



How INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS apply for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants

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Healthy Soil Program
co-leads

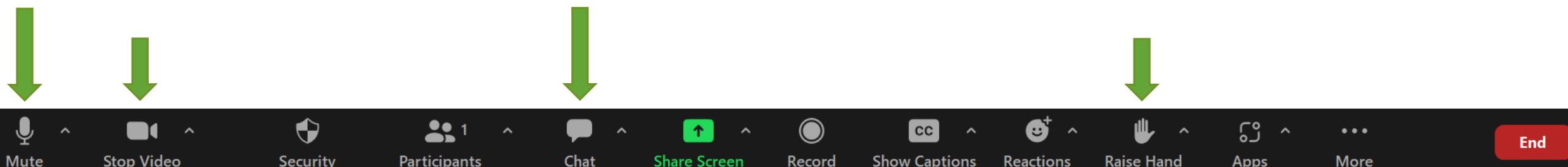
Welcome and Housekeeping

We invite you to introduce yourself in the Chat, noting:

- where you manage land **in New Mexico**
- whether you manage land for **crops, grazing, or another purpose**

During the presentation, please stay on **Mute**, keep your **Video** off, and type questions in the **Chat**
After the presentation, you can use the **Raise Hand** feature, then unmute to ask your question

These slides and a captioned recording will be posted soon on our Individual Applicant web page



Agenda

- **Who** can apply
- **When** and **Where** projects can happen
- **What** projects are eligible
- **How** and **Where** to apply for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants as an Individual Applicant



WHO can apply for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants



1. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- New Mexico's "**local governmental [entities] with proven land management capacity to support healthy soil**", like:
 - Pueblos, tribes, and nations
 - Acequias
 - Land grants
 - Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs)
 - NMSU Cooperative Extension Service
 - Other governmental parties meeting the above definition of an Eligible Entity
- Application period: January 16-March 20, 2026
- Awards of up to **\$100,000.00** (including mileage + 15% administrative fee, both of which NMDA pays to the Eligible Entity itself)

2. INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS

- New Mexico's **non-governmental parties that are directly engaged in farming, ranching, or another form of land management**:
 - Individuals
 - Businesses
 - Nonprofits
- **Application period:** January 16-**March 20, 2026**, at 12 p.m. (**noon**)
 - Note the separate **NRCS** conservation planning deadline of **February 20**
- **Awards of up to \$24,999.99** (including mileage + 15% administrative fee, both of which NMDA pays your Project Sponsor)

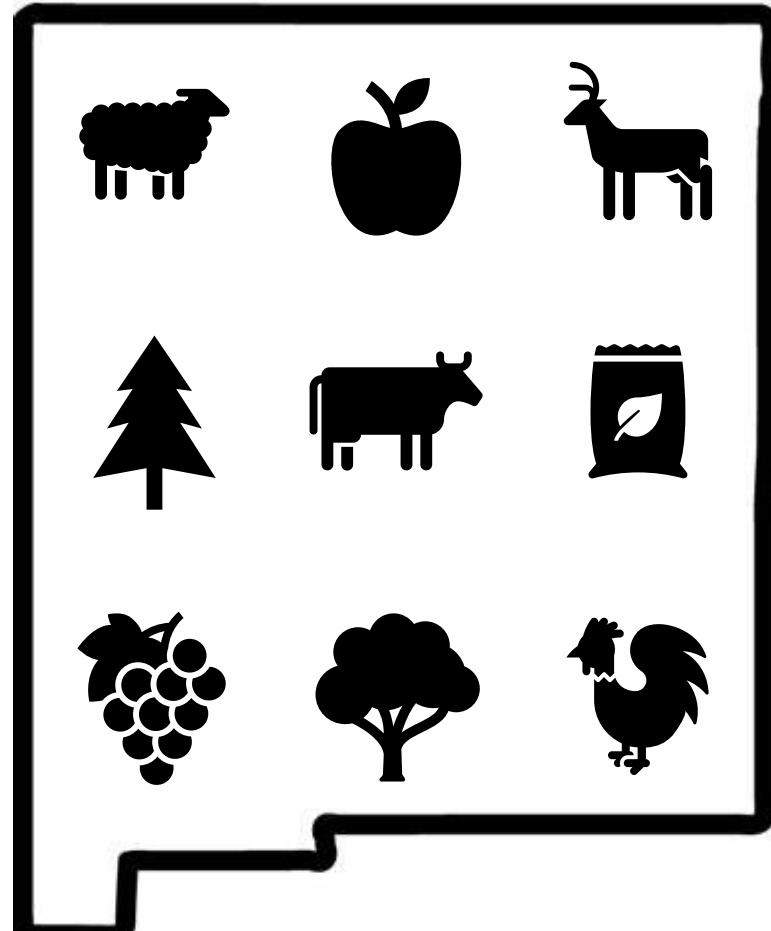
WHEN NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants can happen

Projects can last **up to ~15 months,**
starting mid-July 2026 and ending September 2027

July 15, 2026	August	September	October	November
December	January 2027	February	March	April
May	June	July	August	September 30, 2027



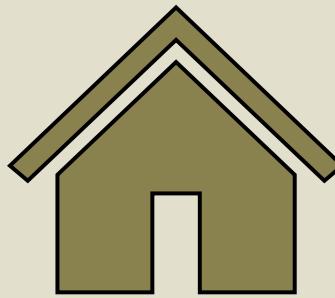
WHERE Healthy Soil Program projects can happen



