

TENTATIVE Agenda

2026 New Mexico Soil Health Conference: Bringing Soil Health *Down to Earth*
October 14-15, 2026 ♦ Albuquerque's South Valley (*and online*)
Co-hosted by NMDA's Healthy Soil Program and NMSU—Cooperative Extension Service

Wednesday, October 14, 2026: Day 1

SITE A: South Valley Multi-Purpose Senior Center (2008 Larrazolo Rd. SW)

- 7:30-8:30 a.m.** **Check-in / Registration / Continental breakfast** (bagels + coffee)
- 8:30-8:50 a.m.** **Welcome remarks**
- **Jeff Witte**, Director/Secretary, New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
 - **Dr. Jay Lillywhite**, Associate Dean, New Mexico State University—College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES)
- 8:50-9:00 a.m.** **Morning Overview: Focusing on the Five (5) Soil Health Principles**
John Garlisch, morning moderator
- 9:00-9:30 a.m.** Soil Health **Principle #1**: Keeping soil covered
Wyatt Flory, agronomist at Rio Gro, LLC, Mesquite, NM
- 9:30-10:00 a.m.** Soil Health **Principle #2**: Minimizing disturbance on cropland and minimizing external inputs
Gordon Tooley, implementer of keyline design projects at Tooley's Trees, Cordova, NM
- 10:00-10:15** **Break**
- 10:15-10:45 a.m.** Soil Health **Principle #3**: Maximizing biodiversity
Mary Lucero, microbiologist and farmer at JAL Farms, Fort Sumner, NM
- 10:45-11:15 a.m.** Soil Health **Principle #4**: Maintaining a living root
Ariel Greenwood, rancher at Triangle P Ranch, Watrous, NM
- 11:15-11:45 a.m.** Soil Health **Principle #5**: Integrating animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects and keystone species, such as earthworms
Jim Armendariz, rancher and NRCS-NM range specialist, Santa Rosa, NM
- 11:45-12:45 p.m.** **Lunch** (Pick up outside from the food truck)
- 12:45-1:05 p.m.** **Soil Health Principles BINGO**
Marisa Thompson, afternoon moderator
- 1:05-1:30 p.m.** **Host Updates:**
- NMDA's Healthy Soil Program
 - New Mexico State University—Cooperative Extension Service
- 1:30-1:45** **Break**

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- 1:45-3:00 p.m. **Keynote Addresses: Firsthand Experience with the Soil Health Principles**
1. **Toby & Kimberly Bostwick**, farmers and livestock producers, Melrose, NM
2. **Casey Holland**, farmer, Albuquerque, NM— small-scale producer, beginning farmer trainer/mentor, great speaker
- 3:00-3:15 p.m. **Break**
- 3:15-4:45 **Panel Discussion: Farmers, ranchers, and technical support providers**
Zachariah Ben, Dean Bruce, Tom Dominguez, Shahid Mustafa, Norman Vigil (**panelists**)
and Susann Mikkelsen (**moderator**)
- 4:45-5:00 p.m. **Closing Comments**

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Day 2 happens at a *different* location!

See below for address and map. **Park in the lot on the SOUTH side** of the Gutierrez-Hubbell House Museum.
We'll be on our feet most of the morning. Please **bring your own easy-to-carry chair** if you'd like to rest at/between stations.

Thursday, October 15, 2026: Day 2

Site B: *Gutiérrez-Hubbell House (6029 Isleta Blvd. SW)*

- 7:30-8:15 a.m. **Handheld breakfast** (breakfast burritos + coffee)
- 8:15-8:30 a.m. **Welcome:** Bernalillo County Open Space Program staff
- 8:30-9:00 a.m. **Rainfall Simulator: Manage your soil to capture and store more water**
- 9:00-11:30 a.m. **30-minute guided rotations: How-to demonstrations**
Susann Mikkelsen, morning moderator
- How to assess the soil
 - How to take a basic soil sample
 - How to interpret soil test results
 - How to measure bare ground on the ranch
 - How to install temporary and electric fence
- 11:30-11:50 **Final Q&A opportunity / Complete post-conference survey**
Revisit 1+ of the 5 stations to ask follow-up questions.
- 11:50 a.m.-12 p.m. **Closing Comments / Complete post-conference survey**
- 12:00 p.m. **Conference adjourns**

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