



Applying for a grant as an **INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT**

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

Welcome and Housekeeping

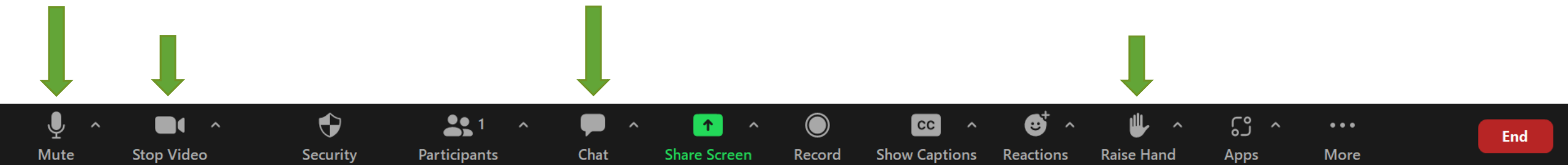
We invite you to introduce yourself in the Chat, noting:

- where you are located 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 Applicants web page



Today's Agenda

- ❑ A quick **refresher** on...
 - ❑ Who and what projects are eligible
 - ❑ When and where projects can happen

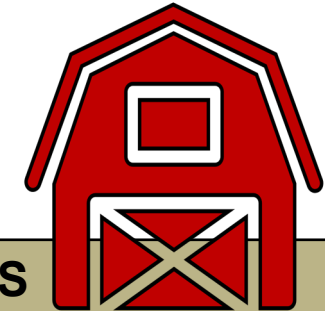
- ❑ How to apply following our step-by-step process online

- ❑ An overview of the grant-application cycle

- ❑ 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**”, like:
 - Pueblos, tribes, and nations
 - Acequias
 - Land grants
 - Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs)
 - NMSU Cooperative Extension Service
 - Other **governmental parties meeting the definition above of an Eligible Entity**
- **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

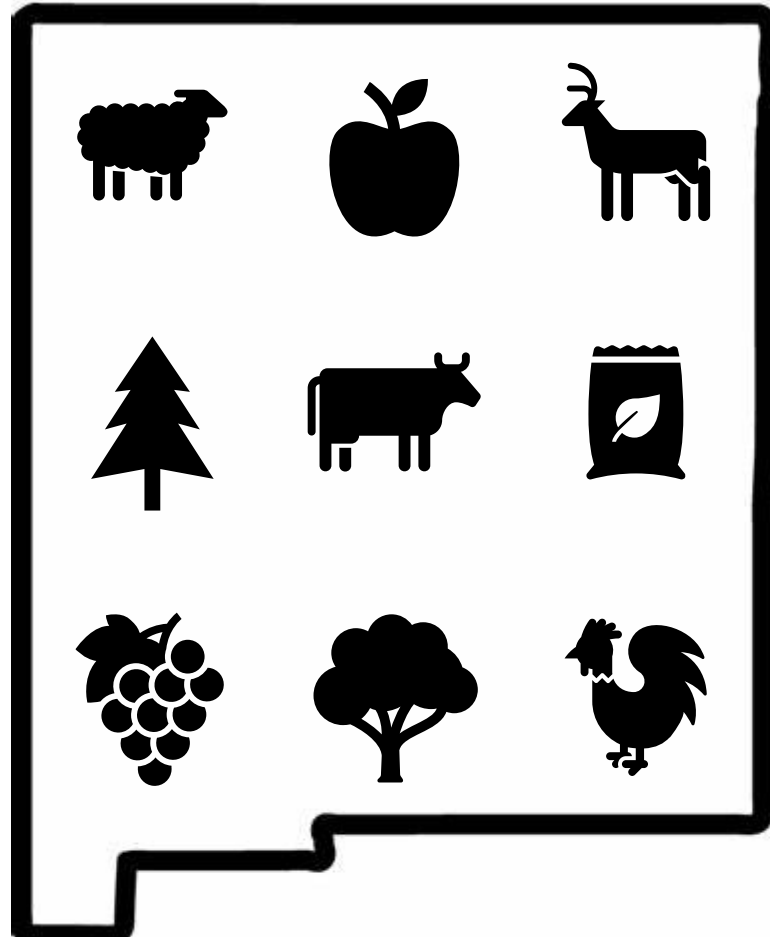
- New Mexico’s **non-governmental** parties that are **directly engaged in farming, ranching, or another form of land management:**
 - Individuals
 - Businesses
 - Nonprofits
- **Application period:** January 15-March 19, 2025
- **Awards of up to \$24,999.99** (including mileage + 15% administrative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

THIS WEBINAR is for Individual Applicants. See the **Eligible Entity website** for the recording of that webinar soon.



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: 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

WHEN can
Healthy Soil Program-funded
projects happen?

