

Announcing Acequia Awards and Program for Congreso de las Acequias

From: New Mexico Acequia Association (communications@lasacequias.org)

To: johplummer@yahoo.com

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"Fire and Ice" Carlos Padillas crew working in the Pilar Acequia Association -Photo taken by GG Witkop

Noticias de las Acequias

New Mexico Acequia Association

November 8, 2018

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Announcing the Program for the Congreso de las Acequias



Las Huertas Acequias recognized at the 17th Annual Congreso. Photo taken by Seth Roffman

19th Annual Congreso de las Acequias

"Labor y Fe: Acequias Caring for the Land and Water in Times of Change"

Saturday, November 17th, 2018

9:00am-3:30pm

Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North
5151 San Francisco Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

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Upcoming Events

19th Annual Congreso de las Acequias

November 17th 2018
9:00am-3:30pm

Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North

5151 San Francisco Rd NE,
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Register online at:
<https://lasacequias.org/product/congreso-de-las-acequias-registration/>

NM Sustainable Agriculture Conference

December 12, 2018
8:30am-4:30pm

UNM Valencia Campus
Los Lunas, NM

PSA Grower Training

December 12, 2018
8:00am-5:00pm

NMSU-Rio Arriba County Extension
Abiquiu, NM

Become a Member

Registration

Early Bird: \$30.00 before November 13th

At the door: \$35.00

Youth under 18: \$10

Students: \$20

Farm Tour: \$10

Online Registration <https://lasacequias.org/product/congreso-de-las-acequias-registration/>

Draft Program

Friday, November 16 th	
3:30-5:30pm	Candelaria Organics Farm Tour - Valle de Atrisco Participants can register for a pre-Congreso farm tour in the South Valley at Candelaria Organics, a beautiful and historic farm owned and operated by Lorenzo Candelaria and Dora Pacias. The farm hosts youth from throughout the region to learn about acequia history, culture, and agriculture. Numerous young farmers have learned to grow food under their mentorship. The tour will include brief presentations, poetry, and light refreshments. Registration fee is \$10.00

Saturday, November 17th 2018

8:00am	Registration, Coffee, Mañanitas - Música de las Acequias
9:00am	Welcome and Introductions
9:10am	Bendición de las Aguas
9:40am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Order • President's Remarks • Roll Call of Delegates • Approve Agenda • Approve 2017 Minutes • Recognition of Dignitaries • Approve Regions Resolution • Recognition of New Regions • Memorial for John Carangelo and Tom Myers
10:20am	NMAA Annual Report
10:30am	2018 State of the Acequias: Testimonials from People of the Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st Century Repartimiento • Acequia Farming and Ranching in a Changing Climate • Healing our Watersheds
11:10am	"Acequia" Film Trailer - Arcy Chapa
11:20am	Cultivating Querencia: The Next Generation of Acequia Parciantes
11:40am	Nuestras Acequias: Embudo Valley Oral History Project
12:00pm	Los Milagros de San Isidro Labrador: Teatro Acequero
12:30pm	Lunch and Music by Los Horizontes Presentation by Congressman Ben Ray Lujan
1:30pm	Bendición del Agua - Poetry and Film by Olivia Romo
1:40pm	Awards Ceremony

[Become a member of the New Mexico Acequia Association!](#)

The NMAA is a charitable, educational non-profit organization that relies on membership contributions and foundations for its general operating expenses. We rely on folks who join as members to contribute membership dues and donations to support our work. It has never been more important to have a united front to protect our acequias and strengthen our food and agricultural traditions.

Technical Assistance

HOW DO WE PROTECT OUR WATER RIGHTS? HOW DO WE GET FUNDING TO IMPROVE OUR ACEQUIA? WHAT CAN OUR ACEQUIA DO TO PROTECT OUR EASEMENTS? WHAT PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT FARMERS AND RANCHERS?

The NMAA offers technical assistance on Acequia Governance and USDA programs for landowners. If any of these questions apply to you or your acequia, please submit a

[Request for Technical Assistance](#)

2:00pm	Growing Hemp in New Mexico: Opportunities for Acequias - Vicente Cordova and Leonard Salado
2:30pm	Resolutions
3:15pm	Election of Concilio
3:30pm	Adjourn

(Albuquerque, NM). The New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA) announces the 19th annual Congreso de las Acequias, which will be held on Saturday, November 17th, at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid. The Congreso de las Acequias is the largest gathering of acequias and supporters in New Mexico. "*Labor y Fe: Acequias Caring for the Land and Water in Times of Change*" is the theme for this year's gathering which reflects the challenge of sustained drought and the endurance of acequias.

The event will take place in Albuquerque and will include a pre-Congreso farm tour in the South Valley at Candelaria Organics on Friday, November 16th from 3:30-5:30m. The farm tour will honor acequia farmers who have continued working the land and protecting acequia water rights in the face of urbanization.

"Acequias have continued traditions of water sharing and growing food for centuries in New Mexico. We celebrate their endurance and also convene to discuss our future in the face of tremendous challenges related to mounting demands for water, a changing climate, and the need to cultivate the next generation," said Paula Garcia, Executive Director of the NMAA.

