



GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

DEAN BRUCE AND KATIE GOETZ, CO-LEADS OF NMDA'S HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM

Welcome and Housekeeping

Please introduce yourself in the Chat, noting whether your Eligible Entity encompasses primarily cropland, rangeland, or another type of land in New Mexico

During the presentation, please stay on **Mute** and type your question in the **Chat**

After the presentation, you can use the **Raise Hand** feature, then unmute to ask your question out loud

We are recording; we will post slides and a recording on our Eligible Entity web page



Mute Stop Video Security Participants Chat Share Screen Record Show Captions Reactions Raise Hand Apps More End

Today's Agenda:

All about NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants

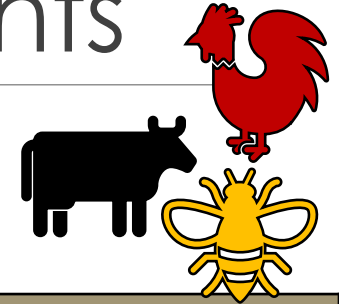
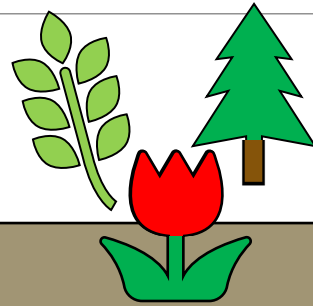
- ❑ Quick refresher: **Who and what projects** are eligible
- ❑ Quick refresher: **When and where** projects can happen
- ❑ **How to apply** using the online application and supplementary materials
- ❑ **Question & Answers**
 - ❑ **Specific questions about eligible vs. ineligible expenses** will be referred to our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document

WHO in New Mexico can apply for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants

1. Eligible Entities	2. Individual Applicants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pueblos, tribes, and nations• Acequias• Land grants• Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs)• NMSU—Cooperative Extension Service• Other “local governmental entit[ies] with proven land management capacity to support healthy soil”• Application period: February 23-April 26 at 12 p.m. (noon)• Apply for up to \$100,000 per project with a UEI; or• Apply for up to \$25,000 per project without a UEI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-governmental parties (individuals, businesses, and nonprofits) directly engaged in farming, ranching, or another form of land management• Application period: February 23-April 26 at 12 p.m. (noon)• Apply for up to \$22,000 per project