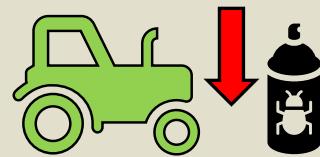
- Anywhere in New Mexico
- On any type of operation: cropland, rangeland, irrigated pasture, forest land, orchards, vineyards, gardens...
- Where there's an existing relationship to the land: you own it, you lease it, or you manage it on another's behalf
 - You must have landowner permission to implement a soil health project on land you don't own
- On any amount of land: Projects can be measured in acres or square feet

NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants fund **on-the-ground projects** involving 1+ of **the 5 soil health principles**:

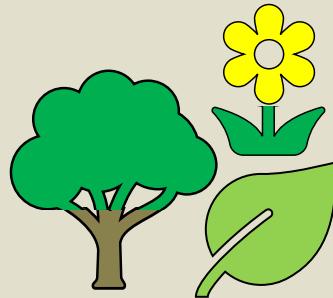
1. Keep soil covered.



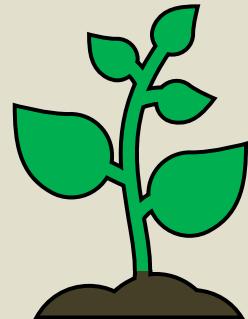
2. Minimize disturbance on cropland and minimize external inputs.



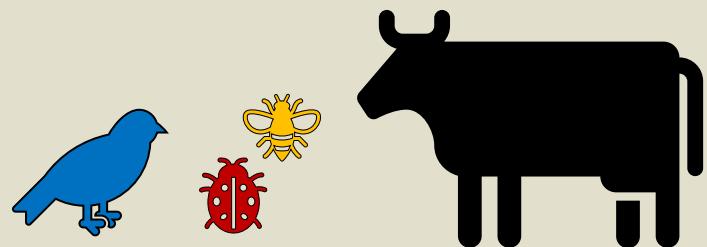
3. Maximize biodiversity.



4. Maintain a living root.



5. Integrate animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or keystone species, such as earthworms.



Q: How does an INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT decide which soil health principle(s) should be at the heart of their on-the-ground project?

A: By reviewing their **NRCS conservation planning** documents.

Your **soil health-related resource concerns** (erosion, compaction, etc.) determine which soil health principle(s) is/are best for the land you manage.

Sample project activities on cropland



PLANTING A DIVERSE COVER CROP MIX



DRILL-SEEDING



APPLYING MANURE/COMPOST



ESTABLISHING POLLINATOR HABITAT

Sample activities on rangeland

BALE GRAZING

to restore cover on bare ground



VIRTUAL FENCING

to improve grazing distribution



INTENSIVE ROTATIONAL GRAZING

to lengthen rest/recovery periods



SUBSOILING to break compaction
and increase water infiltration



N.M. AG <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/hsp/requirements-for-individual-applicants.html>

New Mexico Department of Agriculture Sea

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Everything you need to apply as an individual, business, or nonprofit is on the INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT webpage – just follow Steps 1-6.

Individual Applicants are individuals, businesses, and nonprofits directly engaged in farming, ranching, and/or other forms of land management in New Mexico.

The step application process outlined below pertains to the next (Fiscal Year 2027, or FY27) Healthy Soil Program grant application cycle. The deadline to apply is 12 p.m. Mountain Time on Friday, March 20, 2026. **Late, incomplete, and paper applications will not be accepted or reviewed.**

Learn more about the FY27 program by reading the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) and by attending the following outreach opportunities:

- January 12, 2025, webinar: Conservation planning for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants. [Review the slides](#) or [watch the recording](#) (captions coming soon).
- September 30, 2025, webinar: What to do after completing NRCS conservation planning. [Review the slides](#) or [watch the recording](#) (captions coming soon).
- January 27, 2026, webinar from 3:30 to 5 p.m.: How Individual Applicants complete the online grant application. [Registration is required](#).

For Healthy Soil Program updates – future funding opportunities, as well as soil health news and events – subscribe to our weekly electronic newsletter using the form at the bottom of the [Healthy Soil Program web page](#).

Step 1. Contact the partners for your project.

Step 2. Complete conservation planning by February 20, 2026.

Step 3. Develop your project idea.

Step 4. Work on the online application.

Step 5. Secure project sponsorship by your intended Project Sponsor's deadline.

Step 6. Finalize and submit the online application.

Questions? Email NMDA's Healthy Soil Program team at hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu.

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Follow us to the Healthy Soil Program webpage for **INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS**

If you have a smartphone handy, **scan this QR code**



Tips to be **successful** in your Healthy Soil Program grant application...

- ✓ Follow application **steps 1-6 in order**.
- ✓ If you haven't already, **reach out to your intended Project Sponsor and NRCS as soon as possible**.
- ✓ Review your NRCS conservation planning documents to **select the practices and activities you can handle** for your project.
- ✓ **Stay in the driver's seat of your application**, even as you seek input from others (NRCS, your Project Sponsor, NMDA, trusted nonprofits, etc.)
- ✓ Review your timeline/budget to **ensure that all requested goods and services are essential to your project** – and eligible for grant funding.
- ✓ Doublecheck – even **triple-check – your application** before pressing submit.
- ✓ Aim to **submit your online application (including all documents) early** to avoid the possibility of technical issues on your end.

Questions?



**Visit our website to learn more
and to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter**
featuring application tips and deadline reminders,
as well as soil health events, news, etc.

[https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/
healthy-soil-program.html](https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program.html)



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