

# New Mexico Food & Farms Day Awards

*Celebrating Our Local Food Champions*

*January 30, 2025*

*Legislative Sponsors: Senators Pete Campos and Liz Stefanics  
and Representative Joanne Ferrary*



The New Mexico Food & Farms Day Awards celebrate the efforts of individuals, communities, organizations, and agencies in creating a thriving local food, farming and ranching economy, while at the same time emphasizing that everyone in the state should have access to fresh, local, healthy, and nutritional food. The New Mexico Food & Farms Day Awards are produced by Farm to Table and the NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council.

[www.nmfoodpolicy.org](http://www.nmfoodpolicy.org)

## Good Food for New Mexico Award *Celebrating Farmers' Markets*



### **Silver City Farmers' Market** Silver City, NM

The Silver City Farmers' Market got its start more than 40 years ago by helping local growers and producers connect with people who want to buy fresh, local food. There is a market once a week on Saturday morning that provides a great space for vendors and customers, with live music every week from May to October and lots of great New Mexican food.

[www.silvercityfarmersmarket.info](http://www.silvercityfarmersmarket.info)  
[www.facebook.com/silvercityfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/silvercityfarmersmarket)

*Growing the Future Award  
for New or Young Farmers and Ranchers*

**Casey Holland | Chispas Farm**  
South Valley, Albuquerque, NM

Chispas Farm is located in Albuquerque's South Valley on occupied Tiwa land. They grow over 120 varieties of heirloom vegetables and fruits, integrate a variety of livestock, and strive for a low-till, regenerative closed loop cycle on the farm. They host numerous schools, volunteers, community organizations, and gatherings and love connecting their community to their shared agricultural heritage. Founded in 2001, Chispas has grown and evolved much over the last two decades. Casey has run Chispas Farm since 2017 and in 2023 the farm began empowering the crew to take leadership in all arenas of farm management on their path towards worker equity.

[www.chispasfarm.com](http://www.chispasfarm.com)  
[www.facebook.com/chispasfarm](https://www.facebook.com/chispasfarm)  
Instagram: @ChispasFarm



*Heart of the Land Award  
for Outstanding Leadership in  
Farming and Ranching*

**Bryce Townsend**  
**Black Mesa Farm**  
San Felipe Pueblo, NM



Black Mesa Farm is owned and operated by Bryce Townsend on land that has been stewarded for four generations. It is an 8-acre farm on San Felipe Pueblo, 25 miles north of Albuquerque. Black Mesa Farm grows a variety of specialty crops for the New Mexico FreshRxProgram, a produce prescription program housed by the New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association that provides fresh produce for patients to complement their current medical care by eating nutritious meals. In 2024, they

marked the third year of the program which has served ten Pueblo communities, two Hispano communities, one Navajo community and an urban clinic in Albuquerque. Black Mesa Farm is not only a source of food for indigenous communities, but also a source of education through farm tours, field days, and hands-on training. Bryce's priority is utilizing Pueblo agricultural lands and exercising water rights to optimize the overall health and wealth of the people.



## Living Land Award for Outstanding Leadership in Land Stewardship

### **Zia Queenbees Farm & Field Institute**

Zia Queenbees was founded in 2005 and specializes in breeding regionally adaptive bees, providing pollination services, producing exquisite pure and raw honeys, and conducting consilience research and outreach. Founders Melanie Kirby and Mark Spitzig are landless bee farmers who are grateful for the relationships that have formed over the past two decades across the state with land stewards and community organizations who have shared space by hosting hives and supporting healthy pollinator forage. Zia Queenbees has been a national leader in

establishing and facilitating bee breeding community collaborations including the coast-to-coast Adaptive Bee Breeders Alliance which includes bee breeders and bee scientists working collaboratively to share climate smart and regenerative approaches to nurture sustainable bee production.

[www.ziaqueenbees.com](http://www.ziaqueenbees.com)  
Instagram: @ziaqueenbees

## Sowing Change Award for Organizations Engaged in Creating Sustainable Food Systems

### **New Mexico Public Education Department Student Success and Wellness Bureau Statewide Organization**

The New Mexico Public Education Department Student Success and Wellness Bureau has been a foundational champion of the New Mexico Grown Program which supports schools in purchasing locally grown foods to improve access to fresh, nutritious meals for students. This initiative promotes healthy eating, strengthens the local economy, fosters environmental sustainability, and educates students about local agriculture and food systems. Through partnerships with farmers, distributors, and schools, the program aims to create a lasting impact on both the health of students and the vitality of New Mexico's farming community



[webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/student-success-wellness](http://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/student-success-wellness)  
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