# FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

| SPONSOR | Chatfield/ Armstrong, G. | ORIGINAL DATE LAST UPDATED | 2/4/2020 2/6/2020 | HB | 168/aHAWC |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----|-----------|
| **SHORT TITLE** | Statewide Ag Ed Programs Funding | | | **SB** | |
| | | **ANALYST** | Gelay | | |

## APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| **FY20** | **FY21** | | |
| | $200.0 | Recurring | General Fund |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**
LFC Files

Responses Received From
New Mexico State University (NMSU)
New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

**SUMMARY**

　　Synopsis of HAWC Amendment

The House Agriculture and Water Resources Committee amendment to House Bill 168 added a clause to make the appropriation nonreverting. As noted in the original analysis, institutions of higher education typically do not revert unexpended fund balances.

　　Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 168 appropriates $200 thousand from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for the Department of Agriculture to continue to support statewide agricultural education, including Future Farmers of America programs.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of $200 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

NMDA comments:

According to the most recent U.S. Census of Agriculture (2017), the average age of New Mexico's farmers and ranchers is approximately 60 years old. The state's agricultural community has long worked to recruit younger people into farming and ranching, as has NMDA, with its collaboratively hosted biennial event the AgriFuture Educational Institute. NMDA also promotes other programs that implement agricultural curricula, including:

• New Mexico FFA (formerly known as the Future Farmers of America; http://www.nmffa.org/)

• New Mexico 4-H (https://aces.nmsu.edu/4h/)

• New Mexico Agriculture in the Classroom (https://newmexico.agclassroom.org/)

• Kids, Kows, and More (https://www.southwestdairyfarmers.com/pages/kids-kows-more-program)

• Cooking with Kids (https://cookingwithkids.org/); and

• La Semilla Food Center (https://www.lasemillafoodcenter.org/)

If funds were to be appropriated, these and other agricultural education programs could improve their capabilities and / or expand their reach further across New Mexico.

NMSU comments:

Agricultural education teaches students about farming, food and natural resources. Through these subjects, educators teach students science, math, communications, leadership, management and technology skills.

Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems. Funding for this bill will enhance the ability of NMSU staff to increase site visits and improve communication with ag teachers throughout the state. The proposed use is to fund an additional FTE and to provide travel funds.

Agricultural education is delivered through three interconnected components:
1. Classroom or laboratory instruction;
2. Experiential learning — Learning experiences that usually take place outside of the classroom, supervised by the agriculture instructor;
3. Leadership education — delivered through student organizations such as the National FFA Organization, the National Young Farmer Education Association, National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization and others.

Many high school agriculture programs use FFA to enhance the leadership and experiential learning portions of their program.

JGG/al/sb