



GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS FOR INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS

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

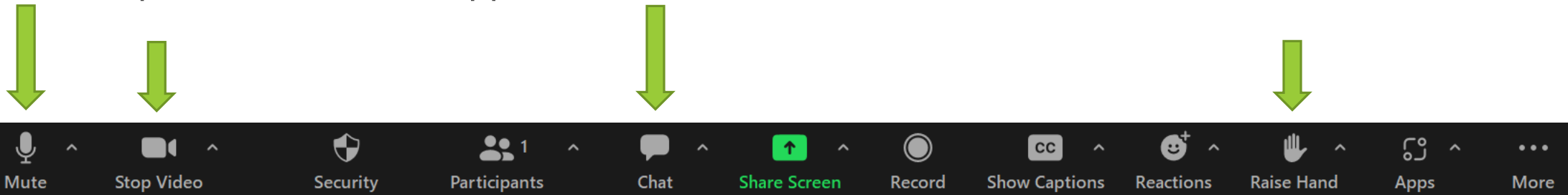
Welcome and Housekeeping

Please introduce yourself in the **Chat**, noting which SWCD –or– tribal nation you intend to ask to serve as your **Project Sponsor**

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

We are recording. These slides and a captioned recording will be posted on our web page specific to Individual Applicants



The image shows a Zoom meeting control bar with various icons and labels. From left to right, the icons are: a microphone (Mute), a video camera (Stop Video), a shield (Security), a group of people (Participants), a speech bubble (Chat), a screen with an upward arrow (Share Screen), a circle with a dot (Record), a 'CC' icon (Show Captions), a smiley face with a plus sign (Reactions), a hand (Raise Hand), a document with a plus sign (Apps), and three dots (More). A red 'End' button is on the far right. Four green arrows point downwards to the Mute, Stop Video, Chat, and Raise Hand icons.

Tonight's Agenda: Demonstrating NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grant application



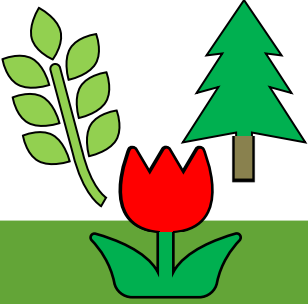

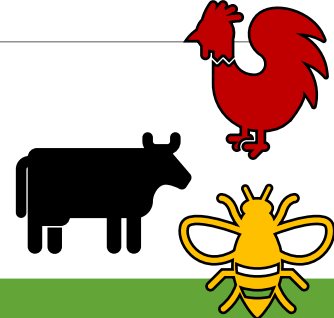
- ❑ Quick refresher: **Who and what projects** are eligible
- ❑ Quick refresher: **When and where** projects can happen
- ❑ **How to apply** using the online application and supplementary materials
- ❑ **Question & Answers**
 - ❑ **Specific questions about eligible vs. ineligible expenses** will be referred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

WHO is eligible to 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 • Can apply for up to \$100,000 per project*	<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) Mountain Time • Can 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

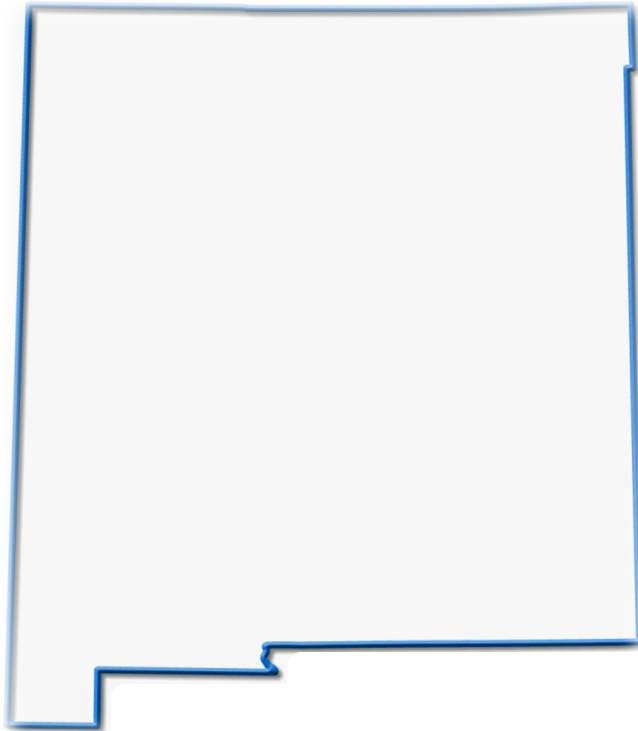
WHEN Healthy Soil Program projects can happen

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



Images credit: Envato

WHERE Healthy Soil Program 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 Individual Applicant and the project site

You must have landowner permission to implement a Healthy Soil Program project on land you don't own

No minimum acreage requirement

- Acres and square feet are both acceptable measurements

Image credit: KindPNG

HOW do I apply for a grant from NMDA's Healthy Soil Program?

https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/hsp/requirements-for-individual-applicants.html

New Mexico Department of Agriculture

NMDA ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FORMS & APPLICATIONS LICENSING & REGISTRATION INSPECTIONS STATUTES & RULES

News:

Firewood consumers encouraged to know the law

NMDA accepting Healthy Soil Program grant applications in February

Dodson named NMDA Director of Public Affairs

Pet owners urged to take proactive measures against respiratory illness in dogs

Second edition Holiday Lookbook available online

Specialty crop grant workshops set for December

USDA confirms High Path Avian Influenza in San Juan County

More NMDA News

Feature Stories

Resources

Events:

AG Day

AgriFuture Educational Institute

Rounders Award Ceremony

FY25 Requirements for Individual Applicants


Individual Applicants are individuals, businesses, and nonprofits directly engaged in farming, ranching, and/or other forms of land management in New Mexico. To apply for a Healthy Soil Program grant, an Individual Applicant must follow the steps below by the deadlines noted. 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 Individual Applicants](#). 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 16, 2024 pre-application webinar: See the [Individual Applicant webinar slides](#) or [watch the subtitled recording](#).

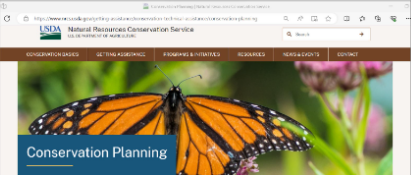
March 5, 2024 application demonstration webinar: [Register here](#) to join us from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Mountain Time.

Step 1. Identify the partners you must work with in order to apply for a grant from NMDA's Healthy Soil Program.



1. Identify the nearest office of [USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#). See **Step 2** to learn more.
2. Identify the [soil and water conservation district \(SWCD\)](#) in which you reside or the [pueblo, tribe, or nation](#) of which you are a member. The earlier you involve your SWCD or tribal nation, the better your chances of putting forward a strong, well-informed grant application. See **Step 5** to learn more.

Step 2. Complete conservation planning with NRCS. Deadline to complete this step: March 22, 2024 at 5 p.m. Mountain Time.



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



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

Successful applications...	X 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 landscaping, feeding livestock, etc.
✓ Point back to conservation planning	X Ignore what the conservation planning documents say
✓ 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
✓ Feature the necessary signatures from your NRCS conservation planner –and– your Project Sponsor	X Are absent the necessary signatures
✓ Are unique , tailored to the needs of the project site	X Are copied from someone/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 oil, 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</i> soil, <i>renting</i> no-till equipment, etc.)</p>	<p>Services General labor Specialized work that is not related to soil</p>



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 **Individual Applicants**:

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

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