



Pre-application webinar for **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**

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

Welcome and Housekeeping

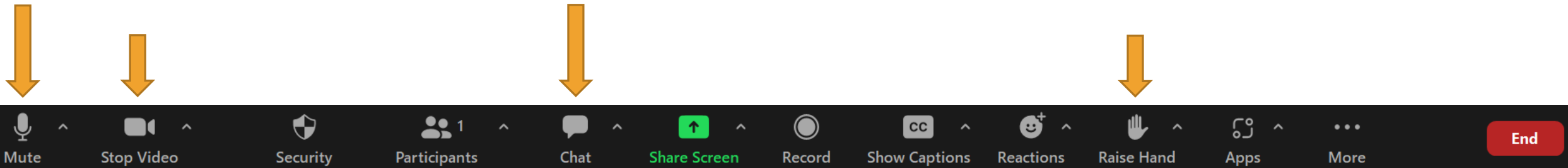
We invite you to introduce yourself in the Chat, noting:

- the name of your Eligible Entity (*Guadalupe SWCD, Pueblo of San Felipe, etc.*)
- whether your jurisdiction contains more cropland, rangeland, or another land type

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 Eligible Entity web page

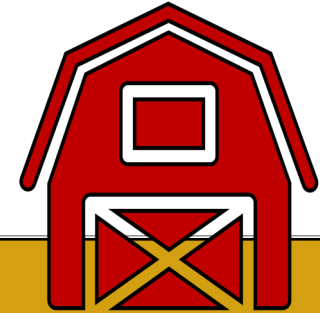


Today's Agenda

- Who and what projects are eligible
- When and where projects can happen
- How to apply following our step-by-step process online
- Questions & Answers

WHO is eligible to apply for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants?

We welcome applications from two (2) applicant types



1. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- New Mexico’s “local **governmental** [entities] with proven land management capacity to support healthy soil”, including:
 - Pueblos, tribes, and nations
 - Acequias
 - Land grants
 - Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs)
 - NMSU Cooperative Extension Service
 - Other parties meeting the Eligible Entity definition above
- **Application period:** January 15-March 19, 2025
- **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

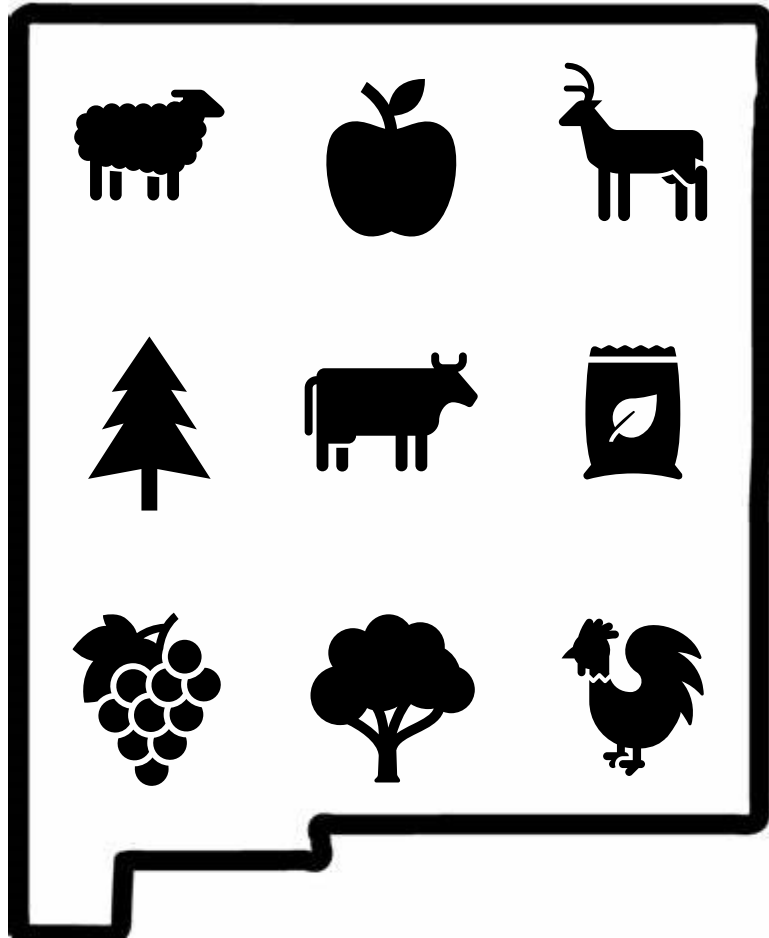
- New Mexico’s **non-governmental** parties that are directly engaged in farming, ranching, or another form of land management:
 - Individuals
 - Businesses
 - Nonprofits
- **Application period:** January 15-March 19, 2025
- **Awards of up to \$24,999.99** (including mileage + 15% administrative fee, both of which NMDA pays to the Individual Applicant’s Project Sponsor)

