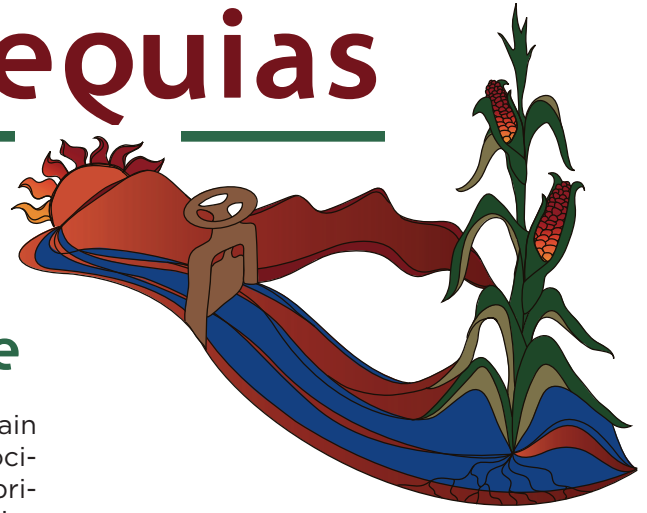


Noticias de las Acequias

New Mexico *Acequia* Association • Spring 2015



60 Days in the Session: Legislative Update

by Paula Garcia, Executive Director

(Note: The 2015 NM State Legislative Session started on January 20th and ended on March 21st.)

Agricultural Land Bill Passes with Bipartisan Support

When the word spread in Taos County that property taxes were increasing on hundreds of parcels of land, a group of citizens mobilized to find a solution. A *Taos News* story about the Mondragon family illustrated the problem with a tax increase from \$37 per year to over \$2,600 on land historically used for agriculture. Mr. Mondragon, 86, explained that the higher taxes could force him and other long-time Taos families to sell their land. Many in Taos could relate to the story and were moved to make some policy changes that could prevent such steep increases in property taxes. That was the genesis of SB 112.

A major win for agriculture in the 2015 legislative session was the passage of SB 112 (Cisneros-Gonzales). The bill, which passed unanimously through both the Senate and House, provides an additional tool for assessors to help prevent property tax increases on lands that have been used for agriculture. The legislation originated as a grassroots initiative by people in Taos County who were concerned about sudden and significant

increase in property taxes on certain lands. The New Mexico Acequia Association made the bill a top legislative priority after the Congreso de las Acequias was held in Taos in November of 2014 and statewide acequia leadership unanimously supported legislation to address the problem.

Once the legislation was introduced, the concept gained the support of several other statewide organizations including the New Mexico Association of Counties, New Mexico Assessors Affiliate, the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts, New Mexico Wool Growers Association and the New Mexico Cattlegrowers Association. The bill was amended in legislative committees to clarify the intent of the bill and to address concerns by some county assessors. Specifically, the bill was narrowed to focus on drought and to provide a precise definition of drought that would enable assessors to implement the law with greater clarity.

If enacted into law, the bill will provide a tool for county assessors to consider drought when determining whether

land can be assessed as agricultural. Assessors currently can assess land use for agricultural purposes using a special method of valuation. In order to be eligible for this special method, the land has to be used for a bona fide agricultural purpose. The bill allows assessors to consider whether drought is a factor in the lack of agricultural production in a given year. It specifically allows assessors to use USDA Drought Monitor information to determine if "moderate" drought was a reason for resting land.

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Acequia leaders gathered to support SB 112 - Ag Land Bill.

Defending the Value of Our Land: Ag Valuation in Santa Fe County



Orlando Romero proudly showcasing some of his grapes.

by Enrique Romero, New Mexico Legal Aid

Nambe is one of the most beautiful places in Northern New Mexico, especially when the seasons are changing. The transition from winter to spring is one of my favorites. While most everything else lies dormant under the cold, moist soil, the wild orchard grass and the irises, eager to get an early start at life, break through the remnants of last

year's fertility. The snow packed Sangres tower over the village, reminding us of the source of the seventeen acequias that divert water from the Rio Nambe, providing water to over 1700 acres of irrigated land in the valley. One of these acequias, La Acequia Nueva, irrigates the property of native Nambeseño Orlando Romero.

Orlando's property, which he has named La Villa Enrique in honor of his grandfather who moved to the property in 1929, is a wonderful balance of nature and domesticity. During this time of year, bees swarm around apricot trees in full bloom. The trees are not planted military style in organized rows or set a certain number of feet apart. Rather, the fruit trees surround his home, and have been strategically placed so that he can take advantage of the deep shade the large apricot and apple trees provide. Under the fruit trees are picnic tables where Orlando and his family enjoy outdoor gatherings during the spring, summer, and fall months. While the trees provide shade, the cool acequia water that flows through the laterals that meander just outside his front porch cool off the earth during the summer. The laterals provide water to grapevines, flower and vegetable gardens, and nearly three dozen apple, cherry, apricot, and peach trees.

Orlando has made creative, and efficient, use of his 2.9 acres.

Now, all around the property is evidence of spring cleaning. There are piles of branches ready to be mulched, new fruit trees ready to be planted, and clean laterals ready to take on the responsibility of making this place come to life. Orlando has been irrigating every year since his return from graduate school in 1976. The spring cleaning is a lot of work, but the rewards at the end of the year, and during the hot summer months, make the work meaningful.

In late January, Orlando received a letter from the Santa Fe County Assessor. The letter stated that his land would be losing its agricultural status for property tax valuation in 2016 unless he provided proof that it was "still primarily used for agricultural purposes." The letter suggested that Orlando, as the landowner, had the burden of showing the Assessor by July 1, 2015, that the land was being used for agriculture. Orlando was outraged when he read the letter. He says he remembers someone from the Assessor's Office coming to the property a year or two ago, and that soon afterward, his 2014 property taxes skyrocketed. He thinks that it must have been during this "site visit" that the employee

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**NEW MEXICO
ACEQUIA ASSOCIATION**

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*La Asociacion de las Acequias
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Rio Frijoles, Rio
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En Memoria: Remembering Our Acequeros

Because of the work of our ancestors, elders and maestros we now stand on the shoulders of giants taking steps to ensure that our acequias and way-of-life will never be erased from this landscape. We pause to reflect on and honor the lives of the men and women who worked tirelessly for our acequias out of love and querencia.

Jose Manuel Archuleta

Rebalse Acequia, Arroyo Seco
March 22, 1915 - January 8, 2015

Jose Manuel Archuleta of Arroyo Seco (Taos County), who was honored with NMAA's Farmer of the Year Award in 2010 at the age of 95, passed away on January 18th at the blessed age of 99. Archuleta spent nearly his entire life raising livestock and growing crops in Des Montes. He will always be remembered by his neighbors as the man walking in the 40-acre alfalfa fields with his irrigation shovel. Always irrigating. He loved water and land. He also had a love for ranching. He was riding a horse until the age of 97! Mr. Archuleta's lifelong dedication to his acequia is an example of the "oro del barrio" that still exists in our communities: a humble and multi-generational commitment to the land and water that has kept our acequias flowing and fields planted for centuries.

