



New Mexico Organic Farming Conference 2020

Friday, February 21
& Saturday, February 22

**HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE AT OLD TOWN
ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

Exhibitor Registration: <http://bit.ly/20NMOFCBOOTH>
Registration for Attendees: <http://bit.ly/20NMOFC>

**The
NM Organic
Farming
Conference will
take place at
Hotel
Albuquerque
at Old Town**

**800 Rio Grande Blvd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104**

**Hotel Directions From
Santa Fe and the North**

-Take I-25 S. and take exit 226B to merge onto I-40 W toward Gallup, 2.3 miles. Take exit 157A for Rio Grande Blvd, continue for 0.3 miles. Turn left at Rio Grande Blvd NW. The Hotel Albuquerque will be on the left.

**Hotel Directions From
the Airport and the South**

- Merge onto I-25 N via the ramp and continue for 3.5 miles. Take exit 226AB to merge onto I-40 West toward Gallup, and continue for another 2.5 miles. Take Exit 157A for Rio Grande Blvd, turn left onto Rio Grande Blvd. Continue for 0.3 miles. The Hotel Albuquerque will be on the left.

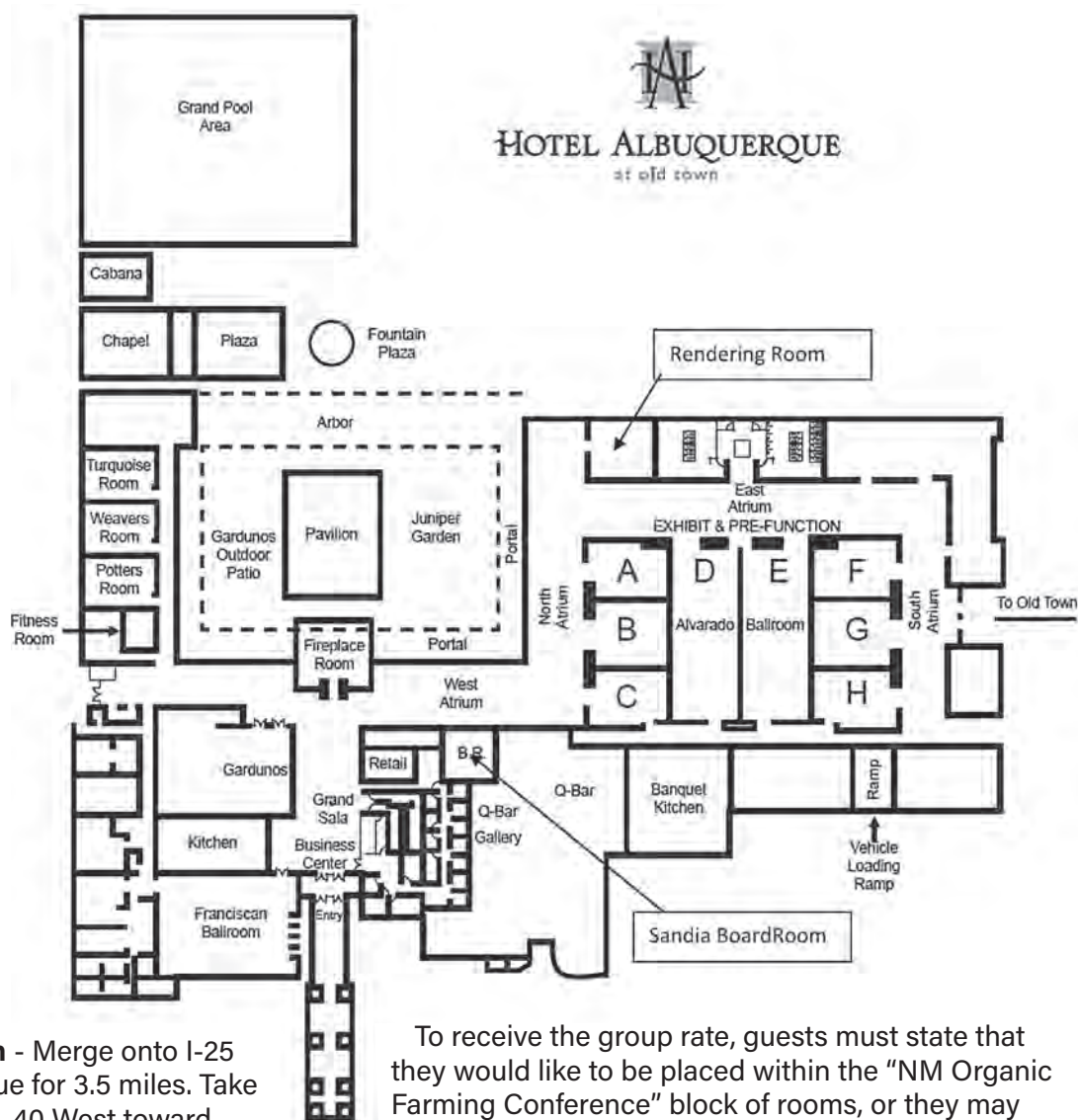
Hotel Directions From the East - Head West on I-40, take Exit 157A to Rio Grande Blvd. Turn left on Rio Grande Blvd. Continue for 0.3 miles. The Hotel Albuquerque will be on the left.

Hotel Directions From the West - Head East on I-40, take Exit 157A to Rio Grande Blvd. Turn right on Rio Grande Blvd. Continue for 0.3 miles. The Hotel Albuquerque will be on the left.

Hotel Reservations:

Rooms have been set aside starting on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 to Sunday, February 23, 2020 at the rate of \$109.00 plus tax per night.

To Call: contact the hotel at 866-505-7829 and ask to be connected to reservations.



To receive the group rate, guests must state that they would like to be placed within the "NM Organic Farming Conference" block of rooms, or they may refer to the Block Code 20NMOF.

Online: Please refer to the www.nmofc.org website to get the reservation link. Also, please note, the link will only work over the actual room block dates. The date of arrival and departure must be selected on the web page as well.

Please note, the reservations cut-off date is: January 20, 2020. After this date, any remaining rooms within the block will be released into the hotel's general inventory. The hotel will not extend dates - you must be booked by Jan 20!

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Registration for Attendees:
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The 2020 New Mexico Organic Farming Conference:

an annual opportunity for farmers, ranchers and researchers from around the Southwest to share their experiences and expertise. Please join us!

Friday, February 21 – 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 22 – 7:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
800 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104**

Conference Organizers

New Mexico Department of Agriculture - Stacy Gerk
New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service
Patrick Torres and J. Newton McCarty
Farmer Representative - Joseph Marcoline, Walking Trout Farm
New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau Federation
Chad Smith and Valerie Huerta, Sage Faulkner, Facilitator

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (NMDA) is an agriculture producer/consumer service and regulatory department under New Mexico State University (NMSU). NMDA's Director/Secretary, Jeff Witte also serves on the Governor's Cabinet. The department has six divisions: Agricultural and Environmental Services, Agricultural Programs and Resources, Dairy, Marketing and Development, Standards and Consumer Services, and Veterinary Diagnostic Services. The New Mexico Department of Agriculture is the home of New Mexico's Organic Program, providing certification services and support for organic farmers, ranchers and processors. organic@nmda.nmsu.edu or <http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/marketing/organic-program/>

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE is the educational outreach arm of NMSU's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Backed by state and federal funding, Extension is a cooperative effort between NMSU and county governments. Extension faculty are located in all 33 New Mexico counties and three tribal offices to address your needs in the areas of animal resources, 4-H and youth development, home economics, rural economic development and plant sciences. We provide the latest information in publications, workshops, demonstrations and one-on-one consultations. www.aces.nmsu.edu

NEW MEXICO FARM & LIVESTOCK BUREAU Established in 1917, New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau is the Voice of agriculture in New Mexico. As the largest agricultural organization in New Mexico we are a leader in policy development, advocacy and educational outreach. Our goal is to ensure a successful future for agriculture through promotion of local foods, protection of private property rights and access to agricultural water, and preservation of the customs and culture of agriculture. We offer several leadership development programs including Young Farmers and Ranchers, Collegiate Farm Bureau and our Women's Leadership Program. Additionally, our New Mexico Ag in the Classroom outreach initiative offers curriculum and demonstrations to teachers statewide as we spread awareness of the importance and value of New Mexico agriculture. Join us at www.nmflb.org.