This year's program will feature testimonies from commissioners, mayordomos, farmers, and ranchers about the challenges of sustained drought and their strategies of adaptation. Younger voices will also be featured to speak about their dedication to sustaining communities through local agriculture.

The agenda for the gathering includes an exciting repertoire of film, music and entertainment. NMAA will premier "Acequia," film trailer by Arcy Chapa, "Bendición del Agua," a poem film by Olivia Romo, and "Los Milagros de San Isidro Labrador," a live performance by Grupo Teatro Acequero. Acclaimed acoustic musical ensemble from northern New Mexico, Los Horizontes, will provide music rooted in the movement for land and water rights in New Mexico. A multimedia piece, "Nuestras Acequias," will feature an oral history project from the Embudo Valley.

The Congreso also features work on federal and state policy whereby numerous resolutions will be considered. Congressman Ben Ray Lujan will provide an update on recent federal legislation benefiting acequias. Lastly, NMAA will present "Growing Hemp in New Mexico," which will include an update on laws and regulations and tips on getting started in the industry. NMAA will also honor award recipients, Leon Tafoya, Mayordomo of the Year, and Max Martinez, Rancher of the Year.

Please call (505) 995-9644 or visit <https://lasacequias.org/> to register today!

2019 Acequia Awards



Leon Tafoya, Mayordomo of San Jose de la Cienega doing ditch work. Photo submitted by Beverly Tafoya

Mayordomo of the Year

Leon Tafoya was born and raised in San Fidel, NM. He spent his youth in San Jose assisting his grandmother with irrigating gardens, fields and feeding livestock. As a 4th generation acequia official, he was trained well by his elders. Leon has served as Mayordomo for San Jose de la Cienega Acequia for the past ten years and has put his experience to work protecting acequia parciante's rights and keeping the water flowing. Their acequia flows year-round because of his passion is to maintain the ditch and a coordinated effort by acequia members to distribute water equitably. With agricultural water rights at risk, he has been an organizer and advocate for the Community Ditches of the Rio San Jose, the regional acequia association representing acequias in the area. He attributes his success in organizing their regional association to the assistance and support from the New Mexico Acequia Association and its staff. With his love for the land, love for his community, and respect for his parciantes, he will continue to work to protect water for all. God willing!



Max Martinez, Rancher of the Year. Photo submitted by Charlotte Martinez.

Rancher of the Year

Max Martinez was raised in Cebolla, NM, in Rio Arriba County. His ancestors were shepherders, cattle ranchers, loggers and "MUSTANGUEROS," men who would round up the wild mustangs and trade them for food. Martinez is a full time wildlife biologist for the US Department of Agriculture with a degree in agriculture from New Mexico State University. He is also an elk hunting guide and outfitter. Martinez and his brothers started a family partnership to maintain the cattle and hay operation that his father started. His father has now passed but his 91 year old mother still lives on the ranch and takes care of things. Today, the Martinez Ranch Partnership produces beef cattle for local, regional, national and international markets. Max now lives in Taos, NM with his wife Charlotte and daughter, Alexia Elena, In the winter he continues to get his day started at 4:00am, travels to Cebolla, feeds the cattle and returns to his job as wildlife biologist. "There is a lot of discipline and responsibility, says Max "If you don't get up, the cows don't get fed."

Farm Bill Changes Would Benefit Acequias and Land Grants



Farm Bill Day of Action 2013. Photo by Quita Ortiz.

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and Representatives Michelle Lujan Grisham, Steve Pearce and Ben Ray Lujan are urging the House and Senate Agriculture Committees to maintain a provision in the 2018 Farm Bill to make acequias eligible for federal resources through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). They also requested that the committees include language to make land grants eligible for these resources as well. These provisions would help acequias and land grants better access critical grants and technical assistance from NRCS programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

The full text of the New Mexico delegation's letter can be found [HERE](#).

Acequias provide water for many small and traditional farmers in New Mexico. Allowing acequias and land grants to be directly eligible for NRCS funds and technical assistance would provide these traditional communities with additional federal support to better protect New Mexico's natural resources, improve water conservation efforts, implement sustainable production practices and support local

farmers and ranchers.

"These traditional communities are a core part of New Mexico's agricultural industry and cultural heritage and their sustainment is the lifeline that conserves our land, water, and natural resources while providing food security for families in New Mexico and across the nation," **the delegation wrote.**

The congressional delegation has worked to enable New Mexico's traditional communities to access federal programs and funding for water and resource conservation projects. In 2014, the delegation included a provision in that year's Farm Bill that would have allowed acequias to access NRCS programs through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The NM delegation championed the provision, which would make acequia associations and land grants throughout the state eligible for federal resources through the NRCS, including the EQIP and CSP programs.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program helps agricultural producers adopt practices that ensure sustainable production on farms, ranches, and working forest lands that protect soil, water, plan, wildlife, and other natural resources. Funds from EQIP can be used to improve irrigation delivery systems - like water control structures, pipelines, and concrete ditches - that benefit individual or multiple land owners.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps producers build on their initial conservation efforts while strengthening their operations through increasing crop yields, improving grazing conditions, developing wildlife habitat, and other measures. New Mexico has the second highest number of acres enrolled in CSP.