Mr. Archuleta's family created a beautiful and heart-felt video that we encourage you to watch - go to www.youtube.com and search for "Jose Manuel Archuleta."



Fred Martinez

Acequia Leonardo Martinez,
Cañoncito
February 4, 2015

Fred Martinez, resident of Cañoncito, passed away on February 4th, 2015. Fred, along with his wife, are the owners of the Fred and Ruby Martinez Apple Orchard where they have 3,500 apple trees, 350 peach trees and some cherry trees over a 23 acre orchard producing crops for over 45 years.

Fred was an active member of the Acequia Leonardo Martinez in Cañoncito off of the Rio Embudo. He was named Farmer of the Year in 2008 by the New Mexico Acequia Association and the Embudo Valley Acequia Association, and was awarded Farm Family of the Year by the NM USDA in 2006.

Ruby shared with NMAA that the orchard would remain in the family. Together, they would continue the work started over 50 years ago by Fred's father, Delfin.



Filimon V. Martinez

Acequia de los Espinoza, Chimayo
September 22, 1939 - March 2, 2015

It is with great honor that I write to you regarding my grandfather, Filimon Martinez. My name is Andrea Padilla and I would like to give you a glimpse of a hard-working and compassionate man who loved "the tierra, the land" he called home.

Filimon Martinez, born and raised in Chimayo, the kind of man known and recognized by all as a great friend.

Whether it needed a fixing, an opinion or just a remembrance from the past, Filimon was the go-to guy, the "MacGyver," the answer! For thirty-nine years he worked as a Crane operator for Davis and Associates, until he retired and took on to his next chapter, where he became the Mayordomo for the Acequia de los Espinoza's in Chimayo for fifteen years. The acequias were such an important part of Filimon's character, because he knew how important they are for the sustenance and vitality for our lives here in Northern New Mexico. After he stepped down as Mayordomo, he stayed active working in the acequias as treasurer, collecting from all who benefit from the acequias in Chimayo. He could be easily found cruising the streets of Chimayo in his "red truck." Filimon's spirit and legacy live on through the stories and wisdom he passed on to those of us I'd like to call blessed. "El agua es la vida," and Filimon really defined that meaning, as a vibrant and full of life man, teaching others of the importance of acequias, keeping traditions and heritage alive, benefitting our future, working and uniting us all as a community.



Que en Paz Descansen



Acequeros and leaders came out for the Senate Conservation Committee Hearing on SB 493 (Water Leasing Bill).



Paula Garcia and David Benavides right before serving as experts on the the Senate Floor for SB 493 (Water Leasing Bill).

To read the complete legislation, visit www.nmlegis.gov and look up SB 112 in the Bill Finder. The NMAA wishes to thank the people of Taos County who took the initiative to address the issue of agricultural land valuation. While the bill is only part of solving a larger issue, it is an important step forward. Thank you also to the sponsors of the legislation, Senator Carlos Cisneros and Representative Bobby Gonzales who worked to move the bill through the legislative process. Patricia Quintana, a farmer-rancher from Taos who also worked as NMAA's registered lobbyist, was tireless in her advocacy for the bill. The Assessors' Affiliate of the NM Association of Counties was a vital partner in moving the bill by providing expert testimony and working out the consensus language that allowed the bill to gain broad support from legislators across the state. The bill now heads to Governor Susana Martinez for her review and hopefully for her signature.

Water Leasing Bill Cleared Senate, Stalled in House

Jackie Powell of Lincoln County has followed in the footsteps of her father as a defender of the water of the Upper Hondo. For several years, she has tracked the water rights acquisitions of the Village of Ruidoso and is well known as a watchdog when it comes to water transfers in her area. In the summer of 2014, she learned that the State Engineer had granted to the Village an application for "immediate use" of water. The application was published AFTER the state had already granted the permission to the Village of Ruidoso to use the water. She and other local leaders mobilized over a hundred individuals and local entities, including Lincoln County, acequias, and mutual domestics, to protest three applications for a total of over 300 protests altogether.

Unfortunately, the permission for "immediate use" had already been made by the State Engineer and it would continue while the protest was pending. The protestants to the application have argued that their rights to due process have been violated. They further argue that the leasing statute does not allow the State Engineer to grant "preliminary approval" before a protested application has gone through a public hearing. Although the existing law is quite clear in the requirement for due process in water lease applications, local leaders sought a policy solution to prevent the situation from occurring to other acequias.

As a result of their efforts, one of NMAA's legislative priorities was to clarify due process protections in New Mexico's water leasing statute. SB 493 was cosponsored by Sen. Peter Wirth and Rep. Andy Nuñez and added clarifying language to Chapter 72, Article 6, to ensure that applications for water leases follow legal procedures that guarantee due process to those whose water rights would potentially be impaired by a proposed water lease application.

The bill was necessary because of a relative new practice by the State Engineer of granting "preliminary approval" to water lease applications. According to OSE attorneys, the practice has been in place for about seven years, but the Ruidoso applications were the first known to NMAA to directly impact acequias and community ditches. Once the bill was introduced, other entities and water rights owners who had been impaired by these expedited water lease applications came forward to support the bill. For example, both the Carlsbad Irrigation District and Elephant Butte Irrigation District joined forces with NMAA because some expedited leases were impairing agricultural water rights without the opportunity for a hearing to give testimony about impairment. Other groups supporting the bill included the NM Environmental Law Center, the Oil and Gas Accountability Project, and the Conservation Voters of New Mexico. Opponents of the bill included water brokers, some oil and gas representatives, and the Office of the State Engineer.

The bill passed the Senate with bi-partisan support. Some Senators expressed concerns about how the lack of a shortcut on water leases could negatively affect industry and some of those same legislators encouraged the bill Sponsor Peter Wirth to continue working on the bill to find some compromise language. NMAA and other supporters of the bill including the irrigation districts, the NM Cattlegrowers' Association, and Debbie Hughes (representing her family) proposed language that would create an expedited approval process for emergency water leases. The proposal was to keep due process but to process applications within a shorter but reasonable timeframe. However, the opponents of the bill were more favorable to an approach that would codify the ongoing practice of the State Engineer of granting approval (for non-emergency uses) without a hearing and adding a time cap of three years on the preliminary approval. They may have also agreed to a limited

acequia provision but it was not adequate to address broader concerns about due process and potential impairment.

With lack of a resolution between the two sides, the opposition to the bill was enough to delay a hearing in the House and progress on the bill halted in the last week of the session. It was a missed opportunity to address a very serious situation in New Mexico that could affect a wide variety of water rights. The issue of water leasing will likely be discussed during the legislative interim committees in the coming months. NMAA would like to thank our sponsors, Senator Wirth and Representative Nuñez and all the supporters of the bill. NMAA extends a special thanks to Jackie Powell whose devotion to defending water was the driving force behind the legislation. And thank you to Maurice and Mary Hobson who dedicated countless hours to lobbying for the bill on behalf of the NMAA. We were very heartened by the conviction with which Senator Wirth presented the bill and defended its purpose and we look forward to future work with him to address the fundamental protections for due process in New Mexico water law.