WALKING TROUT FARM is a 15 acre fruit and vegetable farm sitting 900 ft above the Rio Grande on the western flank of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The farm and a small homestead are located 100% off the grid and fed by a high quality spring on the bank of the Rio de Truchas. The spring also is used to irrigate multiple fields and approximately 8500 square feet of greenhouse space. There are 100 young fruit trees and typically between 100 and 150 birds for eggs and meat, as well as horses for manure. The operation employs both passive and active methods for heating and cooling using renewables, and produces a large percentage of their own food and feed above market sales. They aggressively employ the principles of sustainable and organic agriculture in conjunction with new technology for automation, control, testing and monitoring. The primary outlets for products are local farmers markets, grocery stores and restaurants. www.facebook.com/walkingtroutfarm

NMDA Secretary Witte Welcome

Jeff Witte



Jeff grew up on his family's ranch on the Rowe Mesa between Moriarty and Las Vegas, New Mexico. He graduated from New Mexico State University (NMSU) with a bachelor's degree in agricultural business management and a master's degree in agricultural economics.

After college, Jeff worked for New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau as the field representative for the counties in northern New Mexico. He also represented the state's farmers and ranchers in legislative discussions in Santa Fe. During this time, Jeff worked to bring farmer groups and rancher groups together. The Ag Group, as it's loosely known, still gathers every year before the legislative session to set policy priorities that will benefit all of agriculture. When the session gets going, the group hosts Ag Fest to showcase to legislators and their staff the diversity of New Mexico agriculture. Jeff was instrumental in making this an annual event.

Jeff first came to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA), located in Las Cruces, in 1994. He spent the next nine years as the assistant director alongside Secretary/Director Frank DuBois. During that time, Jeff helped create the New Mexico Agricultural Leadership Program, a two-year program that aims to develop effective leaders within the state's food, agriculture and natural resource sectors.

Jeff then went to work as the director for the Office of Agricultural Biosecurity for NMDA and NMSU. He later started up the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center at NMSU. In both capacities, he worked with private industry and officials at all levels of government to develop plans that will protect New Mexico agriculture as part of a homeland security strategy. Jeff still heads up trainings on

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Chef Fernando Ruiz (of Beat Bobby Flay tv fame) and John Sedillo of Santa Fe Family Hemp Co. Longtime friends, Chef Fernando and John will be speaking together about the importance of our roots in agriculture and celebrating family farmers. They will share their individual stories and tell us their farm experiences; from good food to regenerative practices.

Chef Fernando Ruiz

Chef Fernando Ruiz now holds the distinction of "beating Bobby Flay". Ruiz recently competed against the legendary chef on the popular Food Network show BEAT BOBBY FLAY and to the delight of culinary fans everywhere, took home the top honor with his chiles en nogada dish. The New Mexico based chef gives all the credit to his wife, Michelle Romero who encourages him and pushes him to be his very best everyday. Ruiz says of his wife, "It is true that behind every great man is an even greater woman."



No stranger to the Food Network, Ruiz first gained notoriety by winning the competition show GUYS GROCERY GAMES. A year later, with more support and encouragement from his amazing wife, he returned to the popular cable network to compete on yet another show, CHOPPED. Once again, he did not disappoint by winning this contest too.

Ruiz was born in Phoenix, Arizona. His early years were spent in Phoenix and on the family ranch in Mexico. At the age of 13, he started running with a gang, trafficking weapons and drugs. At the age of 16 he got his first taste of "reality" when he was arrested for possession of weapons and drugs. At eighteen he got "busted" again. Ruiz spent his 20th and 21st birthdays in jail. It was while incarcerated that he earned his G.E.D. Upon release, he went straight into culinary school, graduating in 1999.

Fernando worked in Vail, Colorado for 4 years before moving to New Mexico 18 years ago. It was in New Mexico that Fernando met the love of his life, Romero. They moved in together after knowing each other for only 2 days. Fernando had given up on cooking at this point, but Romero, seeing something in him that others did not, encouraged him to return to the culinary arts.

Chef Fernando Ruiz currently resides in Chama, New Mexico with Michelle Romero and their three children. He continues to be the Executive Chef of the Lodge at Chama.

John Sedillo

A passionate New Mexico farmer, John Sedillo is also the founder of Family Hemp Brands, a Santa Fe, New Mexico based hemp farm and processing facility.



With a foundation rooted in the development of select hemp genetics, Family Hemp brands is an ideal resource for craft scale New Mexico famers looking to add hemp to their crops.

Jeff Witte continued from page 3

the subject from time to time.

Jeff was named New Mexico's fifth permanent Director/Secretary of Agriculture in May 2011. He served as the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) President from September 2018 to September 2019. He is past president of the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture and past Chair of Natural Resources, Pesticide Management & Environment Committee for NASDA.

Jeff was appointed to the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator in 2015. He was appointed vice chairman for a term which began May 2018 and ends May 2020. As a member of the LGAC, Jeff represents state-appointed officials. The committee provides advice and recommendation to the EPA Administrator to assist in developing a stronger partnership with local governments. The committee also provides direction regarding building state and local capacity to deliver environmental services and programs.

The bulk of Jeff's time as New Mexico's secretary of agriculture is spent on the road, meeting with groups that represent farmers and ranchers across the state. He also works to educate legislators about New Mexico agriculture.

Jeff and his wife Janet live in the southern New Mexico's Mesilla Valley. Their son, Jeremy, received a degree in ag economics and ag business from NMSU, as well as a master's degree in economics from George Mason University. He currently works for the House Committee on Agriculture as a senior staff member. Their daughter, Jennifer, is studying nursing at NMSU.

SPEAKERS



Lauren Aguirre has lived in New Mexico all her life and is a graduate from the college of Agriculture at New Mexico State University, where she obtained a degree in Animal Science with focused work in livestock production and Advanced dairy herd management. Lauren is now an Organic Inspector & Certifier for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, with training and accreditation in all scopes recognized by the National Organic Program (Livestock, Crops & Processing) and Accredited Certifying Agents (ACA).



Anita Amstutz lives in Albuquerque, is a long time beekeeper and member of the New Mexico Beekeepers Association. She founded Think Like A Bee, a non-profit (501c3) pollinator advocacy and education to spread the word about the importance of pollinators, soil and water health and conservation of habitat.



Kenneth Armijo, co-owner with his wife Rosa Sanchez Armijo of Armijo Farm are located in Sabin, New Mexico. He is a 2nd generation farmer since 1981. Their farm was first certified organic in 2010 from the New Mexico Organic Commodities Commission and now with the NMDA Organic Program. He grows organic green and red chile, melons, and next year will expand with organic garlic.



Tiana Baca is young farmer and educator from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is the director of the Desert Oasis Teaching Garden, an experiential learning farm working with youth and adults to cultivate abundance in the desert in the face of climate change. Tiana is also the founder of the Tierra Luna Seed Collaborative, providing seed centered education and regionally adapted seed in the Middle Rio Grande.



Brett Bakker, the former Chief Certifier/Inspector for the NMDA Organic Program, Brett Bakker is a seed grower/collector for the Arid Crop Seed Cache and Native Seeds/SEARCH. He is vice-president of Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute.



Emigdio Ballon, is a Bolivian native who studied Agricultural Engineering, he received a Master's degree in Plant Genetics and have worked in agriculture for 43 years. The last 12 years he has been the Director of the Agricultural Department in the Pueblo of Tesuque and have focused on seed preservation and sustainable ways of living.

Jesse Bopp (Not Pictured) has worked for USDA-Rural Development for 13 years, initially as an area office director in Espanola, then a loan specialist in Las Vegas, and, during the last 11 years, as a loan specialist specifically in business programs. Jesse has worked in all of the RD grant programs, but concentrates now on several business grant programs, with a main focus as lead on Value Added Producer Grant, which can provide agricultural producers with funds for working capital and planning. Formerly, Jesse worked for the State of NM as the Historic Preservation Planner in the Office of Cultural Affairs for 10 years and then as a Planner managing the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan for all subdivisions of the State. Jesse is an attorney licensed in NM and has previously served as an attorney in Santa Fe.



Kevin Branum is a lifetime native of New Mexico and has worked as an extension agent, soil conservationist and was most recently the state agronomist for NRCS for New Mexico. He felt that he could make a larger impact in agriculture from the private sector and recently started his own company EAS to provide consulting services and agricultural products that make sense in our arid environment and harsh growing conditions. He also opened an office for Farm Bureau and provides a full suite of insurance services including crop insurances to fully service agricultural producers in New Mexico. As a producer himself he has quickly become the local expert on the utilization of cover crop mixes in both farming and ranching operations.

Tom Brewer (Not Pictured) of Red Hat Hops is both a fulltime farmer and an Air Force veteran. Tom was an AF Reservist during an 18-year career with Intel at Rio Rancho. Growing hops in New Mexico is his third career. Tom is currently the director of the NM Hops Growers Association which has seven growers and is the Warrior Farmer Project Director under the Desert Forge Foundation. Desert Forge is a veteran centric not-for-profit with a mission of restoring emotional, mental and physical health to returning veterans through meaningful job training, employment and the arts.