"Strategic investment from EQIP and CSP for acequias and land grant-mercedes will provide increased agricultural water efficiency and further conservation of soil, water, and other natural resources through technical assistance," **the delegation continued.** "New Mexico is an arid state. Acequias, irrigation districts, and other water users benefit from EQIP and CSP funds to increase cost savings, reduce water consumption, address water quality, and advance soil health. By including the Senate language to grant acequias and land grant-mercedes access to EQIP and CSP, farm and ranch operators can sustain cultural traditional, institute sustainable practices, and protect our natural resources."

Ralph Vigil, Chair of the New Mexico Acequia Commission stated, "As New Mexico and the Southwest continue to experience record drought levels and shortages of water, the provision in the farm bill which allows Acequias to access EQIP and CSP funding is more critical than ever to our Acequias and rural communities."

"Acequias are a vital part of New Mexico's agricultural heritage and rural economy," **said Paula Garcia, Executive Director of the New Mexico Acequia Association.** "The New Mexico Acequia Association strongly supports language in the Farm Bill that expands eligibility of acequias for EQIP and CSP. These programs help keep farmers and ranchers tied to the land by improving irrigation efficiency and water conservation. We are hopeful that the efforts of our congressional delegation will contribute to the long-term sustainability of agriculture in our communities."

"The New Mexico Land Grant Council is pleased that the entire New Mexico Congressional Delegation continues to advocate for the inclusion of eligibility for land grants-mercedes in the farm bill for certain conservation program funding, such

as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)," **said Juan Sanchez, Chairman of the New Mexico Land Grant Council.** "These programs would provide much needed support to land grants-mercedes throughout the state with the management of their common lands, which collectively is in excess of 200,000 acres. Access to conservation funding will benefit not only the local land grant-merced, but also the surrounding region as projects aimed at improving watershed health and soil conservation will have ecological benefits beyond the land grant-merced boundaries."

Funds Available for Land and Water Conservation



Through a partner effort, the Rural Conservation Partners Program grant "Building Resiliency in the San Juan - Rio Chama Region" was recently approved for \$3.25 million in funding. This grant is a collaborative project to implement on-the-ground conservation practices on forest, range, and irrigated lands across a large region of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado, including the Alliance region. Funding is also available for conservation easements on private lands. The program and application process will be managed by the East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District.

Private landowners and lessees on public lands may be eligible to participate. Application materials are available now and are accepted on a rolling basis.

NM Sustainable Agriculture Conference December 12, 2018



The New Mexico Sustainable Agriculture Conference

December 12, 2018
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
UNM Valencia Campus, 280 La Entrada Rd.
Los Lunas, NM 87031



Issues in Sustainable Livestock Production in the Rocky Mountain Southwest

Join us for a series of panel discussions on vital issues concerning sustainable livestock production in the Rocky Mountain Southwest.

Topics will include: Management Intensive Grazing; Bison, A Sustainable Choice?; Marketing the Grass-fed Label; Is Supplemental Feeding a Sustainable Way to Deal with Drought?; Using Guardian Animals to Protect Flocks; Launching a Legal Dairy; Breed Selection for Increased Sustainability; When Is It Time to Call the Vet?; Grazing Poultry; Meeting Regulations in Egg Production; and, Fencing Options for Pastured Livestock. In addition a panel of SARE Grant awardees will talk about their work supported by SARE grants.

Presenters will include: Amy Wright, Triangle P Cattle Company; Charles Mallery, El Morro Valley Ranch; Antonio Manzanares, Shepherd's Lamb; Patricia Pantano, Camino de Paz; Nancy Coonridge, Coonridge Organic Goat Cheese; Dr. Tim Hanosh, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Services, NMDA; John McMullin, Embudo Valley Organics; Ray Johnson, Director, NMDA Consumer Services; Leonard Lauriault, Superintendent, Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari; Joseph Alfaro, Valle Encantado Farms, Dr. Derek Bailey, RGSC Professor of Animal and Range Sciences, NMSU; Melanie Kirby, Rocky Mountain Survivor Queenbee Cooperative.

Jim Freeburn, the Western SARE Professional Development Coordinator, and rancher in Ft. Laramie, Wyoming will deliver the Keynote address.

Please register here for more information, the conference schedule and directions to the conference:
<http://rsvp.nmsu.edu/rsvp/sustainable2018>

A free lunch will be provided and posters featuring the work of NMSU students researching sustainable agriculture will be available for viewing.

If you are an individual with a disability and need an auxiliary aid or service, please contact Laurie Novak at 575-646-1715 by Dec. 6, 2018.

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PSA Grower Training December 12, 2018



PSA Grower Training

NMSU-Rio Arriba County Extension Service, State Road 554
House #122-A Abiquiu, NM 87510

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

8:00am - 5:00pm

Cost: \$35 includes lunch, training manual and certificate of
course completion

Register Online: <http://psadec2018.ezregister.com/>

For information call Karen Montoya 575-646-2584 or click on
<http://aces.nmsu.edu/preparedness/food-safety-modernizatio.html>



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