Capital Outlay Bill Did Not Pass

Each legislative session, the House, Senate, and Governor generate a list of capital projects to be funded through a capital outlay bill with funds coming primarily from severance tax bonds from oil and gas revenue. Legislative leadership and the Governor work toward a reasonable agreement on which projects should be on their list, but, because of limited resources, there is sometimes disagreement over priorities.

This year, the Senate passed a capital outlay bill (SB 159) based on a certain list of statewide priorities and individual member projects. However, a House committee made substantial amendments to the bill and generated a somewhat different list of priorities. The Senate version included a special appropriation \$1 million dollars to the Interstate Stream Commission for acequia projects statewide as well as some local acequia projects. The House version did not include the \$1 million appropriation to the ISC. The bill was debated extensively on the House floor and passed with just a few minutes remaining for the Senate to concur. With no concurrence by the Senate, the bill died in the final minutes of the session.

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Sembrando Semillas Spring Cambalache and the Year Ahead



Cambalache! Where we build relationships and share our good fortune with each other.

“Everything is energy,” said Antonio Medina as he addressed our group of over 60 acequeros, youth, children and allies at our Sembrando Semillas Spring Cambalache on March 22nd. We stood gathered outside of the commercial kitchen at Los Luceros in Alcalde to pray together before our delicious meal of Lenten specialties such as *Torta de Huevo* and *quelites*. Antonio led us in prayer, speaking passionately about the profound connection we hold to the life-forces of our universe: the water, the land, the seeds.

Sembrando Semillas was created in 2006 by the NMAA to engage the next generation of acequia farmers and community leaders. The project is part of a broader vision of the NMAA to create vibrant communities with locally grown food, healthy families, and secure land and water rights that are all intertwined by cultural identity and *querencia*, or love of the land. Over the years the project has been very successful in connecting our youth to their ancestral food and agriculture traditions. Last year we made a simple but profound change by shifting the focus from being a youth-based project to an **inter-generational learning community** of families, youth, and mentors. We are a network of acequia leaders of all ages, passionate about our identity as land-based people who express our *querencia* through working the land, sharing water, and growing food.

Participants work on agricultural-related projects in their own communities with a strong focus on acequia traditions and values. We learn from each other by exchanging ideas, visiting each other’s projects and communities, and doing hands-on activities together. This year there will be six sites involved in Sembrando Semillas. In Mora the Family and Community Gardening project is led by Antonio Medina, Debbie Rivera and Marino Rivera, as well as several other mentors and youth. The Garcia-Gonzales family in Chamisal has been the heart of Sembrando Semillas for many years and continues to be involved in all aspects. We now have relationships with two different partners in the South Valley of Albuquerque who will be involved: Los Jardines Institute led by Richard Moore, Sofia Martinez and Joseluis Ortiz; and Grow the Future/Cornelio Candelaria Organics led by Travis McKenzie, Lorenzo Candelaria and Dora Pacias. In Abiquiu Isabel and Virgil Trujillo are leading a project in conjunction with the Pueblo de Abiquiu Library and Cultural Center. Luis Peña and Beata Tsosie-Peña are leading the activities in the community of Servilleta.

Twice a year in the Spring and in the Fall we have a Cambalache in which all of the groups gather to build relationships and connections to each other, work together, celebrate our hard work and *cosechas* and just generally enjoy being in each other’s company. For our Spring Cambalache on March 22nd the youth learned how to make *torta de huevo* from Juliet’s Tia Mary. They also rolled out flour tortillas and learned how to make fresh corn tortillas from the *nixtamal* (posole) that we made

at our Fall Cambalache in 2014. We had a GPS Acequia Treasure Hunt that led young and old alike through a series of clues to find the hidden treasures (Easter eggs stuffed with prizes) scattered throughout the property. We prayed together, laughed together, shared a meal and countless *abrazos y cariños* together.

At the heart of Sembrando Semillas is a deep, enduring sense of love and respect that drives the activities, work, relationships, values and passion among the participants. Our *ranchitos, huertas* and *milpas* bring us so much more than just fresh food. They are our connection to our ancestors and primal wisdom, to our grandchildren and to each other. Everything we do comes full circle back to the land. We share our lessons, stories, heartaches and successes with each other throughout the growing season. Together we heal, grow and plant seeds for our future.

For more information about Sembrando Semillas please contact either Pilar or Juliet at the NMAA. 💧



Coming together to make tortillas for the shared meal. Above: Dora Pacias and Noberto Armijo getting an early start before the others arrived. Below: Youth from Servilleta stepping in to help before lunch.

Defending the Value of Our Land: Ag Valuation in Santa Fe County

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made the determination that his land was no longer being used for agriculture. The only thing that makes any sense, Orlando says, is that this employee came out when everything was dormant and didn't see the laterals throughout the property. Or maybe the employee didn't know what he was looking for. Now Orlando, and every other property owner who received this letter, has to submit evidence of agricultural use, including photos, inventories of agricultural products, and receipts of agriculture-related purchases. The ball's in his court now, and Orlando is preparing to refute the Assessor's erroneous conclusions.

For Orlando, the burden of submitting proof of what should be obvious was not the most outrageous part of the letter. Rather, it was the conclusion that "agricultural use [had] been abandoned for an excessive number of years." The letter didn't say how many years, but referred to the statutes and regulations under which the Assessor's determination was made. So what do the statutes and regs say? Section 7-36-20 NMSA 1978 states that the valuation is based on the "land's capacity to produce agricultural products." Agricultural products are fairly inclusive and range from the most obvious items - plants, crops, trees, orchard crops, livestock, dairy products, honey, and wool - to less common products like mohair, hides, pelts, and fish. Basically, as long as the products are either used for subsistence or sold, or used to produce other products which are then sold or used for subsistence, state law allows the agricultural valuation. Landowners who are resting their land to maintain its capacity to produce agricultural products later, may also receive the agricultural valuation. Also, certain lands in federal soil conservation programs may qualify.

Even with this rather expansive definition of "agricultural products," the valuation has limitations. For example, the regulations require a minimum of one acre of land to qualify for the agricultural valuation. Landowners who own less



Romero's home in Nambe.

than one acre may still qualify if the agricultural products produced on the land are orchards, poultry, or fish. If the land also includes a home, the regulations presume that the homesite is one acre. Therefore, one acre will be subtracted from the land valued as ag unless the landowner can prove the homesite is less than one acre. Another restriction pertains to grazing. Even if the landowner owns more than one acre of land, he may not necessarily qualify for the agricultural valuation if he is using his land for grazing. Each year the property tax division establishes the carrying capacity of grazing land and bases the minimum acreage requirement on the carrying capacity. Currently in Santa Fe County, the minimum acreage to qualify for the agricultural valuation for Class A properties is 80 acres and for Class B is 54 acres.

