

Crossroads Resource Center

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Tools for Community Self-determination

Colorado Plateau & Intermountain Valley Bioregion Local Farm & Food Economy

Highlights of a data compilation
by Ken Meter, Crossroads Resource Center (Minneapolis)
for
New Mexico Bioneers
July 27, 2009

The bioregion described here encompasses McKinley & San Juan Counties in New Mexico.

Note: Bioregional boundaries do not follow county lines, but data used in this report is largely reported by county. This regional report covers McKinley and San Juan Counties in their entirety, which is only an approximation of the bioregion.

Colorado Plateau & Intermountain Valley: (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

192,218 residents receive \$4.9 billion of income annually (2007). Real personal income has increased four-fold since 1969, in part due to a doubling of population. Despite this increase, there has been little public planning to assure a secure and stable food supply.

Issues affecting low-income residents of Colorado Plateau Region:

93,050 residents (50%) earn less than 185% of federal poverty guidelines. At this level of income, children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. These lower-income residents earn a combined \$1.2 billion per year, spending \$172 million buying food. Their food purchases are supplemented by SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) and by WIC coupons (these two benefits combined generally amount to about 10-15% of low-income food expenditures). Low-income households alone lost an aggregate total of \$56 million in assets in the year 2007. *Data from Federal Census of 2000, & Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

Food-related health conditions in New Mexico:

One-fifth (20%) of New Mexico residents have no health insurance — the second highest rate in the U.S. Only half of state employers offer health coverage.¹ This lack of insurance carries significant public costs, since both county governments and medical facilities pay for treating customers who are not covered. Costs of this treatment in New Mexico are estimated to be \$6 billion per year.²

¹ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, State summary for New Mexico, <http://covertheuninsured.org/>, accessed May 24, 2009.

² New Mexico Human Services Department (2007). "Summary of New Mexico's Universal Health Coverage Reform Efforts." SCI/Academy Health Summer Workshop for State Officials, August 2. Viewed May 24, 2009, at www.statecoverage.org/files/2007_SCI_Summer_Meeting_Esquibel.ppt.

Food has become a leading cause of death in the U.S, rivaling tobacco. A high-calorie diet, combined with a lack of exercise, accounts for one-fifth of the annual deaths in the U.S.³ Six of the fifteen leading causes of death are related to poor diet and low physical activity.⁴

60% of New Mexico residents are overweight or obese, with one-third (34%) overweight and more than one-quarter (26%) obese. Nearly four of every five state residents (78%) eat fewer fruits and vegetables that nutritionists recommend (five servings per day), and 22% report they have no physical activity. 7.8% of state residents have been diagnosed with diabetes. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

The region's ranches and farms (U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2007)

Agriculture Census data for 2007 were released February 4, 2009. Note that the Census of Agriculture uses the term "farm" to include both ranches and farms.

Since 1987, regional trends in agriculture have been dominated by events in San Juan County, where commodity sales have increased. However, commodity sales in McKinley county have declined, in real dollars, since 1969.

Land:

- 4,521 ranches and farms.
- The Colorado Plateau Intermountain Valley Region has 22% of New Mexico farms.
- 58% of the region's ranches and farms are located in McKinley County.
- The number of farms grew dramatically (372%) from 2002 to 2007. The region held only 958 farms five years earlier. Growth in the number of farms appears to be explained primarily better reporting of small farms owned by Latino/Native residents.
- 138 (3%) of these are 1,000 acres or more.
- 3,570 (79%) farms are less than 50 acres.
- The most prevalent farm size is 1-9 acres, with a total of 2,609 farms (40% of farms).
- Average farm size is 1,063 acres, 51% of New Mexico's average.
- The region has 4.8 million acres of land in ranches and farms.
- This amounts to 11% of the state's farmland.
- 139,000 acres (3%) of the region's farmland is cropland.
- Region farms have 76,000 acres of harvested cropland.
- 1,521 (34%) farms have a total of 82,962 acres of irrigated land.
- Average value of land and buildings per farm is \$203,701. This is 29% of the state average of \$696,000.

Sales (Note that there may be discrepancies between Ag Census data and Bureau of Economic Analysis data, below):

- \$65 million of crops and livestock sold (2007), 3% of state farm sales.

³ McGinnis, J.M. & W.H. Foegen (1993). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 270(18):2207-12; and Mokdad, A.H, J.S. Marks, D.F. Stroup, & J.I. Gerberding (2000). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 291(10):1238-45 [with published corrections in *JAMA* (2005), 293(3), 293-294.]

⁴ Heron M., D.L. Hoyert, J. Xu, C. Scott, & B. Tejada (2008). *Deaths: preliminary data for 2006*. National Vital Statistics Report 56:16. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_16.pdf.

- This is a 50% increase in sales over 2002 sales of \$43 million.
- Total farm production expenses were \$72 million.
- This results in a net loss of \$7 million from farm production in 2007.
- Production costs rose 58%, from \$46 million in 2002 to the 2007 level of \$72 million.
- The largest production expense item was feed, totaling \$18.9 million. Costs for purchasing gasoline, fuels and oils were second, at \$9.6 million. The region's farmers also spent \$6 million on supplies, repair and maintenance, \$6 million on labor, and \$5.8 million on livestock.
- \$48.4 million of crops were sold (74% of sales), 79% more than the \$27 million sold in 2002.
- \$16.7 million of livestock and products were sold (26% of sales). It is not possible to compare this figure with 2002 sales since data from McKinley County were suppressed to protect confidentiality.
- 4,236 (94%) of the region's farms sold less than \$10,000 of products in 2007. Their aggregate sales of \$7.2 million amounted to 11% of the region's farm product sales. Increases were especially large in San Juan County, where the number of farms selling, for example, between \$5,000 and \$9,999 of products rose from 87 in 2002 to 317 in 2007.
- 30 farms (0.7%) sold more than \$100,000 of products, an aggregate total of \$50 million, or 78% of the region's farm product sales. Growth was especially strong in San Juan County, where sales of the largest farms rose \$17 million, from \$30 million to \$47 million, from 2002 to 2007, with only one new net farm (from six to seven farms) added.
- 225 farms received \$971,000 of federal subsidies in 2007, mostly in San Juan County. [Note that Agriculture Census data differ from Bureau of Economic Analysis data; see below.]
- 80% (3,611) of region's farms reported net losses in 2007, even after subsidies are taken into account. This is far higher than the New Mexico average of 65% (13,526 of 20,930 farms). 88% of McKinley County farms and 69% of San Juan County farms reported net losses.

Principal Products sold in 2007 (data may be estimated or incomplete due to confidentiality):

	\$ millions
Cattle	<i>suppressed</i>
Forage	15
Vegetables	14
Edible Beans	5

Grains, Dry Edible Beans, Oil Crops, and others:

- 8 farms in the Colorado Plateau region (mostly in San Juan County) raised corn in 2007.
- Corn production and sales were not reported in 2002, to protect confidentiality.
- 5 of the region's farmers sold wheat.
- The region's wheat sales were not reported, to protect confidentiality.
- 14 farms raised 655 bushels of oats on 40 acres in San Juan County.
- 89 farms, mostly in McKinley County, produced over 1,065 hundredweight of dry edible beans worth \$5 million.

Cattle & Dairy:

- 2,226 ranches and farms hold an inventory of 56,245 cattle and calves.

- 27,236 cattle were sold from 1,138 ranches and farms in 2007 (\$8.7 million of cattle were sold from San Juan County farms; McKinley County sales data were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality). This represents a sharp rise (331%) in the number of farms selling cattle since 2002.
- 8 farms hold a combined inventory of 42 dairy cows.
- 1 farm was reported as selling milk or dairy products in both 2002 and 2007.
- Milk and dairy sales were not reported in 2002 for confidentiality reasons.
- 727 farms produced 147,734 dry tons of forage crops (hay, etc.) on 30,114 acres of cropland, selling \$15 million worth.

Other livestock & animal products:

- 227 farms sold a total of \$632,000 of horses. The number of farms selling horses rose 76% from 129 in 2002, while sales increased 44% over the 2002 level of \$440,000.
- 1,984 farms held an inventory of 55,322 sheep, lambs, and goats, with 1,620 farms selling \$616,000 worth, primarily from San Juan County. While the number of farms raising these small livestock rose dramatically (1,488% over the 2002 count of 102 farms), sales decreased (-72%) from \$2.2 million in sales in 2002.
- 353 farms raise laying hens.
- Inventory of layers is 4,659. Half of these are raised in San Juan County.
- 137 farms sold \$59,000 of poultry and products in 2007. In 2002, 43 farms sold \$5,000 of poultry or poultry products. Thus, the number of farms rose 219% and sales increased 1,080%.
- 45 farms sold 399 hogs and pigs for total sales of \$45,000. This is an 80% increase in the number of farms (from 25), and a \$19,000 increase (73%) in sales, over the past five years.
- 47 farms hold an inventory of 248 hogs and pigs.

Nursery, Landscape and Ornamental Crops:

- 13 farms sold ornamental and nursery crops. By contrast, in 2002, 15 farms sold ornamentals. Sales figures were not reported.

Vegetables & Melons (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent vegetable production):

- Vegetable and potato sales totaled \$14 million.
- 948 farms produced vegetables on 10,903 acres of land, primarily in San Juan County.
- Only 35 farms raised vegetables in 2002; growth in vegetable farms from 2002 to 2007 was a dramatic 2,597%.
- 72 farms raised potatoes.
- The Colorado Plateau region hosts 54% of New Mexico's vegetable farmers, and 16% of state vegetable sales.
- Specific vegetables produced and reported to the Agriculture Census are listed below:

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

McKinley County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Cabbage, Head	7	2
Cantaloupes	10	8

Carrots	1	(D)	
Garlic	1	(D)	
Herbs, Fresh Cut	1	(D)	
Honeydew Melons	3	(D)	
Onions, Dry	-	-	
Onions, Green	7		2
Peppers, Bell	-	-	
Peppers, Chile	13		10
Potatoes	35		103
Pumpkins	39		35
Radishes	4		5
Squash, all	260		271
Squash, Summer	259	(D)	
Squash, Winter	1	(D)	
Sweet Corn	444		827
Tomatoes in open	8		10
Vegetables, other	25		20
Watermelons	58		50

San Juan County

	Farms	Harvested acres	
Asparagus	-	-	
Beans, Green Lima	1	(D)	
Beans, Snap	8	(D)	
Beets	-	-	
Broccoli	-	-	
Cabbage, Head	-	-	
Cantaloupes	96	(D)	
Carrots	2	(D)	
Cauliflower	-	-	
Collards	2	(D)	
Cucumbers & Pickles	35		13
Eggplant	-	-	
Garlic	6		1
Herbs, Fresh Cut	1	(D)	
Honeydew Melons	23		24
Lettuce, all	5		1
Lettuce, Leaf	5		1
Okra	1	(D)	
Onions, Dry	2	(D)	
Onions, Green	8		5
Peas, Green	1	(D)	
Peas, Southern	3		2
Peppers, Bell	4		1
Peppers, Chile	39		36
Potatoes	37	(D)	

Pumpkins	17	(D)	
Radishes	4	(D)	
Spinach	1	(D)	
Squash, all	122		82
Squash, Summer	117	(D)	
Squash, Winter	11	(D)	
Sweet Corn	425	(D)	
Tomatoes in open	57		29
Vegetables, other	35		50
Watermelons	226	(D)	

Fruits & Nuts

(some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent fruit production):

- The region has 114 fruit farms with 288 acres of orchards, mostly in San Juan County. This compares to 39 fruit farms in 2002.
- Sales of fruits and nuts from San Juan County were not reported in 2007 to protect confidentiality; so sales figures for 2007 are incomplete. McKinley County farmers sold \$24,000 of fruits and nuts.
- Fruit and nut sales in San Juan County in 2002 totaled \$713,000.
- Specific fruits and nuts produced and reported to the Agriculture Censuses are listed below:

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

McKinley County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	12	7
Apricots	7	3
Peaches, all	11	10

San Juan County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	52	161
Apricots	50	39
Cherries, Sweet	7	(D)
Cherries, Tart	2	(D)
Grapes	20	21
Peaches, all	41	22
Pears, all	26	8
Plums & Prunes	8	(D)

Detailed list of berry acreage in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census (if a given county in the region is not listed as producing berries, the county is not named below):

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

McKinley County

(no berry production reported)

San Juan County

	Farms	Acres
Blackberries	1	(D)
Other berries	4	(D)
Strawberries	2	(D)

Direct & organic sales:

- 366 ranches and farms sell at least \$279,000 of food directly to consumers (direct sales were not reported for McKinley County farms to protect confidentiality). This is a 321% increase in the number of farms selling direct (87 in 2002), and a 33% increase in direct sales, over \$209,000 in 2002. Direct sales account for 0.4% of region farm sales, same as the national average.
- Region farmers make up 24% of the state's ranches and farms selling direct, and account for 2% of New Mexico's direct sales (\$11.2 million of direct sales in New Mexico in 2007, a substantial 70% increase over \$6.6 million direct sales in 2002).
- The New Mexico Organic Commodities Commission reports there are two farms, both in San Juan County, that are certified organic. They operate 527 acres of certified farmland. This amounts to 1% of New Mexico's 166 organic farms, and 0.5% of the state's certified acreage (105,551 acres).
- According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 7 of the region's farms sold organic foods, with over \$319,000 in sales. This is 3% of the New Mexico farms (269) selling organic.
- Organic production is more present in nearby Taos County.
- Local lists of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms show no CSA farms in the region.
- According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 11 farms market through CSA arrangements. This is one of every five CSA farms in New Mexico. *[Analysts have pointed out that Census reports of CSA farming may overstate actual number of farms.]*
- 74 farms produce added-value products on the farm.

Conservation practices:

- 222 farms use rotational management or intensive grazing.
- 111 farms use conservation practices.
- 32 farms generate some electricity on the farm.
- 193 farms obtain irrigation water from the Bureau of Reclamation.

State of New Mexico Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- New Mexico has 20,930 farms, 38% more than the 15,170 farms in 2002.
- Nevertheless, the number of acres in farms decreased 4%, to 43 million acres in 2007.
- 8,904 farm operators are Latino.
- 6,611 farm operators are Native American.
- The state has 24,214 White farm operators.
- There are 43 Asian-American, 66 African-American, and 26 Pacific Islander farm operators.
- New Mexico farmers sold \$2.2 billion of crops and livestock in 2007, up 28% from \$1.7 billion in sales five years before.
- This includes \$1.6 billion of livestock, and \$553 million in crops.
- The Agriculture Census lists production expenses as \$1.9 billion for all state farms.
- Government payments to farmers decreased 14%, to \$43 million in 2007 from \$50 million in 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size is 1-9 acres, with 6,400 farms.
- The next most prevalent size is 10-49 acres, with 4,300 farms.
- 3,600 farms are more than 1,000 acres.
- New Mexico ranks 9th in the U.S. for dairy sales, with \$1 billion. This is also the most important farm commodity sold in the state, in terms of sales.
- Second most important product in New Mexico is cattle, with \$576 million in sales.
- The state's farms held an inventory of 1.5 million cattle, down from 1.7 million in 1997.
- The most important single crop raised is forage, with \$139 million sold from 366,000 acres.
- 302,000 acres are devoted to wheat production.
- New Mexico farms sell \$105 million of fruits and nuts, and \$89 million of vegetables.

New Mexico's top 25 farm products in 2007 (Economic Research Service)

See chart on next page

1	Dairy products	1,353.8
2	Cattle and calves	951.8
3	Hay	195.4
4	Pecans	96.2
5	Onions	63.4
6	Greenhouse/nursery	62.4
7	Wheat	38.5
8	Cotton	35.0
9	Peppers, chile	32.9
10	Corn	23.9
11	Potatoes	14.3
12	Sorghum grain	9.9
13	Peanuts	7.0
14	Dry beans	6.1
15	Sheep and lambs	5.4
16	Wool	1.3
17	Apples	1.0
18	Honey	0.5
19	Hogs	0.2
20	Mohair	0.2

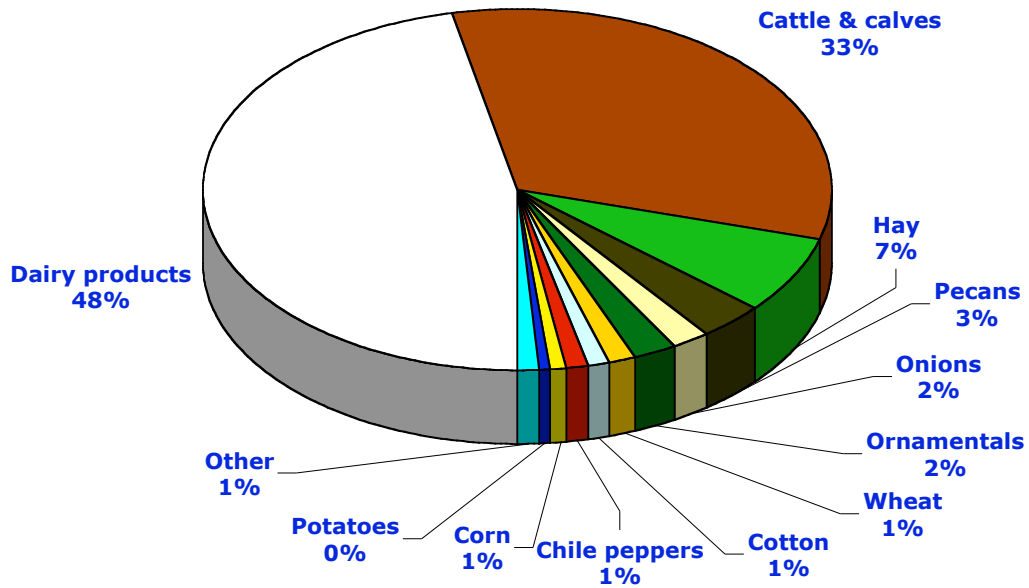
Note: chicken eggs and farm chickens were also listed among New Mexico's top 25 products, but sales figures for these products were not released by ERS.

Note also that at \$11 million, direct sales from farmers to consumers amount to more than the value of the 12th ranking product, sorghum grain.

New Mexico's top 25 farm products in 2007 (Economic Research Service)

See table on previous page

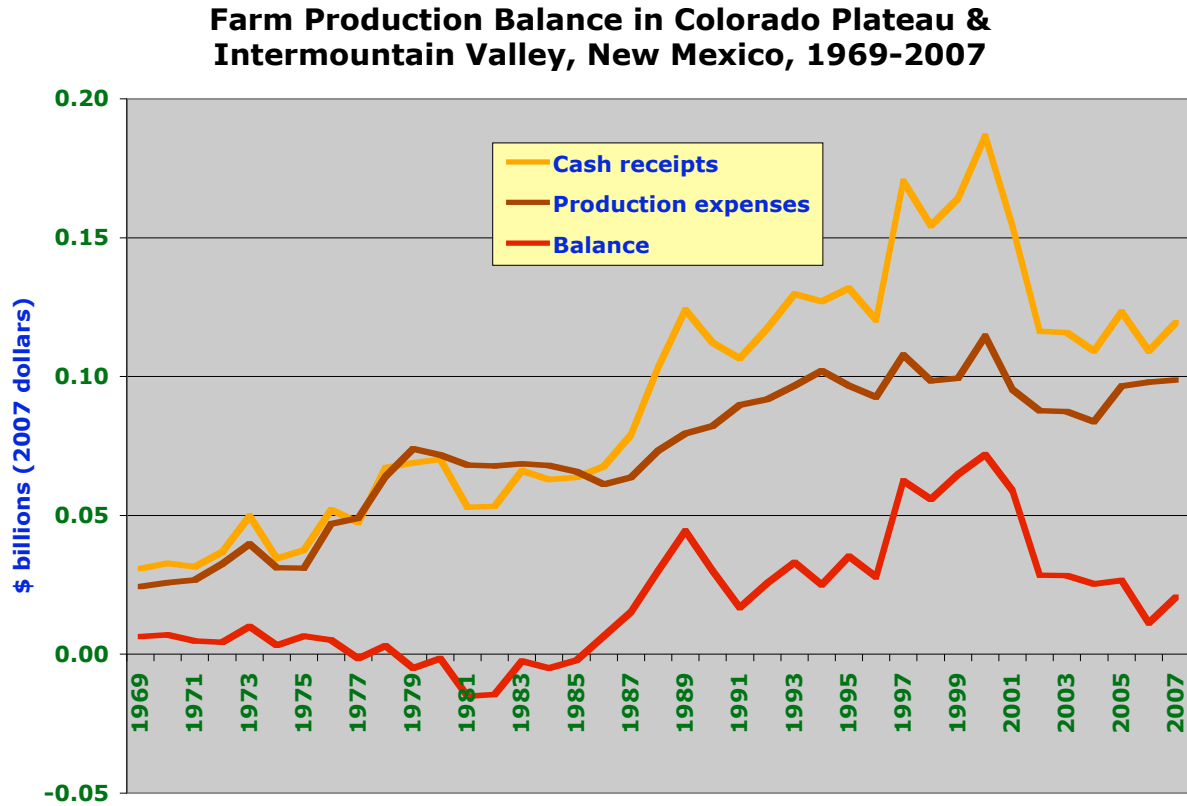
Top 25 commodities sold by New Mexico farms, 2007



Source: USDA Economic Research Service

Balance of Cash Receipts and Production Costs (Bureau of Economic Analysis):

Note: Bureau of Economic Analysis farm income data differ from Agriculture Census data.



