

Agricultural Experiment Station

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING – DEC. 11, 2024

Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Jay Lillywhite – Associate Dean of Research and Director of Agricultural Experiment Station



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ACES and AES Mission


The ACES College is an engine for economic and community development in New Mexico, improving the lives of New Mexicans through research, teaching, and extension.


The Agricultural Experiment Station

The NMSU Agricultural Experiment Station supports research that is addressing real-world problems. Research is at the core of NMSU's mission to improve the lives of people globally.

The Agricultural Experiment Station supports research designed to:

- Enhance agricultural profitability.
- Stimulate economic development using natural resources.
- Improve the quality, safety, and reliability of food and fiber products.
- Sustain and protect the environment with ecologically sound practices.
- Manage and protect natural resources.
- Improve the quality of life for the people of New Mexico.



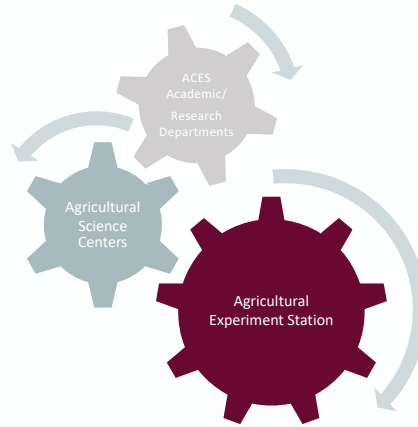


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AES System

- AES is the principal research unit for the NMSU College of ACES. All research faculty in ACES have appointments in AES, across the main campus in Las Cruces and at the 12 agricultural science centers around the state
- AES was defined and created by the Federal Hatch Act of 1887 to research problems and find solutions to improve the lives and livelihoods of citizens. In 1915, New Mexico constitutionally mandated AES under Article X, section 11 of the state constitution
- Each of the 12 agricultural science centers and the on-campus research units are integral in supporting fundamental and applied science and technology research to benefit New Mexicans.

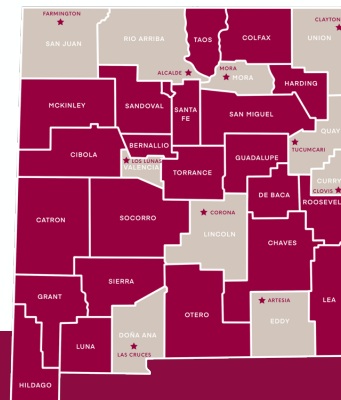
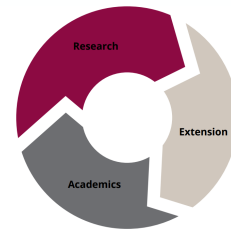


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Upholding the AES Mission

- AES has approximately 358 FTE which includes faculty, staff, and students
- AES faculty and staff conduct research on NMSU’s main campus and at 12 Agricultural Science Centers located strategically throughout the state.
- AES works collaboratively with CES and industry partners



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AES Research Focus Areas

- Agricultural water use efficiency
- Carbon management
- Cattle genetics to improve grazing efficiency
- Improve forage quality/ range management
- Endangered/ sensitive species management
- Food safety and nutrition
- Improved crop selection
- Product development and value-added products
- Reforestation
- Soil-borne disease prevention
- Sustainable natural resources
- Value-added agriculture
- Water quality and availability
- High-value, low-input alternative crops

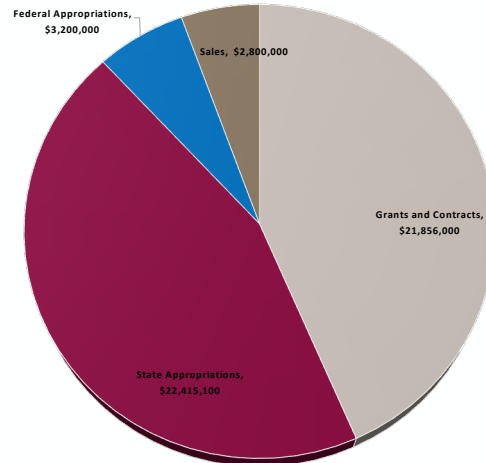


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AES FY24 Operating Revenue

- State appropriations constitute approximately 45% of the overall budget
- State's investment in AES is matched more than 1:1 through Federal appropriations, grants and contracts, and sales
- AES continues to expand its funding portfolio and leads NMSU in grants awarded and expended.



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Legislative Increase Request

FY26 Increase Request: \$972,368

\$772,368 - 10% Operations Increase: This 10% increase in operations will support resources for AES to continue to meet the needs of agricultural research throughout the state.

Examples of uses:

- Expand student research opportunities both on and off campus throughout the state
- Support research that responds to emerging challenges to the agricultural industry in New Mexico

\$200,000 change to insurance premiums: NMSU is increasing the employer insurance premium contribution to become competitive with regional employment markets. This difference will cover the increase to fringe benefit costs for current Agricultural Experiment Station employees.



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Contact Information

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