Christina Brigance is a Title V Epidemiologist with the New Mexico Department of Health. While completing her Master of Public Health at the University of New Mexico, she conducted a study on the mental health of the organic farmer. The results of the study were published in the journal Workplace Health & Safety in 2018. Christina is interested in organic agriculture and local food systems.



Felicia Chacon-Frost is a northern New Mexico native with deep roots in New Mexico agriculture, primarily ranching. For the past 14 years, she has worked as a marketing specialist with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture based out of the main office in Las Cruces. Among her diverse job responsibilities, she administers both federal and state grant funds on behalf of the department. While each program has specific parameters, each aims to support and grow New Mexico agriculture (including conventional and non-conventional, as well as value-added) through research, demonstration/outreach, feasibility and marketing studies, or promotional efforts. Felicia also manages the NEW MEXICO—Taste with Tradition® and Grown with Tradition® logo program.



Kendal Chavez is the Farm to School Specialist at the New Mexico Public Education Department, where she manages a statewide procurement strategy aimed to increase local purchasing across 215 school and school district entities. Kendal's passion for school food and farm to school started in 2011 as a service member in the inaugural class of FoodCorps. Kendal was also a Food Policy Fellow in the Food Policy Fellowship Institute at George Washington University.



Kristin Graham Chavez, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service. Kris has worked for USDA - NRCS for over 29 years in New Mexico, Arizona and Texas. Some of her NRCS past responsibilities and contributions include district conservationist in several field offices, resource conservationist on the Area Office, Operations and Programs staff. She also served on the regional conservationist's staff, from Washington DC and worked on numerous audit teams. She provides technical and programmatic assistance to field, area and state office personnel as well as partners throughout New Mexico. She began her career as a student coop trainee in New Mexico, while pursuing her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Agriculture from New Mexico State University. Kris grew up on a ranch in Taos and Black Lake, New Mexico.



Bryan Crawford-Garrett is the Food and Agriculture Policy Officer at the Thornburg Foundation and has been in this position since September 2017. In this role, he manages the Foundation's Food and Agriculture strategy and grant-making portfolio. Bryan has nearly 20 years of experience working to strengthen local food and agricultural systems. He lives in Albuquerque with his wife and three kids.



Traci Curry was born and raised on a family farm near Texico, NM. She obtained a degree from Eastern New Mexico University in education. For eleven years, she learned from her elementary students and hoped they learned a little from her along the way. Traci began her employment with the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau in January 2011 as the director of New Mexico Ag in the Classroom. With this position, she continues to work diligently to use her passion to educate people about the importance of agriculture.

SPEAKERS



Michael R. Diaz Michael started in 1986 as an organic produce worker/buyer/manager in Texas, California and New Mexico. As a buyer he inspected small farms that are not certified organic to observe growing practices to develop cleaner growing practices without organic inspection. Recently, Michael was an organic inspector/certifier with NMDA-OP, covering all scopes (crop, livestock and processor). Currently, Michael is a small farmer in Chimayo, enjoying time as a personal home gardener and a private consultant for organic USDA certification.



Zoey Fink is a native New Mexican with a passion for local food systems and the communities that support them. She is the New Mexico Campaigns Organizer for the National Young Farmers Coalition. Previously, Zoey was the program coordinator for Tres Hermanas Farm, a refugee agriculture program in Albuquerque, NM. She has also worked with the nonprofit Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust, and managed Albuquerque's Downtown Growers' Market. She currently sits on the Agrarian Trust Board and remains an advisor to the Rio Grande Community Farm. Zoey and her husband Carlos farm in Polvadera, NM and make pickles from vegetables that they grow. They also sell to restaurants,

raise grass-fed beef and are exploring raising pork on pasture. In her free time, you'll find her running along acequia banks, climbing mountains, and preparing meals to share with friends and family.



Rudy Garcia Rudy has been with USDA-NRCS for 29 years and is currently the regional soil health specialist for New Mexico, Utah, Arizona and Colorado. In this position, Rudy is responsible for the adoption of soil health management systems, with a major emphasis in advancing the art and science of building healthy soils through NRCS conservation practices/management/planning by understanding how the soil resource ecosystem functions and utilizing NRCS soil health division in-field soil health assessments to evaluate and monitor soil health progress. The emphasis of the program is building healthy and productive soils that protect the natural resources and are also economically viable.



Ron Godin was a research soil scientist in soil fertility and crop nutrient management of organic and sustainable soil management systems at Colorado State University's Rogers Mesa Organic Research Center in western Colorado from 2001-2009. In 2009 Ron moved to CSU Extension where he worked with organic tree fruit and vegetable growers in western Colorado. Ron earned his B.S. in Agriculture and M.S. in Soil & Water Science with an emphasis in soil fertility and crop nutrition at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Prior to working in fruit and vegetable production in California, Oregon and Colorado, Ron earned

his doctorate in Soil & Crop Science with an emphasis in soil fertility and crop nutrition at Colorado State University. Ron has been a speaker at the NMOFC on organic crop production and soils for many years.



Katie Goetz is a natural resources policy analyst with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. She works in the Agricultural Programs and Resources Division, which was charged with setting up NMDA's Healthy Soil Program following passage of the grassroots-supported Healthy Soil Act last year. Katie grew up working on her family's beef cattle ranch in Sierra County. She has degrees in journalism and agricultural economics from New Mexico State University. Happily a Jill of all trades, she has worked as a reporter, marketing specialist, spokeswoman, and middle school teacher.



Rob Heyduck is a forester and agronomist working in New Mexico since 1997. He has worked with numerous alternative crops, medicinal herbs, native plant nurseries and seed production, revegetation and restoration of degraded lands, phytoremediation, hydrology and agroforestry. He is currently an Ag Research Scientist at NMSU Sustainable Agriculture Science Center at Alcalá working mainly in organic fruit and vegetable production.



Lee-Ann Hill is the Special Projects Coordinator for Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance (RMSA) where she oversees the Rocky Mountain Heritage Grain Trials Project and helps with the design, development and teaching of RMSA's Seed Schools, Grain Schools, and Seed School Teacher Trainings. Lee-Ann received her MA in Cultural Ecology from Prescott College (Arizona) with a focus on food system sustainability, and conducted her research in traditional farming in northern New Mexico. Lee-Ann currently resides in southwest Colorado where she runs a CSA and an internship program at Laughing Wolf Farm, with a focus on seeds, grains, and traditional crops.



Dan Hobbs is the lead Cooperative Development Specialist with the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Cooperative and Economic Development Center. He has over twenty years agricultural and rural development experience in the United States and South America and formerly served as executive director of Organic Seed Alliance, NewFarms and Nuestras Raíces, all 501(c)(3) organizations. Dan is a fifth generation Coloradan, holds a B.A. in Latin American Studies and owns and operates 43 acres of diversified certified organic crops with his wife, Nanna Meyer, in Pueblo County, Colorado.



Casey Holland is a native New Mexican and young farmer committed to affecting positive social change around small-scale sustainable agriculture in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. She strives to make access to nutritious, enriching food more affordable for underprivileged families while providing opportunities for her community to reconnect to the region's agricultural roots and culture. She currently runs Chispas Farm - a four acre community focused certified organic farm that grows over 120 varieties of heirloom fruits and vegetables, has 60 laying hens and two Dexter dairy cattle.



Fadi Jamaledin, BS; MPH, is a proponent for preventive care and health care. He currently works as a Clinical Research Coordinator at the Glycemic Reduction Approaches in Diabetes, where he works hard in managing their diabetes care. Fadi provides them with medications, education, and overall health for their diabetes. He has spent most of his entire career in the field of health care with the ultimate goal of implementing innovative ideas to provide equal access to minorities in the South Valley of Albuquerque, NM. He plans to apply for medical school with the goal to help communities that do not have access to disease prevention such as diabetes, unintentional injuries, infectious diseases, cardiovascular, and chronic respiratory.

Fadi's project for his MPH is about the consumer's perception on the Organic USDA Seal. He, as a first generation and proud LOBO, holds a BS in Biology and Psychology and Master of Public Health from the University of New Mexico.



David Johnson is a molecular biologist conducting research as an Adjunct Professor at the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems at California State University, Chico, CA <https://www.csuchico.edu/regenerativeagriculture/> and as a researcher at the Institute for Sustainable Agricultural Research at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM. He works with growers, researchers, Arizona State University, Texas A&M, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Globetrotter Foundation, the Thornburg Foundation and the Sequoia Farm Foundation, exploring paths to improve food security, reduce atmospheric CO2 concentrations, and increase farm and rangeland productivity and profitability through the development of beneficial soil microbial communities.