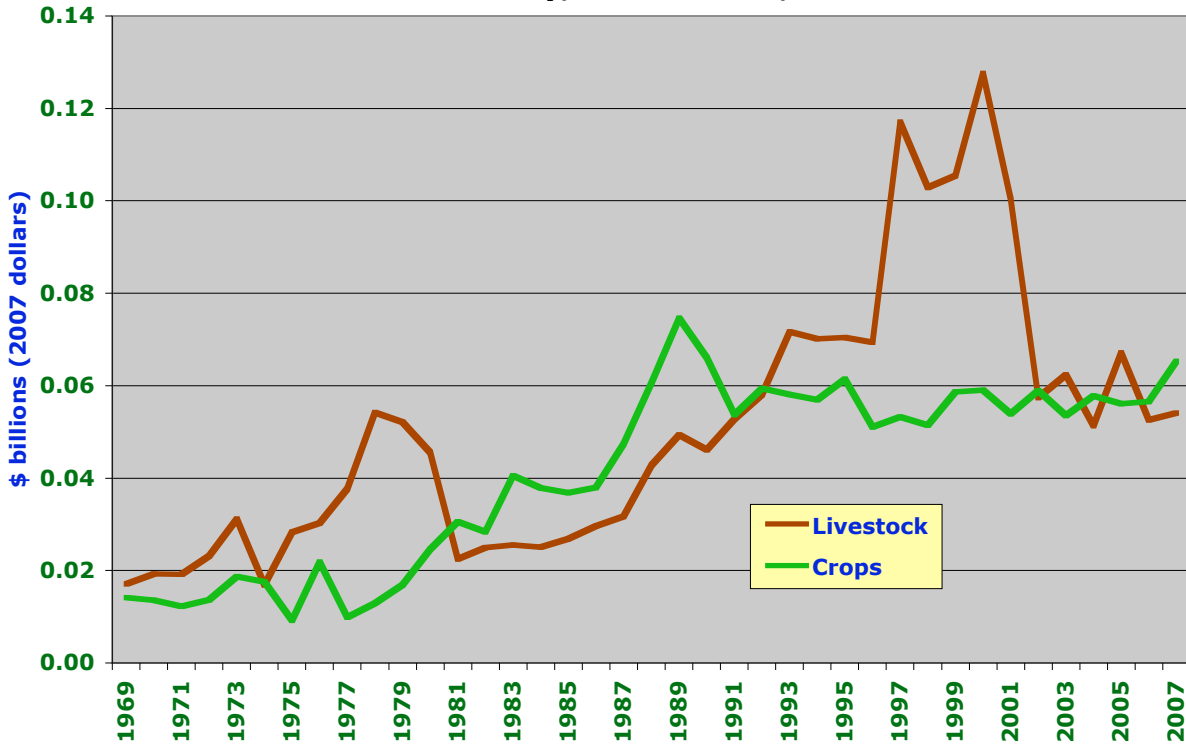
Colorado Plateau Region farmers sell \$110 million of commodities per year (1979-2007 average), spending \$86 million to raise them, for an average gain of \$24 million each year. **This data largely reflects farm sales in San Juan County** — since 1993, farmers in McKinley County have spent more money producing crops and livestock than they earn by selling commodities.

80% of the region's farms and ranches reported a net loss in 2007 (Agriculture Census), after subsidies are taken into account.

Colorado Plateau Region farmers and ranchers earned \$14 million more by selling commodities in 1969 than they earned in 2007 (in 2007 dollars). Sales of livestock and related products rose significantly from 1989 to 2000, peaking at \$128 million, but then fell dramatically to \$57 million in 2002. Crop income has remained fairly constant since 1989. The most steadily increasing costs of production are feed and labor costs.

Farmers and ranchers earn another \$2 million per year of farm-related income — primarily rental income for land (29-year average for 1979-2007). Federal farm support payments averaged \$3 million per year from 2000-2007 (farm subsidy data were incomplete in BEA data sets).

Crop and livestock sales in Colorado Plateau & Intermountain Valley, New Mexico, 1969-2007



Colorado Plateau & Intermountain Valley Region consumers (2007):

Colorado Plateau Region consumers spend \$410 million buying food each year, including \$230 million for home use. Most of this food is produced outside the region. \$279,000 of food products (0.4% of farm cash receipts, and 0.06% of local consumer needs) are sold by 366 farmers directly to consumers — but not always to Colorado Plateau Region consumers, since this includes internet sales. *Note also that these sales figures are low, since direct sales for McKinley County farms were not reported by USDA to protect confidentiality.*

Estimated change in net assets for all region households was a combined loss of \$216 million in 2007 alone (BLS). This places additional pressure on Colorado Plateau Region residents as they pay for food.

Farm and food economy summary:

Farmers earn \$24 million each year producing food commodities, spending \$40 million buying inputs from external suppliers, for a total outflow of \$16 million from the region’s economy.

Meanwhile, consumers spend more than \$370 million buying food from outside. Thus, total loss to the region is \$386 million of potential wealth *each year*. This loss amounts to more than 5 times the value of all commodities raised in the region.

Colorado Plateau & Intermountain Valley region: markets for food eaten at home (2007):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 50
Fruits & vegetables	42
Cereals and bakery products	29
Dairy products	25
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	84

If Colorado Plateau region consumers purchased only 15% of the food they need for home use directly from the region’s farmers, this would produce \$35 million of new farm income in the region — an amount equivalent to half of the region’s 2007 farm sales.

State of New Mexico: markets for food eaten at home (2007)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Mexicans purchase \$5 billion of food per year, \$2.8 billion of this to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 620
Fruits & vegetables	518
Cereals and bakery products	358
Dairy products	315
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	1,043

Key data sources:

Bureau of Economic Analysis data on farm production balance

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

Food consumption estimates from Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm>

U.S. Census of Agriculture

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>

USDA/Economic Research Service food consumption data:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodconsumption/>

USDA/ Economic Research Service farm income data:

<http://ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmIncome/finfidmu.htm>

Centers for Disease Control: Behavior Risk Factors Surveillance System

BRFSS <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss-smart/>

National Association of Region and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Big Cities Health Inventory <http://www.naccho.org/>

For more information:

To see results from *Finding Food in Farm Country* studies in other counties of the U.S.:

<http://www.crcworks.org/locales.html>

To read the original *Finding Food in Farm Country* study from Southeast Minnesota (written by Ken Meter and Jon Rosales for the Community Design Center and the Southeast Minnesota Experiment in Rural Cooperation): <http://www.crcworks.org/ff.pdf>

To view a PowerPoint presented in March, 2008, by Ken Meter at Rep. Collin Peterson's (D-MN) Minnesota agricultural forum, called the "Home Grown Economy":

<http://www.crcworks.org/crcppts/petersonKM08.pdf>

To get a brief list of essential food facts, many of which are cited in the presentation above,

<http://www.crcworks.org/foodmarkets.pdf>

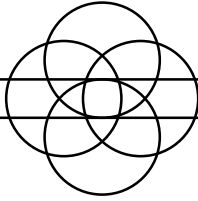
To link to further analysis of farm and food economies in the U.S.:

<http://www.crcworks.org/econ.html>

Contact Ken Meter at Crossroads Resource Center

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*The bioregion described here encompasses Colfax, Los Alamos,
Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe, & Taos Counties in New Mexico.*

Note: Bioregional boundaries do not follow county lines. However, data used in this summary are reported only by county. This regional overview covers the counties listed in their entirety, which is only an approximation of the defined bioregion.

Southern Rockies and Upper Rio Grande: (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

363,847 residents receive \$12.7 billion of income annually (2007). Real personal income has increased nearly six-fold since 1969, in part due to rapid population rise (population is 2.6 times what it was in 1969). Despite these increases, there has been only limited public planning to assure a secure and stable food supply.

Issues affecting low-income residents of Southern Rockies Region:

96,682 residents (30%) earn less than 185% of federal poverty guidelines. At this level of income, children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. These lower-income residents earn a combined \$940 million per year, spending \$181 million buying food. Their food purchases are supplemented by SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) and by WIC coupons (these two benefits combined generally amount to about 10-15% of low-income food expenditures). Low-income residents alone lost an aggregate \$60 million of net assets in the year 2007. *Data from Federal Census of 2000, & Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

Food-related health conditions in New Mexico:

One-fifth (20%) of New Mexico residents have no health insurance — the second highest rate in the U.S. Only half of state employers offer health coverage.¹ This lack of insurance carries significant public costs, since both county governments and medical facilities pay for treating customers who are not covered. Costs of this treatment in New Mexico are estimated to be \$6 billion per year.²

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² New Mexico Human Services Department (2007). "Summary of New Mexico's Universal Health Coverage

Food has become a leading cause of death in the U.S, rivaling tobacco. A high-calorie diet, combined with a lack of exercise, accounts for one-fifth of the annual deaths in the U.S.³ Six of the fifteen leading causes of death are related to poor diet and low physical activity.⁴

60% of New Mexico residents are overweight or obese, with one-third (34%) overweight and more than one-quarter (26%) obese. Nearly four of every five state residents (78%) eat fewer fruits and vegetables that nutritionists recommend (five servings per day), and 22% report they have no physical activity. 7.8% of state residents have been diagnosed with diabetes. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

The region's farms and ranches (Census of Agriculture, 2007)

Agriculture Census data for 2007 were released February 4, 2009. Note that the Census of Agriculture uses the word "farm" to include both ranches and farms.

Land:

- 3,399 ranches and farms. This is a 34% increase over the 2,538 counted in 2002.
- The Southern Rockies region holds 16% of New Mexico ranches and farms.
- 368 (11%) of these are 1,000 acres or more.
- 1,999 (59%) of farms are less than 50 acres.
- The most prevalent farm size is 10-49 acres, with a total of 1,009 (30% of farms).
- Average size is 1,539 acres, 74% of New Mexico's average.
- Colfax County has the largest operations in the region, with 302 farms and ranches averaging 7,127 acres in size.
- The region has 5.2 million acres of land in farms and ranches.
- This amounts to 12% of the state's farmland.
- 176,002 acres (3.4%) of farmland is cropland. 36% of this was harvested in 2007.
- 2,282 (74%) farms have a total of 130,272 acres of irrigated land.
- 492 farms receive irrigation water from the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Average value of land and buildings per farm is \$672,748. This is 97% of the state average of \$696,000.

Sales (Note that there may be discrepancies between Ag Census data and Bureau of Economic Analysis data, below):

- \$74 million of crops and livestock sold (2007), 3% of state ag sales.
- This is a 42% increase in sales over 2002 sales of \$52 million.
- Total farm production expenses were \$88 million, for a net loss of \$14 million from farm production.

Reform Efforts." SCI/Academy Health Summer Workshop for State Officials, August 2. Viewed May 24, 2009, at www.statecoverage.org/files/2007_SCI_Summer_Meeting_Esquivel.ppt.

³ McGinnis, J.M. & W.H. Foegen (1993). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 270(18):2207-12; and Mokdad, A.H, J.S. Marks, D.F. Stroup, & J.I. Gerberding (2000). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 291(10):1238-45 [with published corrections in *JAMA* (2005), 293(3), 293-294.]

⁴ Heron M., D.L. Hoyert, J. Xu, C. Scott, & B. Tejada (2008). *Deaths: preliminary data for 2006*. National Vital Statistics Report 56:16. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_16.pdf.

- Farm production costs in 2007 were 56% higher than in 2002, when expenses totaled \$56 million.
- Costs for purchasing labor were the largest production expense, at \$14.5 million. The second largest expense item was livestock purchases, totaling \$14.3 million. Depreciation was third at \$11.8 million. Feed purchases were next at \$10.5 million. The regions ranchers and farmers also spent \$9.3 million on gasoline, fuels, and oils, \$9.1 million on supplies, repairs, and maintenance, and \$7.4 million paying interest on debt.
- \$22 million of crops were sold (30% of sales), an increase of 28% over 2002 sales of \$14.6 million in 2002.
- \$52 million of livestock and products were sold (70% of sales), compared with \$37 million of sales in 2002.
- 2,677 (79%) of the region's farms sold less than \$10,000 of products in 2007. Their aggregate sales of \$5.8 million amounted to 8% of the region's farm product sales.
- 112 farms and ranches (3%) sold more than \$100,000 of products, an aggregate total of more than \$44 million, at least 60% of region's farm product sales (*data for Rio Arriba, Sandoval, and Taos Counties were not reported to protect confidentiality*).
- 242 farms received \$840,000 of federal subsidies in 2007. [Note that Agriculture Census data differ from Bureau of Economic Analysis data; see below.]
- 69% (2,329) of the region's ranches and farms reported net losses in 2007, after subsidies are taken into account. This is slightly higher than the New Mexico average of 65%.

Principal Product sold in 2007 (*Note that many sales figures are suppressed to protect confidentiality):

	\$ millions
Cattle	47*

Note: \$30.7 million of these cattle sales were made in Colfax County. Some data appear to have been suppressed to protect confidentiality.

Grains, Dry Edible Beans, Oil Crops, and others:

- 18 farms in the region sold more than 2,382 bushels of corn, raised on over 52 acres in 2007.
- 13 of the region's farmers sold 11,909 bushels of wheat, a majority of it spring wheat, on 448 acres.
- 5 farms raised oats.
- 56 farms produced 663 hundredweight of dry edible beans on 62 acres.

Cattle & Dairy:

- 1,541 ranches and farms held an inventory of 83,783 cattle and calves.
- 59,580 cattle were sold for at least \$47 million from 1,123 ranches and farms in 2007. This represents a 30% increase in the number of operations (861) over 2002; total sales were 43% higher than the \$33 million sold in 2002.
- 22 farms reported an inventory of 50 milk cows.
- Milk and dairy sales totaled \$111,000, although no data for Sandoval County were reported.
- In addition, 1,527 farms produced 118,530 tons of forage on 56,016 acres.

Other livestock & animal products:

- 54 farms sold 274 hogs and pigs for a total of \$34,000. This is a 38% rise in the number of farms, and a 42% increase in sales, over the past five years.

- 59 farms hold an inventory of 208 hogs and pigs.
- 228 farms sold a total of \$1.2 million of horses. This means an increase of 27% in the number of farms selling horses, and a 26% rise in sales over 2002 levels.
- 356 farms raise laying hens.
- Inventory of layers is 8,612.
- The region has 5 broiler chicken producers.
- 287 farms sold \$292,000 of poultry and products in 2007. In 2002, 95 farms sold \$114,000 of poultry or poultry products.
- 305 farms held an inventory of 9,205 sheep, lambs, and goats, selling \$884,000 worth, although *sales totals do not include Taos County, where sales data were suppressed to protect confidentiality.*

Nursery, Landscape and Ornamental Crops:

- 79 farms sold over \$5 million of ornamental and nursery crops, compared to \$2 million sold by 60 of the region's farms in 2002. *Data for ornamental sales do not include figures for Los Alamos County, nor for a major producer, Sandoval County, due to confidentiality.*
- 6 farms sold Christmas trees.

Vegetables & Melons (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent vegetable production):

- Vegetable and potato sales totaled more than \$1 million in 2007, but *sales figures from Sandoval and Taos Counties were not reported.* In 2002, region vegetable sales totaled \$1 million, two-thirds from Sandoval County.
- 344 farms produced vegetables; a dramatic increase over 73 vegetable farms in 2002.
- 36 farms raised potatoes.

Detailed list of vegetables harvested in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census:

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

Colfax County

	Farms	Harvested acres
<i>(None reported)</i>		

Los Alamos County

	Farms	Harvested acres
<i>(None reported)</i>		

Rio Arriba County

	Farms	Harvested acres	
Asparagus	9		6
Beans, Snap	16	(D)	
Beets	3		1
Broccoli	-	-	
Cabbage, Head	3		2
Cantaloupes	35		7
Carrots	11		2
Collards	2	(D)	
Cucumbers & Pickles	46		14
Eggplant	3		1
Garlic	18		4
Herbs, Fresh Cut	7		1
Honeydew Melons	2	(D)	
Kale	-	-	
Lettuce, all	6		2
Lettuce, Leaf	6		2
Okra	1	(D)	
Onions, Dry	15		3
Onions, Green	3	(Z)	
Peas, Chinese	1	(D)	
Peas, Green	6		2
Peas, Southern	23		7
Peppers, Bell	9		9
Peppers, Chile	56		56
Potatoes	22		12
Pumpkins	4		1
Radishes	7		1
Spinach	-	-	
Squash, all	25		7
Squash, Summer	25		6
Squash, Winter	7		1
Sweet Corn	83		121
Tomatoes in open	65		26
Turnips	1	(D)	
Vegetables, other	19		22
Watermelons	10		1

Sandoval County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Asparagus	3	(D)
Beans, Green Lima	3	2
Beans, Snap	11	2
Beets	7	(D)
Broccoli	5	1
Cabbage, Chinese	2	(D)
Cabbage, Head	2	(D)
Cantaloupes	8	5
Carrots	7	1
Celery	-	-
Collards	2	(D)
Cucumbers & Pickles	19	4
Eggplant	2	(D)
Garlic	3	(Z)
Herbs, Fresh Cut	2	(D)
Kale	-	-
Lettuce, all	1	(D)
Lettuce, Head	-	-
Lettuce, Leaf	1	(D)
Mustard Greens	-	-
Okra	6	3
Onions, Dry	3	(D)
Onions, Green	-	-
Parsley	-	-
Peas, Green	-	-
Peas, Southern	5	(D)
Peppers, Bell	2	(D)
Peppers, Chile	19	158
Potatoes	8	1
Pumpkins	1	(D)
Spinach	-	-
Squash, all	15	9
Squash, Summer	15	9
Sweet Corn	31	145
Tomatoes in open	31	40
Turnips	6	3
Vegetables, other	7	8
Watermelons	19	11

Santa Fe County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Beans, Snap	5	(D)
Beets	2	(D)
Broccoli	-	-
Cabbage, Chinese	2	(D)
Cabbage, Head	6	4
Cantaloupes	1	(D)
Carrots	11	2
Celery	-	-
Cucumbers & Pickles	17	3
Eggplant	5	1
Garlic	4	(Z)
Herbs, Fresh Cut	4	6
Lettuce, all	-	-
Lettuce, Leaf	-	-
Onions, Dry	10	5
Onions, Green	2	(D)
Peas, Green	5	1
Peas, Southern	8	3
Peppers, Bell	5	3
Peppers, Chile	21	28
Potatoes	6	1
Pumpkins	13	10
Radishes	5	1
Spinach	2	(D)
Squash, all	17	4
Squash, Summer	11	2
Squash, Winter	6	2
Sweet Corn	27	40
Tomatoes in open	29	(D)
Vegetables, other	9	3
Watermelons	8	3

Taos County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Beans, Snap	5	1
Beets	3	(Z)
Cabbage, Head	5	3
Carrots	5	2
Collards	1	(D)
Cucumbers & Pickles	11	3
Garlic	6	2
Herbs, Fresh Cut	-	-

Kale	4	(D)	
Lettuce, all	3		2
Lettuce, Head	-	-	
Lettuce, Leaf	1	(D)	
Lettuce, Romaine	3	(D)	
Mustard Greens	2	(D)	
Onions, Dry	1	(D)	
Onions, Green	1	(D)	
Peas, Green	1	(D)	
Peas, Southern	9		4
Peppers, Bell	2	(D)	
Peppers, Chile	3	(Z)	
Pumpkins	10		5
Spinach	4		2
Squash, all	3		2
Squash, Summer	3	(D)	
Squash, Winter	1	(D)	
Sweet Corn	29		37
Tomatoes in open	9		10
Turnips	2	(D)	
Vegetables, other	7		10

Fruits (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent fruit production):

- The region has 486 fruit farms with at least 1,324 acres of orchards, compared to 206 fruit farms in 2002.
- 383 of these farms sold over \$1.5 million of fruit and nuts, more than 2002 sales of \$1.1 million. The Southern Rockies region makes 1% of New Mexico's fruit sales. *Sales data from Sandoval and Taos counties were not reported to protect confidentiality, and are not included in these totals.*

Detailed list of fruit & nut acreage in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census:

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

Colfax County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	3	(D)

Los Alamos County

	Farms	Acres
(None recorded)		

Rio Arriba County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	252	629
Apricots	18	6
Cherries, Sweet	42	30
Cherries, Tart	6	3
Grapes	43	52
Nectarines	3	1
Other noncitrus	7	3
Peaches, all	92	73
Pears, all	40	16
Pecans	3	1
Plums & Prunes	26	21

Sandoval County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	34	140
Apricots	10	(D)
Cherries, Sweet	4	(D)
Cherries, Tart	2	(D)
Grapes	21	85
Nectarines	2	(D)
Other noncitrus	11	2
Peaches, all	13	6
Pears, all	9	5
Plums & Prunes	8	4

Santa Fe County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	81	123
Apricots	8	4
Cherries, Sweet	3	(D)
Cherries, Tart	2	(D)
Grapes	13	23
Noncitrus, all	92	185
Other noncitrus	5	6
Peaches, all	28	12
Pears, all	21	15
Plums & Prunes	11	2

Taos County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	35	43
Apricots	2	(D)
Cherries, Sweet	1	(D)
Cherries, Tart	1	(D)
Peaches, all	4	2
Pears, all	5	(D)
Pecans	2	(D)
Plums & Prunes	7	6

Detailed list of berry acreage in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census (if a given county in the region is not listed as producing berries, the county is not named below):

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

Rio Arriba County

	Farms	Acres
Blackberries	3	(D)
Blueberries, tame	4	(D)
Other berries	1	(D)
Raspberries	13	3
Strawberries	4	1

Sandoval County

	Farms	Acres
Blackberries	5	(D)
Raspberries	5	(D)
Strawberries	1	(D)

Santa Fe County

	Farms	Acres
Blueberries, tame	1	(D)
Other berries	2	(D)
Raspberries	6	(D)

Taos County

	Farms	Acres
Raspberries	4	1

Direct & organic sales:

- 409 ranches and farms sold \$2.2 million of food directly to consumers. This is a 67% increase in the number of farms selling direct (245 in 2002), and a 36% increase in direct sales, over \$1.6 million in 2002. Direct sales account for 3% of the region's farm sales, seven times the national average of 0.4%.
- The region's farmers make up 27% of the New Mexico farms selling direct, and account for 20% of the state's direct sales (\$11.1 million of direct sales in New Mexico in 2007, and \$6.5 million in 2002).
- The New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission reports 54 certified organic farms (33% of the state's) in the region, operating 2,167 certified organic acres (2% of New Mexico's).
- According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 122 farms in the region sold \$1.1 million of organic foods from 1,973 acres.
- This is 45% of New Mexico's farms (321) reported by the Census as selling organic, and 10% of state sales (\$11 million).
- Local lists of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms list 11 CSA farms in the region; one in Rio Arriba County, and five each in Santa Fe and Taos Counties.
- According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 55 farms market through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). This is 34% of New Mexico's CSA farms. *[Note: some analysts consider Agriculture Census counts of CSA farms to overstate actual numbers.]*
- 239 farms produce added-value products on the farm (28% of New Mexico's).

