

Ag Awareness New Mexico Resource Guide

**Dedicated to New Mexico Farmers and Ranchers
Created for New Mexico Elementary Students**
Today's Youth—Tomorrow's Leaders

Complied by
Mesilla Valley CowBelles
Johnette Fowler
Janice Cooper
Glenda Price

Revised by
New Mexico Ag in the Classroom project manager, Aspen Lyon

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Revised Edition was underwritten by:
New Mexico Ag in the Classroom Foundation
and the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau

Major Sponsors:
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
New Mexico Beef Council
New Mexico Cattle Growers, Inc.
New Mexico Department of Agriculture
New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.
Dairy Producers of New Mexico
Mesilla Valley CowBelles

Special thanks to Tennessee Farm Bureau



Dear Educator,

We are pleased to take this opportunity to introduce you to Agriculture in the Classroom. New Mexico Ag in the Classroom is an outreach education program sponsored by the New Mexico Farm Bureau. Our mission is to develop in students an understanding of agriculture, its history and cultural significance, how it fulfills our needs for food and fiber, and its place in modern society. We develop teaching materials on agricultural topics such as soils, animals, plant growth and nutrition. We also host workshops for teachers, assist in coordinating ag fairs and present classroom demonstrations for K – 12 students.

In addition to these activities we also maintain a loan library where you can access videos, teaching guides, lesson plans and books, free of charge. Call us if you wish to request an agricultural speaker for your classroom, we can put you in touch with a local farmer or rancher who would be excited to explain their career choice.

This resource guide contains lesson plans that highlight New Mexico agriculture. The information is divided into four sections:

Natural Resources	soil, water, weather, plants, rangeland
History of New Mexico Agriculture	Conquistador, Vaquero, Cowboy, Plains Indian
General Agriculture	livestock, farm crops, machinery, inventions, careers
Commodities	beef, corn, cotton, dairy, eggs, hay, pecans, vegetables, wheat, wool

There is also a section of games and activities for students in kindergarten through second grade.

This project would not have been possible without the hard work of the original compilers, Johnette M. Fowler, Janice Cooper and Glenda Price. Additionally, I want to thank these institutions for their contributions and continued support:

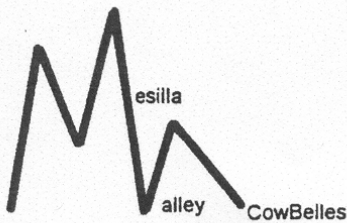
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau	New Mexico Cattle Growers, Inc.
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.
New Mexico State University	Dairy Producers of New Mexico
New Mexico Beef Council	Mesilla Valley CowBelles

I hope you find this guide useful and if you have suggestions for future revisions, please do not hesitate to call me at 505-532-4704, or visit us at www.nmfb.org.

Sincerely,

Dalene Hodnett

Dalene Hodnett, Director
New Mexico Ag in the Classroom



Dear Educators,

Welcome to the New Mexico Resource Guide for Ag Awareness. We the Mesilla Valley CowBelles thank you for your support in the education of our youngsters about agriculture. Agriculture is the only industry necessary for survival. We can not live without it, so encourage your students to learn all they can. If you eat you are involved with Agriculture. In the past people were very aware of the role agriculture played in their lives. It meant survival. Nearly everyone worked the land for their food as a source of income. Agriculture still means survival...that will never change, but because fewer people are needed to produce the food we eat, fewer people have close contact with farming and ranching, or the food production system. Creating an Awareness of our food, fiber and natural resource system is the purpose of Ag Awareness. Mesilla Valley CowBelles Ag Awareness program compliments the Ag in the Classroom program. Ag in the Classroom and Ag Awareness' programs provide resources for educators who are interested in implementing an Agricultural education program.

Mesilla Valley CowBelles is a group who supports and promotes New Mexico Agriculture through education and publicity. Our current focus is education school age children about beef production, ranch life and the importance of agriculture in our daily lives.

The first New Mexico Resource Guide for Ag Awareness was developed in 1991 and we are excited to be part of this 2005 revision. We hope that you will be able to infiltrate the information in this guide with your daily curriculum classroom education. Remember it is impossible to have an Ag-less Day!