Caitlin Kundrat - Caitlin is the owner of The Bloomist, a 4 year-old urban flower farm in Albuquerque. Her farm specializes in growing dahlias using sustainable and chemical-free growing practices. A lover of all things flowering and New Mexican, she is passionate about creating networks and community for flower growers, buyers, and lovers to thrive. She is a member of the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers and the Slow Flowers Community. When she's not at the farm, you can find her at the Downtown Growers Market on Saturday mornings, or in the studio with Floriography Flowers designing wild, New Mexican-inspired floral installations.

SPEAKERS



Paola Legarre - Owner of Sage Creations Organic Farm, Paola Legarre, has worked in organic farming and marketing for the last 25 years. In 2001 she received her MBA in agribusiness from the University of Santa Clara. Looking to continue her commitment to organic farming, and wanting to raise her family in Colorado's clean air and wholesome way of life, she and her family moved to Palisade, Co in 2005. Paola's first lavender planting was in 2006. As her lavender fields grew, she extended her product line to include certified organic essential oils; lavender inspired home décor, bath and body products, and lavender plant starts. Sage Creations farms 10 acres and currently has over 5 acres in lavender production and grows 3 species and over 60 different cultivars of lavender. For the last 11 years she has been trialing different species and cultivars of lavender to see which is best suited for the South Western State's climate and its different zones. She has worked with numerous growers throughout the Colorado and the Southwestern states. Her lavender plugs and plants have been sold throughout the US. In addition to propagating and distilling lavender, Paola manages the farm and maintains lavender fields, 4000 feet of greenhouse space, medicinal herb crops, heirloom vegetables and a cherry orchard.



Mary Lucero is a New Mexico native, an NMSU graduate, and a former USDA scientist. Today she and her husband, David, run End-O-Fite Enterprises LLC. They are passionate about restoring food systems by 1) improving the biological and nutritional cycles that promote good health from the ground up, and by 2) changing the way people think about where their food comes from and how nutrition impacts their health.

Tracy McDaniel, MPH, is a long-time advocate for women, families, and communities. She currently serves as Policy Advocate at Southwest Women's Law Center, where she focuses on promoting family-friendly workplace policies like Paid Family & Medical Leave and Pregnant Worker Accommodations. Previously, she coordinated a large coalition focused on improving the health and well-being of young children and their families in central New Mexico. Her past professional experience has focused on early childhood development, health promotion, birth work, lactation support, and working with survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence. She holds a BA in Psychology and Women's Studies from Miami University, a graduate certificate in Maternal Child Health Epidemiology from University of Arizona, and a Master of Public Health degree at University from University of New Mexico.



Bill McDorman is Executive Director and co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance (RMSA), a seed conservation non-profit created to to assure a diverse supply of local seeds for the Rocky Mountain region through community-based seed stewardship. Bill holds a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Montana. In 1981 he co-founded Garden City Seeds in Missoula, Montana. In 1984 he started Seeds Trust/High Altitude Gardens, a bioregional, mailorder seed company he ran successfully for 28 years. He authored the book, *Basic Seed Saving*, in 1994. From 2011 until 2014 Bill and his wife Belle served as Executive Directors of Native Seeds/SEARCH in Tucson, Arizona. In 2010 they founded Seed School, an internationally recognized education program now with more than 1,000 graduates from around the world. Bill remains a passionate and knowledgeable presenter who inspires his audiences with the importance of grassroots seed saving and urges everyone to learn to save their own seeds.



Susann Mikkelsen is a Cooperative Development Specialist at the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Cooperative and Economic Development Center, located in New Mexico in order to focus on New Mexico cooperative and economic development efforts. She is a native of New Mexico, raised on the family's small cattle ranch in Datil, which was settled by her ancestors in 1882. She has close to 30 years' experience in the nonprofit sector and small business development, including experience in nonprofit management and leadership, fundraising, marketing, strategic and business planning and business/organizational development. Susann holds a bachelor of science in public relations and communications from Northern Arizona University, and a master's of science in public service - leadership and policy, with an emphasis in rural development from DePaul University.



Denise Miller has been the executive director at the New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association (NMFMA) since 2005. Under her leadership the NMFMA has grown to support numerous statewide food access programs that support healthy eating for underserved populations and agriculture stimulus programs that have helped generate millions in sales for local farmers and food producers. She enjoys using her experience in marketing and education to serve the state's farmers, consumers, food retailers, and health networks.



Amy Owen is a state certified beekeeper who has been on the board of the New Mexico Beekeepers Association, and currently leads the Albuquerque beekeeping group 'ABQ Beeks'. She manages three apiaries and teach students in the state certified beekeeping program.



Carolyn Parshall, is an epidemiologist with the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center. She holds a Master in Public Health from the University of New Mexico. For her Culminating Experience paper, Ms. Parshall conducted a comparative analysis of the demographic profile and production practices of the New Mexico organic farmer, and discussed the implication for occupational risk and safety in this population.



Joanie Quinn retired from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture Organic Program in 2016, where she served as an adviser to organic producers and those wishing to transition to organic. She is currently working in an elementary school pollinator garden.



Jill Rice believes fully in the importance of agricultural reform and the adoption of regenerative practices to protect our agricultural lands and communities. Jill has worked in organic agriculture since college, where she began to learn about sustainable practices through producing maple syrup in New Hampshire. Inspired by this experience, Jill continued to pursue small-scale agriculture, working on farms in California, Virginia and New Mexico. In addition to farming, Jill has worked as an outdoor educator, leading trips in Colorado, Alaska and New Mexico. Jill's experiences farming and leading wilderness trips in the West have made her intimately aware of the challenges facing our agricultural communities and our western ecosystems. Jill now works with the Quivira Coalition as the Southwest Coordinator for the New Agrarian Program, which partners with skilled ranchers and farmers to offer annual apprenticeships in regenerative agriculture, creating full-immersion, professional training opportunities for the next generation of food producers and land stewards.



Sebastien Rose and Robin Moore of Dryland Wilds forage the Southwest for common and invasive plants, using old-school perfumery techniques to create desert perfumes that smell like the places they were harvested from and botanical skin care from the wilds of New Mexico. They harvest invasive plants from local ranchers, farmers and land owners to create their products, and teach foraging classes throughout the state on the diverse uses of "weeds." Before creating a business out of weeds, Sebastien and Robin worked in permaculture design, farming, and education. You can learn more about their business and process at drylandwilds.com.



Daisy Rosero currently serves as Program Coordinator for two public health initiatives in the University of New Mexico, College of Population Health. She dedicates her time to projects related to adolescent substance use and behavioral health. Current projects involve an evaluation of a multi-agency youth risk and resiliency program and the health, safety and psychosocial experiences of organic farmers project. Prior to her appointment in the COPH, she worked with Department of Health funded School-Based Health Centers as Program Manager for a statewide adolescent Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) program. Daisy has over 16 years of experience working with minority populations in New Mexico including experience in the area of disability with the Center for Development, Indian Children's Program, the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders program and the CDD Division of Health Policy. In addition, Ms. Rosero is also a student in the UNM, COPH, Masters of Public Health program and a strong supporter of the NMLGBTQ community.

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Regular Registration: <http://bit.ly/20NMOFC>

SPEAKERS



Emily Russell has been with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture's Produce Safety Section for over a year working on education and outreach in regard to the Food Safety Modernization Act's (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR). Emily comes from an agriculture background including a BS in Agriculture Business and Agriculture Economics as well as a Masters of Agriculture in Agri-Business.



Monique Salhab is an Iraq War veteran, the Interim Co-director of the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice and former member of the National Board of Directors of Veterans For Peace. She also co-managed the Veteran Farmer Project, which operated within the Corrales and North Valley areas. Monique is an advocate who has worked tirelessly over the last several years to honor the dignity of those on the margins and to address the militarism rooted in the injustices witnessed and experienced within our communities.



Valerie Smith is the Quality Assurance Specialist for La Montañita's Co-operative Distribution Center. She has worked with La Montañita Food Co-op since 2007 in retail management, wholesale and retail purchasing, and vendor development. Her current work focuses on food safety compliance and increasing market access for small- and mid-size farms throughout New Mexico. As a Value Chain team member for a community-owned natural food company, she is dedicated to improving the sustainability and resilience of local and regional food systems.



Arianna Taylor is the Sustainable Agriculture/ IPM Specialist and Operations Manager at ARBICO Organics. A graduate of the University of Arizona, she has worked with organic farms across the southwest for over a decade. Arianna strives to bring the best of organic practices and solutions to growers of every size. She brings her love for the southwest and passion for sustainability to real world advice.

Dr. Bradley Tonnesen grew up in Albuquerque, NM, and received his B.S. in Biology at the University of New Mexico. He then pursued graduate studies at Colorado State University in genetics and plant pathology. His doctoral work consisted of spending time in the Philippines, focusing



on the genetic aspects that make rice tolerant to detrimental diseases. After receiving his doctorate in 2017, he then spent two years as a Biodynamic vegetable farmer, at the Raphael Garden in Sacramento, CA, spending time seed-saving, composting, and practicing animal husbandry. He is currently the senior program specialist for the Vegetable Extension Program at New Mexico State University.



