportunity to find a job and buy a home in the town where they grew up. Most of us also instinctively understand that if we're not growing, we're dying (this seems to be true in our individual lives as well as the life of our community).

We're fortunate at Rural Development (RD) to administer several programs on behalf of the US Department of Agriculture in support of increasing economic activity. Since I joined this agency in May of 2006, I've seen firsthand how RD can use these programs to help provide financial support to expand business opportunities - in even the smallest communities in New Mexico.

If you don't believe me, look for Solano on your map of New Mexico. For those of you who need a hint, Solano is located about halfway between Roy and Mosquero in Harding County. By anybody's definition, Solano qualifies as "small". In fact, if the population of the entire county lived in Solano, it would still qualify as "small" (according to the US Census Bureau, Harding County had 810 people in 2000). Yet we were able to provide financial assistance to equip a welding manufacturing plant in Solano. This plant is now leased by Hartley Construction which has created twelve jobs.

Farther south, we awarded an RD grant to the Pecos Valley Bio-Mass Cooperative which has initiated a feasibility study on how to convert cow manure into energy. Creating new energy sources like this has been successful in other parts of the country and I firmly believe that some day soon we will see an energy producing plant in Chaves County which will both create numerous jobs and produce a critical source of electricity.

Now is the time to take advantage of the various financing programs offered by USDA Rural Development. Application deadlines are fast approaching for some of our business development programs:
March 31 is the deadline to apply for the Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program which allows farmers and ranchers to earn more revenue by turning their commodities into other higher valued products.

March 31 is also the deadline for the Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) which is available to public bodies, non-profits and Native American tribes to finance training and technical assistance for business development.

Finally, March 31 is the deadline for the Rural Economic Development Loan (REDLG) program. Through this program we provide zero-interest loans to Rural Development utility program borrowers (Electric and Telephone Coops). They in turn re-lend the money to local entities to promote economic development and job creation projects.

April 8 is the impending deadline for the Rural Cooperative Development Grant which is used to finance cooperative development centers that promote the cooperative form of business and for the Small Minority Producer Grant program. This program benefits cooperatives or associations of cooperatives with at least 75 percent minority representation among their membership and/or governing board. It also provides technical assistance to small, minority agriculture producers.

As you can see, we haven't been given much time to get these applications in so I urge anyone living in rural New Mexico who would like more details on these programs to contact your nearest local RD office, our State Office at (505) 761-4953, or visit our Web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov as soon as possible.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with you to keep rural New Mexico alive and vibrant.

Ryan Gleason is USDA Rural Development State Director

LOAD-DATE: July 18, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Ryan Gleason

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper
WASHINGTON, D.C. AND FARMINGTON, N.M.— Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced today that he is awarding a $300,000 Water 2025 Challenge Grant to the Navajo Nation to improve the efficiency of a major farm irrigation system serving the tribe. Reclamation Commissioner Robert W. Johnson presented the grant to Navajo Nation officials at a ceremony this afternoon in the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry office in Farmington, N. M.

"This grant will help the Navajo Nation and the region to address critical 21st century water challenges and conserve scarce water resources for future generations," Secretary Kempthorne said. "It will save an additional 26,600 acre-feet of water per year on the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project. This grant is an outstanding example of what our Water for America initiatives aim to accomplish across the West."

The Navajo Agricultural Products Industry, the tribe's farming and agri-business enterprise, will use the grant to install a more efficient canal gate operating system and to develop an irrigation scheduling program to decrease annual canal spills and reduce incidents of over-application of water to farm fields in the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project. In addition to Interior's $300,000 contribution, the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry will provide cash and in-kind services for the project, which has an estimated total cost of about $1.09 million.
Granted under the Bureau of Reclamation's Water 2025 program, the challenge grants assist water districts, tribes and other water management agencies by providing funds to improve their water delivery system operations. The grants enable water districts to develop plans of action focused on improving efficiency and operations on a regional and/or basin perspective.

The Bureau of Reclamation has been responsible for the design and construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project facilities up to the turnouts at the individual farm units. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, in cooperation with the Navajo Nation, is responsible for developing the farm units, farm distribution systems, drainage, and farm-to-market roads.