Conservation practices:

- 697 farms use rotational management or intensive grazing (22% of New Mexico's).
- 463 farms use conservation practices (21% of New Mexico's).
- 93 farms generate some electricity on the farm (17% of New Mexico's).

State of New Mexico Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- New Mexico has 20,930 farms, 38% more than the 15,170 farms in 2002.
- Nevertheless, the number of acres in farms decreased 4%, to 43 million acres in 2007.
- 8,904 farm operators are Latino.
- 6,611 farm operators are Native American.
- The state has 24,214 White farm operators.
- There are 43 Asian-American, 66 African-American, and 26 Pacific Islander farm operators.
- New Mexico farmers sold \$2.2 billion of crops and livestock in 2007, up 28% from \$1.7 billion in sales five years before.
- This includes \$1.6 billion of livestock, and \$553 million in crops.
- The Agriculture Census lists production expenses as \$1.9 billion for all state farms.
- Government payments to farmers decreased 14%, to \$43 million in 2007 from \$50 million in 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size is 1-9 acres, with 6,400 farms.
- The next most prevalent size is 10-49 acres, with 4,300 farms.
- 3,600 farms are more than 1,000 acres.
- New Mexico ranks 9th in the U.S. for dairy sales, with \$1 billion. This is also the most important farm commodity sold in the state, in terms of sales.
- Second most important product in New Mexico is cattle, with \$576 million in sales.
- The state's farms held an inventory of 1.5 million cattle, down from 1.7 million in 1997.
- The most important single crop raised is forage, with \$139 million sold from 366,000 acres.
- 302,000 acres are devoted to wheat production.
- New Mexico farms sell \$105 million of fruits and nuts, and \$89 million of vegetables.

New Mexico's top 25 farm products in 2007 (Economic Research Service)

Note that these ERS data do not always agree with results from the farm census, above. See also chart on next page

1	Dairy products	1,353.8
2	Cattle and calves	951.8
3	Hay	195.4
4	Pecans	96.2
5	Onions	63.4
6	Greenhouse/nursery	62.4
7	Wheat	38.5
8	Cotton	35.0
9	Peppers, chile	32.9
10	Corn	23.9
11	Potatoes	14.3
12	Sorghum grain	9.9
13	Peanuts	7.0
14	Dry beans	6.1
15	Sheep and lambs	5.4
16	Wool	1.3
17	Apples	1.0
18	Honey	0.5
19	Hogs	0.2
20	Mohair	0.2

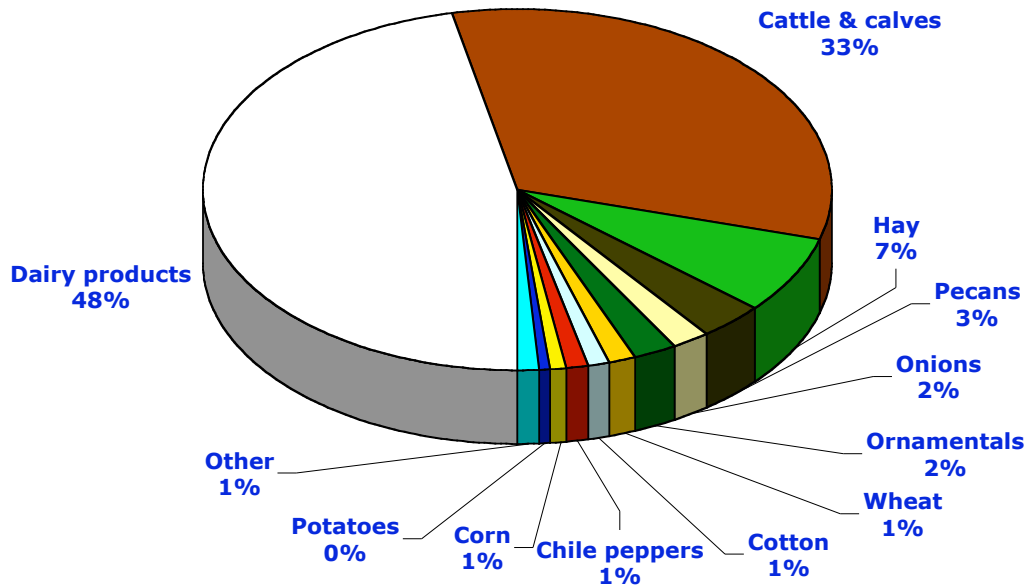
Note: chicken eggs and farm chickens were also listed among New Mexico's top 25 products, but sales figures for these products were not released by ERS.

Note also that at \$11 million, direct sales from farmers to consumers amount to more than the value of the 12th ranking product, sorghum grain.

New Mexico's top 25 farm products in 2007 (Economic Research Service)

See table on previous page

Top 25 commodities sold by New Mexico farms, 2007

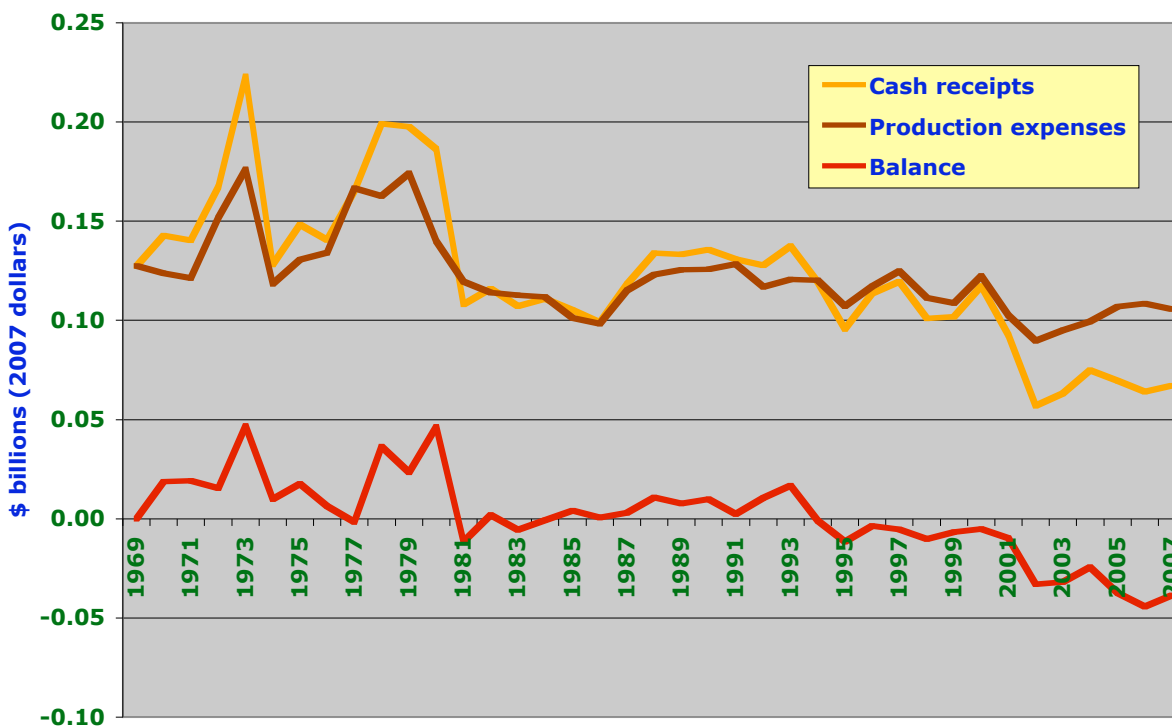


Source: USDA Economic Research Service

Balance of Cash Receipts and Production Costs (Bureau of Economic Analysis):

Note: Bureau of Economic Analysis farm income data differ from Agriculture Census data.

Farm Production Balance in Southern Rockies & Upper Rio Grande, New Mexico, 1969-2007



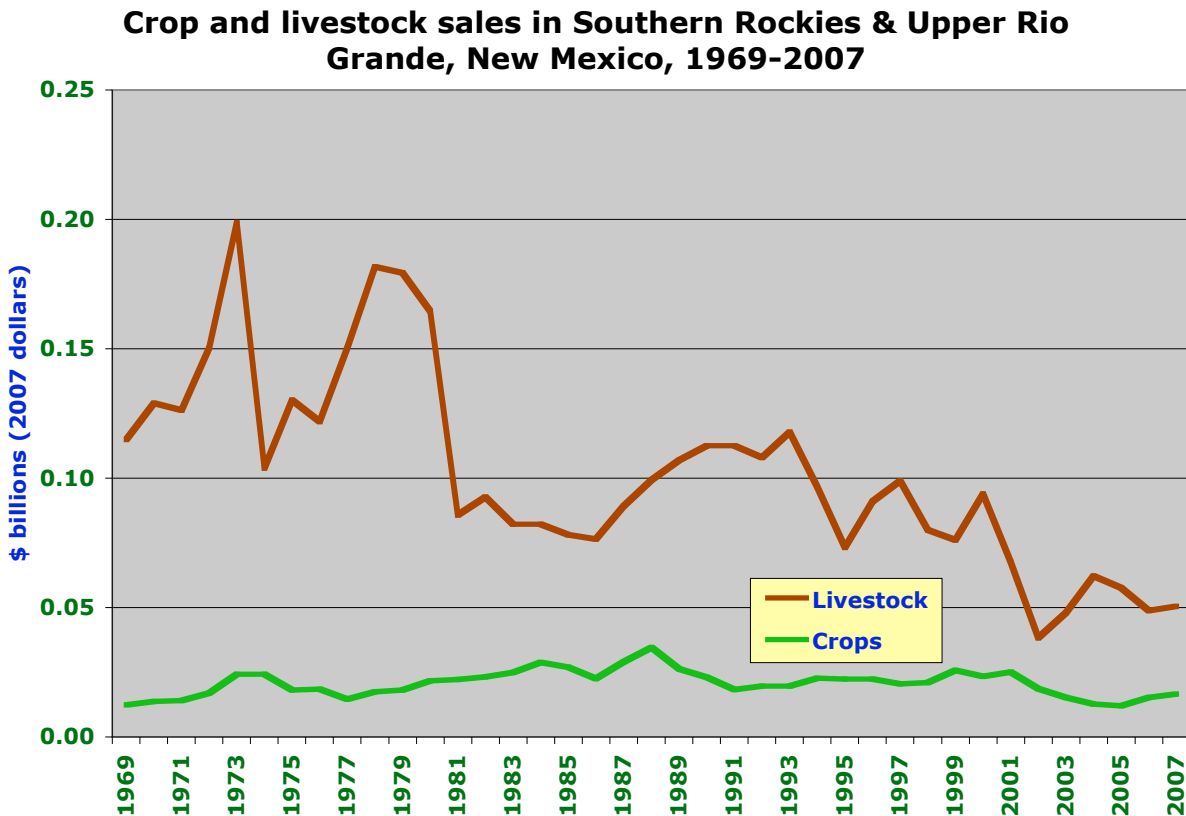
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Southern Rockies region farmers sell \$104 million of commodities per year (1982-2007 average), spending \$112 million to raise them, for an average loss of \$8 million each year. The farm sector as a whole has not earned a positive cash flow from raising commodities (though clearly some individual farms have made money) since 1994.

Overall, farm producers have experienced losses of \$201 million since 1982. Moreover, 69% of the region's farms and ranches reported a net loss in 2007 (Agriculture Census), even after subsidies are taken into account.

Southern Rockies region farmers and ranchers earned \$38 million less by selling commodities in 1969 than they earned in 2007 (in 2007 dollars). Sales of livestock and related products fell from a peak of \$182 million in 1978 to \$51 million in 2007, while crop income stayed fairly constant. The most steadily increasing cost of production is feed costs.

Farmers and ranchers earned another \$7 million per year of farm-related income — primarily rental income for land (26-year average for 1982-2007). Federal farm support payments averaged \$3 million per year for the region from 2001 to 2007 (data are incomplete in the BEA sample). These forms of income do not always replace the annual loss from producing crops and livestock. Many farm families rely deeply on off-farm income.



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Southern Rockies region consumers (2007):

Southern Rockies region consumers spend \$957 million buying food each year, including \$537 million for home use. Most of this food is produced outside the region. \$2.2 million of food products (3% of farm cash receipts, and 0.2% of local consumer needs) are sold by 409 farmers directly to consumers, but not always to Southern Rockies region consumers, since this includes internet sales. Note that the region holds 27% of the New Mexico farmers who sell direct to consumers.

Estimated change in net assets for all region households was a combined loss of \$503 million in 2007 alone (BLS). This places additional pressure on Southern Rockies region residents as they pay for food.

Farm and food economy summary:

Farmers lose \$8 million each year producing food commodities, spending \$45 million buying inputs from external suppliers, for a total outflow of \$53 million from the region's economy.

Meanwhile, consumers spend more than \$860 million buying food from outside. Thus, total loss to the region is \$540 million of potential wealth *each year*. This loss amounts to more than five times the value of all commodities raised in the region.

Southern Rockies region: markets for food eaten at home (2007):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 117
Fruits & vegetables	97
Cereals and bakery products	67
Dairy products	59
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	196

If Southern Rockies region consumers purchased only 15% of the food they need for home use directly from region farmers, this would produce \$80 million of new farm income in the Southern Rockies region — an amount equivalent to 80% of the 2007 farm sales in the region.

State of New Mexico: markets for food eaten at home (2007)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Mexicans purchase \$5 billion of food per year, \$2.8 billion of this to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 620
Fruits & vegetables	518
Cereals and bakery products	358
Dairy products	315
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	1,043

Key data sources:

Bureau of Economic Analysis data on farm production balance

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

Food consumption estimates from Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm>

U.S. Census of Agriculture

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>

USDA/Economic Research Service food consumption data:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodconsumption/>

USDA/ Economic Research Service farm income data:

<http://ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmIncome/finfidmu.htm>

Centers for Disease Control: Behavior Risk Factors Surveillance System

BRFSS <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss-smart/>

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Big Cities Health Inventory <http://www.naccho.org/>

For more information:

To see results from *Finding Food in Farm Country* studies in other counties of the U.S.:

<http://www.crcworks.org/locales.html>

To read the original *Finding Food in Farm Country* study from Southeast Minnesota (written by Ken Meter and Jon Rosales for the Community Design Center and the Southeast Minnesota Experiment in Rural Cooperation): <http://www.crcworks.org/ff.pdf>

To view a PowerPoint presented in March, 2008, by Ken Meter at Rep. Collin Peterson's (D-MN) Minnesota agricultural forum, called the "Home Grown Economy":

<http://www.crcworks.org/crcppts/petersonKM08.pdf>

To get a brief list of essential food facts, many of which are cited in the presentation above,

<http://www.crcworks.org/foodmarkets.pdf>

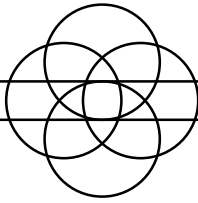
To link to further analysis of farm and food economies in the U.S.:

<http://www.crcworks.org/econ.html>

Contact Ken Meter at Crossroads Resource Center

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Tools for Community Self-determination

Arid Lowlands and Lower Rio Grande Local Farm & Food Economy

Highlights of a data compilation
by Ken Meter, Crossroads Resource Center (Minneapolis)
for
New Mexico Bioneers
July 27, 2009

The bioregion described here encompasses Bernalillo, Chaves, Dona Ana, Eddy, Hidalgo, Luna, Otero, Sierra, Socorro, & Valencia Counties in New Mexico.

Note: Bioregional boundaries do not follow county lines. However, data used in this summary are reported only by county. This regional overview covers the counties listed in their entirety, which is only an approximation of the defined bioregion.

Arid Lowlands and Lower Rio Grande: (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

1,135,220 residents receive \$35 billion of income annually (2007). Real personal income has increased three and a half times since 1969, in part due to rising population. Although population has doubled since 1969, there has been only limited public planning to assure a secure and stable food supply.

Issues affecting low-income residents of the Lower Rio Grande region:

377,752 residents (37%) earn less than 185% of federal poverty guidelines. At this level of income, children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. These lower-income residents earn a combined \$3.6 billion per year, spending \$704 million buying food. Their food purchases are supplemented by SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) and by WIC coupons (these two benefits combined generally amount to about 10-15% of low-income food expenditures). Low-income residents alone lost net assets worth \$232 million in the year 2007. *Data from Federal Census of 2000, & Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

Food-related health conditions in New Mexico:

One-fifth (20%) of New Mexico residents have no health insurance — the second highest rate in the U.S. Only half of state employers offer health coverage.¹ This lack of insurance carries significant

¹ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, State summary for New Mexico, <http://covertheuninsured.org/>, accessed May 24, 2009.

public costs, since both county governments and medical facilities pay for treating customers who are not covered. Costs of this treatment are estimated to be \$6 billion per year.²

Food has become a leading cause of death in the U.S, rivaling tobacco. A high-calorie diet, combined with a lack of exercise, accounts for one-fifth of the annual deaths in the U.S.³ Six of the fifteen leading causes of death are related to poor diet and low physical activity.⁴

60% of New Mexico residents are overweight or obese, with one-third (34%) overweight and more than one-quarter (26%) obese. Nearly four of every five state residents (78%) eat fewer fruits and vegetables that nutritionists recommend (five servings per day), and 22% report they have no physical activity. 7.8% of state residents have been diagnosed with diabetes. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

The region's ranches and farms (U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2007)

Agriculture Census data for 2007 were released February 4, 2009. Note that the Census of Agriculture uses the term "farm" to include both ranches and farms.

Since 1979, Chaves and Dona Ana Counties have experienced significant growth in farm income, which means their results dominate the financial discussion of the region.

Land:

- 6,087 ranches and farms. This is a 7% increase in ranches and farms over 5,689 in 2002.
- The region has 29% of New Mexico's ranches and farms.
- 3,843 (63%) farms are less than 50 acres.
- 743 (12%) of the region's farms are 1,000 acres or more.
- The most prevalent farm size is 1-9 acres, with a total of 2,355 farms (39% of farms).
- Average farm size is 1,721 acres, 83% of New Mexico's average.
- The region has 10.5 million acres of land in ranches and farms.
- This amounts to 24% of the state's farmland.
- The region's farms have 257,501 acres of harvested cropland.
- 4,325 (43%) farms have a total of 287,453 acres of irrigated land.
- Average value of land and buildings per farm is \$721,457. This is 104% of the state average of \$696,081.

Sales (Note that there may be discrepancies between Ag Census data and Bureau of Economic Analysis data, below):

- \$1 billion of crops and livestock sold (2007), 47% of New Mexico's farm product sales.
- This is a 30% increase in sales over 2002 sales of \$785 million.

² New Mexico Human Services Department (2007). "Summary of New Mexico's Universal Health Coverage Reform Efforts." SCI/Academy Health Summer Workshop for State Officials, August 2. Viewed May 24, 2009, at www.statecoverage.org/files/2007_SCI_Summer_Meeting_Esquivel.ppt.

³ McGinnis, J.M. & W.H. Foegen (1993). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 270(18):2207-12; and Mokdad, A.H, J.S. Marks, D.F. Stroup, & J.I. Gerberding (2000). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 291(10):1238-45 [with published corrections in *JAMA* (2005), 293(3), 293-294.]

⁴ Heron M., D.L. Hoyert, J. Xu, C. Scott, & B. Tejada (2008). *Deaths: preliminary data for 2006*. National Vital Statistics Report 56:16. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_16.pdf.

- Total farm production expenses were \$851 million, 27% more than \$668 million in 2002.
- The largest expense item for the region’s farmers was feed costs, at \$335 million. Labor costs were second, totaling \$118 million. Depreciation ranked third, at \$74 million. Supplies, repair and maintenance cost \$60 million. Farmers spent \$41 million purchasing livestock, and \$35 million paying interest on farm debt.
- \$324 million of crops were sold (32% of region’s sales), 59% of New Mexico’s crop sales; a 31% increase over \$248 million of crop sales in 2002.
- \$697 million of livestock and products were sold by 2,340 farms (68% of the region’s sales and 43% of New Mexico’s livestock sales); this is \$160 million (30%) more sales than in 2002, by 266 more farms (13%).
- 3,934 (65%) of the region’s farms sold less than \$10,000 of products in 2007. Their aggregate sales of \$9.4 million amounted to 1% of the region’s farm product sales.
- 649 farms (11%) sold more than \$100,000 of products, an aggregate total of \$964 million, 94% of region farm product sales.
- 731 farms received \$9 million of federal subsidies in 2007. *[Note that Agriculture Census data differ from Bureau of Economic Analysis data; see below.]*
- 59% (3,579) of the region’s farms reported net losses in 2007, after subsidies are taken into account. This is less than the New Mexico average of 65%.

Principal Products (**Sales data for many of these products is suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality*):

	\$ millions
Milk & Dairy	546*
Fruits & Nuts	99*
Forage	75*
Vegetables	58*
Cattle	39*
Nursery Crops	38*
Corn	19*

Grains, Dry Edible Beans, Oil Crops, and others. **Note:** most all of these are lower than actual totals since data from several counties have been suppressed to protect confidentiality.