The webinar for **INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS** happens **today** at **3 p.m.**



WHERE can
Healthy Soil Program-funded projects
happen?

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: either the Eligible Entity owns it, leases it, manages it on another's behalf, or partners with local landowners to perform work on it
 - Bottom line: **The Eligible Entity must have landowner permission** to implement a soil health project on land it doesn't own
- On any amount of land: Projects can be measured in acres or square feet

WHEN can
Healthy Soil Program-funded projects
happen?

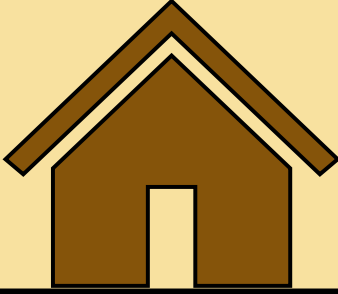

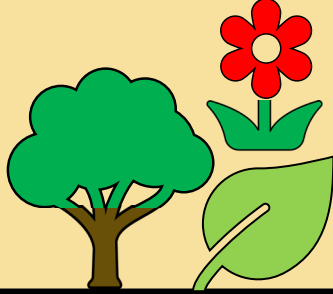
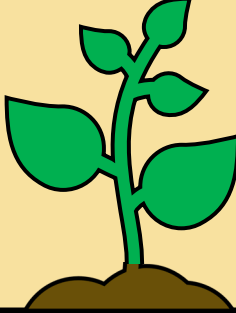
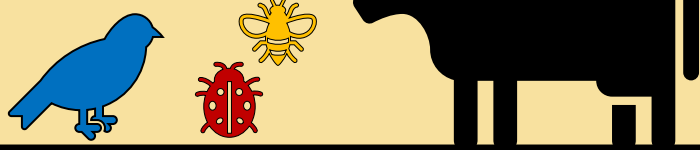
WHEN NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants happen

Projects can last **up to ~15 months**,
starting mid-July 2025 and ending September 2026

July 2025	August	September	October	November
				
December	January 2026	February	March	April
				
May	June	July	August	September 2026
				

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

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

<p>1. Keep soil covered.</p> 	<p>2. Minimize disturbance on cropland and minimize external inputs.</p> 	<p>3. Maximize biodiversity.</p> 	<p>4. Maintain a living root.</p> 	<p>5. Integrate animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or keystone species, such as earthworms.</p> 	
<p>→ EXAMPLES of practices arising from the 5 soil health principles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting a cover crop Leaving crop residues in the field to decompose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimizing tillage on cropland Minimizing farm inputs (applying the 4R strategy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing different plants Increasing the diversity of a crop rotation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing long-season crops Planting a cover crop following a short-season crop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grazing crop residues Following a bale grazing plan Planting pollinator habitat

Sample projects funded on cropland



**ESTABLISHING
POLLINATOR
HABITAT**
Photo courtesy NRCS



**PLANTING
A DIVERSE MIX OF
COVER CROPS**



APPLYING BIOCHAR

Sample projects funded on rangeland



SUBSOILING

To see where subsoiling has happened in the photo above, look for the areas parallel to **this red line**.

