

**Farm
toTable**



NEW MEXICO
Food & Agriculture
POLICY COUNCIL

New Mexico Food & Farms Day

Celebrating Food, Farm and Hunger Initiatives

August 24, 2022

Good Food For New Mexico Award

Celebrating NM Farmers' Markets

Bianca Encinas and La Familia Growers Market
Albuquerque, NM



Photo: Jaelyn de Maria

Sofia Martinez giving a cooking demonstration.

La Familia Growers Market/South Valley MainStreet was established in 2015, paying homage to a grocery store with the same name that used to be in the same location.

La Familia Growers Market is a community-based farmers market in the South Valley, along the Rio Grande, located at the Dolores Huerta Gateway Park. With a vision to highlight the culture, traditions, and history of the South Valley, with the goal of creating a space for community building and gathering in the South Valley, while supporting the local bricks and mortar small businesses in the area.

In late summer and early fall the La Familia Growers Market conducts hands-on workshops on traditional and cultural ways of living, handed down from generation to generation, the passing and sharing of knowledge.

Sowing Change Award

Organizations Engaged in Creating Sustainable Food Systems

Alma Maquitico and Anthony Youth Farm

Anthony, NM



The Anthony Youth Farm consists of 25 acres, 3 green houses, cold storage, and diversified irrigation systems. On the surface, it might look like any other farm in southern NM. But if you look deeper, you'll find a team of trainers, advisors in the form of local farmers and food purveyors, as well as NMSU extension agents. At the center of the team are 12-15 young farmers who received professional, educational and leadership training. Through this training, the youth farmers are inspired to create transformative change in their communities by

providing 500+ pounds of produce each week, serving almost 40,000 students in Las Cruces and Gadsden School Districts, as well as 300 rural families who participate in their CSA.

According to farm director, Alma Maquitico, "Youth develop critical thinking skills, leadership to solve everyday problems, and awareness about their health and the needs of their community. They learn the importance of land, the water, the air and taking care of the environment. We realized that we had a model. Participating youth are training to be not only farmers but leaders in their community, whatever they grow up to be."

Living Land Award

Outstanding Leadership in Land Stewardship

Ralph Vigil and Molino de la Isla Organics

Pecos, NM

Molino de la Isla Organics LLC is a small organic farm specializing in traditional and acequia agriculture, focusing on Farm to School, CSA, and Farmers' Market sales. As an 8th generation acequia farmer from East Pecos and Chair of the New Mexico Acequia Commission, owner Ralph Vigil's primary goal is to defend land and water through organic agriculture by utilizing our centuries-old acequia systems to demonstrate their ability to sustain our communities economically, combat climate change, and aid in physical and emotional well-being.



Heart of the Land Award

Outstanding Leadership in Ranching

Gilbert Louis and Acoma Number 8 Ranch

Acoma Pueblo



Acoma Number 8 Ranch has been into conservation since the beginning of time; as Native Americans in the arid Southwest, their lives depend on it.

Since 1982, Gilbert Louis and his family have managed a self-sustaining 17,000 acres and 80 head of livestock. There have been drastic infrastructure improvements, from miles of fencing and water lines, to storage tanks, and

windmills converted to solar wells. Within those 17,000 acres, there are eight pastures with water sources. This arrangement has allowed them to rotate cattle every three months. Through breeding, they raise registered and commercial Black Angus, which are sold to local producers.. Gilbert states, "We strive to stay current on the cattle market and land management, along with our Native American Culture all mixed together. It's all a balance we must do to preserve our resources if we are going to make another 40 years on the same 17,000 acres."

Heart of the Land Award

Outstanding Leadership in Farming

Emigdio Ballon and Tesuque Pueblo Farm

Tesuque Pueblo



Converted to a food oriented operation in the early 2000's, Tesuque Pueblo Farm cultivates over 70 acres, producing traditional crops, herbal medicines, many varieties of grains and vegetables, as well as 750 fruit trees. As a certified organic operation, they mostly tend to the crops by hand. The farm is also home to local beehives. A straw bale and adobe, solar powered seed bank preserves key seed species. Geothermal technology is used to heat their hoop houses. All the produce from the farm is given back to community elders and school children. It's their mission to revive traditional farming practices while integrating sustainable, low-tech farming techniques to feed the people of the Tesuque Pueblo.

The farm's Agricultural Director, Emigdio Ballon, a descendant of the Incas, came to the Pueblo by way of Bolivia, with degrees in agriculture and plant genetics. Since 2005, he has run the Pueblo's farm operations, expanding outreach and knowledge sharing to include seed sharing with other area tribes.

Growing the Future Award

New or Young Farmers and Ranchers

Kirsten Couevas and Sublime Pastures

Tome, NM

Kirsten Couevas is the owner/operator of Sublime Pastures LLC located in Tome, NM, which is a small regenerative farm. “The main goal is to have healthy soil. Starting at the base is so important. When you have healthy soil your plants and animals are healthy, meaning they are providing nutritionally-dense food,” says Kirsten. Currently Sublime uses animals to help regenerate their soil, planting annual cover crops on old hay fields using no-till methods, then they graze in rotation: American Aberdeen (Angus) cattle, KuneKune pigs, and chickens (comprising a variety of egg layers and meat birds). The farm sells grass-fed and finished beef, pasture-raised pork, and organic fed, non-gmo/soy pasture chickens and eggs. Their motto is “Healthy Soil = Healthy Animals = Healthy People.”



NM Grown/Golden Chile Awards

Recognized by the NM Grown Coalition

The NM Grown Coalition announces the New Mexico Grown 2021 Golden Chile awardees in recognition of the hard work of these leaders who have championed New Mexico Grown efforts in preschools, schools, and senior centers across the state. Applicants were scored based on local procurement, edible gardens, nutrition education, and community engagement.

Award categories are **Seed** (program has potential), **Sprout** (program is growing strong), **Blossom** (program is reaching maturity) and **Golden Chile** (mature and fruitful program).

Seed Award: City of Las Vegas Senior Services - Wanda Salazar Getting started with purchasing NM Grown produce and products for senior meals.

Sprout Award: Deming Family Resource Center/Head Start Purchase NM Grown produce for meals and snacks and have an edible garden to teach children about how produce is grown. Plus, they bring in families to support the work they do!

Blossom Awards: Albuquerque Public Schools - Sandra Kemp and Roswell Independent School District - Kim Meeks Have a history of purchasing NM Grown produce from multiple farms, have robust edible garden programs, promote local purchasing, conduct nutrition education. Both districts are looking forward to expanding their programs!

Golden Chile Award: Sandoval County Senior Services Program - Donald Ravizza and Janice Mortensen has purchased a variety of NM Grown produce and products. They work with multiple local producers and processors. Mentors for other senior providers.

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