The minimum acreage requirements for grazing and for growing crops is what frustrate Orlando the most and is the main reason why he feels the law is flawed. The law simply ignores the historic and modern reality of Northern New Mexico. Orlando, a historian and writer, says that the Spanish colonial record indicates that the small plot predominated during the colonial period, and as late as the 19th century the "long lots" of Northern New Mexico were composed primarily of small acreages. Like today, families made efficient use of plots of land between one half to one acre, growing many varieties of vegetables and other produce. Families used

those small plots for growing food for subsistence, or for sale, or to give to their extended family. When it comes to the grazing requirement, Orlando says it was rare to have one farmer own fifty acres of land just for grazing. In fact, it was common even when he was a child to graze goats and cows along the river banks in lieu of grazing on your own property. Also, it was not uncommon for a farmer to purchase feed from a neighboring farmer to supplement what he grew for his livestock.

So for now, Orlando is going to do what he's always done. He'll prune his fruit trees and grapevines, till his gardens, and wait for La Acequia Nueva to deliver the lifeblood of this valley's history and culture. If he is unable to convince the Assessor, Orlando is prepared to protest the valuation in 2016 before the County Valuation Protests Board. He doesn't want it to come to that, but receiving the agricultural classification is more than just about relieving the burden of increased property taxes. It's about preserving historical continuity and the importance of the small agricultural plot in Northern New Mexico.

Assessors across the state implement Agricultural Evaluation of land. Land with an Agricultural Valuation has a much lower tax duty. The New Mexico Acequia Association supports acequeros in defending their Agricultural Valuation. Please contact our office at 505-995-9644 if you have questions. 💧



Take advantage of USDA programs to support your farm or ranch, including production, irrigation system, and soil improvements. Photo of native *alberjon* growing with drip tape.

NMAA Farmer / Rancher Team Available to Assist with USDA Programs

The Farmer/Rancher Team is pleased to announce that we are available once again to support Parciantes and Land-Owners in accessing a variety of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Programs.

NMAA supports our acequias from every angle. Supporting farmers and ranchers in multiple ways is the key to maintaining our acequias as the life blood of our culture and our communities.

Please call on the team to help you take advantage of financial assistance, loan, crop insurance, infrastructure, and technical assistance programs that can support your operation! We can walk you through the requirements and programs, what to expect, how to apply, and what to do once your application is successful. Please don't hesitate to call Serafina or Juliet at 505-995-9644.

For descriptions of USDA Programs that might be right for you, application deadlines and other information, see page 11.

The Seasonal Cycle of Acequia Management: A Mayordomo's Work During the Spring

The following is an excerpt from *The Mayordomía Handbook and Field Guide*, developed by the NMAA to serve as a practical guide for a new mayordomo or mayordoma in training.

Most duties during this time carry over from the winter rest period. It is a good idea to walk the acequia again to check on ice conditions, rocks and other debris that have rolled into the ditch. You don't want surprises when you begin the limpia. If heavy runoff is expected, be sure to have extra blocking at the atarque to prevent runoff damage to banks, compuertas, and silting. Depending on your acequia by-laws, tradition, conditions etc., set the date for the limpia and the date for opening the main head gates. Each acequia is unique in this respect.

MARCH & APRIL.

For most acequias this is the beginning of acequia work; as mayordomo you are coming out of hibernation.

Main duties during this period are:

1. La Limpia

- a. Gather crew, assemble parciales, or gather peones
- b. Gather appropriate tools (shovels, rakes, chain saw, trailers, backhoe, etc.)
- c. Inform all landowners of upcoming limpia so as to avoid easement issues.
- d. You may need to obtain a burn permit from your County Fire Marshall. Conversely, your acequia by-laws may require you to remove all trash and silt piles from bank of acequia.
- e. Mark out areas or serial sections for cleaning if that is the custom on your ditch.
- f. Lubricate all head gates and valves as the limpia progresses

Plan the limpia to be done as close to the date of planned opening of the head gate; this prevents wind blowing in debris if too much time passed before opening head gate and letting water flow.

2. Open head gate: follow the water down the entire acequia (usually requires some help), making sure all debris is removed and no blockages are evident; check and recheck. **Work Safely! Don't flood the parciales!!!!** 💧



A mayordomo is ever-vigilant to the ebbs and flows of the acequia, demonstrated here by Virgil Trujillo of Acequia del Pueblo in Abiquiu.

Governance Tips: Acequia Easements

What is an easement?

An easement is a legal right-of-way onto another person's land. Acequias have a type of easement that is well-established and often centuries-old. An acequia easement runs along the ditch and its laterals. The "bordo" of the acequia is generally within the easement of that acequia. State law says that the width of the easement should be adequate for reasonable maintenance, use, and improvements. The easement carries with it the right to access (maintain, use, or improve) the entire length of the ditch. The acequia easement includes the right to make reasonable improvements. This includes the use of certain machinery as long as its use is for "reasonable maintenance, use or improvements." The acequia easement also includes the right to gain access to the ditch through traditional points of access, even when that includes crossing a person's property. There must be legitimate acequia business to be done each time there is entry onto someone's property.



Example of a clear and unobstructed acequia easement. Acequia Junta y Cienega. Photo credit: Estevan Arellano.

What kind of legal document is needed for an acequia easement?

According to state law, an acequia has a legal easement as long as it has been used historically, since its establishment, for at least five continuous years. Once an easement is established, it remains intact. Acequias generally have easements that date back several hundred years. No legal documents are required. The easement exists because of historic use regardless of whether the acequia has documented this easement.

However, some acequias have documented their easements for purposes of informing parciales of the acequia easement. Good documentation of your easements also helps you protect this important right of your acequia. Some ways to document your easement are as follows:

- Inform your Parciales
Include a section in your bylaws that defines your acequia easement and traditional points of access. Ensure that all parciales on your acequia have a copy of your bylaws. The NMAA has sample language to include in acequia bylaws.
- Document your Easement
File a map of your acequia that includes your easement and points of access with the county clerk so that it is on record for title searches.

What are some examples of violations of an acequia easement?

Access to the acequia is very important. In addition to informing your parciales about your easement, acequia officials should also carefully monitor any actions by landowners that may be violations of the acequia easement. Some of these violations include the following:

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Acequias and the Growing Season: Faith, Work, Sharing, and Local Knowledge

Rose petals in the acequia during a San Isidro blessing.

The following is an excerpt from *Nuestra Cosecha: Reflections on Acequia Agriculture in Northern New Mexico*.