- 251 of the region’s farms sold \$19 million of grains, oil crops and edible beans.
- 14 of the region’s farms raised over 524,735 bushels of corn in 2007, selling at least \$18.8 million.
- 38 of the region’s farmers produced over 95,981 bushels of wheat, a majority of it winter wheat, on more than 1,816 acres.
- 34 farms raised at least 238,754 bushels of grain sorghum on more than 2,376 acres, worth at least \$1.6 million.
- 20 farms produced at least 5,788 bushels of dry edible beans on more than 491 acres.

Cattle & Dairy:

- 1,951 ranches and farms hold an inventory of 505,430 cattle and calves.
- 239,712 cattle worth more than \$39 million were sold from 1,567 ranches and farms in 2007, with *sales from Hidalgo, Luna, and Sierra counties not reported to protect confidentiality.*
- 114 farms held an inventory of 171,044 dairy cattle.

- Milk and dairy sales totaled more than \$546 million, with sales in Hidalgo, Luna and Sierra counties not reported to protect confidentiality.
- 2,027 farms produced 799,617 dry tons of forage crops (hay, etc.) on 138,001 acres of cropland. This is half of the state’s production. Of these, 1,624 farms sold over \$75 million of hay and other forage.
- In addition, 153 farms produced over 837,519 tons of corn silage on more than 32,969 acres, not including suppressed data.
- 34 of the region’s farms raised 44,266 tons of sorghum for silage or greenchop on 2,122 acres.

Other livestock & animal products:

- 110 farms sold 1,408 hogs and pigs for a total of over \$147,000.
- 139 farms held an inventory of 766 hogs and pigs.
- 440 farms sold a total of \$3.3 million of horses.
- 454 farms raise laying hens, and held an inventory of 9,284.
- The region has 12 broiler chicken producers.
- 378 farms sold poultry and products in 2007. Poultry sales for many counties were not released by USDA to protect confidentiality.
- 379 farms held an inventory of 27,649 sheep, lambs, and goats; selling more than \$939,000 worth.

Nursery, Landscape and Ornamental Crops & Cotton:

- 99 farms sold more than \$38 million of ornamental and nursery crops.
- 159 farms harvested over 25,035 acres of cotton, producing more than 62,580 bales (not including suppressed data).
- Most all of the state’s pima cotton is produced in this region by 44 farms, primarily located in Dona Ana County.

Vegetables & Melons (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent vegetable production):

- Vegetable and potato sales totaled more than \$58 million in 2007. The exact total was not reported by USDA, to protect confidentiality. Main vegetable producing counties were Dona Ana and Luna Counties.
- 322 farms produced vegetables on 19,638 acres of land; there were 267 vegetable farms in 2002.
- This was over half of the state’s vegetable acreage.
- 27 farms raised potatoes.
- Two farms produced sweet potatoes, most all of the commercial production in New Mexico.

Detailed list of vegetables harvested in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census:

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

Bernalillo County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Asparagus	-	-
Beans, Snap	22	(D)
Beets	3	(Z)
Cabbage, Chinese	4	(D)

Cabbage, Head	10	(D)	
Cabbage, Mustard	4	(Z)	
Cantaloupes	4		1
Carrots	10		2
Cucumbers & Pickles	18		3
Eggplant	-	-	
Garlic	10		10
Herbs, Fresh Cut	5		13
Kale	4	(D)	
Lettuce, all	1	(D)	
Lettuce, Leaf	-	-	
Lettuce, Romaine	1	(D)	
Okra	2	(D)	
Onions, Dry	8		2
Onions, Green	-	-	
Peas, Chinese	4	(D)	
Peas, Green	-	-	
Peas, Southern	-	-	
Peppers, Bell	2	(D)	
Peppers, Chile	5		72
Potatoes	17		3
Pumpkins	-	-	
Spinach	8		3
Squash, all	3		1
Squash, Summer	3		1
Sweet Corn	14		3
Tomatoes in open	35	(D)	
Turnip Greens	-	-	
Turnips	-	-	
Vegetables, other	5	(D)	
Watermelons	-	-	

Chaves County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Onions, Dry	2	(D)
Onions, Green	2	(D)
Peppers, Chile	5	(D)
Potatoes	-	-
Squash, all	1	(D)
Squash, Summer	1	(D)
Tomatoes in open	2	(D)
Watermelons	2	(D)

Dona Ana County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Asparagus	2	(D)
Beans, Snap	12	3
Beets	3	(Z)
Broccoli	-	-
Cabbage, Head	7	336
Cantaloupes	12	13
Carrots	-	-
Cauliflower	-	-
Cucumbers & Pickles	11	2
Eggplant	2	(D)
Garlic	4	3
Herbs, Fresh Cut	-	-
Honeydew Melons	4	1
Lettuce, all	13	567
Lettuce, Head	10	(D)
Lettuce, Leaf	3	(D)
Lettuce, Romaine	2	(D)
Okra	6	1
Onions, Dry	50	5,175
Peas, Chinese	1	(D)
Peas, Green	2	(D)
Peas, Southern	7	3
Peppers, Bell	3	1
Peppers, Chile	69	3,607
Potatoes	3	1
Pumpkins	2	(D)
Radishes	1	(D)
Spinach	3	(D)
Squash, all	9	15
Squash, Summer	9	(D)
Squash, Winter	4	(D)
Sweet Corn	11	41
Tomatoes in open	18	16
Turnips	3	(Z)
Vegetables, other	10	(D)
Watermelons	16	165

Eddy County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Cantaloupes	3	12
Cucumbers & Pickles	2	(D)
Honeydew Melons	-	-
Okra	2	(D)

Onions, Dry	1	(D)	
Peppers, Bell	2	(D)	
Peppers, Chile	16		648
Pumpkins	5	(D)	
Squash, all	9		13
Squash, Summer	9		13
Sweet Corn	4		1
Tomatoes in open	4		1
Vegetables, other	3	(Z)	
Watermelons	3		9

Hidalgo County

	Farms	Harvested acres	
Beans, Snap	4		1
Cantaloupes	2	(D)	
Cucumbers & Pickles	6		1
Herbs, Fresh Cut	4	(D)	
Lettuce, all	4		3
Lettuce, Leaf	4		3
Okra	4		1
Onions, Dry	-	-	
Peppers, Chile	12		641
Pumpkins	-	-	
Spinach	4		3
Squash, all	4		3
Squash, Summer	4		3
Sweet Corn	2	(D)	
Tomatoes in open	6		1
Vegetables, other	1	(D)	
Watermelons	2	(D)	

Luna County

	Farms	Harvested acres	
Asparagus	-	-	
Cabbage, Head	-	-	
Cantaloupes	3		2
Carrots	-	-	
Cucumbers & Pickles	3		2
Honeydew Melons	1	(D)	
Lettuce, all	1	(D)	
Lettuce, Head	1	(D)	
Onions, Dry	12		1,672
Onions, Green	-	-	
Peppers, Bell	-	-	

Peppers, Chile	20	3,193
Potatoes	-	-
Pumpkins	8	309
Spinach	-	-
Squash, all	1	(D)
Squash, Summer	1	(D)
Sweet Corn	3	3
Tomatoes in open	3	2
Watermelons	18	1,164

Otero County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Beans, Green Lima	1	(D)
Beans, Snap	9	1
Beets	-	-
Cantaloupes	6	1
Celery	4	1
Cucumbers & Pickles	7	1
Lettuce, all	1	(D)
Lettuce, Leaf	1	(D)
Okra	-	-
Peas, Southern	4	1
Peppers, Bell	-	-
Peppers, Chile	1	(D)
Pumpkins	4	(Z)
Squash, all	9	3
Squash, Summer	9	3
Squash, Winter	3	(Z)
Sweet Corn	9	2
Tomatoes in open	13	4
Vegetables, other	3	2
Watermelons	4	1

Sierra County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Beans, Snap	4	(D)
Beets	4	1
Cantaloupes	7	3
Carrots	2	(D)
Cucumbers & Pickles	7	3
Garlic	2	(D)
Herbs, Fresh Cut	2	(D)
Kale	2	(D)
Lettuce, all	-	-

Lettuce, Leaf	-	-	
Okra	2	(D)	
Onions, Dry	4		187
Peppers, Bell	-	-	
Peppers, Chile	13		854
Potatoes	2	(D)	
Squash, all	3	(D)	
Squash, Summer	1	(D)	
Squash, Winter	2	(D)	
Sweet Corn	2	(D)	
Tomatoes in open	6		1
Turnips	-	-	
Vegetables, other	5		8
Watermelons	5		3

Socorro County

	Farms	Harvested acres	
Beans, Green Lima	-	-	
Beans, Snap	6		1
Beets	-	-	
Cantaloupes	10		36
Carrots	-	-	
Cucumbers & Pickles	5		1
Eggplant	3	(Z)	
Garlic	2	(D)	
Herbs, Fresh Cut	-	-	
Kale	-	-	
Lettuce, all	3	(Z)	
Lettuce, Leaf	3	(Z)	
Onions, Dry	2	(D)	
Peas, Chinese	-	-	
Peas, Green	-	-	
Peas, Southern	3		1
Peppers, Bell	3		1
Peppers, Chile	10	(D)	
Potatoes	5		1
Spinach	-	-	
Squash, all	7		1
Squash, Summer	5	(D)	
Squash, Winter	2	(D)	
Sweet Corn	5		1
Sweet Potatoes	2	(D)	
Tomatoes in open	6		5
Vegetables, other	-	-	
Watermelons	8		12

Valencia County

	Farms	Harvested acres	
Asparagus	-	-	
Beans, Snap	1	(D)	
Cantaloupes	7		5
Cucumbers & Pickles	2	(D)	
Herbs, Fresh Cut	1	(D)	
Onions, Dry	-	-	
Peppers, Bell	-	-	
Peppers, Chile	11	(D)	
Pumpkins	4	(Z)	
Radishes	-	-	
Squash, all	1	(D)	
Squash, Summer	1	(D)	
Sweet Corn	4		3
Tomatoes in open	11		5
Vegetables, other	2	(D)	
Watermelons	3		2

Fruits and nuts (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent fruit production):

- The region held 1,959 fruit and nut farms with 40,718 acres of orchards.
- This totaled 93% of New Mexico’s orchard acreage and 70% of the state’s fruit and nut farms.
- These farms sold more than \$99 million of fruit and nuts, 94% of New Mexico’s fruit and nut sales.

Detailed list of fruit acreage in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census:

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

Bernalillo County

	Farms	Acres	
Almonds	4	(D)	
Apples	64		71
Apricots	7	(D)	
Cherries, Sweet	17		10
Cherries, Tart	3	(Z)	
Figs	2	(D)	
Grapes	29	(D)	
Nectarines	2	(D)	
Other noncitrus	11		10
Peaches, all	45		20
Pears, all	26		6
Pecans	7		41
Plums & Prunes	28		6
Walnuts, English	4	(D)	

Chaves County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	4	20
Grapes	2	(D)
Peaches, all	1	(D)
Pears, all	1	(D)
Pecans	116	(D)
Pistachios	2	(D)

Dona Ana County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	14	7
Apricots	7	2
Grapes	24	100
Other noncitrus	9	6
Peaches, all	10	4
Pears, all	9	14
Pecans	1,188	27,289
Pistachios	13	(D)
Plums & Prunes	2	(D)
Walnuts, English	2	(D)

Eddy County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	3	(D)
Grapes	3	3
Peaches, all	4	(D)
Pecans	109	3,656
Plums & Prunes	2	(D)

Hidalgo County

	Farms	Acres
Grapes	5	(D)
Pecans	13	91
Pistachios	3	(D)

Luna County

	Farms	Acres
Grapes	4	(D)
Pears, all	2	(D)
Pecans	40	(D)
Pistachios	1	(D)

Otero County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	71	345
Apricots	11	8
Cherries, Sweet	25	49
Cherries, Tart	5	(D)
Grapes	22	154
Peaches, all	25	41
Pears, all	19	11
Pecans	123	1,737
Pistachios	44	(D)
Plums & Prunes	15	8
Walnuts, English	2	(D)

Sierra County

	Farms	Acres
Almonds	10	(D)
Apples	25	65
Apricots	9	7
Cherries, Sweet	5	4
Cherries, Tart	2	(D)
Figs	2	(D)
Grapes	7	7
Other noncitrus	2	(D)
Peaches, all	10	8
Pears, all	5	6
Pecans	39	617
Pistachios	6	(D)
Plums & Prunes	8	5
Pomegranates	2	(D)
Walnuts, English	3	(D)

Socorro County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	12	13
Apricots	2	(D)
Grapes	8	13
Peaches, all	4	(D)
Pecans	7	4
Plums & Prunes	2	(D)

Valencia County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	24	26
Apricots	4	(D)
Cherries, Sweet	1	(D)
Cherries, Tart	8	1
Grapes	11	50
Nectarines	6	(D)
Other noncitrus	4	(D)
Peaches, all	10	2
Pears, all	13	2
Pecans	6	(D)
Plums & Prunes	4	(D)
Walnuts, English	2	(D)

Detailed list of berry acreage in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census (if a given county in the region is not listed as producing berries, the count is not named below).

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

Bernalillo County

	Farms	Acres
Blackberries	14	3
Other berries	3	(D)
Raspberries	4	(D)

Dona Ana County

	Farms	Acres
Blackberries	2	(D)
Strawberries	2	(D)

Otero County

	Farms	Acres
Strawberries	1	(D)

Socorro County

	Farms	Acres
Raspberries	1	(D)

Valencia County

	Farms	Acres
Raspberries	1	(D)

Direct & organic sales:

- 464 ranches and farms sold \$5.5 million of food directly to consumers (Hidalgo County suppressed). Direct sales account for at least 0.5% of the region's farm sales, more than the national average of 0.4%.
- The region's farmers make up 30% of ranches and farms selling direct, and account for at least 49% of New Mexico's direct sales (\$11.11 million of direct sales in New Mexico in 2007, and \$6.6 million in 2002).
- The New Mexico Organic Commodities Commission identifies 44 certified organic farms in the region, with 2,167 acres of certified farmland. This is 26% of New Mexico's certified organic farms, and 2% of the state's certified acreage. Most are in Bernalillo (14) and Dona Ana (21) Counties.
- According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 101 of the region's farms sold organic foods (\$1.7 million sales) from 1,470 acres (Chaves, Sierra, and Valencia county data was suppressed).
- This is 38% of New Mexico farms (state total 321) selling organic, and 16% of state sales (\$71 million).
- Local lists of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms identify 7 CSA farms in the region, four of which are in Bernalillo County, and one each in Dona Ana, Luna, and Socorro counties.
- According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 47 (34% of New Mexico's) farms market through community supported agriculture (CSA).
- 252 (29% of New Mexico's) farms produce added-value products on the farm.

Conservation practices:

- 824 (26% of New Mexico's) farms use rotational management or intensive grazing.
- 801 (37% of New Mexico's) farms use conservation practices.
- 157 (28% of New Mexico's) farms generate some electricity on the farm.
- 2,107 (68% of New Mexico's) region farms draw irrigation water from the Bureau of Reclamation

State of New Mexico Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- New Mexico has 20,930 farms, 38% more than the 15,170 farms in 2002.
- Nevertheless, the number of acres in farms decreased 4%, to 43 million acres in 2007.
- 8,904 farm operators are Latino.
- 6,611 farm operators are Native American.
- The state has 24,214 White farm operators.
- There are 43 Asian-American, 66 African-American, and 26 Pacific Islander farm operators.
- New Mexico farmers sold \$2.2 billion of crops and livestock in 2007, up 28% from \$1.7 billion in sales five years before.
- This includes \$1.6 billion of livestock, and \$553 million in crops.
- The Agriculture Census lists production expenses as \$1.9 billion for all state farms.
- Government payments to farmers decreased 14%, to \$43 million in 2007 from \$50 million in 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size is 1-9 acres, with 6,400 farms.
- The next most prevalent size is 10-49 acres, with 4,300 farms.
- 3,600 farms are more than 1,000 acres.
- New Mexico ranks 9th in the U.S. for dairy sales, with \$1 billion. This is also the most important farm commodity sold in the state, in terms of sales.
- Second most important product in New Mexico is cattle, with \$576 million in sales.
- The state's farms held an inventory of 1.5 million cattle, down from 1.7 million in 1997.
- The most important single crop raised is forage, with \$139 million sold from 366,000 acres.
- 302,000 acres are devoted to wheat production.
- New Mexico farms sell \$105 million of fruits and nuts, and \$89 million of vegetables.

New Mexico's top 25 farm products in 2007 (Economic Research Service)

See chart on next page

1	Dairy products	1,353.8
2	Cattle and calves	951.8
3	Hay	195.4
4	Pecans	96.2
5	Onions	63.4
6	Greenhouse/nursery	62.4
7	Wheat	38.5
8	Cotton	35.0
9	Peppers, chile	32.9
10	Corn	23.9
11	Potatoes	14.3
12	Sorghum grain	9.9
13	Peanuts	7.0
14	Dry beans	6.1
15	Sheep and lambs	5.4
16	Wool	1.3
17	Apples	1.0
18	Honey	0.5
19	Hogs	0.2
20	Mohair	0.2

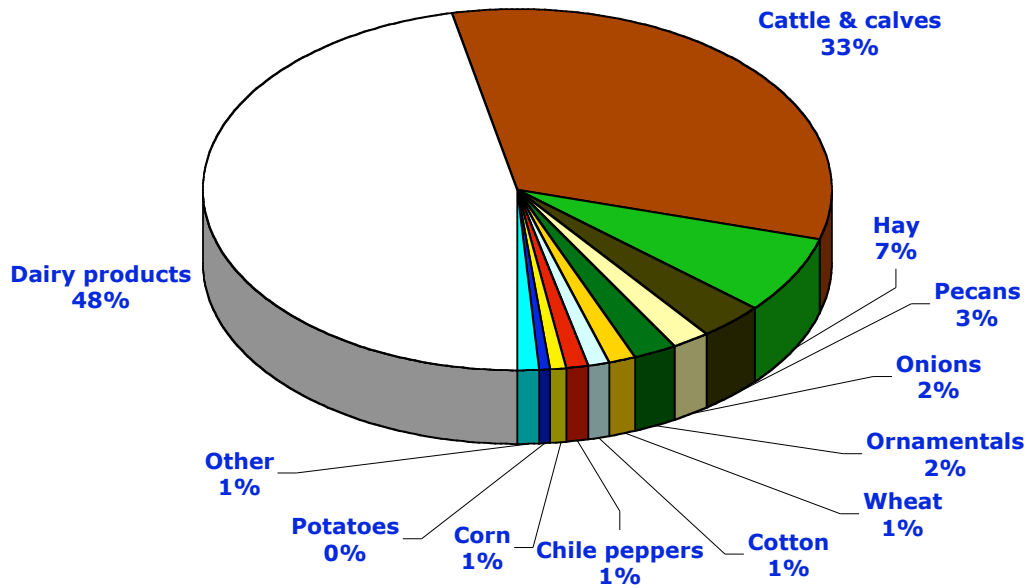
Note: chicken eggs and farm chickens were also listed among New Mexico's top 25 products, but sales figures for these products were not released by ERS.

Note also that at \$11 million, direct sales from farmers to consumers amount to more than the value of the 12th ranking product, sorghum grain.

New Mexico's top 25 farm products in 2007 (Economic Research Service)

See table on previous page

Top 25 commodities sold by New Mexico farms, 2007



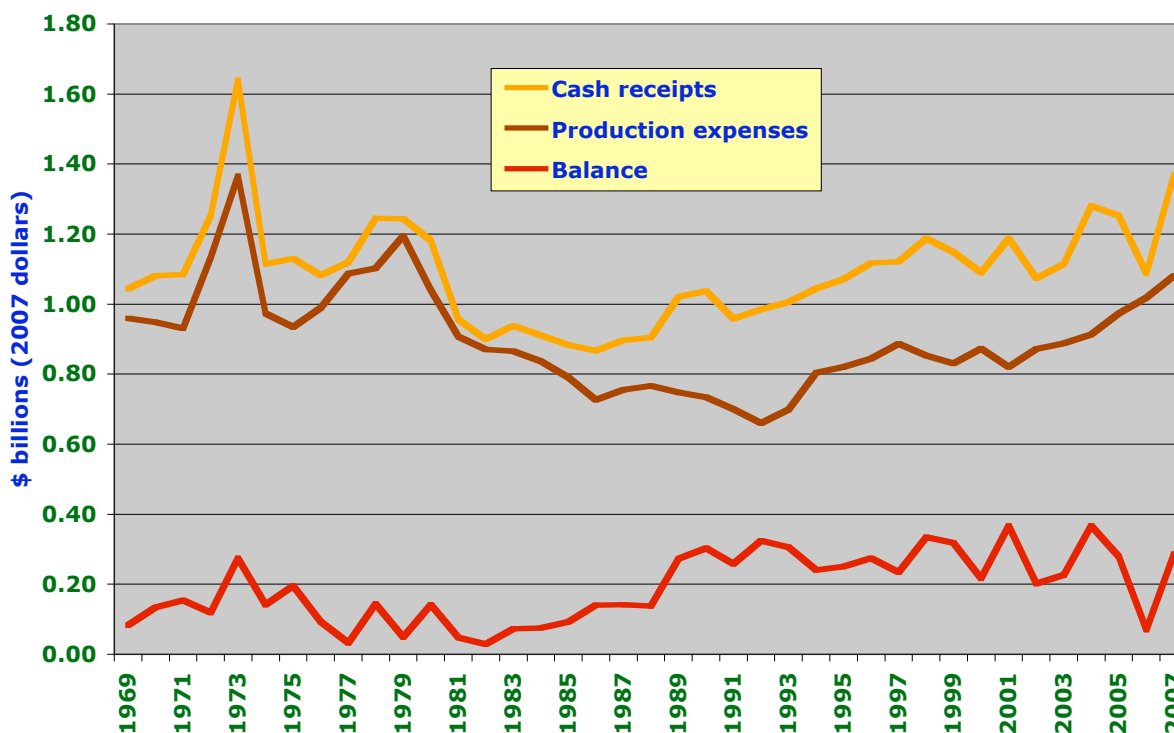
Source: USDA Economic Research

Balance of Cash Receipts and Production Costs (Bureau of Economic Analysis):

Note: Bureau of Economic Analysis farm income data differ from Agriculture Census data.

