



FOR MORE INFORMATION

TAOS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 1389, TAOS, NM 87571  
575-758-8731  
TCEDC@TCEDC.ORG  
WWW.TCEDC.ORG

TAOS LAND TRUST

P.O. BOX 376, TAOS, NM 87571  
575-751-3138  
INFO@TAOSLANDTRUST.ORG  
WWW.TAOSLANDTRUST.ORG

TAOS VALLEY ACEQUIA ASSOCIATION

202 CHAMISA ROAD, SUITE D, TAOS, NM 87571  
575-758-9461  
TVAA@KITCARSON.NET  
WWW.TAOSACEQUIAS.ORG

PHOTOGRAPHY

GERAINT SMITH - WWW.GERAINTSMITH.COM  
DORIE HAGLER - WWW.DORIEHAGLER.COM  
CAROLYN LAKE & JOHN GARCIA.

FEATURUNG

PEDRO ARAGON, FRED MARTINEZ,  
JUANITA LAVADIE

APPROACH

COMMUNITY

We are conducting an ongoing inventory of the assets and needs of the local agricultural community so that we can be sure we are addressing the most pressing priorities.

ASSISTANCE

We provide direct assistance to farmers and ranchers on a range of subjects through public workshops, forums, classes and one-on-one consultation.

OUTREACH

We get the word out about the important connection between healthy lands and healthy communities and promote the story behind local foods that consumers buy: land, livelihood, sustainability, community and culture.

LEGACY

We strengthen long-term continuity by working with existing youth programs to link experienced farmers and ranchers with youth and young adults to pass on traditional wisdom, business sense and provide land to work on.

POLICY

We promote public policies that support land and water conservation and a sustainable local food system.



# De la Tierra a la Cosecha

## FROM EARTH TO HARVEST

Sustaining the land, water, food and culture of  
Northern New Mexico



A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT OF THE  
TAOS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION, TAOS LAND TRUST AND  
TAOS VALLEY ACEQUIA ASSOCIATION



## FROM EARTH TO HARVEST

Northern New Mexico is as famous for a distinctive cultural landscape of ancient villages, acequias and farmlands as it is for its vast and inspiring natural landscape. It is an old and intimate relationship between land and culture that makes this region what it is.

This landscape fuels much of the local economy, supports the unique land-based traditions of centuries-old communities, protects biodiversity and still holds great potential to grow food for local food security. But it is all at risk.

Agricultural land is disappearing at an alarming rate. In the last ten years there has been an 18 percent reduction in farms nationwide, meanwhile Taos County has had a 29 percent reduction. Private lands

like these throughout the West are also sanctuaries for biodiversity, containing more than 60% of remaining populations of threatened and endangered species.

As local farmers and ranchers lose their property to development, it removes land from food production, unravels centuries of tradition and diminishes both biological diversity and cultural diversity.

Taos County Economic Development Corporation, Taos Land Trust and Taos Valley Acequia Association have responded with *De la Tierra a la Cosecha*, promoting profitable family farming and ranching and local food security, which in turn helps sustain local lands and land-based culture.

## PARTNERSHIP

Taos County Economic Development Corporation supports food, land, water and cultures of the people of northern New Mexico by promoting small food-business development rooted in cultural traditions. Taos Land Trust works to sustain the land and land-based traditions using conservation easements and other tools that can help local landowners resist the powerful tide of development. Taos Valley Acequia Association promotes the long-term sustainability of traditional agricultural communities by protecting water rights and preserving and strengthening the acequia system, providing both water and social cohesion for centuries.

Together, the three partners bring over 60 years of experience and a large collection of tools to address land and water conservation, sustainable agriculture and locally appropriate economic development. *De la Tierra* helps local landowners keep their family lands intact and undeveloped, helps create a livable income from farms and ranches, encourages the production of local food for local consumption and helps sustain unique traditions and cultural diversity. All of which makes our community a richer and healthier place for everyone.

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"YOU CANNOT SAVE  
THE LAND APART  
FROM THE PEOPLE OR  
THE PEOPLE APART  
FROM THE LAND.  
TO SAVE EITHER  
YOU MUST SAVE BOTH."  
— WENDELL BERRY

