

New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Established by the Constitution of the State of New Mexico

ARTICLE XV. AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION

Section 1. [Department of agriculture]

There shall be a department of agriculture which shall be under the control of the board of regents of the college of agriculture and mechanic arts; and the legislature shall provide lands and funds necessary for experimental farming and demonstrating by said department.

Vision

NMDA benefits the public by promoting the viability and advancement of New Mexico agriculture and affiliated industries.

Mission

NMDA promotes a fair marketplace, food protection, marketing, and economic development; supports the beneficial use of natural resources; and works cooperatively with the public and private sectors.

FUNDING DESCRIPTION

	FY21 Actuals	FY22 Budget Adjusted	FY23 Request	% Difference FY22 to FY23
State Appropriation HB2				
NMDA Operations	8,533,365	8,594,184	15,909,184	85.1%
Constituent Programs	3,559,035	3,590,816	3,590,816	0%
Two-Year Funding			650,000	
One-Time Funding (HB2.5/SB377)				
NMDA	762,500	175,000	-	-
Constituent Programs	-	-	-	-
Grants and Contracts	2,864,264	2,924,400	3,400,000	16.3%
Restricted Fees	5,951,958	5,611,681	5,900,000	5%

Budget Summary

FY22 Recurring Appropriation:	\$12,185,000
FY23 Base Appropriation: *Includes \$175,000 in additional recurring funding	\$12,360,000
FY23 Recurring Expansion Request:	\$7,140,000
<i>FY23 Total Appropriation Recurring Request:</i>	<i>\$19,500,000</i>
<i>FY23 Two Year Funding Request</i>	\$650,000
<i>Total Funding Request</i>	<i>\$20,150,000</i>

STATE CHEMIST LABORATORY

\$300,000

The State Chemist Laboratory funding request includes funding to maintain current ISO accreditation and for increasing the scope of accreditation to include testing of fertilizer (Nitrogen), minerals in feed, minerals in fertilizer and pesticide products including pesticide residues.

This request also includes funding for an additional chemist FTE, instrumentation maintenance, the increase cost of consumables, reagents, testing kits, calibrations and general laboratory operational supplies.

The State Chemists move to a new laboratory, likely at the beginning of 2022, necessitates an additional visit(s) by the accrediting body to re-assess the facilities, adherence to the quality system and functionality of all test methods included in the current scope.

SOUTHWEST BORDER FOOD PROTECTION & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CENTER \$100,000

New Mexico agriculture faces a myriad of omnipresent threats including agro-terrorism, foreign animal diseases, and natural hazards such as winter storms and prolonged drought. The recent emergency response to the Covid-19 Pandemic has also revealed the importance of preparing and exercising together across multiple disciplines. Identifying and responding in a timely manner by trained responders is key to containing and/or gaining control of any agricultural emergency. The \$100,000 request for funding will be utilized to hire a program specialist to assist critical preparedness activities and management of projects (seventy-five thousand). The remaining twenty-five thousand will allow fund programmatic emergency preparedness actions that aid the Center in its efforts to **Plan, Organize, Equip, Train and Exercise against agriculture and natural resource emergencies across New Mexico**

MARKETPLACE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$1,050,000

Meat Processing and Marketing - Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) highlighted the vulnerability in the meat supply chain, with production falling drastically in the early stages of the pandemic, within weeks of the declaration of the nation's emergency. As the larger commercial processing facilities shut down, limited hours, or implemented social distancing measures that slowed output, cattle prices cratered and ranchers were forced to consider other options, including diverting livestock to approved small facilities. To address this, HB2 appropriated \$150,000 from the general fund to NMDA to support the development of a local meatpacking cooperative. ***The funding request is that the appropriation be recurring.***

Food, Agriculture and Nutrition - Improved focus on adequate access to affordable locally-produced food is a critical component of New Mexico's response to hunger and poverty, and it can have a lasting impact on easy access to fresh, healthy and nutritious foods, especially to those in underserved populations/areas. While agriculture is a major economic driver, over 95% of the food New Mexicans consume comes from out of state, and nearly all food produced in New Mexico leaves the state.

A stronger local food system would simultaneously support local farmers and ranchers economically by keeping dollars near home, while combating food insecurity and hunger in their communities, geographic regions and the state. ***The request for funding is \$100,000 for salary, fringe, travel, supplies and administrative support.***

MARKETPLACE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Continued

Domestic and International Marketing and Development - Expansion of Value-Added Ag and Economic Development Operations - The Marketing and Development Division relies on a combination of state appropriations and federal grants to support its annual marketing plan and workflow. An increase in program and operational budgets will improve the Marketing and Development team's ability to support New Mexico food producers, processors, restaurants and agribusinesses. This is accomplished through a plan focused on enhancing market share in existing markets and/or development of new markets. ***Funding allocation request of \$150,000 recurring for State Food/Ag Pavilions at domestic and international trade shows and \$650,000 non-recurring for advertising promotional events/activities*** to include: \$5 Challenge Campaign, New Mexico Food and Ag Advertising Campaigns, Social Media Campaigns, Funding for the Elevate NM Ag Value-Added Grant, providing funding opportunities to New Mexico businesses that are processors and manufacturers of New Mexico food and agricultural products with special emphasis upon those businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19.

Expansion Request Priorities

CANNABIS REGULATION ACT (CRA) ~ \$200,000

NMDA Metrology laboratory expects a significant number of weight scales to be added to their statutorily directed duties for annual testing. The scales used in the cannabis retail business include high precision Class II scales (.01 gram sensitive) requiring additional time by staff to certify additional training. The department estimates the addition of two FTEs and support (\$150,000 annually).

NMDA's laboratory involvement in testing pre- and post-flowering cannabis for pesticide residues, and testing cannabis seed for compliance with state statutes remains unresolved. In the event that the issue is resolved, NMDA estimates testing for pesticide residues in pre-flowering and post-flowering cannabis and seed testing may increase the department's annual laboratory expenses \$50,000 for non-fee based regulatory services.

FOOD, FARM AND HUNGER INITIATIVE

(\$6,140,000)

Double Up Food Bucks - expansion of 2-for-1 SNAP incentive for local produce - \$332,920.

Healthy Soils Program - expansion of funding program for NM farmers and ranchers and build capacity of eligible entities such as Soil & Water Conservation districts, Acequia association, tribal and land grant communities - \$1,232,080.

NM Grown Producer Innovation Grant - new competitive grant program for farmers, ranchers, and food producers scaling up to sell to NM institutions through NM Grown - \$750,000.

Conservation Excellence Grant Program - new competitive grant for farmers and ranchers addressing climate change through conservation efforts (parallel strategy to Healthy Soils) - \$1,500,000.

Farm to Foodbank/Gleaning Program - new competitive grant for producers, food businesses, ranchers, and hunger relief organizations working to eliminate food waste on farms - \$500,000.

Agricultural Workforce Development Act - expansion of on-farm internship and workforce development efforts for the agricultural sector - \$125,000.

Agricultural Education Program - new competitive grant for food, nutrition, and agriculture education in preschool and K-12 settings - \$1,000,000.

Approved Supplier Program Support - food safety certification support and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers (contract/flow through) - \$200,000.

6 FTE Support for funding (including fringe) - \$500,000.

QUESTIONS?