Dr. Stephanie Walker Following completion of her B.S. in Biology from NMSU, Stephanie worked at the Old El Paso processing facility in Quality Assurance and Research and Development. She began her graduate studies in the Chile Pepper Breeding Program at NMSU in 1995 and earned her M.S. degree researching the genetics of resistance to chile pepper diseases. She then accepted the position of Research Specialist at NMSU, working on breeding paprika and sweet onions. She completed her Ph.D. in 2007 studying breeding considerations for mechanical harvest of chile peppers. Dr. Walker currently serves as NMSU's Extension Vegetable Specialist where she concentrates on providing assistance to vegetable growers in enhancing sustainability and profitability of vegetable production in New Mexico. Stephanie also serves as a Western SARE Professional Development Coordinator for New Mexico.



Jack West is the Lead Trainer at the Grow the Growers Farmer Training Program run by Agri-Cultura Network with Bernalillo County in the south valley of Albuquerque. He has spent 6 years working on different vegetable production farms around the country, providing a wide variety of growing experience. He settled down in his hometown of Albuquerque in 2010 to manage a local vegetable farm and then started his own farming operation in 2013, Peas and Hominy Farm, a vegetable farm which specializes in all aspects of sweet potato production with the end goal of making sweet potatoes a common crop in and around Bernalillo County.



Julia Wise is project Manager for New Mexico Small Business Assistance a program that connects small businesses and entrepreneurs in New Mexico with technical assistance from the State's National Labs and Universities. Dr. Wise holds a Ph.D in geology from the University of Cincinnati and has held roles in technology transfer at the University of New Mexico and was the Director of the Office of Science of Technology at the New Mexico Economic Development

2020 SCHEDULE

Friday, February 21

6:30am Registration Opens
8:00-9:15 **Conference Welcome and Awards Presentation**, main hall enter through D/E
9:30-10:30 Session I, in A, D, E, F, H
11:00-12:00 Session II A, D, E, F, H

Lunch on your own

1:00-2:00 Demonstrations in D and outside
2:00-3:00 Session III in A, D, E, F, H
3:30-4:30 Session IV in A, D, E, F, H

NEW!
5:00-7:00 Social and SHOWCASE of goods! In A

Saturday February 22

6:30am Registration
8:00-9:00 Session V in A, D, E, F, H
9:30-10:30 Session VI in A, D, E, F, H
10:50-11:50 Session VII in A, D, E, F, H

Please leave immediately so hotel can prepare for luncheon!

12:30 Luncheon D/E
1:00 Introduction
Keynote

2:00 Closing comments
2:30-5:00 Session VIII, OPEN networking space/time – rooms available, please reserve your spot now at sagefaulkner@yahoo.com, "Open meeting reservation" or reserve a room at the registration area.

CONFERENCE AWARDEES

2003

Friend of Organic Agriculture
Bruce Gollub and Leah Morton

2004

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Connie Falk

2006

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Ron Walser
Farmer of the Year - Sharlene Grunerud
and Michael Alexander

2007

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Sarah Grant
Educator of the Year - Carol Sutherland
Farmer of the Year - Molly and Antonio Manzanares
Good Earth Award - Betty and Walt Lea

2008

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Marsha Mason,
Del Jimenez, Craig Mapel
Educator of the Year - Gordon Tooley
Farmer of the Year - Sally Harper
Good Earth Award - Johnny Lieb

2009

Friend of Organic Agriculture - La Montanita Coop,
Le Adams, Joanie Quinn
Educator of the Year - Les Crowder
Farmer of the Year - Norma and Dosi Alvarez
Good Earth Award - Trenton Wann and Barbara Hawn

2010

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Brett Bakker
Educator of the Year - Ron Godin
Farmer of the Year - Nancy Coonridge
Good Earth Award - Nolana Bryant

2011

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Miley Gonzales
Educator of the Year - Nancy Flores
Farmer of the Year - Don Bustos
Good Earth Award - Christina and Tomas Apodaca

2012

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Silver City Food Co-op
Educator of the Year - Tess Grasswitt
Farmer of the Year - Sage and Shane Faulkner
Good Earth Award - Steve Heil

2013

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Monte Skarsgard

Educator of the Year - John Idowu, Kulbhushan Grover,
Mark Uchanski

Farmer of the Year - Loretta and David Fresquez

Good Earth Award - Amanda and Eli Burgione

2014

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Cid Backer, Patrick Torres
Educator of the Year - Robin Seydel
Farmer of the Year - Heidi Eleftheriou
Good Earth Award - Lorenzo Candelaria
Young Farmer - Mike DeSmet

2015

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Colleen and Fred Hinker
Educator of the Year - Deb Ingersoll
Farmer of the Year - Johnny McMullin
Good Earth Award - Mesa Ruiz
Young Farmer of the Year - Brittanie Lynch and Derek Jones

2016

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Michael Diaz
Farmer of the Year - Mary and Tom Dixon
Educator of the Year - Joran Viers
Good Earth Award - Abe Froese
Young Farmer of the Year - Nery Martinez

2017

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Trudi and John Kretsinger
Farmer of the Year - Jamie and Katy Kulesa
Educator of the Year - Joseph Alfaro
Good Earth Award - Deborah Snyder and Mark Nelson
Young Farmer of the Year - Joseph and Melissa Marcoline

2018

Friend of Organic Agriculture - Gordon Tooley and
Margaret Yancey
Farmer of the Year - Gary Gundersen
Educator of the Year - Ron Boyd and Billy Kniffin
Good Earth Award - Charles Mallery and Rebecca Allina
Young Farmer of the Year - Sean Ludden

2019

Friend of Organic Agriculture - New Mexico Farm & Livestock
Bureau and Stacy Gerk
Farmer of the Year - Camino La Paz/Greg Nussbaum
Educator - Jasmine and Zach Cecelic, Wildhood Farm
and Dr. Mary Lucero
Good Earth - Heather Harrell
Young Farmers - Lisa Anderson and Jim Benson,
Malandro Farm

2019 CONFERENCE AWARDEES



Young organic Farmer of year Jim Benson and Lisa Anderson (not pictured) of Malandro Farm with sponsors from NMFLB Chad Smith, FBFS agent Fred Porter and NMOFC planning committee member Joe Marcoline.



Friend of Organic Ag Stacy Gerk with NMOFC planning committee members Joe Marcoline and Valerie Huerta.



Organic Farmer of the year Camino de Paz school, NMOFC planning committee members Joe Marcoline and Stacy Gerk.



Friend of Organic Ag recipients New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau: Theresa Widner, Chad Smith, Val Huerta and Francisco Hatay staff, with planning committee members Stacy Gerk and Joe Marcoline.



Educator of the Year Mary Lucero with planning committee members Stacy Gerk and Joe Marcoline.



Educator of the year Jasmine and Zach Cecelic, Wildhood Farm with planning committee members Stacy Gerk and Joe Marcoline.

SESSIONS

Session I Friday 9:30-10:30am

Voices of the Rio Grande Watershed

Anita Amstutz in ROOM F

Come and see a locally filmed documentary which interviews farmers and indigenous leaders along our great river. They will share their stories of community conservation, water health and a history of food as medicine here in the Rio Grande Watershed. **Think Like a Bee**, a non-profit for pollinator advocacy and education, commissioned this film for the times in which we live. As we face drought, increasing habitat development, pollinator deaths due to “a thousand little cuts”, it is more important than ever for cities, rural communities and towns to work together for the health of our water, air and soil. There will be time for question and answer after a short screening.

Cover Crops Workshop, Kevin Branum in ROOM E

In this workshop participants will be involved in a discussion about what species of cover crops have or haven't worked for them in different situations. Kevin will lead the discussion by showing examples of different mixes that have been used in different regions of the state with varying levels of success. Come participate and help move forward the concept of using covers in agricultural production of all types in the southwest region of the U.S.

Are Essential Nutrients Enough?

Dr. Mary Lucero in ROOM H

Plants require eighteen elements, or mineral nutrients, to complete their life cycle. However, other elements may add benefits that contribute to plant defense and quality traits.



Soil microbes that support plant growth may also require additional elements. This session will discuss the eighteen mineral nutrients that are widely deemed essential. Nutrients that are often deficient will be highlighted. In addition, evidence that organic crop production can benefit from soil enrichment with trace minerals and rare earth elements will be explored. Organic options for enriching soil with trace minerals will be discussed. This presentation assumes that listeners are familiar with the macronutrients and micronutrients plants require, recognize the importance of soil pH, and have a general understanding of the role soil microbes play in cycling nutrients.

