

Subject: Good Water Practices: Repartimento, Growing, and Seed Sharing

From: communications@lasacequias.org

To: johplummer@yahoo.com

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Photo taken by Seth Roffman

Noticias de las Acequias

New Mexico Acequia
Association
April 13, 2018

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Ideas for Growing, Saving & Sharing Seeds This Year



By Emily Arasim, NMAA Farm Apprentice

The practice of saving and passing down seeds from hand to hand, amongst families and neighbors, has been maintained for countless generations amongst New Mexico's Indigenous and traditional acequia farming communities.

Over time - economic, social, and other changes at the state and global level have pressured farmers to stop saving their own seeds; and have in many places resulted in fewer exchanges of diversity, knowledge, stories, and skills between elder and younger generations.

However here in New Mexico, roots run deep, and many have quietly held tight to treasured varieties and know-how.

As we look towards a year of stress on our watersheds and acequia systems, it could not be more clear why we need to continue to protect, save, and share local, traditional seeds. Traditional seeds - such as our many place-based types of maíz, habas, beans, sunflowers, and chiles - **remember**, and grow stronger and more



Upcoming Even

Culture & Nature Community Picni Fiber Arts & Shee Shearing

April 15, 2018
9:00am-3:00pm
Los Luceros Histo
Ranch
Alcalde, NM

Good Water Practi

April 17, 2018
2:00-4:30pm
The Mision Museu
Espanola Valley
Chamber of
Commerce

Acequia Pathways Funding: Financi Compliance Works

April 19, 2018
9:00am-12:00pm

Nambe Communi Center Nambe, NM

13th Annual See Exchange

April 21, 2018
9:00am -4:00pm

Los Luceros Histo Ranch Alcalde, NM

resilient with every year of good care, as they adapt to specific local soils, waters and unpredictable weather conditions.

Saving our own seeds can also reduce yearly farm costs, and bring us the best health and happiness, as we select and save what tastes and works best for our families, businesses and diverse cultural uses.

In case you need a refresher as we prepare for planting - in case you don't have abuelos or neighbors to advise you - in case you have never tried your hand at saving seeds before - here are a few tips for the year.

To read the rest of these tips, please follow: <https://lasacequias.org/2018/04/12/ideas-for-growing-saving-sharing-local-seeds-this-year/>

Repartimiento, Drought, and Climate Change

**Acequia Pathways
Funding: Financi
Compliance Works**

-
**April 26, 2018
10:00am-1:00pm**

**Truth or
Consequences, N
Albert J. Lyon Eve
Center
2953 South Broadw**

Become a Membr

**Become a member
the New Mexico
Acequia Associati**

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 SUPPLY
FARMERS AND
RANCHERS?

The NMAA offers technical assistance
Acequia Governance
USDA programs for
landowners. If any
these questions apply
to you or your acequia,
please submit a
[Request for Technical
Assistance](#)

Written by Sylvia Rodríguez

Faced with too little water to irrigate as usual this spring, many acequia officers are currently holding stream wide meetings to talk about how to share and manage the shortages. This is done according to local custom. Traditional acequia governance is geared to accommodate conditions ranging from the abundance of water to extreme scarcity. Within a single acequia system or association, the Mayordomo allocates water to parciantes in good standing according to principles of equity, proportion, and need. Within a stream system, the river is shared among upstream and downstream acequias according to principles of need and equity as well as a customary proportional or rotational procedure for dividing the water (*repartimiento*). Such customary agreements have been worked out over generations of recurrent negotiation between neighbors under fluctuating "normal," plentiful, and adverse conditions. Each is tailored to its own particular

history and place. Some ultimately achieve the status of legal decrees while others may remain unwritten but are nonetheless clearly understood by all who inherit and observe them.

To read the rest of this article, please follow: <https://lasacequias.org/2018/04/12/repartimiento-drought-and-climate-change/>

Stories of the Next Generation of Acequia Leaders

To read testimonies please click: [The Next Generation of Acequia Leaders & Farmer](#)

The Next Generation of Acequia Leaders and Farmers Sembradores Team 2018

As acequias across the state are concerned with the aging population of parcelantes and commissioners, the New Mexico Acequia Association has responded with a Farmer Training Program we call *Los Sembradores*. We know that it is vital to lift up and create opportunities and networks of support for the next generation of aspiring farmers. Our program blends traditional land-based practices, new technology, leadership development, core values and a community health perspective. We are excited to introduce you to our 2018 Sembradores, all of whom are already leaders in their own right. We hope you will be inspired by their passion and dedication.