Acequias and Repartimiento de Agua

The customs that guide the sharing of scarce water have evolved in our communities over centuries among the parcientes who nourish their crops with acequia water. These customs are known as the repartimiento, or reparto, and are one of the most important cultural practices in New Mexico. Water sharing customs guide the distribution of water within each acequia and between acequias that share a common river, stream, or spring. These customs have an underlying principle that is embodied in the culture which is that water is essential to all life and is must be shared. Some customs will include a prioritization of water for basic survival including drinking water for livestock, kitchen gardens for home use, or orchards with uses such as irrigation of pasture have a lesser priority in times of extreme shortage. Each acequia is unique with some having specified hours each day for small gardens which accounts for the need to more frequently irrigate vegetable crops.

Traditional Knowledge

The people of northern New Mexico have a deep sense of place and continue to identify by their home village, mountain, acequia, valley, or other feature in the landscape. Along with this awareness is an intrinsic knowledge about seasonal patterns and the movement of water through the watershed and into the acequias that feed fields with irrigation water. A vital body of knowledge

needed to cultivate crops in the north is the awareness of the growing season. The growing season is short and varies from village to village which requires that farmers have a good understanding of best time to plant. This is often done by correlating certain times in the growing season with saint's days, which are commonly known in the predominantly Catholic communities. For example, the Garcia family in Chamisal follows a traditional spiritual calendar to guide their planting activities, summarized in the following table:

DATE	SAINT DAY	ACTIVITY
March 19	San Jose	Almasigos (seedlings)
May 3	Santa Cruz	Early corn planting *
May 15	San Ysidro	Planting
August 7	San Lorenzo	Corn harvesting *
August 30	Santa Rosa	Hard freeze, end of season



Three sisters: corn, beans and squash, planted together the traditional way. Photo credit: Estevan Arellano

*Mr. Garcia notes that if corn is planted on Dia Santa Cruz (and it doesn't freeze), there can be harvest by Dia San Lorenzo—but only if it is a local variety. 💧



Regando una milpa. Photo credit: Estevan Arellano

Plática on the Repartimiento

The custom calls for the commissioners of all acequias to get together at the beginning of the box canyon, Cañoncito, where the Acequia de Leonardo Martinez begins on the north side and Sancochada on the south, and there they calculate the amount of water. The way it usually works is that the four upper acequias (Leonardo Martinez and Duranes on the north side, and Sancochada and Medio on the south side) get the water for three days, and the four lower (Apodaca and Bosque on the north side and Llano and la Plaza on the south side) get the water for four days. Then the cycle is repeated until the drought is over. Then once the water is in the acequias, the water is then shared based on the amount of land each parciante (water-rights owner) has. The way it works is that each parciante is given a "papelito," a piece of paper, telling him/her the day and time and for how long they can have the water in each cycle which is seven days. Some get as little as fifteen minutes and it might be at 12 midnight or 3 in the morning, depending where they end up in the rotation.

—Estevan Arellano's notes from Lebeo Sanchez.



Communities Unite Against Santolina Master Plan

Led by tractors and love for our land, our voices raised as one en defensa del agua... "¡Agua sí! Santolina No!... Hey Hey Ho Ho, Santolina has got to go!... Say no to Santolina, cuz agua es la vida... El agua no se vende, el agua se defiende!" You may have caught us on the evening news or even the front page of the *Albuquerque Journal*, when nearly 200 concerned citizens, community leaders and acequeros gathered to say "NO" to the Santolina Master Plan before the Bernalillo County Commission for approval or rejection. This plan for a new development on the SW Albuquerque outskirts would require an estimated 22,000 acre-feet per year (or 20 million gallons of water per day), would span nearly 22 acres of what is now sand dunes and eventually could be home to upwards of 90,000 people. This threatens existing farmland and water rights in the entire Middle Rio Grande Valley. NMAA has worked closely to support the efforts of partners, as well as to submit public comment questioning the availability of water for this development, while other groups have stressed the need to reinvest in Albuquerque and not waste tax dollars. NMAA thanks the Contra Santolina Working group, AFSC, CeSOSS, South Valley Regional Acequia Association, SWOP, South Valley Neighborhood Coalition and many other groups and individuals who have made this movement happen. Because of their efforts and months of organizing, enough pressure was put on the Bernalillo County Commission that the Commission decided to delay the vote to approve or deny Santolina until a hearing on May 11th. Keep up to date with the latest news on Santolina by following our Facebook page or the ContraSantolina Facebook page. ¡Hasta la Victoria Siempre! 💧



Poesía

Memoria Desmemoriada / Forgetful Memory by Juan Estevan Arellano

La memoria se me está acabando
 No sólo a mi, sino también a la tierra,
 El caballo alazán tostado ya no sabe como trabajar
 Ni conoce el arado, menos la jaida o la escardina
 Hace un siglo que'l caballo era el mejor amigo del hombre
 Le ayudaba a traer leña de la Cejita, siguiendo todo el arroyo de la plaza
 Con el caballo se divertía el hombre corriendo en la pareja,
 Al chueco y al gallo por las fiestas
 Los hombres eran furnidos, fuertes y trabajaban de sol a sol
 Y las mujeres no solo criaban las familias pero atendían las milpas y huertas de chile
 Por el invierno vivían de los tasajos de calabazas y melones mexicanas
 Las perchas se veían desde lejos colmadas de cecinas de vaca y borrega
 Las acequias surtían a la comunidad de agua para regar los sembrados
 De ahí también bebía agua la gente tanto como los animales,
 Y las mujeres usaban su agua para la lavar la ropa,
 Sus bordos eran los caminos de la comunidad, un complejo de redes
 Que hoy en día ya desaparecieron, la memoria ya se borró,
 Igual que se borraron los surcos y las besanas
 Los montes mejor se queman que dejar a la gente cosecharlos
 Ya no sabemos cuales hierbas nos sanan y cuales nos enferman
 Nos podemos morir de hambre rodeados de hierbas que se comen
 Y morirnos de sed parados arriba del agua
 Qué triste cuando una persona pierde su memoria,
 Pero más triste es cuando la sociedad se le olvida de donde vino,
 Y peor tristeza cuando la tierra pierde su habilidad de producir
 Y las semillas ya no saben cuando reventar, ya se les olvidó
 Por no ser nativas de esta tierra.
 Que tristeza me da que en un siglo se fue la memoria
 La tierra ya no produce, se volvió rala
 Las acequias ya no corren, sucia está el agua en lugar de cristalina
 Nuestra lengua ya no se escucha, nuestros hijos della se avergüenzan.