Chaves and Dona Ana Counties have experienced growth in farm income since 1979, while income for farmers in other counties has fallen off.

Farm Production Balance in Arid lowlands and Lower Rio Grande, New Mexico, 1969-2007



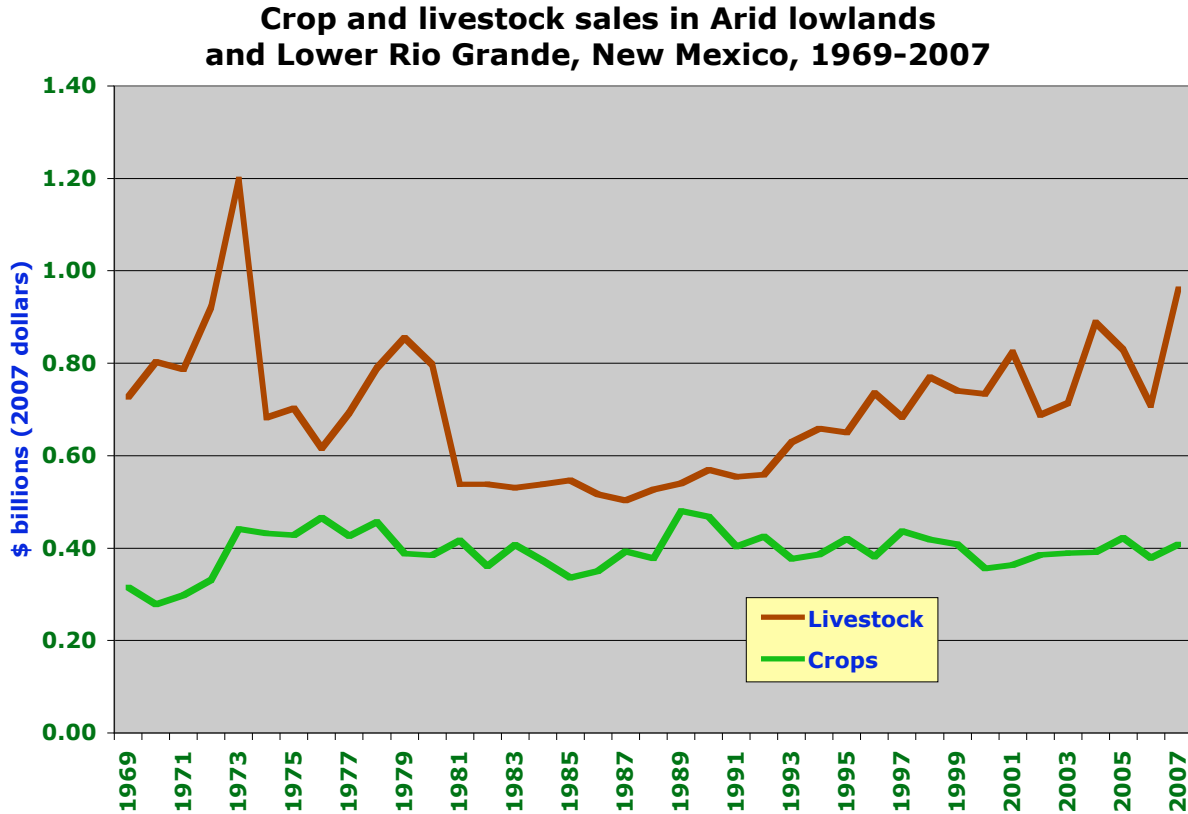
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Lower Rio Grande region farmers sell \$1.1 billion of commodities per year (1969-2007 average), spending \$902 million to raise them, for an average gain of \$190 million each year. These data are dominated by cattle sales in Chaves and Dona Ana Counties.

59% of the region's farms and ranches reported a net loss in 2007 (Agriculture Census), even after subsidies are taken into account.

Lower Rio Grande region farmers and ranchers earned \$204 million more by selling commodities in 1969 than they earned in 2007 (in 2007 dollars). Sales of livestock and related products have risen since 1981, but still fall well below the peak sales of \$1.2 billion in 1973. Crop income has stayed fairly constant since 1973. The most steadily increasing cost of production is feed costs, which total \$330 million per year.

Farmers and ranchers earn another \$28 million per year of farm-related income — primarily rental income for land (39-year average for 1969-2007). Federal farm support payments averaged \$20 million per year from 2001-2006.



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Lower Rio Grande region consumers (2007):

Lower Rio Grande region consumers spend \$2.9 billion buying food each year, including \$1.6 billion for home use. Most of this food is produced outside the region. \$5.5 million of food products (0.5% of farm cash receipts, and 0.2% of local consumer needs) are sold by 464 farms directly to consumers, but not always to Lower Rio Grande region consumers, since this includes internet sales.

Estimated change in net assets for all region households was a combined loss of \$1.5 billion in 2007 alone (BLS). This places additional pressure on Lower Rio Grande region residents as they pay for food.

Farm and food economy summary:

Farms gain \$190 million each year producing food commodities, spending \$450 million buying inputs from external suppliers, for a total outflow of \$260 million from the region's economy.

Meanwhile, consumers spend more than \$2.7 billion buying food from outside. Thus, total loss to the region is nearly \$3 billion of potential wealth *each year*. This loss amounts to three times the value of all commodities raised in the region.

Lower Rio Grande region: markets for food eaten at home (2007):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 358
Fruits & vegetables	299
Cereals and bakery products	207
Dairy products	182
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	602

If Lower Rio Grande region consumers purchased only 15% of the food they need for home use directly from region farmers, this would produce \$248 million of new farm income in Lower Rio Grande region — an amount equivalent to 25% of the 2007 farm sales in the region.

State of New Mexico: markets for food eaten at home (2007)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Mexicans purchase \$5 billion of food per year, \$2.8 billion of this to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 620
Fruits & vegetables	518
Cereals and bakery products	358
Dairy products	315
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	1,043

Key data sources:

Bureau of Economic Analysis data on farm production balance

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

Food consumption estimates from Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm>

U.S. Census of Agriculture

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>

USDA/Economic Research Service food consumption data:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodconsumption/>

USDA/ Economic Research Service farm income data:

<http://ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmIncome/finfidmu.htm>

Centers for Disease Control: Behavior Risk Factors Surveillance System

BRFSS <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss-smart/>

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Big Cities Health Inventory <http://www.naccho.org/>

For more information:

To see results from *Finding Food in Farm Country* studies in other counties of the U.S.:

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To read the original *Finding Food in Farm Country* study from Southeast Minnesota (written by Ken Meter and Jon Rosales for the Community Design Center and the Southeast Minnesota Experiment in Rural Cooperation): <http://www.crcworks.org/ff.pdf>

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<http://www.crcworks.org/crcppts/petersonKM08.pdf>

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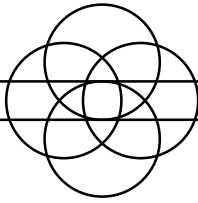
To link to further analysis of farm and food economies in the U.S.:

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Tools for Community Self-determination

High Plains and Ogallala region Local Farm & Food Economy

Highlights of a data compilation
by Ken Meter, Crossroads Resource Center (Minneapolis)
for
New Mexico Bioneers
July 27, 2009

This bioregion encompasses Curry, Lea, Quay, Roosevelt, & Union Counties of New Mexico.

Note: Bioregional boundaries do not follow county lines. However, data used in this summary are reported only by county. This regional overview covers the counties listed in their entirety, which is only an approximation of the defined bioregion.

High Plains and Ogallala region: (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

134,837 residents receive \$4 billion of income annually (2007). Real personal income has doubled since 1969, in part due to population increase. Although population has risen, there has been little public planning to assure a secure and stable food supply.

Issues affecting low-income residents of the High Plains Region:

57,395 residents (45%) earn less than 185% of federal poverty guidelines. At this level of income, children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. These lower-income residents earn a combined \$553 million per year, including \$107 million buying food. Their food purchases are supplemented by SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) and by WIC coupons (these two benefits combined generally amount to about 10-15% of low-income food expenditures). Low-income residents alone lost \$35 million in assets in the year 2007. *Data from Federal Census of 2000, & Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

Food-related health conditions in New Mexico:

One-fifth (20%) of New Mexico residents have no health insurance — the second highest rate in the U.S. Only half of state employers offer health coverage.¹ This lack of insurance carries significant public costs, since both county governments and medical facilities pay for treating customers who are not covered. Costs of this treatment are estimated to be \$6 billion per year.²

¹ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, State summary for New Mexico, <http://covertheuninsured.org/>, accessed May 24, 2009.

² New Mexico Human Services Department (2007). "Summary of New Mexico's Universal Health Coverage Reform Efforts." SCI/Academy Health Summer Workshop for State Officials, August 2. Viewed May 24,

Food has become a leading cause of death in the U.S, rivaling tobacco. A high-calorie diet, combined with a lack of exercise, accounts for one-fifth of the annual deaths in the U.S.³ Six of the fifteen leading causes of death are related to poor diet and low physical activity.⁴

60% of New Mexico residents are overweight or obese, with one-third (34%) overweight and more than one-quarter (26%) obese. Nearly four of every five state residents (78%) eat fewer fruits and vegetables that nutritionists recommend (five servings per day), and 22% report they have no physical activity. 7.8% of state residents have been diagnosed with diabetes. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

The region's ranches and farms (U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2007)

Agriculture Census data for 2007 were released February 4, 2009. Note that the Census of Agriculture uses the term "farm" to include both ranches and farms.

Data for this region are dominated by new dairy production in Curry County, and cattle operations in Roosevelt County, which increased farm income after 1996.

Land:

- 3,145 ranches and farms. This is a 3% increase over the 3,048 operations counted in 2002.
- The High Plains Region has 15% of New Mexico's ranches and farms.
- 1,116 (36%) of these are 1,000 acres or more. This is the most prevalent farm size.
- 544 (17%) farms are less than 50 acres.
- Average farm or ranch size is 2,680 acres, 130% of New Mexico's average.
- The region has 8.4 million acres of land in ranches and farms.
- This amounts to 19% of the state's farmland.
- The region's farms have 1.3 million acres of cropland, 550,106 acres of which is harvested.
- 747 (24%) farms have a total of 248,016 acres of irrigated land.
- Average value of land and buildings per farm is \$962,994. This is 138% of the state average of \$696,081.

Sales (Note that there may be discrepancies between Ag Census data and Bureau of Economic Analysis data, below):

- \$868 million of crops and livestock sold (2007), 40% of New Mexico's farm commodity sales.
- This is a 26% increase in sales over 2002 sales of \$687 million.
- Total farm production expenses were \$740 million, for an increase of \$136 million (23%) in production costs since 2002.
- The largest expense item for the High Plains region's farms and ranches was feed costs, at \$307 million. Costs for purchasing livestock ranked second, at \$107 million. Labor was the

2009, at www.statecoverage.org/files/2007_SCI_Summer_Meeting_Esquivel.ppt.

³ McGinnis, J.M. & W.H. Foegen (1993). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 270(18):2207-12; and Mokdad, A.H., J.S. Marks, D.F. Stroup, & J.I. Gerberding (2000). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 291(10):1238-45 [with published corrections in *JAMA* (2005), 293(3), 293-294.]

⁴ Heron M., D.L. Hoyert, J. Xu, C. Scott, & B. Tejada (2008). *Deaths: preliminary data for 2006*. National Vital Statistics Report 56:16. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_16.pdf.

third largest expense, at \$63 million. Depreciation ranked fourth, totaling \$54 million. Supplies cost \$43 million, fuel and oil \$35 million, and interest expense \$30 million.

- \$131 million of crops were sold (15% of sales), \$40 million (44%) more than in 2002.
- \$737 million of livestock and products were sold (85% of sales). This is \$140 million (23%) more sales than in 2002, by 3% fewer farms. High Plains region livestock sales account for 45% of New Mexico’s livestock sales.
- 1,779 (57%) of the region’s farms sold less than \$10,000 of products in 2007. Their aggregate sales of \$2.2 million amounted to 0.2% of the region’s farm product sales.
- 611 farms (19%) sold more than \$100,000 of products, an aggregate total of \$834 million, 96% of the region’s farm product sales.
- 1,704 farms received \$28 million of federal subsidies in 2007. *[Note that Agriculture Census data differ from Bureau of Economic Analysis data; see below.]*
- 44% (1,386) of region’s farms reported net losses in 2007, after subsidies are taken into account. This is far less than the New Mexico average of 65%.

Principal Products sold in 2007 (**Sales data for many of these products is suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality*):

	\$ millions
Milk & Dairy	436*
Cattle	287*
Corn	38*
Wheat	35*
Forage	25*

Cattle & Dairy:

- 1,441 ranches and farms held an inventory of 602,701 cattle and calves.
- 455,783 cattle worth at least \$287 million were sold from 1,346 ranches and farms in 2007. This represents a 6% decrease in the number of ranches since 2002. Sales totals are lower than actual figures since data from Roosevelt County were suppressed to protect confidentiality.
- An inventory of 144,878 milk cattle was held by 98 farms in the region.
- 95 farms were reported as selling milk or dairy products, 14 (17%) more farms than in 2002.
- Milk and dairy sales totaled at least \$436 million, about \$128 million (42%) more than five years before. Yet these data are incomplete, since sales figures for Curry County were suppressed to protect confidentiality.
- 543 farms produced 357,897 dry tons of forage crops (hay, etc.) on 96,019 acres of cropland, selling well over \$25 million of forage (more precise numbers cannot be compiled because of data suppressions to protect confidentiality, particularly in Quay County).
- In addition, 95 farms produced 756,533 tons of corn silage on 32,675 acres.
- 61 of the region’s farms produced 249,847 tons of sorghum for greenchop on 16,283 acres.

Other livestock & animal products:

- 61 farms sold 815 hogs and pigs for a total of \$77,000. This is six farms less than in 2002, and an increase of \$34,000 (79%) in sales, over the past five years.
- 63 farms held an inventory of 410 hogs and pigs.
- 170 farms sold a total of \$1.2 million of horses. This means the number of farms selling horses fell 17%, while sales fell 10% from \$1.4 million, since 2002.

- Inventory of laying hens was 2,124 on 141 farms.
- 120 farms sold poultry and products in 2007, compared to 30 in 2002. Sales totals for poultry and poultry products are not reliable, due to suppression of data to protect confidentiality.
- 75 farms held an inventory of 4,275 sheep, lambs, and goats; 125 farms sold \$449,000 worth. While the number of farms (110 in 2002) selling these small livestock rose by 14%, sales (\$525,000 in 2002) fell 14%.

Grains, Dry Edible Beans, Oil Crops, and others:

- High Plains region farms sold \$86 million of grains, oil crops and edible beans in 2007.
- 66 of the region’s farms sold \$38 million (6.7 million bushels) of corn on 39,231 acres in 2007.
- 464 of the region’s farmers sold 7 million bushels of wheat, most all winter wheat, on 286,336 acres.
- The region’s wheat crop brought a total of \$35 million.
- 181 farms produced 2.5 million bushels of grain sorghum on 70,259 acres, worth \$11 million.

Nursery, Landscape and Ornamental Crops, & Cotton:

- Sales of ornamental and nursery crops in the region for counties in the region were often suppressed to protect confidentiality. The number of farms raising ornamentals fell from 17 in 2002 to 11 in 2007.
- 40 farms produced 32,841 bales of cotton on 16,237 acres.

Vegetables & Melons (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent vegetable production):

- Vegetable and potato sales figures for the region were unreliable due to data withheld by the Agriculture Census in 2007 and in 2002 to protect confidentiality.
- At least 31 farms produced vegetables on 3,628 acres of land; there were 41 vegetable farms in 2002.
- One farm raised potatoes.
- 29 farms raised at least 21 million pounds of peanuts on more than 7,859 acres.

Detailed list of vegetables harvested in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census:

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

Curry County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Beans, Snap	6	(D)
Cantaloupes	1	(D)
Cucumbers & Pickles	1	(D)
Garlic	-	-
Onions, Dry	-	-
Peas, Southern	2	(D)
Peppers, Chile	-	-
Potatoes	-	-

Pumpkins	8	(D)
Spinach	-	-
Squash, all	2	(D)
Squash, Winter	2	(D)
Sweet Corn	1	(D)
Tomatoes in open	1	(D)
Watermelons	-	-

Lea County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Cantaloupes	-	-
Cucumbers & Pickles	-	-
Okra	-	-
Onions, Dry	1	(D)
Peas, Green	-	-
Peppers, Bell	-	-
Peppers, Chile	1	(D)
Pumpkins	-	-
Tomatoes in open	-	-
Watermelons	1	(D)

Quay County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Cantaloupes	-	-
Cucumbers & Pickles	-	-
Peas, Southern	1	(D)
Squash, all	1	(D)
Squash, Summer	1	(D)
Tomatoes in open	1	(D)
Vegetables, other	1	(D)

Roosevelt County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Beans, Snap	-	-
Cantaloupes	5	1
Cucumbers & Pickles	2	(D)
Okra	4	1
Onions, Dry	2	(D)
Peas, Southern	2	(D)
Peppers, Bell	-	-

Peppers, Chile	2	(D)	
Potatoes	1	(D)	
Pumpkins	3	(D)	
Rhubarb	1	(D)	
Squash, all	4	(D)	
Squash, Summer	2	(D)	
Squash, Winter	2	(D)	
Sweet Corn	1	(D)	
Tomatoes in open	3		1
Vegetables, other	1	(D)	
Watermelons	-	-	

Union County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Cantaloupes	-	-
Cucumbers & Pickles	2	(D)
Peppers, Chile	2	(D)
Squash, all	-	-
Sweet Corn	2	(D)

Fruits (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent fruit production):

- The region had 80 fruit farms with 880 acres of orchards, about the same number of fruit farms as in 2002.
- Sales of fruit and nuts were suppressed in many counties by USDA to protect confidentiality. This makes totaling the value of fruits and nuts sold impossible.

Detailed list of fruit acreage in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census:

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

Curry County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	8	14
Apricots	1	(D)
Cherries, Sweet	1	(D)
Cherries, Tart	1	(D)
Grapes	1	(D)
Peaches, all	6	(D)
Pears, all	1	(D)
Pecans	6	81
Plums & Prunes	1	(D)

Lea County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	2	(D)
Apricots	2	(D)
Peaches, all	2	(D)
Pears, all	2	(D)
Pecans	38	526
Pistachios	1	(D)

Quay County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	1	(D)
Pecans	9	(D)

Roosevelt County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	6	(D)
Peaches, all	2	(D)
Pecans	13	213

Union County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	1	(D)
Peaches, all	1	(D)
Pears, all	1	(D)

No berry production was recorded by the Agriculture Census in 2007 for the counties in this region

Direct & organic sales:

- 90 ranches and farms sold \$512,000 of food directly to consumers. This is a 4% decrease in the number of farms selling direct (94 in 2002), and a 18% increase in direct sales, from \$435,000 in 2002. Direct sales account for 0.06% of region farm sales, far less than the national average of 0.4%.
- The region's farmers make up 6% of the state's ranches and farms selling direct, and account for 5% of New Mexico's direct sales (\$11.1 million of direct sales in New Mexico in 2007, and \$6.6 million in 2002).
- State of New Mexico records (New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission) show 37 certified organic farms in the region in 2007, farming 42,256 acres. This amounts to 22% of the state's certified organic farms, and 40% of certified organic acreage.

- According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 13 farms in the region sold organic foods (\$7.1 million in sales) from 6,311 acres.
- These Census of Agriculture state that the region accounts for 4% of the New Mexico farms selling organic, 63% of the state's organic farm product sales, and 35% of the state's harvested organic acreage.
- Local farm directories list no CSAs in this region. According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 12 farms market through community supported agriculture (CSA), 9% of the 139 CSA farms recorded in the state. [*Note: some analysts suggest that CSA counts may be unrealistically high in the 2007 Census*].
- 83 farms produce added-value products on the farm, 10% of New Mexico's farms adding value.

Conservation practices:

- 497 (15% of New Mexico's) farms use rotational management or intensive grazing.
- 448 (21% of New Mexico's) farms use conservation practices.
- 67 (12% of New Mexico's) farms generate some electricity on the farm.
- 100 (3% of New Mexico's) farms draw irrigation water from the Bureau of Reclamation.

State of New Mexico Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- New Mexico has 20,930 farms, 38% more than the 15,170 farms in 2002.
- Nevertheless, the number of acres in farms decreased 4%, to 43 million acres in 2007.
- 8,904 farm operators are Latino.
- 6,611 farm operators are Native American.
- The state has 24,214 White farm operators.
- There are 43 Asian-American, 66 African-American, and 26 Pacific Islander farm operators.
- New Mexico farmers sold \$2.2 billion of crops and livestock in 2007, up 28% from \$1.7 billion in sales five years before.
- This includes \$1.6 billion of livestock, and \$553 million in crops.
- The Agriculture Census lists production expenses as \$1.9 billion for all state farms.
- Government payments to farmers decreased 14%, to \$43 million in 2007 from \$50 million in 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size is 1-9 acres, with 6,400 farms.
- The next most prevalent size is 10-49 acres, with 4,300 farms.
- 3,600 farms are more than 1,000 acres.
- New Mexico ranks 9th in the U.S. for dairy sales, with \$1 billion. This is also the most important farm commodity sold in the state, in terms of sales.
- Second most important product in New Mexico is cattle, with \$576 million in sales.
- The state's farms held an inventory of 1.5 million cattle, down from 1.7 million in 1997.
- The most important single crop raised is forage, with \$139 million sold from 366,000 acres.
- 302,000 acres are devoted to wheat production.
- New Mexico farms sell \$105 million of fruits and nuts, and \$89 million of vegetables.