Soil Health I:

Ron Godin in ROOM A

Understanding and Managing for Healthy Soils in an Arid Organic Production System.

Topics:

- Understanding crop nutrient needs and how organic inputs are processed by soil organisms and contribute to a healthy soil and healthy organic crop.
- Managing organic inputs to keep a healthy productive soil in the long-term

Grant Resources and Key Points

A Panel of Experts, Jesse Bopp/Kristen Chavez Bryan Crawford-Garrett/Felicia Frost/Julia Wise in ROOM D

Join us in this panel of informative resources about grants. Agencies included are NMDA, USDA-NRCS, USDA-RD, Thornburg Foundation, NMSBA and others (invited). This will be a great session if you have questions or ideas about bringing a grant to fruition.

Session II Friday 11:00 – 12:00

Improving Soil Health Function to Increase Water Use Efficiency

Rudy Garcia in ROOM D

Join Rudy in this important session on how building soil health increases water-use efficiency and conserves soil moisture, with in-field soil health assessments that demonstrate soil health principles.

SESSIONS

Growing Cut Flowers for Pleasure and Profit Caitlin Kundrat in ROOM F

Future flower farmers unite! Come learn why adding a cut flower component to your operation might be a great idea. We will cover the basics on how to get started, which crops to grow, and where to market and sell your products. Meet local flower designers from our area creating the demand for specialty cut flowers and walk away with the resources and connections to get you started!

A conscious look at genetics in organic agriculture

Dr. Bradley Tonnesen in ROOM E

The science of genetics and the role genes play in affecting plant morphology is a modern addition to our ages-old experiment of agriculture. Some technologies arising from this knowledge are not admissible to the natural farmer. Other applications such as seed-saving, landrace preservation, classical plant breeding, and disease diagnosis have all positively impacted the organic farming practice. This talk will be focusing on how genetics applies to organic agriculture, as well as how recent advances in genome biology and the intimate connection between plant and environment are leading us towards a holistic view of the crops we grow.

Hops Growing In New Mexico Tom Brewer in ROOM H

An overview of the hops industry in the United States and abroad and how does New Mexico fit in the big picture. New Mexico climate, environment, logistics, and obstacles for hop growers and establishing hops as a viable industry in our state. This presentation will also touch on the craft brewing industry and how we are working to integrate agriculture into the Craft Culture in New Mexico.

Organic Farming: A Formula for Health and Wellness? Daisy Rosero, Fadi Jamaledin, Tracy McDaniel, Christina Brigance, Carolyn Parshall in ROOM A

This session includes presentations on a variety of topics related to organic agriculture and local food systems. Speakers from the UNM College of Population Health will present the result of studies that explore issues such as the health and safety of the organic farmer, contribution of local food systems to community development and resiliency, and other aspects of the organic food movement. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about research conducted here in New Mexico, and interact with young researchers interested in promoting organic agriculture and local food systems.

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

DEMONSTRATIONS: 1:00 – 2:00

****Come see what the Chile Pepper Institute has going on! Wonder how we know so much about chile in NM? Join us in Room D to see!**

****Harvesting HOPS in your future? You will surely want to see what Kevin Lombard and the crew at NMSU-ASC Farmington have been doing with the mechanical HOPTSTER. In the parking lot.**

****Other demonstrations will be included in the handouts.**



Session III Friday 2:00 – 3:00

Using Cooperative Approaches to Address Labor and other Ag Resource Issues

Susann Mikkelsen and Dan Hobbs in ROOM D

Labor issues often plague agricultural producers and other small to mid-scale businesses in our region. Indeed, it is becoming more and more of an issue with the changing landscape. Whether it be a need for seasonal labor for harvest and related requirements, or year-around workforce needs, this session will explore opportunities to work cooperatively to find real, viable solutions that can create efficiencies for growers, sustainable worker opportunities and help retain a workforce within a region or an industry. The session will also cover basics on cooperative approaches to other resource and marketing needs, and the general concepts of cooperative models.

Dirt to Flower: An Overview of Growing Lavender Commercially

Paola Legarre in ROOM A

If you are thinking of starting a lavender farm or already have a farm consider this class. You will learn how to prepare, plant, process, and market lavender. Topics will include: selecting different lavender species and cultivars for their marketability; preparing planting beds and designing your farm with the end use in mind; irrigation options; planting and pruning tips and the timing for each task; understanding bloom habits and harvesting for optimum use, and post-harvest handling options.

SESSIONS

Utility Patented Certified Organic Seeds Bill McDormand in ROOM F

For countless generations, seed saving created a delicious abundance of crop diversity and supported healthy, regenerative food systems. But modern laws now threaten this practice, making it illegal for the first time to save and share seeds by allowing them to be patented. The presentation will include a short history of plant patenting and discuss the difference between The Plant Variety Protection Act passed in 1970 and the newer, more restrictive utility patents which completely prohibit seed saving for the first time. Regional strategies will be discussed to assure long-term access to seeds through education, networking, and establishing community-based models of seed stewardship.

Cover crop rotation and protection of Capsicum Annum (New Mexico Chile Pepper) crop from Phytophthora, Tobacco Mosaic and tip rot Ken Armijo in ROOM H

Growing and harvesting chile is challenging enough with variable climate changes including crop killing hail. Most “normal” years spring and summer is the time for planting seeds, irrigating, cultivation, thinning seedlings during 95 - 100-degree daytime temperatures which often leads to blossom drop. Finally, they harvest the long-awaited chile peppers starting in August hoping for healthy plants with large and abundant pungent green pods; a harvest that could sometimes last until early November. Unfortunately, a large portion of the crop sometimes is lost not just to hungry squirrels, but to systemic viruses such as curly top virus, phytophthora, tobacco mosaic virus and tip rot. It is challenging but not impossible to overcome. This seminar will focus on the practice of cover crop rotation before for a cash crop of chile in a certified organic farm using scientific research and practical experience with the goal of minimizing and/or eliminating these destructive plant diseases.

Micro-Irrigation Rob Heyduck in ROOM E

Micro-irrigation has the potential to conserve water and reduce irrigation labor, but also brings numerous management pitfalls along with it. Rob will cover the basics of design and maintenance with drip and microsprinklers, applications for annual and perennial crops, as well as some strategies to make most effective use of irrigation while producing healthy, appealing crops.



Session IV Friday 3:30 – 4:30

Organic, What It Really Means Lauren Aguirre in ROOM F

As the demand for organics grows, the importance of understanding what “Certified Organic” really means and maintaining the integrity of certified organic agricultural products is increasing. In this session participants will learn what it takes to produce and sell certified organic products. We will cover details on what is needed and how to get started as an organic operation; the actual certification process and what to expect including information on the importance of record keeping and marketing; the issues and importance of maintaining Organic integrity and how to detect fraud. All organic scopes will be included in this session. Materials and information for new and existing organic operations as well as NMDA Organic Program resources and services will be available.

Asparagus - An Excellent Option for NM Vegetable Growers Dr. Stephanie Walker in ROOM A

Tolerant of heat, drought, and salinity, asparagus seems a natural fit for New Mexico's often challenging growing conditions. Although so well adapted to the desert southwest that many consider asparagus to be native to the region, the crop actually originated in the eastern Mediterranean part of the world and human consumption of the plant can be dated back more than 2,000 years. This presentation will discuss how to select the best varieties, establish an asparagus bed, manage and harvest this perennial crop so that you can enjoy many years of harvest.

FSMA Produce Safety Rule and How It Affects You Emily Russell in ROOM H

The Produce Safety Rule (PSR) includes requirements under six different areas for producers: agricultural water, biological soil amendments and sprouts, domestic and wild animals, worker training and health and hygiene, grower training, and equipment, tools and buildings. Learn the key points under the six different areas as it pertains to your farm. Additionally, learn what to expect of an inspection conducted by NMDA for the Produce Safety Rule. Also to be discussed are resources that are available to the public in regards to Produce Safety, including the On-Farm Readiness Review program, a non-regulatory, free farm assessment on readiness for PSR compliance.

SESSIONS

Back to the Future with Ancient and Heritage Grain Lee-Ann Hill in ROOM F

Farmers in the Rocky Mountain West are facing increasing pressures from climate change including shorter seasons, diminishing water supplies, and increased pests and diseases. As small farmers shift toward sustainable, localized food production, older crop varieties and traditional growing practices are gaining favor. Heritage, landrace, and ancient grains are making a comeback for the nutritional values, climate adaptations, and farm benefits that they offer. Join Lee-Ann Hill from Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance, and New Mexico Grain Trialists who are involved in the Heritage Grain Trials Project to learn more about the exceptional values of these grains in the field and on the plate.