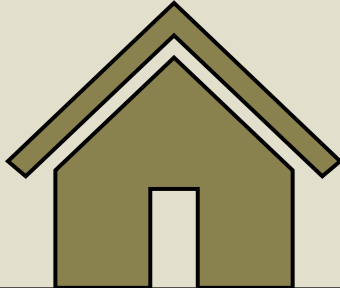
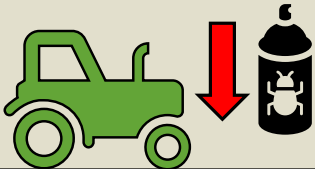
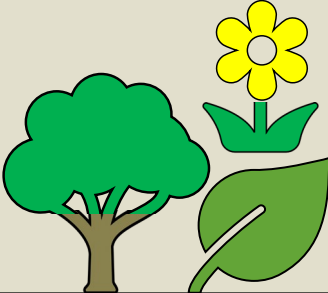
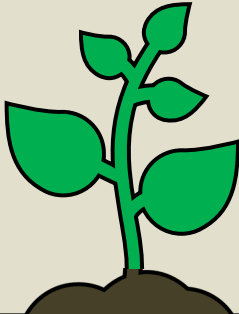
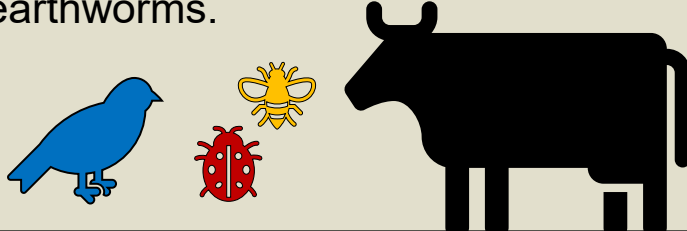
WHEN NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants happen

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 • Prescribed grazing to maintain cover on rangeland 	<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 • Rotating crops • Managing grazing to promote rangeland diversity 	<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"> • Planting pollinator habitat • Grazing crop residues • Following a prescribed grazing plan • Following a bale-grazing plan

Sample project activities funded on cropland



DRILL-SEEDING
Photo courtesy Ciudad SWCD



PLANTING A DIVERSE COVER CROP MIX



PLANTING COVER CROPS
Photo courtesy San Cristobal Ditch Association



ESTABLISHING POLLINATOR HABITAT
Photo courtesy NRCS



APPLYING MANURE COMPOST
Photo courtesy Abdullah Chudnoff



APPLYING BIOCHAR

Sample project activities funded on rangeland



SUBSOILING to bust compaction, increase water infiltration

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 to lengthen rest/recovery periods
 Photo courtesy CS Ranch Colfax County, NM

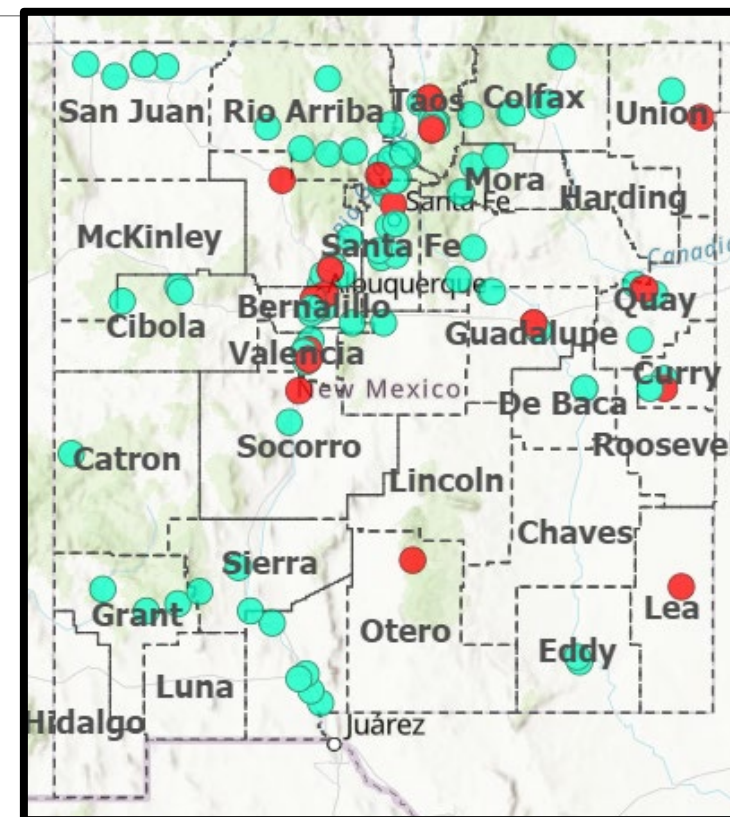


BALE GRAZING to restore cover on bare ground
 Photos courtesy M-Scar Farm & Ranch, Colfax County, NM



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 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 Search our site

NMDA [ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS](#) [FORMS & APPLICATIONS](#) [LICENSING & REGISTRATION](#) [INSPECTIONS](#) [STATUTES & RULES](#)

FY26 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.