New Mexico's top 25 farm products in 2007 (Economic Research Service)

See chart on next page

1	Dairy products	1,353.8
2	Cattle and calves	951.8
3	Hay	195.4
4	Pecans	96.2
5	Onions	63.4
6	Greenhouse/nursery	62.4
7	Wheat	38.5
8	Cotton	35.0
9	Peppers, chile	32.9
10	Corn	23.9
11	Potatoes	14.3
12	Sorghum grain	9.9
13	Peanuts	7.0
14	Dry beans	6.1
15	Sheep and lambs	5.4
16	Wool	1.3
17	Apples	1.0
18	Honey	0.5
19	Hogs	0.2
20	Mohair	0.2

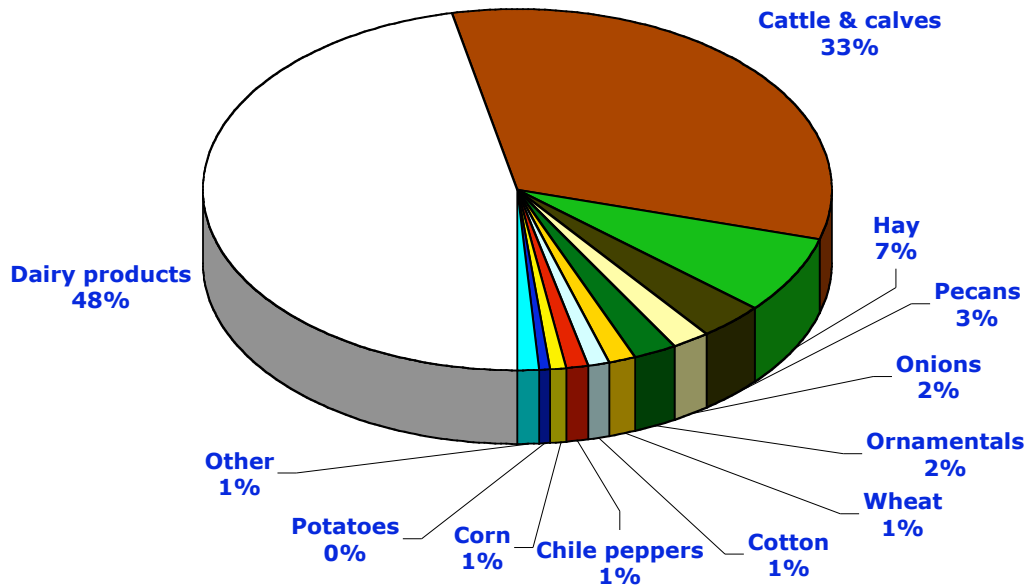
Note: chicken eggs and farm chickens were also listed among New Mexico's top 25 products, but sales figures for these products were not released by ERS.

Note also that at \$11 million, direct sales from farmers to consumers amount to more than the value of the 12th ranking product, sorghum grain.

New Mexico's top 25 farm products in 2007 (Economic Research Service)

See table on previous page

Top 25 commodities sold by New Mexico farms, 2007



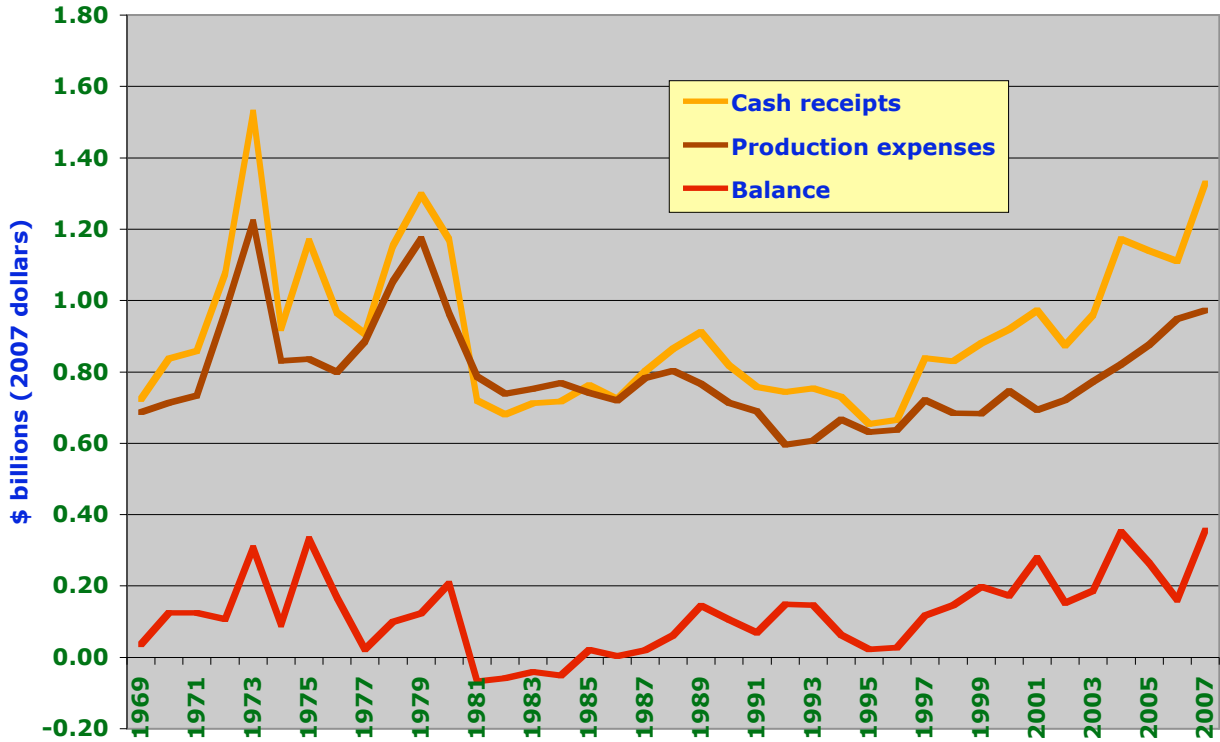
Source: USDA Economic Research

Balance of Cash Receipts and Production Costs (Bureau of Economic Analysis):

Note: Bureau of Economic Analysis farm income data differ from Agriculture Census data.

Trends in this region are dominated by new dairy operations in Curry County, and cattle operations in Roosevelt County.

Farm Production Balance in High Plains & Ogallala region, New Mexico, 1969-2007



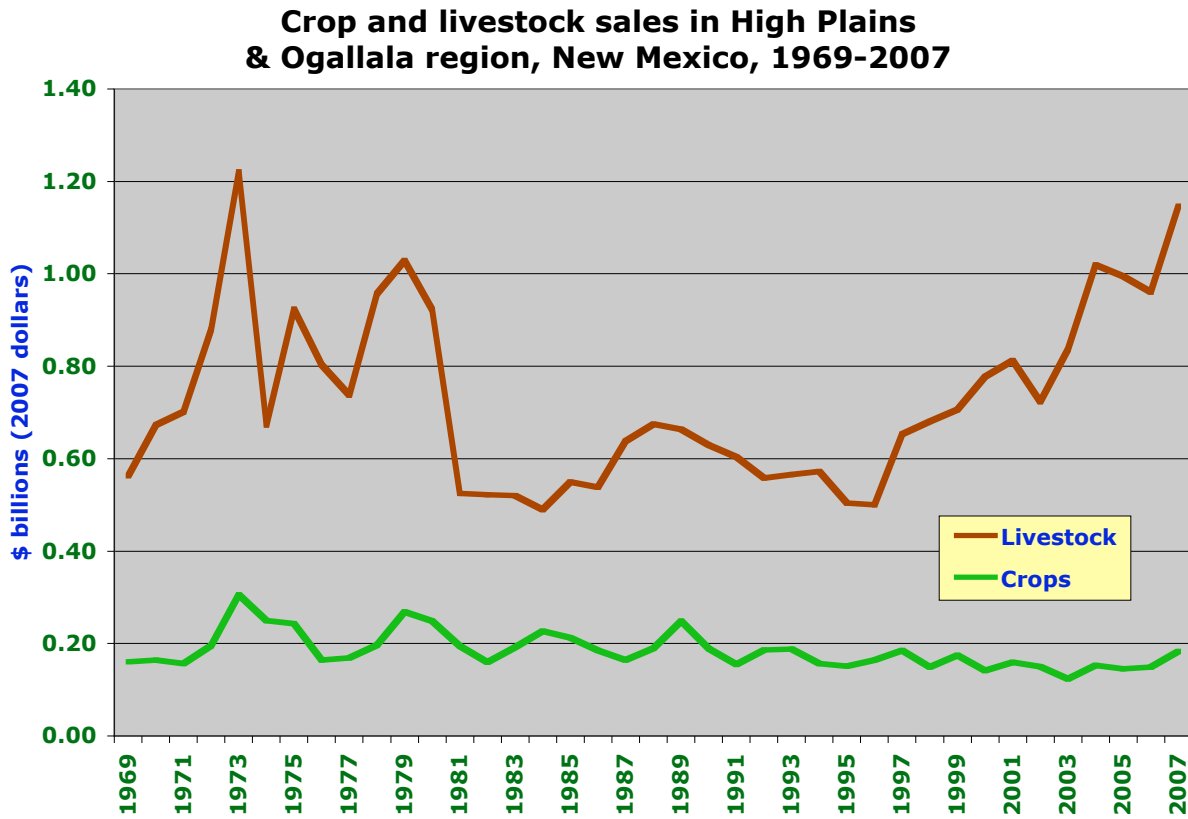
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

High Plains Region farmers sell \$892 million of commodities per year (1987-2007 average), spending \$740 million to raise them, for an average gain of \$152 million each year. Although the farm sector as a whole has earned a rising farm production balance since 1987, this is primarily due to dairy and cattle sales in Curry and Roosevelt counties, while other regions have experienced low growth or even decline.

44% of the region's farms and ranches reported a net loss in 2007 (Agriculture Census), after subsidies are taken into account.

High Plains Region farmers and ranchers earned \$319 million more by selling commodities in 2007 than they earned in 1969 (in 2007 dollars). As shown in the chart above, sales of livestock and related products rose steadily from 1996-2007, but are still lower than peak levels of \$1.4 billion in 1973. Crop income stayed quite constant. The most steadily increasing cost of production is feed costs, which more than doubled, from \$107 million to \$277 million, over the years 2001-2007.

Farmers and ranchers earn another \$27 million per year of farm-related income — primarily rental income for land (15-year average for 1987-2007). Federal farm support payments average \$64 million per year for the entire region over the same years.



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.

High Plains Region consumers (2007):

High Plains Region consumers spend \$341 million buying food each year, including \$192 million for home use. Most of this food is produced outside the region. \$512,000 of food products (0.06% of farm cash receipts, and 0.2% of local consumer needs) are sold by 90 farms directly to consumers, but not always to High Plains Region consumers, since this includes internet sales.

Estimated change in net assets for all region households was a combined loss of \$180 million in 2007 alone (BLS). This places additional pressure on High Plains Region residents as they pay for food.

Farm and food economy summary:

Farmers gain \$152 million each year producing food commodities, spending \$371 million buying inputs from external suppliers, for a total outflow of \$220 million from the region economy.

Meanwhile, consumers spend more than \$300 million buying food from outside. Thus, total loss to the region is \$520 million of potential wealth *each year*. This loss amounts to nearly 60% of the value of all commodities raised in the region.

High Plains Region: markets for food eaten at home (2007):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 42
Fruits & vegetables	35
Cereals and bakery products	24
Dairy products	21
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	70

If High Plains Region consumers purchased only 15% of the food they need for home use directly from region farmers, this would produce \$29 million of new farm income in High Plains Region — enough to pay interest on all farm debt for the year.

State of New Mexico: markets for food eaten at home (2007)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Mexicans purchase \$5 billion of food per year, \$2.8 billion of this to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 620
Fruits & vegetables	518
Cereals and bakery products	358
Dairy products	315
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	1,043

Key data sources:

Bureau of Economic Analysis data on farm production balance

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

Food consumption estimates from Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm>

U.S. Census of Agriculture

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>

USDA/Economic Research Service food consumption data:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodconsumption/>

USDA/ Economic Research Service farm income data:

<http://ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmIncome/finfidmu.htm>

Centers for Disease Control: Behavior Risk Factors Surveillance System

BRFSS <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss-smart/>

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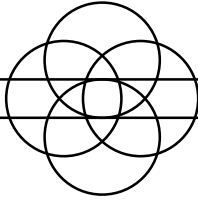
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Tools for Community Self-determination

Central Plains and Upper Pecos region Local Farm & Food Economy

Highlights of a data compilation
by Ken Meter, Crossroads Resource Center (Minneapolis)
for
New Mexico Bioneers
July 27, 2009

*This bioregion encompasses DeBaca, Guadalupe, Harding, Lincoln,
Mora, San Miguel, & Torrance Counties of New Mexico.*

Note: Bioregional boundaries do not follow county lines. However, data used in this summary are reported only by county. This regional overview covers the counties listed in their entirety, which is only an approximation of the defined bioregion.

Central Plains and Upper Pecos Region: (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

77,948 residents receive \$1.8 billion of income annually (2006). Real personal income has increased three-fold since 1969, in part due to population increase. Although population has increased to 1.6 times its 1969 level, there has been only limited public planning to assure a secure and stable food supply.

Issues affecting low-income residents of Central Plains and Upper Pecos Region:

33,323 residents (43%) earn less than 185% of federal poverty guidelines. At this level of income, children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. These lower-income residents earn a combined \$318 million per year, including \$62 million buying food. Their food purchases are supplemented by SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) and by WIC coupons (these two benefits combined generally amount to about 10-15% of low-income food expenditures). Low-income households alone lost net assets of \$20 million in the year 2007. *Data from Federal Census of 2000, & Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

Food-related health conditions in New Mexico:

One-fifth (20%) of New Mexico residents have no health insurance — the second highest rate in the U.S. Only half of state employers offer health coverage.¹ This lack of insurance carries significant public costs, since both county governments and medical facilities pay for treating customers who are not covered. Costs of this treatment are estimated to be \$6 billion per year.²

¹ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, State summary for New Mexico, <http://covertheuninsured.org/>, accessed May 24, 2009.

² New Mexico Human Services Department (2007). "Summary of New Mexico's Universal Health Coverage

Food has become a leading cause of death in the U.S, rivaling tobacco. A high-calorie diet, combined with a lack of exercise, accounts for one-fifth of the annual deaths in the U.S.³ Six of the fifteen leading causes of death are related to poor diet and low physical activity.⁴

60% of New Mexico residents are overweight or obese, with one-third (34%) overweight and more than one-quarter (26%) obese. Nearly four of every five state residents (78%) eat fewer fruits and vegetables that nutritionists recommend (five servings per day), and 22% report they have no physical activity. 7.8% of state residents have been diagnosed with diabetes. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

The region's ranches and farms (U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2007)

Agriculture Census data for 2007 were released February 4, 2009. Note that the Census of Agriculture uses the term "farm" to include both ranches and farms.

Land:

- 2,875 ranches and farms. This is a 25% increase in ranches and farms since 2002.
- Central Plains and Upper Pecos region has 14% of New Mexico's ranches and farms.
- 1,209 (42%) farms are less than 180 acres.
- 892 (25%) of these are 1,000 acres or more.
- The most prevalent farm size is 50-179 acres, with a total of 564 farms (20% of farms).
- Average farm size is 3,521 acres, 170% of New Mexico's average.
- The region has 10 million acres of land in ranches and farms.
- This amounts to 23% of the state's farmland.
- The region's farms harvested 50,520 acres of cropland.
- 1,013 (35%) farms have a total of 68,932 acres of irrigated land.
- 155 farms receive irrigation water from the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Average value of land and buildings per farm is \$1,046,935. This is 150% of the state average of \$696,081.

Sales (Note that there may be discrepancies between Ag Census data and Bureau of Economic Analysis data, below):

- \$122 million of crops and livestock sold (2007), 6% of state ag sales.
- This is a 10% increase in sales over 2002 sales of \$111 million.
- Total farm production expenses were \$126 million, an increase of 20% over 2002 production costs of \$105 million.
- The largest expense item in farm production was feed purchases, at \$21 million. Depreciation costs ranked second, totaling \$17 million. Livestock costs totaled \$16 million, while labor costs ranked fourth at \$15 million. The region's farmers also spent \$14 million

Reform Efforts." SCI/Academy Health Summer Workshop for State Officials, August 2. Viewed May 24, 2009, at www.statecoverage.org/files/2007_SCI_Summer_Meeting_Esquivel.ppt.

³ McGinnis, J.M. & W.H. Foegen (1993). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 270(18):2207-12; and Mokdad, A.H, J.S. Marks, D.F. Stroup, & J.I. Gerberding (2000). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 291(10):1238-45 [with published corrections in *JAMA* (2005), 293(3), 293-294.]

⁴ Heron M., D.L. Hoyert, J. Xu, C. Scott, & B. Tejada (2008). *Deaths: preliminary data for 2006*. National Vital Statistics Report 56:16. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_16.pdf.

on supplies, repair and maintenance, and \$13 million for gasoline, fuels, and oils. In addition, farmers and ranchers spent \$11 million paying interest on farm debt.

- \$26 million of crops were sold (22% of sales), \$10 million (63%) more than in 2002. *Note that Harding County sales totals, though small, were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality, and are not included in this total.*
- \$96 million of livestock and products were sold (78% of sales). This is about the same as 2002 sales. *Note that Harding County sales totals were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality, so some sales are not included in this total.*
- 1,997 (69%) of the region's farms sold less than \$10,000 of products in 2007. Their aggregate sales of \$3.7 million amounted to 2% of the region's farm product sales.
- 279 farms (8%) sold more than \$100,000 of products, an aggregate total of \$97 million, 79% of region farm product sales.
- 373 farms received \$3.6 million of federal subsidies in 2007. *[Note that Agriculture Census data differ from Bureau of Economic Analysis data; see below.]*
- 69% (1,989) of region's farms reported net losses in 2007 even after subsidies are taken into account. This is slightly greater than the New Mexico rate of 65%.

Principal Products sold in 2007 (**Sales data for many of these products is suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality*):

	\$ millions
Cattle	<i>suppressed*</i>
Milk & Dairy	<i>suppressed*</i>
Forage	<i>suppressed*</i>

Grains, Dry Edible Beans, Oil Crops, and others:

- *Much of the data regarding acreage and sales of the region's grain and edible bean farms is suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality.*
- 13 region farms raised 56,011 bushels of corn on 554 acres.
- 13 of the region's farmers sold 3,234 bushels of wheat, primarily winter wheat, on 1,084 acres.
- 13 farms raise oats.
- 7 farms produce edible dry beans or oil seeds.

Cattle & Dairy:

- 1,771 ranches and farms hold an inventory of 209,490 cattle and calves.
- 129,818 cattle were sold from 1,482 ranches and farms in 2007.
- *Cattle sales figures are not reliable due to suppression of data by USDA to protect confidentiality.*
- 24 farms produced dairy products.
- *Production and sales figures for milk and dairy products are not reliable due to suppression of data by USDA to protect confidentiality.*
- 692 farms produced 134,981 dry tons of forage crops (hay, etc.) on 40,298 acres of cropland. Of these, 601 farms sold forage.
- In addition, 21 farms produced 176,921 tons of corn silage on 7,088 acres.

Other livestock & animal products:

- 47 farms sold 592 hogs and pigs.

- 56 farms hold an inventory of 219 hogs and pigs.
- 188 farms sold a total of \$1.2 million of horses.
- 218 farms raise laying hens, holding an inventory of 5,090.
- 127 farms held an inventory of 25,381 sheep, lambs, and goats.

Nursery, Landscape & Ornamental Crops:

- 25 farms sold more than \$8 million of ornamental and nursery crops.

Vegetables & Melons (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent vegetable production):

- 39 farms produced vegetables; acreage and sales were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality. Only 23 farms produced vegetables in 2002.
- 4 farms raised potatoes.

Detailed lists of vegetables harvested in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census:

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

De Baca County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Cantaloupes	1	(D)
Peppers, Chile	-	-
Tomatoes in open	-	-
Watermelons	1	(D)

Guadalupe County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Beans, Green Lima	1	(D)
Cantaloupes	1	(D)
Cucumbers & Pickles	1	(D)
Lettuce, all	1	(D)
Lettuce, Leaf	1	(D)
Onions, Dry	-	-
Onions, Green	1	(D)
Peas, Southern	1	(D)
Peppers, Bell	-	-
Peppers, Chile	-	-
Potatoes	1	(D)
Pumpkins	3	2
Squash, all	2	(D)
Squash, Winter	2	(D)
Sweet Corn	1	(D)
Tomatoes in open	4	2
Vegetables, other	2	(D)
Watermelons	1	(D)

Harding County

	Farms	Harvested acres
(None reported)		

Lincoln County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Squash, all	1	(D)
Squash, Summer	1	(D)
Tomatoes in open	1	(D)

Mora County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Broccoli	-	-
Cabbage, Head	-	-
Cauliflower	-	-
Cucumbers & Pickles	-	-
Garlic	2	(D)
Peas, Green	2	(D)
Potatoes	2	(D)
Pumpkins	2	(D)
Spinach	-	-
Sweet Corn	1	(D)

San Miguel County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Beans, Snap	2	(D)
Cantaloupes	-	-
Cucumbers & Pickles	2	(D)
Garlic	-	-
Peas, Green	1	(D)
Peppers, Chile	1	(D)
Squash, all	2	(D)
Squash, Summer	2	(D)
Sweet Corn	6	
Tomatoes in open	2	(D)
Vegetables, other	2	(D)
Watermelons	2	(D)

6

Torrance County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Beans, Snap	5	2
Beets	2	(D)
Cabbage, Head	2	(D)
Carrots	3	(Z)
Cucumbers & Pickles	2	(D)
Lettuce, all	2	(D)
Lettuce, Leaf	2	(D)
Mustard Greens	-	-
Onions, Dry	-	-
Onions, Green	2	(D)
Peas, Green	1	(D)
Peppers, Chile	4	5
Potatoes	1	(D)
Pumpkins	7	111
Squash, all	8	5
Squash, Summer	5	1
Squash, Winter	3	4
Sweet Corn	2	(D)
Tomatoes in open	2	(D)
Turnips	1	(D)
Vegetables, other	1	(D)

Fruits (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent fruit production):

- The region has 98 fruit and nut farms with 469 acres of orchard.