NMAA is honored to have 2 incredible Farmer Trainers / Mentors, each of whom brings an incredible wealth of knowledge and wisdom:

Edward Gonzales



I'm a long life resident of the valle de Chamisal y Ojito, and I've been farming & caring for the land my entire life. I am a farmer mentor along with my daughter Donne, and am happy to be given the opportunity to share my land based knowledge with anyone who wants to learn.

Acequias are important to me because we need to keep our heritage & water rights thriving.

Donne Gonzales



My name is Donne, I'm 23 years old and in my lifetime I have developed a great respect and love for gardening and our traditional practices.

I was blessed to be given the opportunity of being a NMAA Sembrando Semillas participant for over 10 years. When I was 19, I was accepted as an AFSC Farmer Trainee. During the second year, I was able to become a trainer and came to realize that being one with the mother earth was what gave me the most peace.

The Farmer Trainer program was transitioned from AFSC to NMAA, and I was given the opportunity to lead a group in Chamisal. This is our second year here, and this year's group has 5 farmer trainees. I strongly believe in sharing gardening skills, traditions and sharing my querencia for our land and acequias to individuals of all ages. I want my daughter, my family, and my community to have a healthy and traditional food source. We are truly blessed to have sacred land, water, and native seeds.

Linden Schneider, Las Vegas, NM



Having a background in botany, soil and water science, I joined the program to expand my knowledge of local farming and connect with farming communities in New Mexico. I hope to learn skills, techniques, and traditions that can help me engage the communities in and around Las Vegas in farming for local food production and to increase food security.

I see acequias, and their contribution to the local hydrology, becoming even more essential to maintaining the many different types of water systems we rely on, like wells, riparian areas, and shallow subsurface water throughout New Mexico, in the face of altered climate regimes. By teaching and learning in Las Vegas communities and surrounding areas about the scientific, cultural, ecological, and agricultural importance of acequias, I hope to preserve and promote their continued use.



Augustine Gonzales, Chamisal, NM
I am 19 years old, and part of the Los Sembradores program because I want to keep the family traditions going. This year, I will work hard to grow and care for a family garden.

I grew up between the Acequia del Monte and Acequia del Medio. My vision is to keep Acequia traditions going so we can water our crops, eat good food and have a healthy life. I am here to do my part in making that happen.



Jordan Lucero, Chimayo NM
Hello, my name is Jordan Lucero. I joined Los Sembradores so I can bring back the beauty and importance of gardening, not only into northern New Mexico's heart and eyes, but the world's! I want to build the community back together through the children and those struggling with addiction.

Acequias and farming are important to me because acequias keep our water flowing to our farm. It keeps us going to produce good food for our communities and family. My vision for acequias is to keep them clean, protected and free flowing for our future farmers! I'm contributing to that by cleaning the acequias and working hard to fight for our rights to keep acequias alive! El Agua Es La Vida!



Essence Quintana, Llano NM
I am 18 years old, and a resident of Llano, NM. I recently inherited 4 irrigated acres of land that has belonged to my family for many generations. I joined Los Sembradores because I wanted to learn how to keep a vegetable garden like my grandparents did when I was a child. During a recent trip to buy groceries, I realized that many of the vegetables that I'm buying can be grown here at home, and it's better to know where your food is coming from. My property is irrigated from the Acequia Madre, and this year I will participate on the Acequia Madre annual cleaning as a parcelante. My goal is that we keep the Acequia community going so that we will always have water for healthy crops.



Raul Rodriguez, Chamisal y Santa Fe, NM

I've always been an old soul, I was brought up by the belt, Bible, and hard work. My dad raised me in the generation of men where your word and your handshake mean something. I joined the program to work with the

Tierra de Dios. Too many people are busy with the hustle and bustle of life, that they don't see or hear or feel the little things, like the way the land smells or the way the sunlight feels on your face or the way the sun wakes up over the mountains. Acequias and farming are important to me because it's a way of life, and one of the most essential things in life is to grow, and to learn.



Emily Arasim, Tesuque, NM

I am a 24 year old farmer and seed saver, born and raised on the Acequia Madre de Tesuque. I am honored to have this opportunity to work with so many incredible community members who can help me learn and grow the skills, strength of spirit, and understanding needed to be a good steward of our regions seeds and farming lifeways.

Farming and our relationship with local waters and lands is the source of health, livelihoods, culture and identity, and survival for generations to come. Here in New Mexico we have maintained beautiful practices of care, and still have the huge opportunity and responsibility to protect these gifts, which have been lost across much of the rest of the world.

I dream of the day when all of the fields long left fallow are once again sprouting with local, traditional maize, chiles, beans and medicines. I dream of the day when our elders feel the weight lifted off of their shoulders, because they know that the next generations of hands and hearts are ready to carry forward their work and love of the land.