Pay close 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 application deadline: March 19, 2025 at 12 p.m. (noon) Mountain Time. **Late, incomplete, and paper applications will not be accepted.**

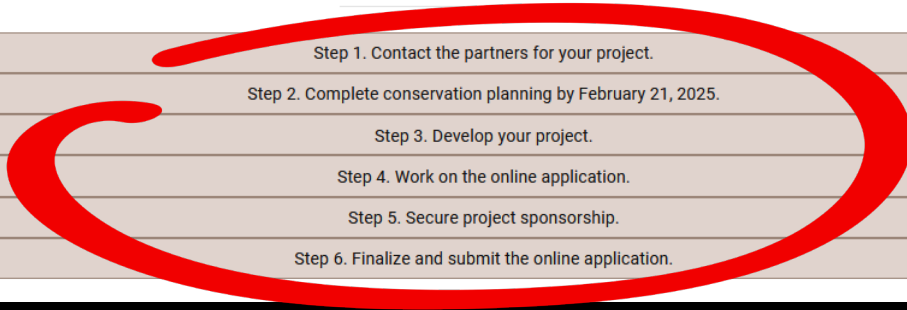
Learn more by reading the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) for Individual Applicants](#) and by joining us for a webinar:

- On January 23, 2025, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Time, we will host a webinar to walk through the online application for Individual Applicants. [Register to attend.](#)
- On November 7, 2024, we hosted a pre-application webinar for Individual Applicants. [Review the slides](#) and [watch a captioned recording of that webinar.](#)

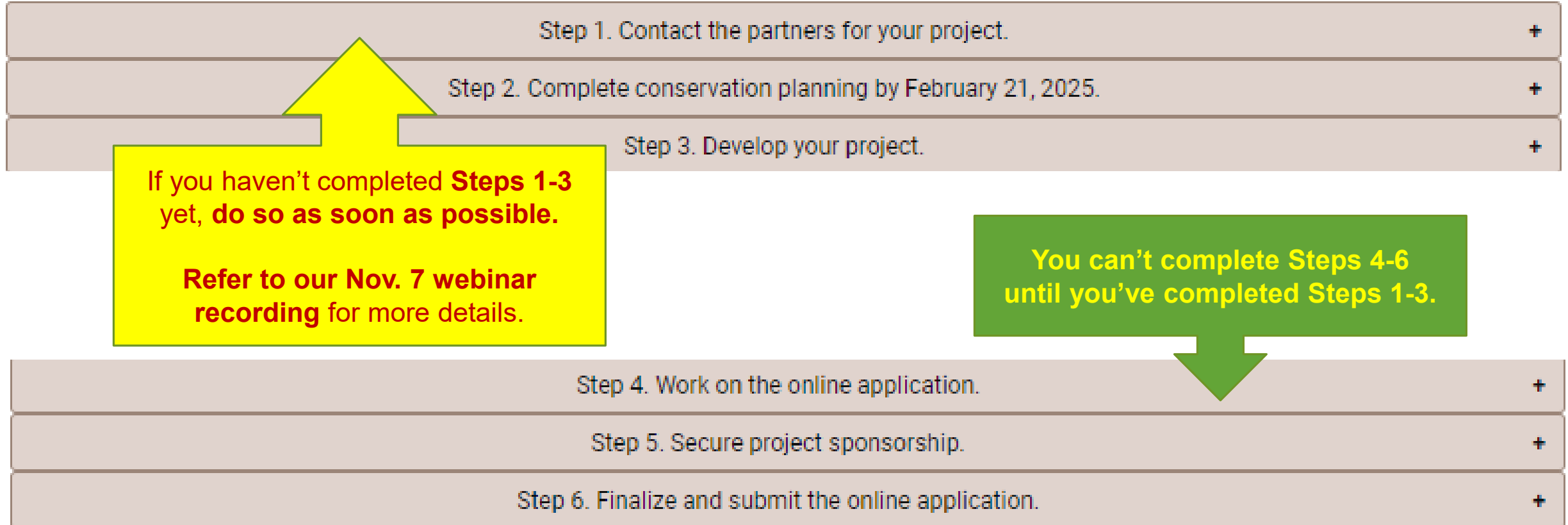
For application tips and Healthy Soil Program updates – as well as soil health news and events – subscribe to our weekly newsletter using the form at the bottom of the [Healthy Soil Program web page.](#)

Application Document Checklist	-
Step 1. Contact the partners for your project.	-
Step 2. Complete conservation planning by February 21, 2025.	-
Step 3. Develop your project.	-
Step 4. Work on the online application.	-
Step 5. Secure project sponsorship.	-
Step 6. Finalize and submit the online application.	-