My memory is starting to fade
 Not only mine, but also the earth's
 The sorrel roasted colored horse no longer knows how to work
 He doesn't recognize the plow, neither the sod-buster, much less the tiller
 A century ago the horse was man's best friend
 He helped bring firewood from the brow of the mountain, following the Plaza arroyo
 With the horse, man used him to recreate on the horse race site
 Playing horse hockey and pulling the rooster
 Men were robust, strong and worked from sun up to sun down
 And women not only tended to their families, they also took care of the corn and chile plots
 During the winter they lived off the dried squash and Mexican melons
 The clothes line could be seen from a distance full of beef and lamb jerky
 The acequias fed the communities with water to irrigate their fields
 From there they also drank water both people and animals
 Women used its water to wash their clothes
 Their banks were the community roads, a complex of mazes
 Today they have disappeared, the memory has faded
 The same as the farrows and rows have disappeared
 The mountains burn instead of allowing people to harvest them
 We no longer know which plants heal us and which make us sick
 We can die of hunger surrounded by edible plants
 And die of thirst while standing on top of water
 How sad when a person loses their memory
 But it's worse when society forgets its origins
 And worse when the earth loses its ability to produce
 And the seeds don't know when to sprout, they already forgot
 Since they are not native to this land
 I feel sad that within a century our memory disappeared
 The land no longer produces, it became very thin
 The acequias no longer run, the water is dirty instead of crystalline
 Our language is no longer spoken, our sons are ashamed.

Juan Estevan Arellano of Embudo was one of our great acequia leaders and scholars, who recently passed in October 2014. Que en paz descanse.



Estevan Arellano with his wife and loving companion, Elena, at the Congreso de las Acequias in 2013.

Poplar Buds as Remedio

by Juliet Garcia-Gonzales



Poplar buds before being used for remedio.

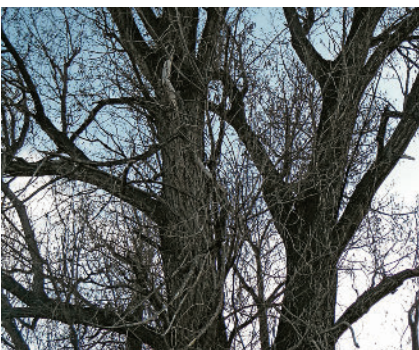
I am fortunate to live almost directly under the most beautiful Poplar Tree. I have known this tree my entire life, and have whole heartedly enjoyed watching it grow and change with the seasons. This tree, which we simply call the Alamo, is home to a few nests, and attracts many birds as they fly through. One of my favorite childhood memories is waking up to the sound of what must have been thousands of birds on an early May morning. It is a respite for so many kinds of birds. When someone claims there is a different flock on the tree, I along with the rest of my family, will not hesitate to go out and look.

Since I was a child, I have been very interested in *Remedios*, listened to those who cared to share, and have studied the many books I have in my collection. This past fall, I was able to take a herbology course at UNM/Taos with Professor Lucy McCall. The course was fascinating, and allowed me to experience the different types of herbal preparations.

This time of year, as the poplar buds are forming, they are covered with a translucent reddish-orange resin. The sticky resin contains salicin which the body converts to aspirin. It is used for a variety of ailments such as muscle soreness, general achiness, rheumatoid, and skin irritations. I would not recommend if you have problems with aspirin.

For years, I have collected these buds and used them in rubbing alcohol along with other remedios that I collect when I make liniments for my families use.

This year, I will use them to make a salve/ ointment. It is a very simple process, and I really wanted to share it with anyone interested. I will fill a jar with buds, and then cover them with quality oil. That could be olive oil, sunflower oil, or sesame oil. Then, simply place the sealed jar in a sunny window for a couple of weeks. Then strain the oil from the buds using a piece of cheesecloth or tea strainer. You will put the strained oil into a double boiler, and add some beeswax (about 8 oz. oil to 1 oz. of beeswax). Warm it carefully, on low heat, as beeswax is very delicate and could burn easily. Once the beeswax has melted and is combined with the oil, it can be poured into jars. Allow the mixture to cool and it will harden slightly into a nice smooth salve. 💧



Our beautiful alamo that gives us so much medicine.



de las Acequias

Acequia Poem by Olivia Romo

“Hija, traeme agua”
 And obediently I would fetch a glass of water in my grandpa Francisco’s favorite yellow cup
 Stood in front
 Watched as he quenched his broken body
 I bowed my head
 La bendición por el respeto que yo tengo por el agua
 El respeto
 Por mi grandpa Martinez
 Born in 1776 when the native people built the líneas
 Donde las aguas van a correr
 My grandfather is deeply rooted
Born on the Río Chiquito
 Hermano de Fernando, Dolores, y Paula
 Repartando las aguas, dividing their lives
 They went their separate ways, working in different parts of town
 Falling in love
 They built families, feeding smaller mouths
 Mi grandpa Francisco was the eldest brother
 Married a beautiful woman from the Taos village
 Ellos son la acequia madre
 The main source of life para mi familia
 Por mi gente
 I am just a leaf on this family tree
 Living off the Brazal
 Los brazos de amor de mi grandpa Martinez
 But when you come from a small town
 Eventually you forget where you’re from as the people die
 Rebuild and remodel history
 Urbanization
 Dividing waters where it’s scarce
 Breaking boundaries
 Breaking backs
 Financial stabilities collapse
 Crops wilt
 Calves curl their tongues around political tumbleweeds
 There is no substance after the drought
 After city dwellers and corporations cut into our stream
 Desagüe
 Draining culture
 Una sangria
 Slicing our veins
 My people are magical
 But they die the very same way
 Poverty and drug abuse
 We’re crazy but don’t refuse us a drink
 Our right to our waters
 Our genetic calls to the streams

Where the deeds are so old they were spoken orally
 Taos water in the 17th century is undocumented
 It’s prehistoric
 It’s a spiritual thing
 Plum trees
 Cotton woods
 Red willows
 Yo soy una parciante
 Using your water to bless the land
 Blossoming crops in your name
 Community operated waterways
 Not an acequia pero una familia
 Established 200 years ago en el nombre de Dios
 Mayordomos only respond to water requests face to face
 Technology hides itself behind these ancient rituals
 We must take care of our grandparents before they dry up
 And be stored away in the memory of the New Mexican wind
 Our ancestors
 Our history
 Perdida
 Grandfather once said
 “Si los perdemos, la tierra ya quedaría muerta, sin derechos de agua”
 As we walked along the acequia grandfather held my hand
 My small fingers slipping from his grasp, I squealed for the fear of falling in the water
 I was baptized that day
 Swimming in the tears of my people
 Their sweat
 Interstitial fluid
 The molecules of life kissed my skin
 I realized that this beautiful gift could be bought and sold
 It could dry
 In the desert that would be a crime without water you will die
 My ancestors would be choking on their tears if they knew
 That life as we now know it is misunderstood
 And we’ve overused resources never understanding their value
 We will pay for the grief we have cost nature
 Either in this life or the next
 So children, let’s rise
 Vamos a limpiar las acequias
 ¡Limpia su vida de los pecadores!
 Grandfather,
 Forgive me for my loss of respect but this world is changing faster than its gravitational spin
 I am afraid of where we are going
 But I know where I come from
 So I’ll step in front, hoping my generation will follow
 Con respeto
 ¡Porque el agua es el único modo de vivir, en este desierto!



Olivia Romo reading her acequia poem at the Congreso de las Acequias in November 2014— she brought the crowd to their feet!