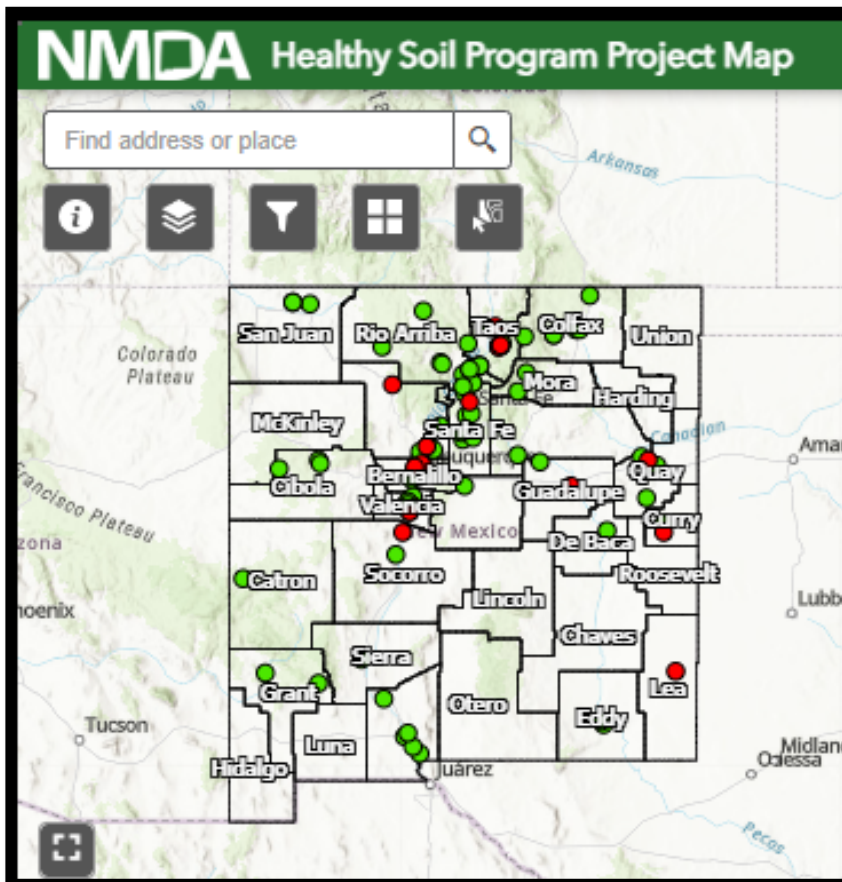


WHAT projects are eligible for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants



The 5 Soil Health Principles	1. Keeping soil covered	2. Minimizing disturbance on cropland and minimizing external inputs	3. Maximizing biodiversity	4. Maintaining a living root	5. Integrating animals into land management...
EXAMPLES of project activities that revolve around each principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving plant residue • Planting cover crops • Using organic mulch • Grazing rangeland at a level to maintain cover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting tillage and synthetic inputs • Rotating livestock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using diverse crop rotations • Planting diverse cover crops • Integrating livestock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing fallowing • Planting cover crops • Maintaining and promoting plant diversity on rangeland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing livestock on cropland • Proper grazing use on rangeland • Planting pollinator habitat

WHAT projects are eligible *(cont'd.)*



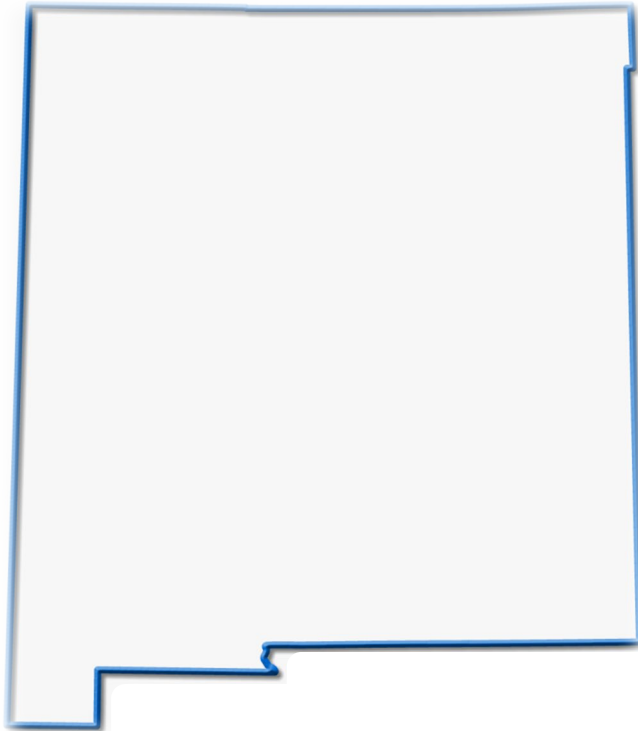
- This map shows projects from FYs 20, 21, 22, and 23
- **Click on a red dot** to learn more about a previous Eligible Entity project
- Find this map on the Healthy Soil Program website:
<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program.html>

WHEN projects funded by NMDA's Healthy Soil Program happen

For Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) projects, project activities can happen only between **August 2024** and **May 2025** (10 months)



WHERE Healthy Soil Program-funded projects can happen



Cropland, rangeland, forest land, orchards

Market gardens, community gardens, and subsistence gardens

Projects can happen **only where there's an existing relationship** between the Eligible Entity and the project site

The Eligible Entity must have landowner permission to implement a Healthy Soil Program project on land it doesn't own