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

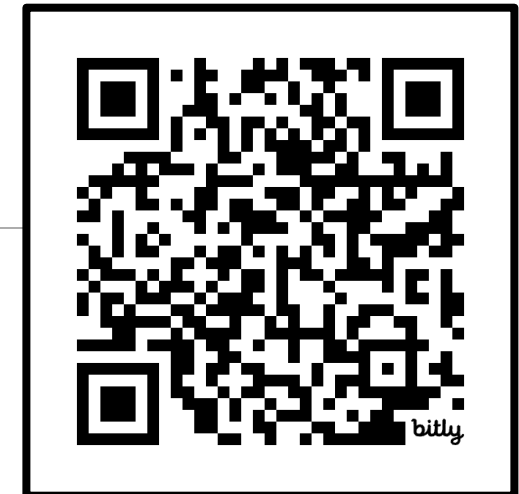


How to approach the step-by-step application process for **INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS**

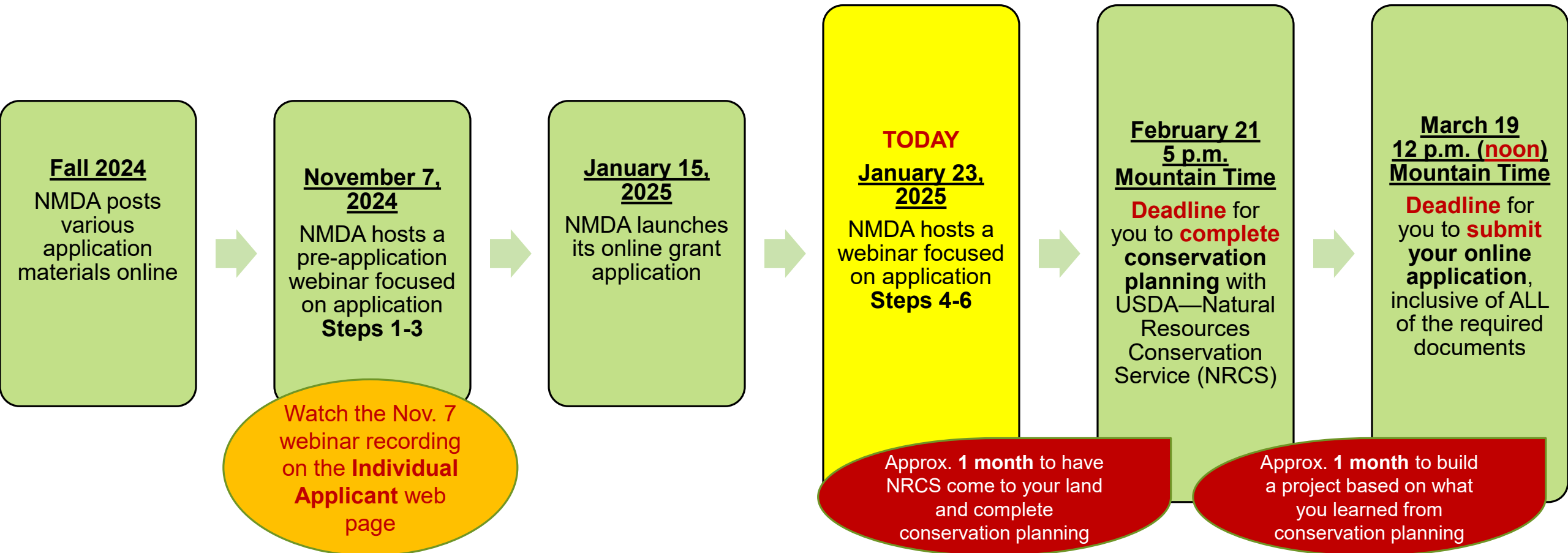


The steps and materials on the **Healthy Soil Program** web page for **INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS**

Scan this QR code to go to the webpage for **INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS**



Overview: FY26 grant-application cycle timeline



Tips and Reminders

TIPS	REMINDERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build your project based on what your <i>soil</i> needs, not what <i>you</i> need. Let your soil health-related resource concerns, not the goods and services you hope to buy, guide the development of your project idea. • Don't outsource your application. Grantees are expected to be intimately familiar with all aspects of their projects. Allowing someone else to apply on your behalf could set you up for project failure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline to complete conservation planning with NRCS: February 21 @ 5 p.m. Mountain Time • Deadline to submit your online application, including all related documents: March 19 @ 12 p.m. (noon) Mountain Time • Late, incomplete, and paper applications will not be accepted for review. • NMDA is available to answer your questions until the application deadline. We recommend not waiting until the last minute, and we recommend emailing us (hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu) so that you have answers in writing.

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>



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