The Next Generation of Acequia Leaders and Farmers



Churro Sheep getting their haircut at Los Luceros, NM, 2017

Culture & Nature: Community Picnic, Fiber Arts and Sheep Shearing at Los Luceros

Sunday, April 15th, 2018 - 9am - 3pm

The enriching program includes:

- 9am - 3pm** - Demonstration of sheep shearing using hand shears by **Kerry Mower**
- 9am - 12pm** - Skirting demonstrations by **Connie Taylor**
- 11am - 2pm** - Several viewings of the documentary *An Unbroken Thread: Wool & Weaving in Northern New Mexico*, a 20-minute documentary teaches about the local wool history, explains the processing techniques and illustrates many weaving techniques.
- 11:30am and 1:30pm** - tour of the Historic Los Luceros Hacienda
- 12noon** - Bring your lunch and join us for a family picnic.
- 1pm - 3pm** - Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC), offers a nature weaving activity for families.

Donation: **Suggested donation of \$5 per vehicle**



NEW MEXICO - HISTORIC WEAVE

Good Water Practicies In Times of Drought



Good Water Practices

hosted by:



**ESPAÑOLA VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
THE HEART OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO

in Times of Drought

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 2 - 4:30 pm

The Misión Museum
at the Espanola Valley Chamber of Commerce
1 Calle De Las Espanolas
Espanola, NM 87532

with presentations from:



Please RSVP to Trish at
505.753.2831 or info@espanolanmchamber.com

Business After Hours to follow at the Blue Heron

Acequia Pathways to Funding: Financial Compliance Workshop



**Thursday April 19 2018, 9am-12pm
Nambe Community Center**

180 A SR 503

Join the NMAA to learn about:

- funding opportunities for acequia infrastructure projects
- financial compliance requirements of receiving funding

The workshop will focus on the responsibilities of acequias and other small political subdivisions to comply with audit and budget requirements of the State of New Mexico.

Presentations and educational materials will be provided by the Office of the State Auditor, the Department of Finance and Administration, and the NMAA.

Learn the steps you should follow to be compliant with state law, the State Auditor and the Department of Finance and Administration.

NMAA urges all acequias to send at least one Commissioner, particularly Treasurers.

The workshop is also valuable for elected officials from land grants and MDWCAs.

The New Mexico Acequia Association is a statewide organization of acequias and regional associations of acequias. The mission of the New Mexico Acequia Association is to protect water and our acequias, grow healthy food for our families and communities, and to honor our cultural heritage.

To become a member of the NMAA or for more information about our community education programs, please call our office at **505.995.9644** or visit our website **www.lasacequias.org**

Email **Serafina@lasacequias.org** with questions regarding the event.

Acequia Pathways to Funding: Financial Compliance Workshop



Acequia Pathways to Funding: Financial Compliance

Thursday April 26 2018, 10am-1pm
T or C Albert J. Lyon Event Center

2953 South Broadway

Join the NMAA to learn about:

- funding opportunities for acequia infrastructure projects
- financial compliance requirements of receiving funding

The workshop will focus on the responsibilities of acequias and other small political subdivisions to comply with audit and budget requirements of the State of New Mexico.

Co-Sponsored by the Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District



Presentations and educational materials will be provided by the Office of the State Auditor, the Department of Finance and Administration, and the NMAA.

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Support the NM Acequia Association! Donate Today



Acequia Madre San Jose de la Cienega -Photo taken by Dustin Vigil

NMAA has a comprehensive approach to fulfill our vision of acequias flowing with clean water and people working together to grow food and celebrate our cultural heritage. Our work centers on all aspects of keeping acequias thriving, including: acequia governance, water rights protection, farmer training, leadership development and organizing, policy advocacy, youth engagement, food and seed sovereignty.

Will you join the NM Acequia Association TODAY with a donation and membership to advance *el movimiento en defensa del agua*?

Donor Levels

Padrino/Madrina de las Acequias \$500 and above

Hermano/Hermana de las Acequias \$250-\$500

Amigo/Amiga de las Acequias \$25-\$250

Membership Levels

Regional Acequia Association membership \$75

Individual Acequia membership \$50

Parciante/Supporter membership \$25

Membership includes a newsletter subscription.

Note: Donations to NMAA are tax deductible.

***Make checks payable to the New Mexico Acequia Association,
805 Early St. Blg B Suite 203 Santa Fe NM 87505***

Donate Today At: <https://lasacequias.org/product/donate/>

New Mexico Acequia Association, 805 Early St. , Building B, Suite 203, Santa

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