Tesuque Farm and Seed Bank: Sustainability in Practice Emigdio Ballon in ROOM E

The Pueblo of Tesuque has implemented traditional knowledge and has demonstrated an understanding of indigenous values. One of the examples of this consists of the construction of the seed bank in 2012. We realized in 2006 that we had a need for preserving the seeds of the plants that feed and cure us. As with any idea, it needed enough momentum and support to come to a realization. In consulting with the leaders of the Pueblo of Tesuque and the community, we thought that in addition to preserving seeds for generations, it would spark an interest in traditional farming. We implemented the use of traditional materials in order to build the seed bank. This seed bank was made out of adobe, straw bales, ancient watering methods, and the use of the sun we were able to build a sustainable seed bank. Currently, we store 700 different types of seeds. This unique project gained local and domestic notoriety as we are the only Pueblo of the US to have a seed bank. We

believe the being sustainable, using ancient methods, and understanding the values of our ancestors is the way to helping our community and the environment for generations to come.



ORGANIC PRODUCTS/GOODS/SERVICES SHOWCASE 5:00 – 7:00 PM in ROOM D

Join us for this social gathering of 'who has what goods/ services and products' in NM organics...to register to show your product, please email sagefaulkner@yahoo.com "Showcase" and let us know you need on the list. To attend, no additional registration needed (conference registration needed).

SESSION V Saturday 8:00am – 9:00

Scaling Up the Farm Business from Direct to Wholesale Markets, Kendal Chavez, Denise Miller, Valerie Smith in ROOM E

Can you produce more fruit and vegetables than you are selling at the farmers' market? Would you like to make more profit from your farm? Are you looking for new, bigger markets? If so, this session is for you. The move from direct selling to wholesaling can involve changes as to how you do business including what bigger sales at lower margins means, meeting new expectations of buyers, and how to handle customer service. Presenters will explore the types of wholesale markets from grocery stores to restaurants to schools and other institutions, and how they differ in their purchasing processes and needs. You'll get tips and ideas to help you prepare for these new markets, and for promoting your farm and farm products successfully in the wholesale arena.

Africanized Honey Bees and Ethical Beekeeping Amy Owen in ROOM H

Africanized honey bees have been both a blessing and a curse. In this session we will learn about the history of these bees, their behavior, how climate change impacts their territory, and how to manage them. People around the world have varying perspectives on these bees. We will discuss the ethical implications of having Africanized honey bees, and other ethical dilemmas beekeepers face.

The Next Generation of Control – Biorational Solutions Arianna Taylor in ROOM F

How we can use the latest in biorational solutions to support IPM practices and foster sustainable environments. Learn about the latest in microbial, fungal, mineral and botanical ingredients and modes of action. Including: Preventative disease control using beneficial fungi, soil nutrient maximization through microbial diversity, and targeted insect control with minimal environmental impacts.

SESSIONS



Soil Health II

Ron Godin in ROOM A

Understanding Plant – Soil – Water Relationships as the Keys to a Healthy Soil.

Topics:

- Impacts of irrigation on soils and plant nutrient uptake
- How soil pH impacts plant nutrient uptake and managing soil pH in organic systems
- Understanding and identifying plant nutrient deficiencies and their effect on plants
- Putting it all together for a healthy, productive soil

Supporting the Next Generation of New Mexico Farmers & Ranchers, A Panel featuring Casey Holland, Zoey Fink, Tiana Baca, Jill Rice, New Agrarian Program Director, Jack West, and moderator: Steph von Ancken in ROOM D

Hear from a panel of exceptional, young, farmers, agricultural advocates and educators as they discuss how you can find profit and purpose in agriculture as a young person and support and encourage the capacity development of young farmers and agro-entrepreneurs through incubator programs, apprenticeships and learning farms.

Session VI Saturday 9:30 – 10:30

Veteran Farmer Programs - What You Can Do! Monique Salhab in ROOM F

Monique will give an overview of the importance of veteran farmer programs. This session will help you connect if you want to incorporate veteran farm programs on your farm and will share resources for veterans who want to farm. Join Monique for this session to see what you can do!

Native Seeds and Agriculture in New Mexico Brett Bakker in ROOM E

Native foods such as blue corn and local chiles are growing in popularity but these crops come from a unique cultural context. This presentation will explore over three decades of collecting native seeds as well as valuable lessons gleaned from these crops' place in their traditional cultures.



Lunch Menu

Saturday,
February 22

Organic Salad
Raspberry Vinaigrette

Beef Enchiladas

OR

Vegetarian Enchiladas with
Organic Cheese

Served with:

Calabacitas made with Organic
Squash, Corn & Green Chile

Organic Rice and Beans

Dessert:

Organic Chocolate-Chocolate Chip
Ice Cream with NM Organic Pecan
Pieces

SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

Session I Friday 9:30- 10:30

Voices of the Rio Grande Watershed
Cover crops for NM
Are Essential Nutrients Enough
Soil Health I
Grant Resources: A Panel of Experts

Presenter(s)

Anita Amstutz
Kevin Branum
Dr. Mary Lucero
Ron Godin
Kristen Chavez/Felicia Frost
Bryan Crawford-Garrett/Julia Wise
Jesse Bopp

Room

F
E
H
A

D

Session II Friday 11:00-12:00

Improving Soil Health Function to
Increase Water Use Efficiency
Growing Cut Flowers for Pleasure and Profit
A Conscious Look at Genetics in Organic Agriculture
Hops Growing Industry in New Mexico
A Formula for Health and Wellness?

Presenter(s)

Rudy Garcia

Caitlin Kundrat
Dr. Bradley Tonnessen
Tom Brewer
Daisy Rosero/Fadi Jamaledin
Tracy McDaniel/Christina Brigance
Carolyn Parshall

Room

D

F
E
H

A

Demonstrations Friday 1:00-2:00

Improving Soil Health Function to
Increase Water Use Efficiency
Hops Harvesting Equipment
TBA

Presenter(s)

Chile Pepper Institute
Kevin Lombard and crew

Room

D
Parking lot

Session III Friday 2:00-3:00

Using Cooperative Approaches to Assess Labor
and other Ag Resource Issues
Dirt to Flower: An Overview of Growing Lavender
Commercially
Utility Patented Certified Organic Seeds
Cover Crop Rotation and Protection of Capsacum
Annum (New Mexico Chile Pepper) from Phytophthora,
Tobacco Mosaic and tip rot.
Micro-Irrigation

Presenter(s)

Susann Mikkelsen/Dan Hobbs

Paola Legarre

Bill McDorman

Kenneth Armijo
Rob Heyduck

Room

D

A

F

H
E

Session IV Friday 3:30-4:30

Organic, What it Really Means
Asparagus – an Excellent Option for
NM Vegetable Growers
FSMA Produce Safety Rule and How It Affects You

Presenter(s)

Lauren Aguirre
Dr. Stephanie Walker

Emily Russell

Room

F
A

H

SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

Tesuque Farm and Seed Bank: Sustainability in Practice	Emigdio Ballon	E
Back to the Future with Heritage Grains	Lee-Ann Hill	F

Session V Saturday 8:00-9:00

	Presenter(s)	Room
Scaling Up the Farm Business From Direct to Wholesale Markets	Kendal Chavez, Denise Miller, Valerie Smith	E
Africanized Honey Bees and Ethical Beekeeping	Amy Owen	H
The Next Generation of Control – Biorational Solutions	Arianna Taylor	F
Soil Health II	Ron Godin	A
Supporting the Next Generation of Farmers & Ranchers	Casey Holland, Zoey Fink, Tiana Baca, Jill Rice, Jack West, and Steph von Ancken, moderator	D

Session VI Saturday 9:30-10:30

	Presenter(s)	Room
Veteran Farmer Programs	Monique Salhab	F
Native Seeds and Agriculture in New Mexico	Brett Bakker	E
Becoming a Steward of the Land: Excavating the Roots of Organic Farming	Joanie Quinn/Michael Diaz	D
Useful Invasives	Cebastien Rose and Robin Moore	H
Putting Poultry Into Practice	Casey Holland	A

Session VII Saturday 10:50-11:50

	Presenter(s)	Room
Stories from the Field: Small Farmer	Sarah Grant, moderator and Panel of Farmers	A
Grants with Big Impact		
Seed Saving in the Southwest for Farm and Garden	Brett Bakker	D
Growing Our Future: Helping Students Develop a Love of Agriculture through Ag Events	Traci Curry	H
NMDA's Healthy Soil Program: How New Mexico Farmers, Ranchers, and Others Can Participate	Katie Goetz	E
Regenerating the Diversity of Life in Soils – Hope for Farming, Ranching, Environment, Nutritional Foods and Climate!	Dr. David Johnson	D

Session VIII

Open Meeting Sessions

What do you need to start building soil health?		A D E F H
A listening session for the Soil Health Network		ROOM F
Seed Saving Discussion	Laurie Lange	ROOM A

Exhibitor registration: <http://bit.ly/20NMOFCBOOTH>

Regular Registration: <http://bit.ly/20NMOFC>

SESSIONS

Becoming a Steward of the Land:

Excavating the Roots of Organic Farming, Michael Diaz, Joanie Quinn in ROOM D

Organic farming is the traditional agriculture and has been practiced in one form or another since the dawn of farming. The term “organic” to describe nature-based practices first gained widespread use in the United States when J.I. Rodale began to popularize the concept of farming without chemicals in the mid-twentieth century. Nearly a century later, organic farmers face what at times feels like a disconnect between the practices allowed under USDA organic certification and a more nebulous but important concept of being a steward of the land. How can small farmers minimize off-farm inputs? Is drip irrigation always superior? What about the use of plastic on the farm? Are resilient and regenerative agriculture something new? Why did organic farmers and consumers fight so hard to have the definition of “organic” controlled by the government? What does it mean to become a steward of the land? Michael Diaz, farmer and former certifier/inspector for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture Organic Program and Joanie Quinn, former organic adviser for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture will open a discussion based on their experiences working with farmers and ranchers across New Mexico.

