



Food & Farms Day Advocacy & Rostrum Information

What does Food & Farms Day Advocacy Look Like?

The New Mexico State Legislature is one of the most accessible in the country and one of the very few that still allow citizens to meet with their legislators on the chamber floors. This is a great way to participate in direct civic engagement and advocacy. Tell your story! Share with your Senators and Representatives why local food, nutrition, agriculture and conservation programs are important to you!

How You Can Participate/What to Expect

First of all, stop by the Farm to Table/New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Table in the East Hall to pick up a packet. It's got room office numbers for your legislators, information about the various initiatives we are supporting, and may generally help orient to the day.

After the awards ceremony ends (around 10 am), event participants, rostrum folks and anyone interested in the advocacy process should **gather near the East Entrance** of the Roundhouse. From there, we will **split you into groups with an Advocacy Lead** to make navigating the busy hallways a little easier.

Advocacy Leads

Pam Roy - All Rostrum folks, please go with Pam

Roger Gonzales

Anthony Wagner

Lawrence Gallegos

Alena Paisano and Rita Condon - Golden Chile Awardees please go here, unless you are on the Rostrum.

From there, Rostrum folks should follow Pam downstairs to the House Speaker's Office (room #104) or the Senate Pro Tem's Office (room #105) to receive your badges and be guided by staff to your rostrum seats. **Leave a coat on your chair as the seats can often fill up.** Afterwards, you can join the groups for legislator visits on the chamber floor. **When they gavel down for the session to begin, take your seat on the Rostrum.**

If you're NOT on Rostrum, your group leader will take you downstairs to begin making visits with your legislators. **It's hard to know exactly where you will begin and much depends on the day's schedule. Once we know that information we will post it to this page (usually they release that the night before.)**

More than likely, you will make visits to the House Chambers first, then the Senate. But there's a possibility of making office visits beforehand. Be flexible and willing to pivot at

a moment's notice. This is the nature of the legislative session. Ours is one of the most accessible legislature's in the county but the schedule can change with no notice!

When they gavel down (likely in the House first), your group can move to the Senate Chambers (which tends to run about 30 minutes behind the house) or move upstairs to the gallery to witness the proceedings and the reading of the Food & Farms Day Memorial. You may be asked to stand and be recognized.

After the day's activities, around 12:10 (hopefully!) ***we will gather on the West Side of the Roundhouse for a group photo.***

What to do in advance

Prepare your elevator speech! Give yourself 60-90 seconds. State your name and your community. Then, your organization or farm name. Don't forget to address them by their title and don't forget to "make the ask." Tell your legislator what are the most important food, farm, nutrition or conservation initiatives that are important to you and why. Share a positive story that supports your request. Keep it short, sweet and personal! Your story is what can make a difference in the hearts and minds of decision makers

COVID Precautions/Dress Code

There is no vaccination or mask requirement at the Roundhouse this year, but you will have to pass through a metal detector to enter the building. There is also no dress code, unless you are sitting Rostrum. We do recommend you dress in business attire, especially if you are participating in the legislative visits or the awards ceremony.

What is Rostrum?

Rostrum is a formal opportunity to participate in the opening proceedings for the day's legislative activities. This is a great way to represent your organization while the memorials are read in both chambers for Food & Farms Day. Time permitting, your representative or senator will recognize you and your organization from the chamber floor as part of the memorial introduction.

There are some protocols and requirements for the rostrum.

Dress Code: Business attire. Men must wear a tie/bolo and a jacket. Native people may wear a piece of ceremonial jewelry instead of a tie/bolo.

Order of Activities: Anyone participating in Rostrum should be taken to the Senate Pro Tem or Speaker of the House's offices as soon as possible after the ceremony.

[Parking](#)

Parking can be quite challenging during the session.

- There's a state garage off of Galisteo. Unless you get there early, it will likely be full.
- The PERA Parking lot across the street from the Capitol (on Old Santa Fe Trail) has been letting folks park there, but also not a guarantee.
- Otherwise, you will need to find street parking.