Detailed list of fruit acreage in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census:

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

De Baca County

	Farms	Acres
Pecans	4	8

Guadalupe County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	5	4
Apricots	1	(D)
Cherries, Sweet	3	2
Cherries, Tart	1	(D)
Grapes	1	(D)
Other noncitrus	2	(D)

Peaches, all	5		4
Pears, all	4		3
Pecans	1	(D)	
Plums & Prunes	3		2

Harding County

	Farms	Acres
<i>(None recorded)</i>		

Lincoln County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	35	117
Apricots	1	(D)
Cherries, Sweet	1	(D)
Cherries, Tart	1	(D)
Grapes	2	(D)
Other noncitrus	1	(D)
Peaches, all	6	22
Pears, all	5	13
Pecans	8	118

Mora County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	15	29
Cherries, Tart	2	(D)
Other noncitrus	2	(D)
Peaches, all	2	(D)
Pears, all	2	(D)
Plums & Prunes	6	3

San Miguel County

	Farms	Acres
Apples	8	30
Grapes	2	(D)
Other noncitrus	1	(D)
Peaches, all	3	4
Pecans	1	(D)

Detailed list of berry acreage in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census *(if a given county in the region is not listed as producing berries, the count is not named below):*

Guadalupe County

	Farms	Acres
Raspberries	1	(D)
Strawberries	1	(D)

Lincoln County

	Farms	Acres
Blackberries	1	(D)
Raspberries	1	(D)
Strawberries	1	(D)

Mora County

	Farms	Acres
Raspberries	2	(D)

San Miguel County

	Farms	Acres
Loganberries	2	(D)

Torrance County

	Farms	Acres
Other berries	2	(D)

Direct & organic sales:

- 126 ranches and farms sell \$747,000 of food directly to consumers. This is a 29% increase in the number of farms selling direct (116 in 2002), and a 58% increase in direct sales, over \$474,000 in 2002. Direct sales account for 0.6% of the region's farm sales, larger than the national average of 0.4%.
- The region's farmers make up 8% of the farms selling direct in the state, and account for 7% of New Mexico's direct sales (\$11.2 million of direct sales from 1,529 New Mexico farms in 2007, an increase from \$6.6 million in 2002).
- The New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission reports that 16 farmers are certified organic, operating 54,894 acres of certified land — over half of the 105,551 certified acres in the state.
- Harding County boasts the largest number of certified acres in the region and in the state, with 38,902.
- According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 21 region farms sold organic foods (\$173,000 sales). This data, however, suppresses sales from Guadalupe, Harding, and Torrance counties. (Harding has 71% of the certified acres in the region, according to NMOCC state data).

- This is 8% of New Mexico farms selling organic, and 2% of state sales (\$11.2 million), as recorded by the U.S. Census of Agriculture.
- Local farm lists show two Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms in the region including one in San Miguel County, and one in Torrance County, out of 20 total for the state of New Mexico.
- According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 14 farms in the region market through community supported agriculture (CSA), 10% of New Mexico's total of 139.
- 162 farms produce added-value products on the farm (19% of New Mexico's total).

Conservation practices:

- 758 farms use rotational management or intensive grazing, 23% of those in the state.
- 267 farms use conservation practices, 12% of those in the state.
- 132 farms generate some electricity on the farm, 24% of those in the state.

State of New Mexico Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- New Mexico has 20,930 farms, 38% more than the 15,170 farms in 2002.
- Nevertheless, the number of acres in farms decreased 4%, to 43 million acres in 2007.
- 8,904 farm operators are Latino.
- 6,611 farm operators are Native American.
- The state has 24,214 White farm operators.
- There are 43 Asian-American, 66 African-American, and 26 Pacific Islander farm operators.
- New Mexico farmers sold \$2.2 billion of crops and livestock in 2007, up 28% from \$1.7 billion in sales five years before.
- This includes \$1.6 billion of livestock, and \$553 million in crops.
- The Agriculture Census lists production expenses as \$1.9 billion for all state farms.
- Government payments to farmers decreased 14%, to \$43 million in 2007 from \$50 million in 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size is 1-9 acres, with 6,400 farms.
- The next most prevalent size is 10-49 acres, with 4,300 farms.
- 3,600 farms are more than 1,000 acres.
- New Mexico ranks 9th in the U.S. for dairy sales, with \$1 billion. This is also the most important farm commodity sold in the state, in terms of sales.
- Second most important product in New Mexico is cattle, with \$576 million in sales.
- The state's farms held an inventory of 1.5 million cattle, down from 1.7 million in 1997.
- The most important single crop raised is forage, with \$139 million sold from 366,000 acres.
- 302,000 acres are devoted to wheat production.
- New Mexico farms sell \$105 million of fruits and nuts, and \$89 million of vegetables.

New Mexico's top 25 farm products in 2007 (Economic Research Service)

Note that these ERS data do not always agree with results from the farm census, above. See also chart on next page

1	Dairy products	1,353.8
2	Cattle and calves	951.8
3	Hay	195.4
4	Pecans	96.2
5	Onions	63.4
6	Greenhouse/nursery	62.4
7	Wheat	38.5
8	Cotton	35.0
9	Peppers, chile	32.9
10	Corn	23.9
11	Potatoes	14.3
12	Sorghum grain	9.9
13	Peanuts	7.0
14	Dry beans	6.1
15	Sheep and lambs	5.4
16	Wool	1.3
17	Apples	1.0
18	Honey	0.5
19	Hogs	0.2
20	Mohair	0.2

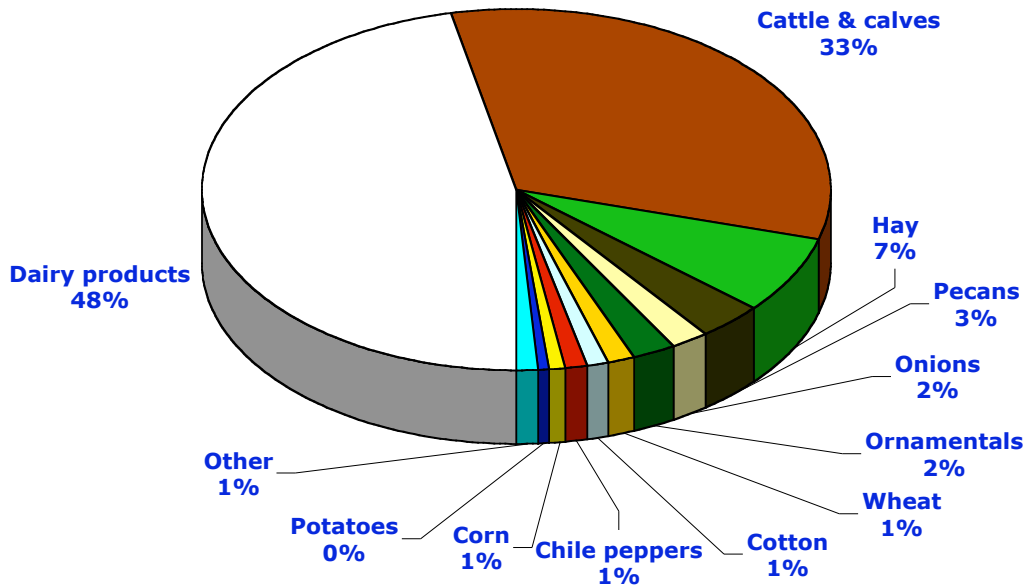
Note: chicken eggs and farm chickens were also listed among New Mexico's top 25 products, but sales figures for these products were not released by ERS.

Note also that at \$11 million, direct sales from farmers to consumers amount to more than the value of the 12th ranking product, sorghum grain.

New Mexico's top 25 farm products in 2007 (Economic Research Service)

See table on previous page

Top 25 commodities sold by New Mexico farms, 2007

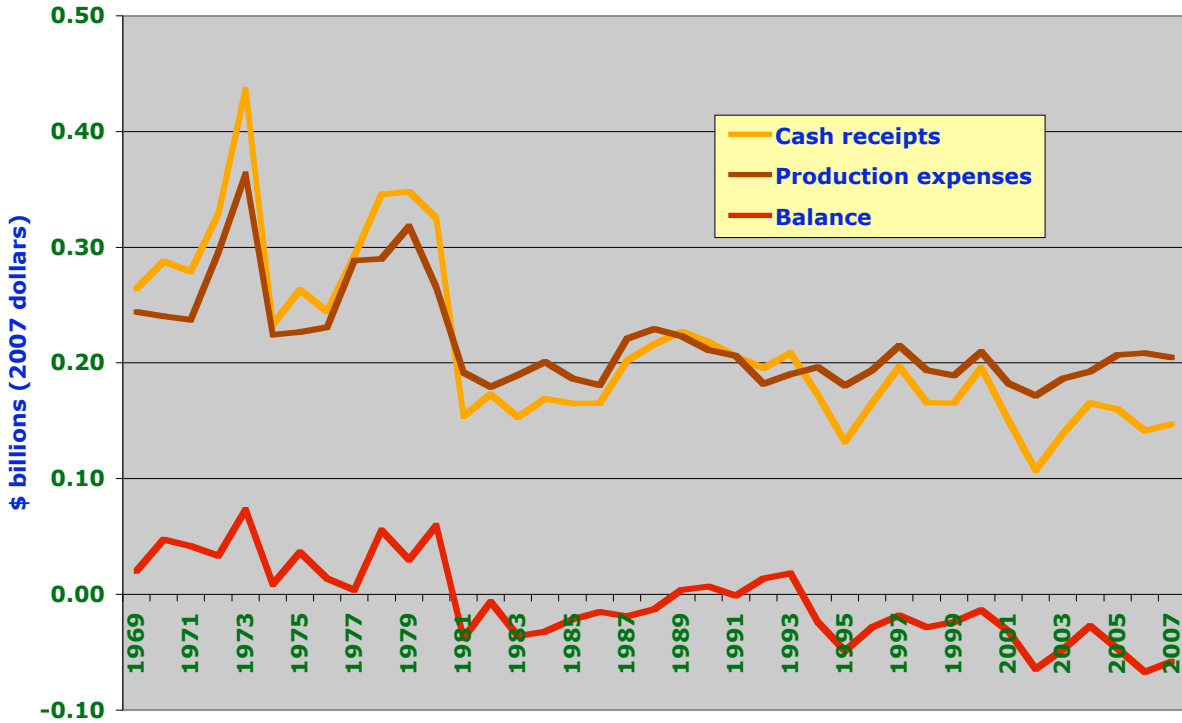


Source: USDA Economic Research Service

Balance of Cash Receipts and Production Costs (Bureau of Economic Analysis):

Note: Bureau of Economic Analysis farm income data differ from Agriculture Census data.

Farm Production Balance in Central Plains & Upper Pecos region, New Mexico, 1969-2007



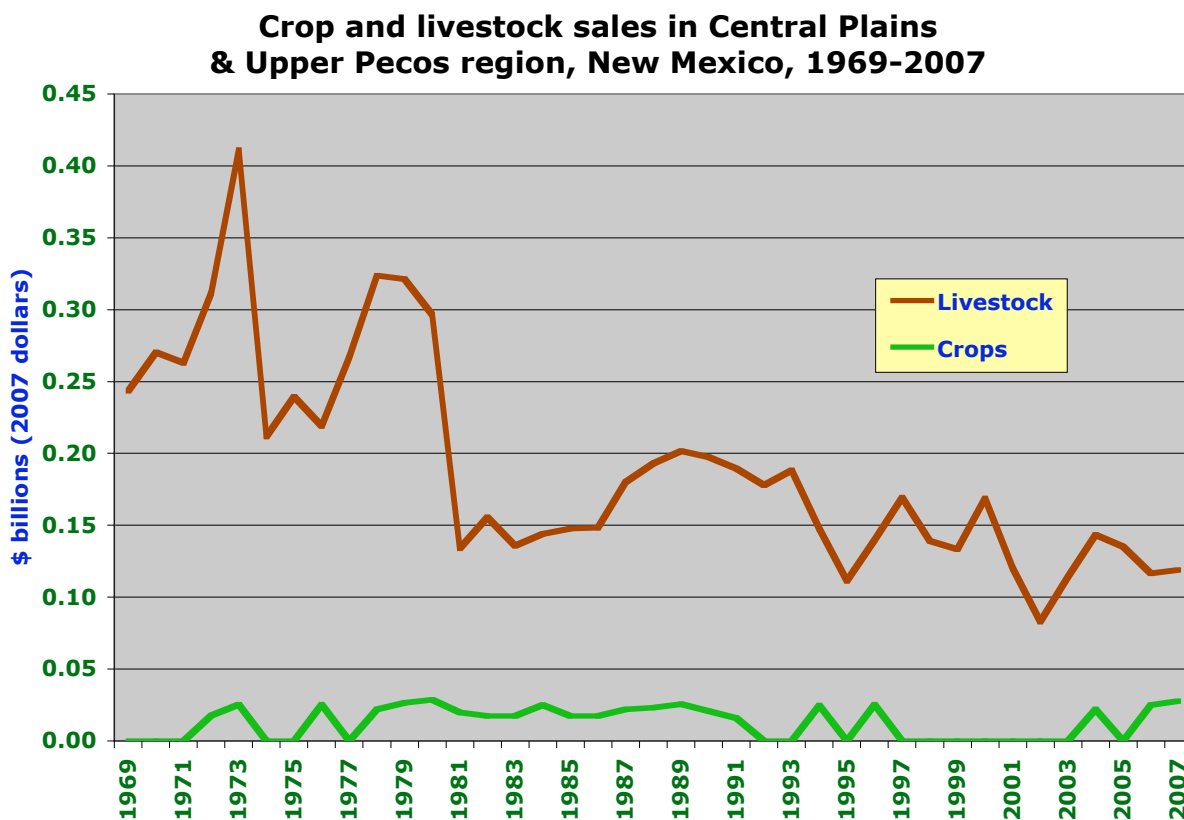
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis. Note that the Farm Production Balance for Torrance County farmers has been positive since 1997 except for the year 2002; this makes totals for the rest of the region higher than if Torrance were not reported.

Upper Pecos region farmers sell \$172 million of commodities per year (1981-2007 average), spending \$197 million to raise them, for an average loss of \$25 million each year. The farm sector as a whole has not earned a positive cash flow from raising commodities (though clearly some individual farms have made money) since 1994.

Overall, farm producers have experienced losses of \$667 million since 1981. Moreover, 69% of the region's farms and ranches reported a net loss in 2007 (Agriculture Census), even after subsidies are taken into account.

Upper Pecos region farmers and ranchers earned \$78 million less by selling commodities in 1969 than they earned in 2007 (in 2007 dollars). Sales of livestock and related products appear to be declining steadily since 1994, while crop income has stayed fairly constant since 1969. The most steadily increasing cost of production is feed costs.

Farmers and ranchers earn another \$11 million per year of farm-related income — primarily rental income for land (27-year average for 1981-2007). Federal farm support payments averaged \$10 million per year over the years 2001-2005.



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis. Note missing data marked at zero for crop income for several years.

Upper Pecos region consumers (2007):

Upper Pecos region consumers spend \$203 million buying food each year, including \$114 million for home use. Most of this food is produced outside the region. \$747,000 of food products (0.6% of farm cash receipts, and 0.4% of local consumer needs) are sold by 126 farms directly to consumers, but not always to Upper Pecos region consumers, since this includes internet sales.

Estimated change in net assets for all region households was a combined loss of \$107 million in 2007 alone (BLS). This places additional pressure on Upper Pecos region residents as they pay for food.

Farm and food economy summary:

Farmers lose \$25 million each year producing food commodities, spending \$66 million buying inputs from external suppliers, for a total outflow of \$90 million from the region economy.

Meanwhile, consumers spend more than \$180 million buying food from outside. Thus, total loss to the region is \$270 million of potential wealth *each year*. This loss amounts to more than double the value of all commodities raised in the region, and would be more than enough to feed all residents.

Upper Pecos region: markets for food eaten at home (2007):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 25
Fruits & vegetables	21
Cereals and bakery products	14
Dairy products	13
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	42

If Upper Pecos region consumers purchased only 15% of the food they need for home use directly from region farmers, this would produce \$17 million of new farm income in Upper Pecos region — considerably more than all government subsidies given farms in the region.

State of New Mexico: markets for food eaten at home (2007)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Mexicans purchase \$5 billion of food per year, \$2.8 billion of this to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 620
Fruits & vegetables	518
Cereals and bakery products	358
Dairy products	315
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	1,043

Key data sources:

Bureau of Economic Analysis data on farm production balance

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

Food consumption estimates from Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm>

U.S. Census of Agriculture

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>

USDA/Economic Research Service food consumption data:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodconsumption/>

USDA/ Economic Research Service farm income data:

<http://ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmIncome/finfidmu.htm>

Centers for Disease Control: Behavior Risk Factors Surveillance System

BRFSS <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss-smart/>

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Big Cities Health Inventory <http://www.naccho.org/>

For more information:

To see results from *Finding Food in Farm Country* studies in other counties of the U.S.:

<http://www.crcworks.org/locales.html>

To read the original *Finding Food in Farm Country* study from Southeast Minnesota (written by Ken Meter and Jon Rosales for the Community Design Center and the Southeast Minnesota Experiment in Rural Cooperation): <http://www.crcworks.org/ff.pdf>

To view a PowerPoint presented in March, 2008, by Ken Meter at Rep. Collin Peterson's (D-MN) Minnesota agricultural forum, called the "Home Grown Economy":

<http://www.crcworks.org/crcppts/petersonKM08.pdf>

To get a brief list of essential food facts, many of which are cited in the presentation above,

<http://www.crcworks.org/foodmarkets.pdf>

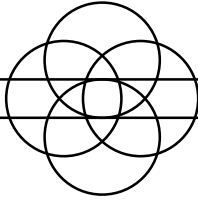
To link to further analysis of farm and food economies in the U.S.:

<http://www.crcworks.org/econ.html>

Contact Ken Meter at Crossroads Resource Center

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Tools for Community Self-determination

Transition Plateaus, Mountains, and Gila River region Local Farm & Food Economy

Highlights of a data compilation

by Ken Meter, Crossroads Resource Center (Minneapolis)
for

New Mexico Bioneers

July 27, 2009

This bioregion encompasses Catron, Cibola, & Grant Counties of New Mexico

Note: Bioregional boundaries do not follow county lines. However, data used in this summary are reported only by county. This regional overview covers the counties listed in their entirety, which is only an approximation of the defined bioregion.

Gila River Region: (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

60,332 residents receive \$1.4 billion of income annually (2006). Although population has more than doubled, and personal income has tripled, since 1969, there has been only limited public planning to assure a secure and stable food supply.

Issues affecting low-income residents of Gila River Region:

26,630 residents (46%) earn less than 185% of federal poverty guidelines. At this level of income, children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. These lower-income residents earn a combined \$255 million per year, including \$50 million buying food. Their food purchases are supplemented by SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) and by WIC coupons (these two benefits combined generally amount to about 10-15% of low-income food expenditures). Low-income residents alone lost \$16 million in net assets in the year 2007. *Data from Federal Census of 2000, & Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

Food-related health conditions in New Mexico:

One-fifth (20%) of New Mexico residents have no health insurance — the second highest rate in the U.S. Only half of state employers offer health coverage.¹ This lack of insurance carries significant public costs, since both county governments and medical facilities pay for treating customers who are not covered. Costs of this treatment in New Mexico are estimated to be \$6 billion per year.²

¹ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, State summary for New Mexico, <http://covertheuninsured.org/>, accessed May 24, 2009.

² New Mexico Human Services Department (2007). "Summary of New Mexico's Universal Health Coverage Reform Efforts." SCI/Academy Health Summer Workshop for State Officials, August 2. Viewed May 24,

Food has become a leading cause of death in the U.S, rivaling tobacco. A high-calorie diet, combined with a lack of exercise, accounts for one-fifth of the annual deaths in the U.S.³ Six of the fifteen leading causes of death are related to poor diet and low physical activity.⁴

60% of New Mexico residents are overweight or obese, with one-third (34%) overweight and more than one-quarter (26%) obese. Nearly four of every five state residents (78%) eat fewer fruits and vegetables that nutritionists recommend (five servings per day), and 22% report they have no physical activity. 7.8% of state residents have been diagnosed with diabetes. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

The region's ranches and farms (U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2007)

Agriculture Census data for 2007 were released February 4, 2009. Note that the Census of Agriculture uses the term "farm" to include both ranches and farms.

Land:

- 903 ranches and farms. This is up 43% from 2002, when 633 operations were tallied. One of the main differences appears to be better reporting of limited-resource farms by the Census, especially Hispanic and Native owned.
- This amounts to 4% of New Mexico ranches and farms.
- 275 (30%) farms are less than 50 acres.
- 298 (33%) of farms are 1,000 acres or more.
- The most prevalent farm size is 50-179 acres, with a total of 157 farms (17% of farms).
- Average farm size is 4,623 acres, 224% of New Mexico's average.
- The region has 4 million acres of land in ranches and farms.
- This amounts to 10% of the state's farmland.
- The region has 30,889 acres of harvested cropland.
- 279 (31%) farms have a total of 8,787 acres of irrigated land.
- 29 of these farms receive irrigation water from the Bureau of Reclamation (1% of New Mexico's total).
- Average value of land and buildings per farm is \$1,031,343. This is 148% of the state average of \$696,081.

