Agricultural Science Center at Farmington

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Mission Statement

The mission of the New Mexico State University Agricultural Science Center at Farmington is to conduct research, demonstration, and educational programs that will best fill the needs of the agricultural community of San Juan County and the Navajo Nation in particular, and the state of New Mexico Four Corners Region, and United States in general.

Weather conditions in the Four Corners region are variable and influence crop growing periods across the region with late spring frosts and early fall frosts.

Has a specific focus in working with the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP/ Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI).

Xeric plant research/demonstration garden serves as an exhibit of native and non-native drought tolerant plant species that may be suitable for northern New Mexico Landscapes.

LOCATION

The Agricultural Science Center at Farmington has served the agricultural needs for the San Juan River basin of northwest New Mexico and the Four Corners region since 1966. The center consists of 254 acres leased from the Navajo Nation and is located approximately seven miles southwest of Farmington, (36 degrees 4' N by 108 degrees W) at an elevation of 5,640 ft.

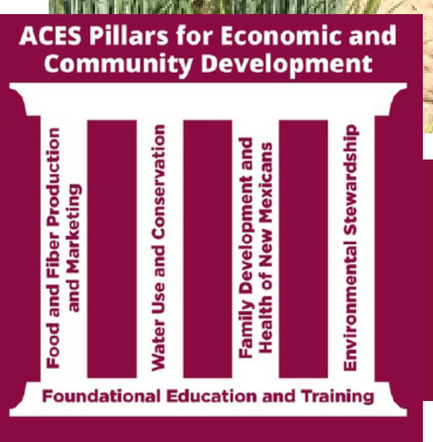
WEATHER

Weather data has been collected at the NMSU Agricultural Science Center at Farmington (ASCF) Weather Station 1 (WS-1) since 1969 for the National Weather Service (NWS) and at Weather Station 2 (WS-2) since 1985 for the New Mexico Climate Center (NMCC).

The City of Farmington incorporates rainfall events from ASCF weather stations in conjunction with other sites to monitor flood events for the city's storm water program in order to monitor the need for controlling sediment and pollutant runoff. Additionally, the weather data from both weather stations are used in agricultural production, recreational use, and research.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Yeego Gardening Project, beginning in 2014, is a collaborative effort between the Agricultural Science Center at Farmington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. The objectives are to improve access to fresh vegetables and improve the ability of the Navajo people to grow food. The garden projects are currently operating in Shiprock and Crownpoint, New Mexico within the eastern region of the Navajo Nation.



The College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences is an engine for economic and community development in New Mexico, improving the lives of New Mexicans through academic, research and Extension programs.

Recent Impacts

- The *Hops (Humulus Lupulus) and Winter Malted Barley to Support New Mexico's Craft Brewing and Medicinal Herb Industries* project has helped catalyze a hops cooperative: New Mexico Hop Growers Association (NMHGA), and is helping to expand educational networks in beverage programs to include Central New Mexico College (Albuquerque, N.M.) and NMSU Brew (Las Cruces, N.M.).

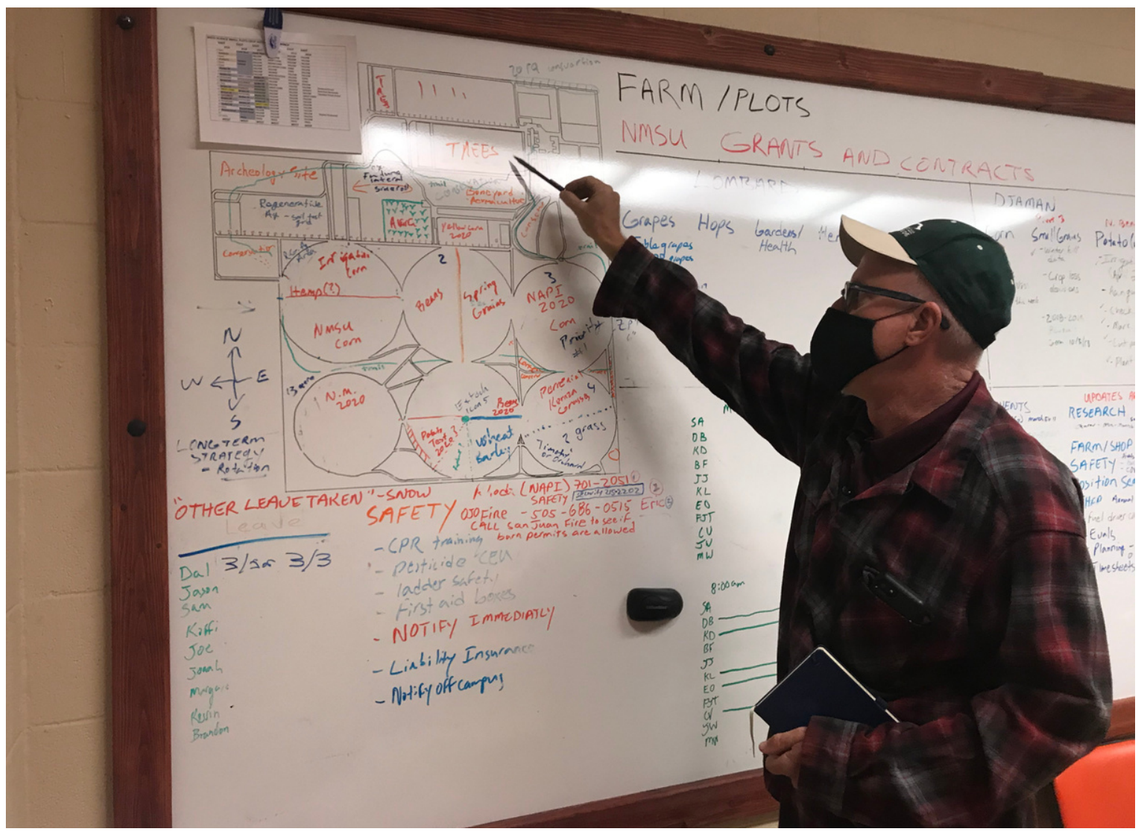
- The work of Northwest New Mexico Viticulture Research is supporting site specific varietal recommendations to include hybrids for vineyards having high frost risk in low lying river valleys, and viniferous cultivars for upland mesa sites where water is accessible.

- The Gold King Mine Spill of August 5, 2015, caused uncertainty about water, soil, and crop safety among Northwest New Mexico and Navajo Nation farmers. They rely almost exclusively on surface water from the La Plata, Animas, and San Juan rivers for crop irrigation. After five years of monitoring, data suggests that the risk is low and that irrigation water and soil are generally health. Nine heavy metals were monitored.

Ongoing Research

- The 2018- Planted Alfalfa Variety Trial is part of a statewide testing program to help determine which entries will perform best in the area they are tested. The trial consists of 16 varieties from public varieties and private seed companies. Higher yields and greater varietal yield differences are expected in the forthcoming years three and four of the study.

- A corn response curve to nitrogen fertilize after alfalfa for a first-year study (*Corn First-Year Response to Nitrogen Fertilizer Following Five-Year Alfalfa Production*) was developed. These preliminary results demonstrated that a low to null nitrogen fertilizer rate is required by corn following alfalfa. This research will continue and alfalfa nitrogen credit, nitrogen fertilizer recommendation for corn following alfalfa and the net economic return as function of nitrogen rate will be provided to corn growers in New Mexico.



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