Olivia Romo, 21, is a senior at UNM where she’s studying Professional Writing and Chicano Studies. She is the state champion for slam poetry. Olivia plans to pursue a Master Degree of Environmental Justice at UNM Law. Being raised in Llano Quemado (near Taos) she grew up tending the land, raising animals, and building homes with the earth, giving her a strong sense of place and cultural pride.

NMAA: OUR MISSION

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.

OUR VISION

In our the vision, acequias flow with clean water, people work together to grow food, and communities celebrate cultural and spiritual traditions. People honor acequias as part of our heritage and express *querencia* through a strong connection to land and community. Knowledge and experience about growing food, sharing water, and saving seed are passed on from generation to generation.

Guided by our core values, the New Mexico Acequia Association grows a movement of people of all ages and walks of life to defend and protect our precious water by resisting its commodification and contamination. Through involvement in NMAA, families and youth are inspired to cultivate the land, care for our acequias, and heal past injustices. Communities have an abundance of healthy, locally-grown food because we recognize agriculture as a respected and dignified livelihood and way of life.

Legislative Update *cont. from page 3*

Budget Bill Includes Funding for Acequia Projects

A highlight of the 2015 legislative session was the passage of a statewide budget bill, HB 2, which funds state government. NMAA advocated for continued funding of programs that support acequias. This included continued funding for the Acequia Program at the Interstate Stream Commission in the amount of \$1.9 million which is used to support the 90-10 cost share program for acequia construction projects. The budget bill passed both the House and the Senate and will be reviewed by Governor Susana Martinez for her signature for twenty days following the end of the session. 💧

Rancher's Forum in Taos

by Serafina Lombardi

On a clear spring morning hard working ranchers from across northern New Mexico gathered at the Taos County Economic Development Corporation (TCEDC) for a Rancher's Forum co-hosted by NMAA.

Ranching is no easy affair and the topics of the March 14th gathering reflected this reality. The morning was spent exploring the past, present and future of the Mobile Matanza: a USDA certified rig that travels to communities across the north to harvest and process animals. The Matanza unit has enabled hundreds of family ranchers to increase profits and feed more of their families and local communities by not just selling animals on the hoof, but by getting all of the cuts vacuum packed and USDA certified and ready for sale, trade and consumption! The group gathered praised the contributions of the Matanza Unit, and vowed to come together to find ways to keep it in service given the challenges, including insufficient funding, it has faced. If you



Ranchers discuss strategies for successful operations at the 2015 Ranchers Forum.

would like to be a part of that group please email tcedc@tcedc.org or call 575-758-8731.

The afternoon included a series of lively conversations. First up was Agricultural Tax Valuation with a presentation by Patricia Quintana. Patricia walked us through the legislative process (see cover article for more info) and encouraged communities to unite around this issue and to be sure to elect Assessors who support and understand agriculture. We moved on to a conversation on the importance of tree thinning and erosion prevention methods by Chris Cote, Taos County Wild Urban Interface Coordinator. This conversation flowed into commentary on Forest Management led by Lorenzo Valdez. Everyone had some-



The Mobile Matanza also supports ranchers of small livestock like sheep, goats and pigs. Above photo credit: Estevan Arellano

thing to contribute on this topic.

Finally, we were graced by the presence of Molly Manzaneres, Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, who shared with us important FSA programs - the group was particularly interested in the micro loan option, which has a max of \$50,000 and a simplified application process. Other presenters were Vernon Mirabal of Taos NRCS and Peter Vigil of the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District. NMAA encourages all farmers and ranchers to sign up with the FSA and avail themselves of the many USDA Programs that are available to them. Thanks to all the ranchers who dedicate themselves to the health of the land, their animals and feeding the community healthy local meats. We salute you. 💧

Governance Tips: Acequia Easements

continued from page 6

- Building fences across the acequia that block the ability to walk or use equipment along the length of the ditch.
- Building structures like houses, decks, or corrals within the easement or across the acequia.
- Blocking access to the acequia through a traditional point of access. Landowners, particularly new ones, attempt to block acequia officials or cleaning crews from crossing their property to get to the acequia. 💧

HOW CAN OUR ACEQUIA AVOID DISPUTES WITH LANDOWNERS OVER ACEQUIA EASEMENTS?

In addition to the above strategies of documenting easements and informing parciantes, an acequia can also:

Inform Parciantes & Landowners before Spring Cleaning. Many of the disputes over easements reach a critical point during spring cleaning. If possible, an acequia should use any means available to inform landowners of the cleaning day(s). If a landowner has land through which the cleaning crew must cross, it is a good idea to inform the landowner that you will be crossing the property on cleaning day(s).

During Spring Cleaning, Work as a Crew. Some disputes arise when there is confusion with regard to the official duties of the cleaning crew. Generally, during the spring cleaning, the cleaning crew should remain together. Individual peones should be discouraged from traversing the acequia unless it is part of official business of the acequia or delegated by the Mayordomo.



The annual *Limpia* of the acequia is an important time to inform parciantes that the cleaning will pass through their property via the acequia easement. Photo credit: Estevan Arellano

Acequia and Community Ditch Education Program

The NMAA is working with the State of New Mexico to strengthen acequia governance through community education and outreach. Since 2006, the NMAA has been assisting acequias with bylaws, infrastructure planning, and a variety of acequia governance matters. Our **Acequia Governance Handbook** is available online at www.lasacequias.org.

continued on page 11



Budgets & Audits for Acequias Workshops 9am-1pm

for Acequia Commissioners, especially Treasurers

The NMAA is hosting a series of workshops on Acequia Audits and Budgets in collaboration with the Department of Finance and Administration and the Office of the State Auditor. Workshop topics will include an overview of acequia responsibilities for financial reporting and audits. This includes budget approval and financial reporting (for acequias with over \$10,000 in revenue per year). These topics are especially important for acequias that have received and spent Capital Outlay funding. We strongly encourage each acequia to send at least one commissioner, especially Treasurers.

Tuesday April 14 - Hernandez Community Center
19418 US Hwy 84/285, Hernandez, NM

Tuesday April 21 - Taos County Agricultural Center
202 Chamisa Road, Taos, NM 87571

Tuesday May 26 - Las Vegas, NMHU
Student Union Building, Classroom 322
800 National Avenue, Las Vegas, NM 87701

Friday June 5 - Jemez Parish Hall
Parish Hall located on North side of Our Lady of Assumption Church on O40 Legion Rd. off Highway 4 and across the road from the REA Building, Jemez, NM

Acequia & Community Ditch Education Program *cont.*

In 2015, the NMAA will step up our outreach efforts by creating a statewide list of acequias, holding eight workshops on financial management for acequias, holding one statewide workshop on acequia governance, infrastructure, and water management, and responding to individual requests for assistance. Our partners will be New Mexico Legal Aid (David Benavides and Enrique Romero), New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, Taos Soil and Water Conservation District, MaLo Designs (database and website), as well as subject matter experts including Kenny Salazar and Joe Salazar, CPA. NMAA staff, including long-time veteran organizer Janice Varela, will be holding office hours and attending numerous acequia meetings throughout the state. Acequias interested in our services should contact the NMAA office at 505-995-9644 or submit a technical assistance request form on our website at www.lasacequias.org.