Sincerely,

Mary Esther Grider

President, Mesilla Valley CowBelles

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) is a constitutionally established, cabinet-level agency under the New Mexico State University (NMSU) Board of Regents and provides an agriculture producer-consumer service for the citizens of New Mexico. Responsible for over 30 laws, NMDA's mandate has changed over the years, expanding its leadership role to address changes in population, agribusiness activities, and emerging issues.

NMDA continues to support New Mexico farmers and ranchers and other agriculturalists through marketing and promotional activities; developing and implementing federal and state policies, regulations, and legislation in making agricultural products safe; disseminating information to influence policy affecting agriculture and natural resources; and providing a voice for the agriculture industry in New Mexico.

Agriculture in New Mexico contributes over \$4.6 billion to the state's economy and employs over 23,000 people directly and thousands more indirectly in related processing and manufacturing industries. Nearly 90 percent of the more than 15,200 farms in the state are classified as family farms.

New Mexico contributes to the national economy in many areas including nursery products, beef cattle, sheep and wool, onions, pecans, chile, and dairy. New Mexico ranks number one in the country for the production of summer onions and chile and seventh for milk and cheese production. Dona Ana County ranks first in pecan production.

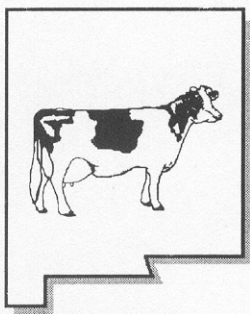
New Mexico's strong and dynamic agricultural economy provides opportunities for all farmers and ranchers to lead successful lives. With the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau offering educators the proper tools and support in the classroom, the unique agrarian culture is passed on to children in rural and urban areas of the state.

We hope the information provided for lesson plans will assist in teaching your students about agriculture in New Mexico as well as the entire United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'I. Miley Gonzalez'.

I. Miley Gonzalez, Ph.D.
Director/Secretary
New Mexico Department of Agriculture



Dairy Producers of New Mexico

*The purpose of Dairy Producers of New Mexico
is to enhance the existing New Mexico dairy industry.*

Sharon L. Lombardi • Executive Director • e-mail: dpm1@juno.com

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Ms. Aspen Lyon

Project Manager

New Mexico Ag in the Classroom

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Dear Ms. Lyon:

It is indeed a pleasure to do this letter on behalf of Dairy Producers of New Mexico (DPNM). DPNM is a grassroots association for New Mexico and West Texas dairy producers. It is a voluntary independent association that is governed by producers for producers regardless of their dairy cooperative. DPNM has membership from all three of New Mexico's cooperatives including Dairy Farmers of America, Select Milk Producers and Zia Milk Producers. DPNM is the liaison for its membership on all levels of government—local, state and national. The association is a relatively young organization, and I've been their only Executive Director for the last 12 years.

It's important for those of us involved in agriculture to work together for our future and our children's future. We appreciate everything Ag in the Classroom does to promote that concept and we applaud you as an educator for carrying our message. If you need additional information on dairy, we will be glad to assist you through our dairy promotion agencies.

Thank you again for incorporating this wonderful program into your school's lesson plan.

Sincerely

Sharon L. Lombardi

Executive Director

SLL/src

Agriculture

- is a 1.5 billion dollar industry
- employs over 24,500 people in New Mexico
- is the United States' #1 export
- provides habitat for 75% of the nation's wildlife
- is more than just farming and ranching, it includes processing, marketing, distribution, research scientist, communications and biotechnology.

New Mexico leads the nation in the production of chile, Valencia peanuts, and summer onions. New Mexico ranks third in milk and pecan production.

The top twelve commodities in New Mexico in 2003 were:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1 Milk | 7 Chile |
| 2 Beef | 8 Pecans |
| 3 Hay | 9 Misc. Veg |
| 4 Greenhouse | 10 Poultry Eggs |
| 5 Field Crops | 11 Cotton |
| 6 Onions | 12 Corn for Grain |

New Mexico - Land of Enchantment