No minimum acreage requirement

- Acres and square feet are both acceptable measurements

Image credit: KindPNG

HOW your Eligible Entity can apply for a grant from NMDA's Healthy Soil Program

FORMS & APPLICATIONS LICENSING & REGISTRATION ▼ INSPECTIONS ▼ STATUTES & RULES

FY25 Requirements for Eligible Entities


Eligible Entities include New Mexico's pueblos, tribes, and nations; acequias; land grants; soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs); NMSU-Cooperative Extension Service; and other "local governmental enti[es] with proven land management capacity to support healthy soil", as Eligible Entities are defined in the Healthy Soil Act. To apply for a Healthy Soil Program grant of up to \$100,000, an Eligible Entity must follow the steps below. All completed applications must be submitted online by April 26, 2024 at 12 p.m. (noon) Mountain Time.

Learn more by reading the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) for Eligible Entities](#). For application tips and Healthy Soil Program updates – as well as soil health news and events – subscribe to our weekly newsletter via the form at the bottom of the [Healthy Soil Program](#) web page.

January 18, 2024 pre-application webinar: See the [Eligible Entity webinar slides](#) or [watch the subtitled recording](#).

March 5, 2024 application demonstration webinar: [Register here](#) to join us from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Mountain Time

Step 1. Identify the project site(s) within the Eligible Entity's jurisdiction, as well as the soil health-related resource concerns the Eligible Entity's project will address.



The Eligible Entity may wish to consider a number of factors in deciding where to implement its project, including but not limited to:

- the land with the greatest potential for soil health improvement
- the number of local land managers benefitted
- the plant communities and animal populations benefitted
- the visibility of the project to local land managers, the public, and students; and
- the proximity of the project site to where the Eligible Entity is headquartered, making the site easily accessible for those implementing the project's day-to-day activities.

The Eligible Entity must identify clearly the soil health-related resource concerns its project will focus on. For assistance in identifying the soil health-related resource concerns present on the land within the Eligible Entity's jurisdiction, contact the nearest office of [USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#).

Step 2. Develop the Eligible Entity's project idea.

EVERYTHING YOU'LL NEED TO APPLY FOR A GRANT CAN BE FOUND ON **THE HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM WEB PAGE SPECIFIC TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**



WHY are certain Healthy Soil Program grant applications successful, and others aren't?

Successful applications...	Unsuccessful applications...
✓ Are complete and submitted on time	X Are incomplete and/or not submitted by the deadline
✓ Are focused on improving soil health	X Are focused on beautifying a landscape, feeding livestock, etc.
✓ Benefit the Eligible Entity and/or multiple land managers within its jurisdiction	X Benefit only one land manager
✓ Are clear and specific about project activities	X Are vague about project activities
✓ Have budgets that are clear and specific about the names, costs, and amounts of goods and services requested for the project	X Have budgets that request items whose names, costs, and amounts aren't well researched
✓ Are unique , tailored to the needs of the project site	X Are copied from somewhere else

As you **develop and finalize your project budget**, refer to our **FAQ** for more examples of eligible vs. ineligible expenses






Eligible for consideration	Ineligible for consideration
<p>Nondurable Goods Tangible, short-lived items like cover crop seed, compost, etc.</p> 	<p>Nondurable Goods Tangible, short-lived items like topsoil, cash crop seed, livestock</p> 
<p>Durable Goods Tangible, long-lived items costing \$4,999.99 or less</p> 	<p>Durable Goods Tangible, long-lived items costing \$5,000.00 or more</p> 
<p>Services Specialized work that is directly related to soil health (like <i>testing soil</i>, renting no-till equipment, etc.)</p> 	<p>Services Specialized work that is not related to soil health</p>

Image credits: kissclipart.com, bucknellian.net, pngkey.com, clipartkey.com, freepik.com, stockio.com, creazilla.com, dlpng.com

Questions?

NMDA's Healthy Soil Program **homepage**:

<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program.html>

Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter for application tips and deadline reminders, as well as soil health news and events

Web page specific to **Eligible Entities**:

<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/hsp/requirements-for-eligible-entities.html>

hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu

575-646-2642