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) WORKSHOP

NMAA, along with North Central New Mexico Economic Development District and the Department of Finance and Administration are hosting this workshop. An ICIP is a useful planning tool for local governments seeking funding for infrastructure projects. The workshop will include detailed instructions on how to complete an ICIP

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan Workshop
Thursday, April 30 - 8:30am - 12:30pm
Bataan Memorial Bldg. Old Senate Chambers,
Rm. 238, 407 Galisteo St., Santa Fe, NM

USDA Programs *continued from page 5*

FARM SERVICE AGENCY:

All farmers and ranchers are encouraged to sign up with FSA.

Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disaster cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop.

Fee Waived for: Beginning Producers and Socially Disadvantaged Producers

Closing Date: April 15, 2015: Basil, Beets, Broccoli, Cantaloupe, Cauliflower, Cilantro, Eggplant, Gourds, Honeydew, Okra, Pumpkins, Strawberries, Turnips, Watermelon.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATIONS SERVICE: EQIP Initiative

Various programs to increase farm and ranch practices: Seasonal high tunnel, organic transition and certification, improvements to irrigation, farmstead energy, tillage management, and more. **Accepting Applications.**

RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG)

Grants capital to producers of agricultural commodities, agricultural producer groups, and farmer and rancher cooperatives, feasibility studies, business plans and working capital for viable marketing opportunities strategies to create marketing opportunities in emerging markets. **Now is the time** to contact Jesse Bopp at Rural Development to let her assist you in assuring your idea and operation will qualify for this funding opportunity, 505-761-4952, jesse.bopp@nm.usda.gov.

The application period will officially open soon.

Spring / Summer Events:

✿TAOS AGRICULTURAL FAIR Friday, April 10 • 9am-4pm

Juan I. Gonzales Memorial Agricultural Center, 202 Chamisa Rd.

✿NM ACEQUIA COMMISSION MEETING Friday, April 24 (4th Friday of every month) 10am-12pm

Bataan Memorial Bldg.,
Old Senate Chambers, Rm. 238,
407 Galisteo St. Santa Fe

✿BLESSING OF THE SAN JOSE DE LA CIENAGA ACEQUIA - SAN ISIDRO CELEBRATION

Friday, May 15 • 6pm
21 Acequia Rd, San Fidel, NM

✿EL DIA DE SAN ISIDRO RIVER BLESSING Friday, May 15 • 5:50pm Mass / 6:15pm River Blessing 3552 Agua Fria Street, Santa Fe, NM 87507

✿NM ACEQUIA COMMISSION MEETING Friday, May 22 • 10am-12pm Bataan Memorial Bldg., Old Senate Chambers

✿NM YOUTH RANCH MANAGEMENT CAMP May 31-June 5 Valles Caldera - Registration Fee

✿EL AGUA ES VIDA: ACEQUIAS IN NEW MEXICO (Closing of Museum Exhibit) • Open until Sat., June 6 • 10-4pm (M-Sat) UNM Maxwell Museum 1 University of NM, Albuquerque

✿CELEBRACION DE CULTURAS / FAMILIA Y COMUNIDAD Friday, June 12 • 5pm Saturday, June 13 • 9am-5pm Sunday, June 14 • 9am-5pm Penasco Theater, 15046 NM-75, Peñasco, NM 87553

✿NM ACEQUIA COMMISSION MEETING Friday, June 26 • 10am-12pm Bataan Memorial Bldg., Old Senate Chambers

✿MAYORDOMO & COMMISSIONER CONFERENCE Tues., July 21 • 9am-4pm Santa Fe Community College, Jemez Rm. 6401 Richards Ave, Santa Fe, NM



Ówîngeh Tá Pueblos y Semillas Nuestra Madre, Nuestro Cuerpo Our Mother, Our Body



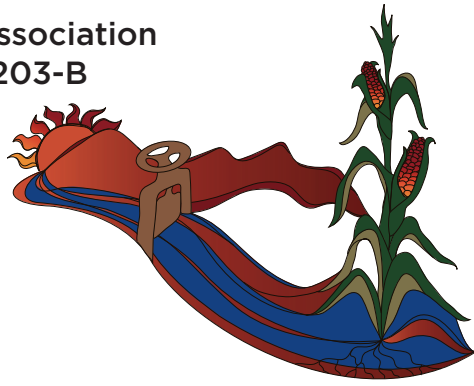
The 10th Annual
**Pueblos y Semillas
Gathering and Seed Exchange**
Saturday April 11, 2015
9:30am to 4:00pm
Peñasco Centro de Comunidades,
14136 State Rd 75

**DANCES, CEREMONY, SEEDS, FOOD,
MUSIC, FRIENDS, FAMILY**
Suggested Donation \$5
(waived for seed-savers)

**For more information or to reserve your space,
please call (505) 995-9644 or (505) 747-4652**

Hosted by NM Food & Seed Sovereignty Alliance
(NM Acequia Association, Traditional Native American
Farmer's Association, Honor Our Pueblo Existence,
Tewa Women United)

New Mexico Acequia Association
805 Early Street Suite 203-B
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 995-9644
www.lasacequias.org



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Prayers for Water and San Isidro, the Patron Saint of Farmers, whose feast day is May 15th.

San Ysidro Labrador

A Mi Glorioso Padre Eterno, humildemente te doy gracias por la vida de tu servidor, San Ysidro Labrador, Patrón de los labradores. El cual que por los siglos nos ha mantenido vuestro sembrado libre de langostas y temblores. Pidemos a tu servidor, San Ysidro Labrador, que por tu sudor y trabajo con que fuites fatigado, liberta vuestro sembrado del ladrón acostumbrado de no tener temor al Criador de esta Tierra. Liberta vuestro sembrado de la tempestad, de la sequía y del granizo que daña vuestro labor, le pedimos por el amor del Gran Señor. San Ysidro Labrador, Cortesano del Señor, Hasta el año venidero, nos despedimos de ti. Adios mi querido Santo, San Ysidro Labrador, te dejamos en la compañía del Gran Señor.

Prayer for Rain

Look to our dry hills and fields, dear God, and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain. Then the land will rejoice and rivers will sing your praises, and the hearts of all will be made glad. Amen.

Prayer for Sister Water

We praise and thank you, Lord, for the gift of living water. Guide us to use it wisely, learn from its humility, consume it sparingly, and protect its purity, so that with St. Francis we may truly enjoy water. Amen.

Retablo/Image by Ron García, Santero from El Carmen, NM. Prayers from Ted Trujillo of La Cofradía de Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno en Chimayó, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and Br. Cathal Duddy, OFM.