Photo courtesy Rangeland Solutions, LLC, Curry County, NM

INTENSIVE ROTATIONAL GRAZING

Photo courtesy CS Ranch Colfax County, NM



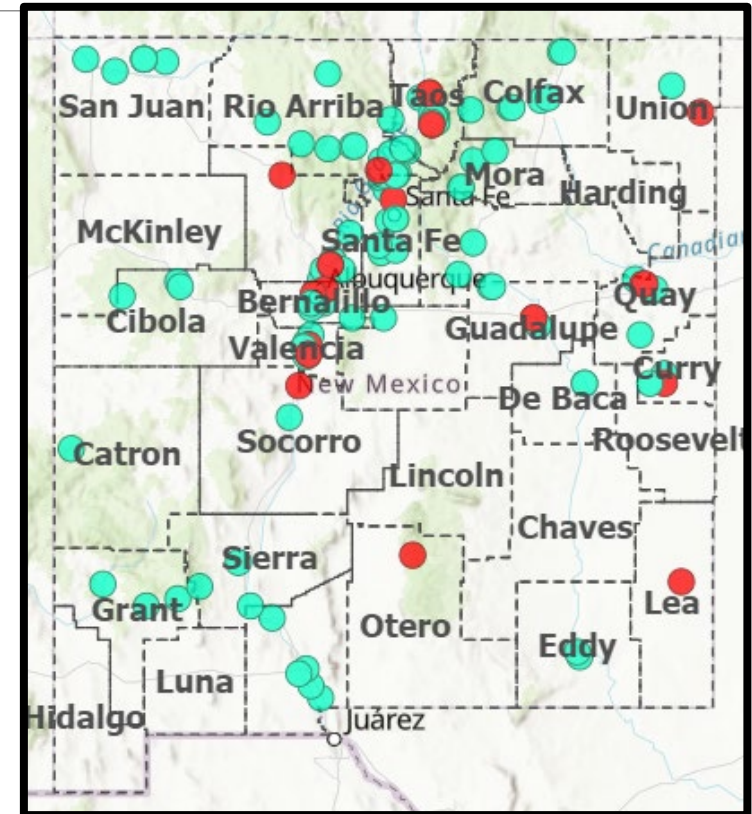
BALE GRAZING

Photos courtesy M-Scar Farm & Ranch, Colfax County, NM



Projects funded by the Healthy Soil Program, Fiscal Years 2020-2024 (FY20-24)

- = project led by an **Eligible Entity**
 (“local **governmental** entity with proven land management capacity to support healthy soil”)
- = project led by an **Individual Applicant**
 (**non-governmental** party directly engaged in farming, ranching, or another form of land management)



HOW does my Eligible Entity apply for a grant from NMDA's Healthy Soil Program?

N.M. AG Requirements for Eligible Entities

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

New Mexico Department of Agriculture

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

FY26 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 local governmental entit[ies] 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 grant, an Eligible Entity must follow the steps below by the deadlines noted.

Attention to the documents with an arrow (→) next to them, as those are documents that you must submit as part of your Healthy Soil Program grant application by the deadline: March 19, 2025 at 12 p.m. (noon) Mountain Time. **Late, incomplete, and paper applications will not be accepted.**

by reading the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Eligible Entities (document coming soon) and by joining us for a webinar:

er 7, 2024 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Mountain Time: [Pre-application webinar for Eligible Entities](#). You must register in order to attend.

application tips and Healthy Soil Program updates – as well as soil health news and events – subscribe to our weekly newsletter using the form at the bottom of the [Healthy Soil Program](#) home page.

Application Document Checklist	-
Step 1. Select the project site(s) and identify the top soil health-related resource concern(s).	-
Step 2. Develop your project.	-
Step 3. Work on the online application.	-
Step 4. Finalize and submit the online application.	-

Everything you'll need to apply as a local governmental entity is on the **ELIGIBLE ENTITY** webpage - just follow **Steps 1-4**.

How to approach the step-by-step application process for **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**

Step 1. Select the project site(s) and identify the top soil health-related resource concern(s). -

Step 2. Develop your project. -

NMDA strongly encourages your Eligible Entity to tackle Steps 1-2 in 2024...

...then tackle Steps 3-4 in early 2025.

Step 3. Work on the online application. -

Step 4. Finalize and submit the online application. -

The steps and materials
on the **Healthy Soil Program**
webpage for **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**

Scan this QR code to go to the webpage for **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**



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>



hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu
575-646-2642