Sales (Note that there may be discrepancies between Ag Census data and Bureau of Economic Analysis data, below):

- \$18.8 million of crops and livestock sold (2007), 1% of state agricultural commodity sales.
- This is a 6% decrease in sales from the 2002 level of \$20 million.
- Total farm production expenses were \$26.2 million, for an increase of \$5 million (27%) in production costs from 2002 to 2007.

2009, at www.statecoverage.org/files/2007_SCI_Summer_Meeting_Esquivel.ppt .

³ McGinnis, J.M. & W.H. Foegen (1993). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 270(18):2207-12; and Mokdad, A.H, J.S. Marks, D.F. Stroup, & J.I. Gerberding (2000). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 291(10):1238-45 [with published corrections in *JAMA* (2005), 293(3), 293-294.]

⁴ Heron M., D.L. Hoyert, J. Xu, C. Scott, & B. Tejada (2008). *Deaths: preliminary data for 2006*. National Vital Statistics Report 56:16. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_16.pdf.

- The largest farm production expenses were feed costs, totaling \$4.6 million, and livestock costs, at \$4.2 million. Depreciation ranked third, at \$3.8 million. Costs for purchasing gasoline, fuels and oils totaled \$3.0 million. Hired labor costs totaled \$2.8 million. Supplies, repair, and maintenance cost \$2.6 million.
- \$389,000 of crops were sold (2% of sales), \$66,000 (15%) less than in 2002. *Note that sales data for Cibola County were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality, so these figures are not included in this total.*
- \$18.5 million of livestock and products were sold (98% of sales). *Note that sales data for Cibola County were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality, so these figures are not included in this total.*
- 645 (71%) of the region’s farms sold less than \$10,000 of products in 2007. Their aggregate sales of \$990,000 amounted to 5% of the region’s farm product sales.
- 58 farms (6%) sold more than \$100,000 of products, an aggregate total of \$14.3 million, 72% of region farm product sales.
- 54 farms received \$461,000 of federal subsidies in 2007. *[Note that Agriculture Census data differ from Bureau of Economic Analysis data; see below.]*
- 70% (632) of the region’s farms reported net losses in 2007, even after subsidies are taken into account. This is greater than the New Mexico average of 65% (13,526 of 20,930).

Principal Products sold in 2007 (**Sales data for many of these products is suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality*):

	\$ millions
Cattle	<i>suppressed*</i>
Forage	<i>suppressed*</i>

Grains, Dry Edible Beans, Oil Crops, and others:

- 3 of the region’s farms sold corn in 2007, producing at least 40 bushels of corn produced on over 5 acres. *Note: Due to suppression of data for corn producers in Cibola County by USDA to protect confidentiality, regional totals for acreage, production, and sales are not complete.*
- 2 farms produced dry edible beans.

Cattle & Dairy:

- 578 ranches and farms hold an inventory of 68,327 cattle and calves.
- 40,712 cattle were sold from 458 ranches and farms in 2007. *Note that cattle sales from Catron County were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality, and are not included in this total.*
- Six farms held six dairy cows.
- 67 farms produced 6,314 dry tons of forage crops (hay, etc.) on 2,679 acres of cropland.

Other livestock & animal products:

- 34 farms sold 144 hogs and pigs.
- 31 farms held an inventory of 102 hogs and pigs.
- 101 farms sold \$268,000 of horses.
- 49 farms raise laying hens, holding an inventory of 820.
- 33 farms sold poultry and products in 2007.
- 76 farms held an inventory of 4,941 sheep, lambs, and goats. *Note that sheep and lamb sales for Catron County were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality.* The number of farms (26 in 2002

to 170 in 2007) selling these small livestock rose 169%, with the largest gains in Cibola County, where the number of sheep farms increased from 15 to 53.

Nursery, Landscape and Ornamental Crops & Cotton:

- Four farms raised nursery and ornamental crops.

Vegetables & Melons (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent vegetable production):

- 54 farms sold over \$246,000 of vegetables and potatoes in 2007, mostly from Cibola County.
- There were only 7 vegetable farms reported in 2002.
- 2 farms raised potatoes.

Detailed lists of vegetables harvested in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census:

Notes: (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent vegetable production).

(D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

Catron County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Garlic	-	-
Potatoes	-	-

Cibola County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Cantaloupes	5	6
Garlic	1	(D)
Herbs, Fresh Cut	3	2
Peppers, Chile	5	18
Pumpkins	9	15
Squash, all	9	12
Squash, Summer	9	12
Sweet Corn	43	138
Tomatoes in open	2	(D)
Vegetables, other	1	(D)
Watermelons	10	12

Grant County

	Farms	Harvested acres
Beans, Snap	5	1
Cantaloupes	3	1
Carrots	2	(D)
Cucumbers & Pickles	9	2
Eggplant	2	(D)
Garlic	-	-
Lettuce, all	2	(D)

Lettuce, Leaf	2	(D)	
Okra	3	(Z)	
Onions, Dry	3		1
Peas, Green	-	-	
Peas, Southern	2	(D)	
Peppers, Bell	3		2
Peppers, Chile	2	(D)	
Potatoes	2	(D)	
Pumpkins	-	-	
Squash, all	1	(D)	
Squash, Summer	1	(D)	
Sweet Corn	5		1
Tomatoes in open	8		2
Vegetables, other	1	(D)	
Watermelons	3	(D)	

Fruits (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent fruit production):

- The region had 46 fruit and nut farms with 109 acres of orchard.

Detailed list of fruit acreage in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census:

Notes: (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent vegetable production); (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

Catron County

	Farms	Acres	
Almonds	1	(D)	
Apples	3		2
Apricots	1	(D)	
Cherries, Sweet	1	(D)	
Peaches, all	1	(D)	
Pecans	1	(D)	

Cibola County

	Farms	Acres	
Apples	9		5
Apricots	6		3
Grapes	5		5
Peaches, all	5		2
Pears, all	3		3

Grant County

	Farms	Acres	
Apples	16		52

Grapes	4		4
Peaches, all	9	(D)	
Pears, all	8	(D)	
Pecans	7		13
Plums & Prunes	2	(D)	

Detailed list of berry acreage in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census (*if a given county in the region is not listed as producing berries, the county is not named below*):

Grant County

	Farms	Acres
Blackberries	1	(D)
Raspberries	1	(D)

Direct & organic sales:

- 74 ranches and farms sell over \$308,000 of food directly to consumers. This is a 95% increase in the number of farms selling direct (38 in 2002), and a 61% increase in direct sales, from \$182,000 of sales, in 2002.
- Direct sales account for 1.6% of the region’s farm sales, four times the national average.
- The region’s farmers make up 5% of the farms selling direct, and account for 4% of New Mexico’s direct sales (\$11.2 million of direct sales in New Mexico in 2007, and \$6.6 million in 2002).
- The New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission lists 13 certified organic farms in the region, farming 2,507 acres of certified land. Most of this is in Grant County. This totals 8% of New Mexico’s certified farms, and 2% of the state’s certified land.
- According to the Census of Agriculture, 6 of the region’s farms sold organic foods (\$62,000 in sales).
- This is 2% of New Mexico farms (269) the Census of Agriculture lists as selling organic, and 1% of state sales (\$11.2 million).
- Local farm lists show no Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms in the region.
- According to the Census of Agriculture, 5 farms market through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), 4% of New Mexico’s.
- 55 farms produce added-value products on the farm (6% of New Mexico’s).

Conservation practices:

- 232 farms use rotational management or intensive grazing (7% of New Mexico’s).
- 87 farms use conservation practices (4% of New Mexico’s).
- 75 farms generate some electricity on the farm (13% of New Mexico’s).

State of New Mexico Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- New Mexico has 20,930 farms, 38% more than the 15,170 farms in 2002.
- Nevertheless, the number of acres in farms decreased 4%, to 43 million acres in 2007.
- 8,904 farm operators are Latino.
- 6,611 farm operators are Native American.
- The state has 24,214 White farm operators.
- There are 43 Asian-American, 66 African-American, and 26 Pacific Islander farm operators.
- New Mexico farmers sold \$2.2 billion of crops and livestock in 2007, up 28% from \$1.7 billion in sales five years before.
- This includes \$1.6 billion of livestock, and \$553 million in crops.
- The Agriculture Census lists production expenses as \$1.9 billion for all state farms.
- Government payments to farmers decreased 14%, to \$43 million in 2007 from \$50 million in 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size is 1-9 acres, with 6,400 farms.
- The next most prevalent size is 10-49 acres, with 4,300 farms.
- 3,600 farms are more than 1,000 acres.
- New Mexico ranks 9th in the U.S. for dairy sales, with \$1 billion. This is also the most important farm commodity sold in the state, in terms of sales.
- Second most important product in New Mexico is cattle, with \$576 million in sales.
- The state's farms held an inventory of 1.5 million cattle, down from 1.7 million in 1997.
- The most important single crop raised is forage, with \$139 million sold from 366,000 acres.
- 302,000 acres are devoted to wheat production.
- New Mexico farms sell \$105 million of fruits and nuts, and \$89 million of vegetables.

New Mexico's top 25 farm products in 2007 (Economic Research Service)

Note that these ERS data do not always agree with results from the farm census, above. See also chart on next page

1	Dairy products	1,353.8
2	Cattle and calves	951.8
3	Hay	195.4
4	Pecans	96.2
5	Onions	63.4
6	Greenhouse/nursery	62.4
7	Wheat	38.5
8	Cotton	35.0
9	Peppers, chile	32.9
10	Corn	23.9
11	Potatoes	14.3
12	Sorghum grain	9.9
13	Peanuts	7.0
14	Dry beans	6.1
15	Sheep and lambs	5.4
16	Wool	1.3
17	Apples	1.0
18	Honey	0.5
19	Hogs	0.2
20	Mohair	0.2

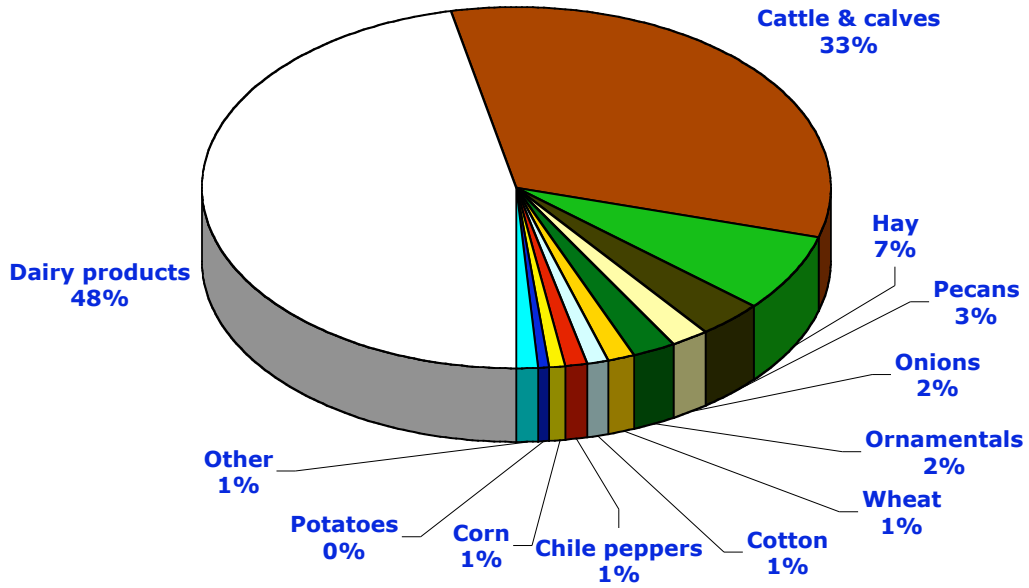
Note: chicken eggs and farm chickens were also listed among New Mexico's top 25 products, but sales figures for these products were not released by ERS.

Note also that at \$11 million, direct sales from farmers to consumers amount to more than the value of the 12th ranking product, sorghum grain.

New Mexico's top 25 farm products in 2007 (Economic Research Service)

See table on previous page

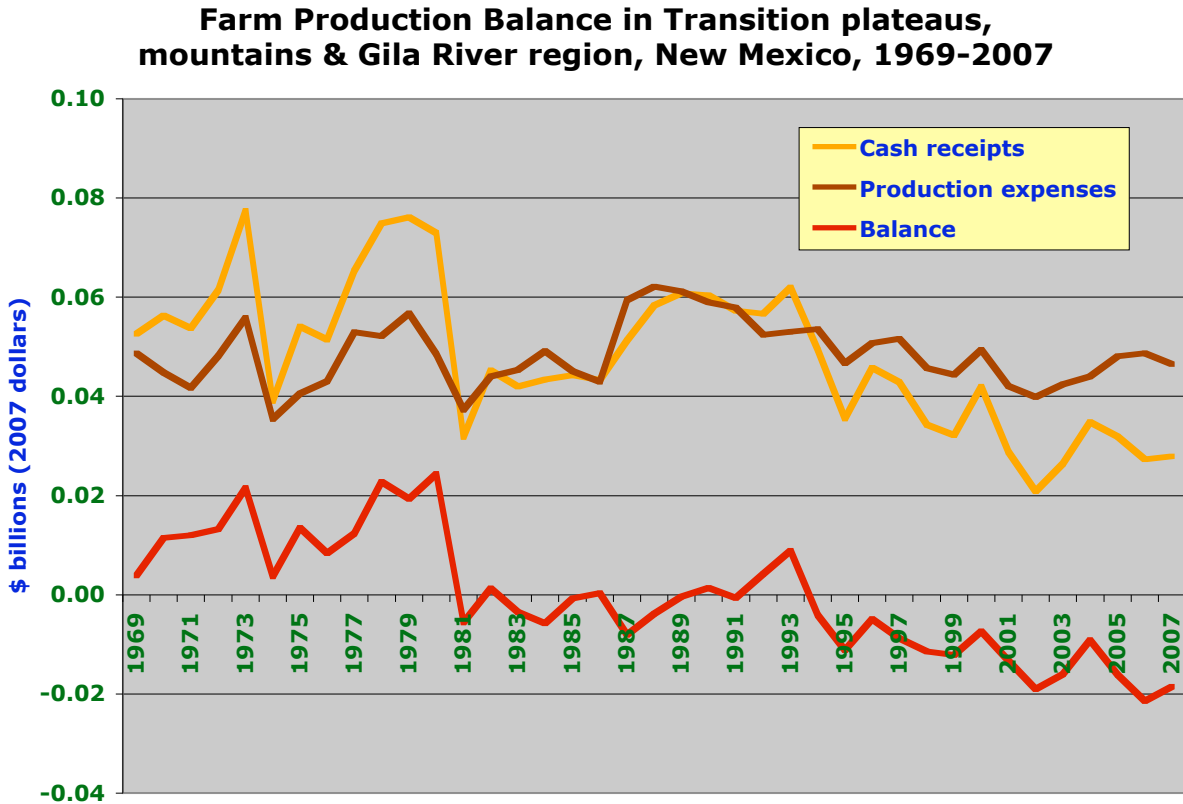
Top 25 commodities sold by New Mexico farms, 2007



Source: USDA Economic Research Service

Balance of Cash Receipts and Production Costs (Bureau of Economic Analysis):

Note: Bureau of Economic Analysis farm income data differ from Agriculture Census data.



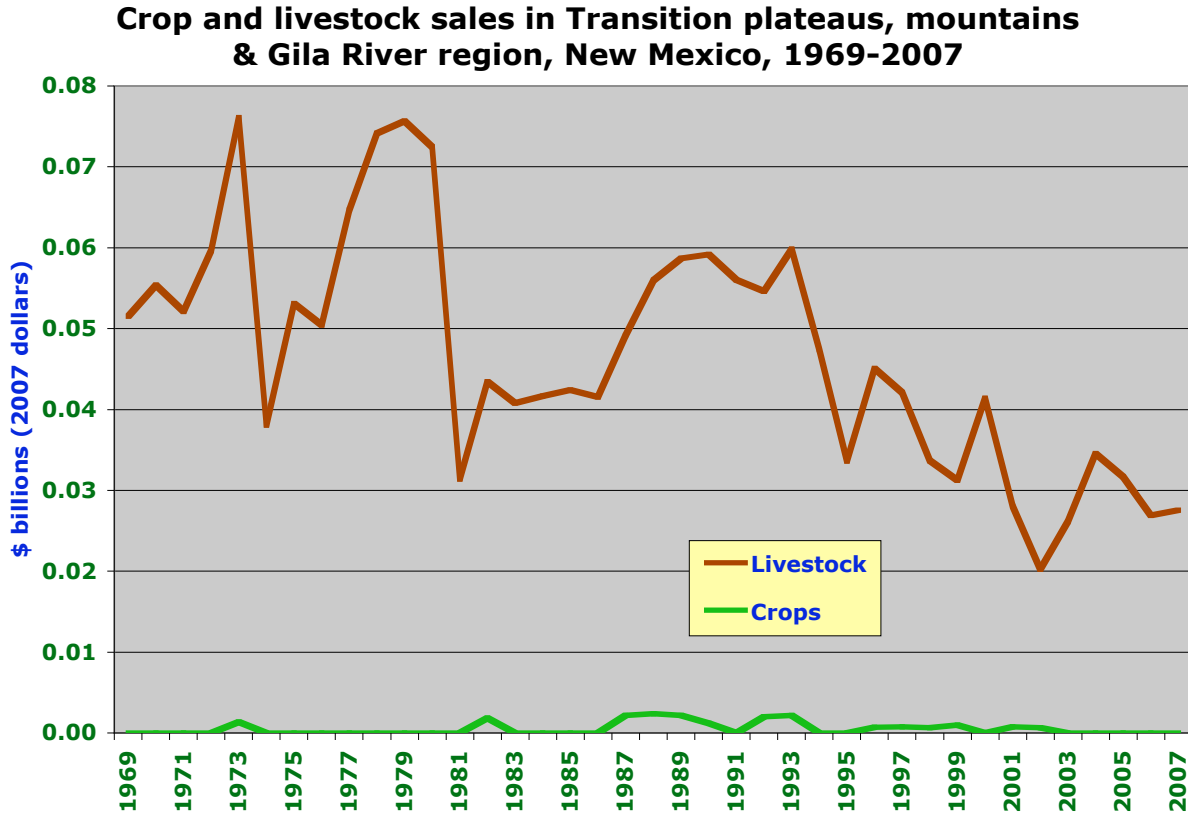
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Gila River region farmers sell \$42 million of commodities per year (1981-2007 average), spending \$49 million to raise them, for an average loss of \$7 million each year. The farm sector as a whole has not earned a positive cash flow from raising commodities (though clearly some individual farms have made money) since 1994.

Overall, farm producers have experienced losses of \$186 million since 1981. Moreover, 70% of the region's farms and ranches reported a net loss in 2007 (Agriculture Census), even after subsidies are taken into account.

Gila River region farmers and ranchers earned \$22 million less by selling commodities in 1969 than they earned in 2007 (in 2007 dollars). Sales of livestock and related products have fallen steadily since 1981, certainly staying far below peak sales of \$400 million in 1979. Crop income is also declining, although data are incomplete. The most steadily increasing cost of production is feed costs, which doubled to \$5 million during the years 2001-2007.

Farmers and ranchers earn another \$3 million per year of farm-related income — primarily rental income for land (27-year average for 1981-2007). Federal farm support payments averaged \$7 million per year from 2001-2006.



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis. Note that in several years, crop sales data are missing, and reported as zero.

Gila River region consumers (2007):

Gila River region consumers spend \$150 million buying food each year, including \$85 million for home use. Most of this food is produced outside the region. \$308,000 of food products (1.6% of farm cash receipts, and 0.2% of local consumer needs) are sold by 74 farmers directly to consumers, but not always to Gila River region consumers, since these data include internet sales.

Estimated change in net assets for all region households was a combined loss of \$79 million in 2007 alone (BLS). This places additional pressure on Gila River region residents as they pay for food.

Farm and food economy summary:

Farmers lose \$7 million each year producing food commodities, spending \$13 million buying inputs from external suppliers, for a total outflow of \$20 million from the region’s economy.

Meanwhile, consumers spend more than \$135 million buying food from outside. Thus, total loss to the region is \$155 million of potential wealth *each year*. This loss amounts to more than eight times the value of all commodities raised in the region.

Gila River region: markets for food eaten at home (2007):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 18
Fruits & vegetables	15
Cereals and bakery products	11
Dairy products	9
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	31

If Gila River region consumers purchased only 15% of the food they need for home use directly from region farmers, this would produce \$13 million of new farm income in Gila River region — a substantial share of 2007 farm sales in the region.

State of New Mexico: markets for food eaten at home (2007)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Mexicans purchase \$5 billion of food per year, \$2.8 billion of this to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 620
Fruits & vegetables	518
Cereals and bakery products	358
Dairy products	315
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	1,043

Key data sources:

Bureau of Economic Analysis data on farm production balance

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

Food consumption estimates from Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm>

U.S. Census of Agriculture

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>

USDA/Economic Research Service food consumption data:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodconsumption/>

USDA/ Economic Research Service farm income data:

<http://ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmIncome/finfidmu.htm>

Centers for Disease Control: Behavior Risk Factors Surveillance System

BRFSS <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss-smart/>

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Big Cities Health Inventory <http://www.naccho.org/>

For more information:

To see results from *Finding Food in Farm Country* studies in other counties of the U.S.:

<http://www.crcworks.org/locales.html>

To read the original *Finding Food in Farm Country* study from Southeast Minnesota (written by Ken Meter and Jon Rosales for the Community Design Center and the Southeast Minnesota Experiment in Rural Cooperation): <http://www.crcworks.org/ff.pdf>

To view a PowerPoint presented in March, 2008, by Ken Meter at Rep. Collin Peterson's (D-MN) Minnesota agricultural forum, called the "Home Grown Economy":

<http://www.crcworks.org/crcppts/petersonKM08.pdf>

To get a brief list of essential food facts, many of which are cited in the presentation above,

<http://www.crcworks.org/foodmarkets.pdf>

To link to further analysis of farm and food economies in the U.S.:

<http://www.crcworks.org/econ.html>

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