The project facilities are being constructed in eleven blocks of about 10,000 acres each. Seven blocks are currently under irrigation. The Navajo Nation's agricultural business enterprises produce alfalfa, corn, potatoes, wheat, dried beans, onions, pumpkins, popcorn, and tree fruits.

For additional information about the Interior Challenge Grant Award, please contact Justyn Hock at (970) 248-0625 or Pat Page at (970) 385-6560.

Contact: Joan Moody
(202) 208-6416

Justyn Hock (970) 248-0625
Pat Page (970) 385-6560

LOAD-DATE: September 12, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

JOURNAL-CODE: INR

Copyright 2008 Federal Information and News Dispatch, Inc.
States News Service

September 29, 2008 Monday

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION: RECLAMATION ANNOUNCES AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR REHABILITATION OF CANALS AND LATERALS OPERATED BY NAVAJO INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 451 words

DATELINE: SALT LAKE CITY, Utah

The following information was released by the Bureau of Reclamation:

Reclamation Announces Award of Contract for Rehabilitation of Canals and Laterals Operated by the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project

On Friday, September 26, 2008, the Bureau of Reclamation announced that it had awarded a contract in the amount of $2.37 million to DLM Contracting Enterprises, Inc, of Albuquerque, NM, for rehabilitation of the Burnham Lateral - West and Reach 1 - Canal operated by the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP).
"Award of this contract will help to improve both the safety and water delivery capabilities of canals and laterals operated by the Navajo Nation," said Reclamation Commissioner Robert W. Johnson. "Repairs to the Navajo Nation's existing water conveyance facilities will foster continued development of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project and benefit future generations of water users."

Work to be performed under the contract will include: excavation and disposal of concrete lining and unsuitable materials from the existing canal embankment; construction of new embankments and installation of reinforced concrete lining; installation of new safety access ladders; and sealing of cracks in the existing canal lining. Reclamation anticipates rehabilitation work performed under this contract to be completed in summer of 2009. The canal improvements will occur along the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project's Burnham Lateral which is located approximately 18 miles south of Farmington, New Mexico in San Juan County.

The Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) is one of the largest Native American owned and operated agricultural enterprises in the United States. In the early 1960's the United States Congress authorized the construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP), enacted by Public Law (87-483), to provide a water delivery system from the Navajo Dam reservoir to 110,630 acres of irrigable land. The statute includes an annual diversion right of 508,000 acre feet of water to irrigate these acres.

Reclamation has lead responsibility for the design and construction of NIIP irrigation facilities through the turnouts at the individual farm units. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), in cooperation with the Navajo Nation, is responsible for developing the farm units, farm distribution systems, drainage, and farm-to-market roads. The Navajo Nation established the NAPI to farm the project.

DLM Contracting Enterprises, Inc. is an emerging, minority-owned commercial and institutional building construction contractor, based in Albuquerque, NM. The company specializes in maintenance and repair of real property or facilities in the Albuquerque and Farmington, NM, areas.

LOAD-DATE: September 30, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire


[4] Robert A. Hoppe, Penni Korb, Erik J. O'Donoghue, and David E. Banker. “Structure and Finances of U.S. Farms: Family Farm Report, 2007.” Available from http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/eib24/eib24b.pdf. Accessed 5 March, 2009. Other field crops include tobacco, peanuts, cotton, sugar beets, sugar cane, corn for silage, sorghum for silage, hay, canola, and general crops, where no single crop accounts for the majority of production. It also includes farms with all cropland in the Conservation Reserve or Wetlands Reserve Programs (CRP or WRP). High-value crops are vegetables, fruits and tree nuts, and nursery and greenhouse products. Other livestock includes sheep, lambs, wool, mohair, horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, bees, honey, aquaculture, mink, rabbits, other fur-bearing animals, bison, deer, elk, llamas, etc. It also includes farms where no single livestock species accounts for the majority of production.


[6] Ibid. There is not enough of an incentive for Hispano farmers to apply for organic licenses. These licenses can take up to three seasons to acquire.


[8] Tawnya Laveita, (Executive Director, Farm to Table), in discussion with the author, February 17th, 2009.

[10] Tawnya Laveita, (Executive Director, Farm to Table), in discussion with the author, February 17th, 2009.


[12] Tawnya Laveita, (Executive Director, Farm to Table), in discussion with the author, February 17th, 2009.


[16] Ibid, 288.