Useful Invasives, Cebastien Rose and Robin Moore in ROOM H

Join Dryland Wilds for a discussion on how to work with your “weeds” for a healthier, wealthier farm. Learn about the history of some of the Southwest’s most hated plants and how to harvest them into added value products, soil and whole system health. From Musk Thistle to Russian Olive, Siberian Elm and more, “invasive” plants can help New Mexico build resilience during climate chaos.

Putting Poultry Into Practice

Casey Holland in ROOM A

Curious about bringing poultry into your agricultural operation? This session will be helpful for both experienced and inexperienced folks by providing an in-depth look into topics such as: why to even bother integrating chickens and other poultry into a small farm operation, chick sourcing, planning/preparation for chick arrival, effective and simple coop design for varying scales of poultry operations, early care through adulthood and beyond, pasturing and chicken tractors, integration with other livestock, daily care and maintenance, predator protection, marketing, permits, food safety precautions, and organic certification requirements! Come prepared with your questions and be ready to leave feeling more confident about bringing poultry onto your operation!

SESSION VII Saturday 10:50 – 11:50

Stories from the Field: Small Farmer Grants with Big Impact, Farmer Panel (To Be Announced) with Sarah Grant, Moderator in ROOM A

This session, moderated by Sarah Grant from the New Mexico Farmers’ Marketing Association (NMFMA), will feature a panel of New Mexico Farmers who were received Local Innovation Farmer Enterprise (LIFE) grants in 2019 from the NMFMA to help them expand their farm operations or improve

regenerative agriculture practices. Learn how relatively low-cost improvements such as cold storage, irrigation filtration, and Johnson-Su bioreactors can impact your farming operations. The farmers will share technical aspects of their projects so that attendees can replicate similar projects on their own farms.



Seed Saving in the Southwest for Farm and Garden Brett Bakker in ROOM D

Join Brett Bakker in this practical session on his experiences and adventures in seed collecting in New Mexico. Interested in Seed Saving? This is the session for you!

Growing Our Future: Helping Students Develop a Love of Agriculture Through Ag Events, Traci Curry in ROOM H

Education about agriculture is needed more than ever before but quality educational opportunities are often limited if not completely non-existent in many communities. Today, farmers and ranchers represent less than two percent of our U.S. population. With global population growth projections expecting 2 billion more mouths to feed in the coming years and stresses on our natural resources, it is imperative that we do our part to inspire children (and adults) to develop a healthy respect and understanding of all aspects of agriculture. Exposure to careers in the agricultural sciences and natural resource fields is also important if we want future generations to take the reins. Our efforts to educate can also greatly impact future consumers, voters, and legislators. Providing such opportunities ensures that those interested in agriculture are given the necessary tools to better understand how to be good stewards of the land.

SESSIONS

NMDA's Healthy Soil Program: How New Mexico Farmers, Ranchers, and Others Can Participate **Katie Goetz in ROOM E**

Join Katie in this session for an update on the implementation of the Healthy Soil Act; the legislation which effectively created NMDA's Healthy Soil Program. Attendees at last year's conference may recall having heard about the Healthy Soil Act that, at that time, was making its way through the halls of the New Mexico Legislature. After Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed it into law last April, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture went to work on its implementation. The resulting program – NMDA's Healthy Soil Program – was unveiled this past August. In this presentation, you'll hear how farmers, ranchers, and other land managers in New Mexico can access grant funding for on-the-ground pilot projects to improve the health of their soil – and how organizations can work to increase the collective understanding of soil health.

Regenerating the Diversity of Life in Soils - Hope for Farming, Ranching and Climate **Dr. David Johnson in ROOM D**

This advanced discussion will build on the understanding the amazing benefits of interdependence between plants and soil microbes that was gained through research in soil microbial community structure and function. It will discuss farming practices that optimize these plant-microbe associations and how they promote: restoration of soil fertility, improved crop growth, increases in plant water use efficiencies, soil microbial carbon-use efficiencies, and soil carbon storage capabilities. Also covered are how these benefits will promote a more profitable, sustainable and regenerative agriculture system that will be beneficial to both farmers/ranchers and the environment.

SESSION VIII Saturday 3:00 – 5:00

OPEN networking space/time – Rooms Available, please reserve your spot now at sagefaulkner@yahoo.com, "Open meeting reservation" or reserve a room at the registration area.

Join Laurie Lange and others for a discussion on seed saving in the Southwest. ROOM A

What do you need to start building soil health? **A listening session for the Soil Health Network in ROOM F**

The Quivira Coalition, in collaboration with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, and the Healthy Soils Working Group and with support from the New Mexico Natural Resources Conservation Service, is building a Soil Health Network around the state to

support the recently passed NM Healthy Soils Act. We want to hear from you about what you need to start building soil health and practicing soil health principles to inform the content of the Soil Health Network teaching materials and workshops. For technical service providers and producers, we will develop 2 open-source soil health guides supported by a series of 12 workshops around the state in our 6 conservation regions. We will also support on the ground soil health assessment and monitoring by providing our 47 conservation district offices with a soil health tool kit. We will build and grow knowledge-sharing networks of technical service providers and producers through the establishment of a soil health Listserv, building the network of soil health champions, and networking at the workshops. Whether you are a technical service provider, producer, or another interested party - we would love your input so please join!

Exhibitor registration: <http://bit.ly/20NMOFCBOOTH>
Regular Registration: <http://bit.ly/20NMOFC>



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2020 Showcase of Organic Goods

Friday, February 21
5:00pm to 7:pm



All certified organic producers, processors, retail, wholesale, and resource agencies are invited to bring samples, brochures, business information and other information to showcase your products/services. For our retail, processing and wholesale guests, this will be a terrific opportunity to build new relationships and find new products.

No additional fees to participate in the Showcase.

(Conference registration required for all attendees)

Email Sage at sagefaulkner@yahoo.com to reserve a table for your product.



Join us for snacks/cash bar and see what exciting things are happening in NM Organics!

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Please register online at <http://bit.ly/20NMOFC> and choose your method of payment, including credit card. If you are unable to use the online method, you can mail this form in.

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OR - Regular Registration <http://bit.ly/20NMOFC>

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Saturday Only Ticket \$100 _____

Please note: the one-day ticket option is **only** available for Saturday attendance. If you plan on attending Friday, you will have to purchase a regular registration; we apologize for any confusion, but due to past Friday-only ticket attendees attending on Saturday as well, the committee has made this adjustment. We appreciate your understanding.

Total Included: _____

If you cannot **mail your registration by February 1**, or **pay online by February 21**, please register at the door on the day of the conference. The online registration site will close February 21, 2020.

Don't forget to make your hotel reservations by January 20, 2020. Call Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, and say you are part of the "Organic Farming Conference 2020".

Mail this form with your check made payable to "NMFLBF" to: Theresa Widner,

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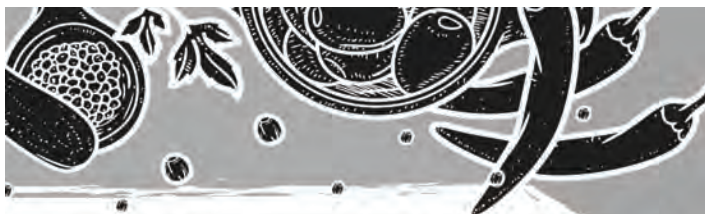
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We represent family farmers and ranchers in Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico.

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We are dedicated to:

- sustaining our rural communities
- wise stewardship and use of natural resources
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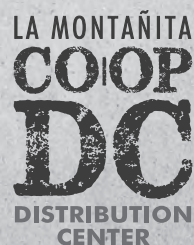
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