



NEW MEXICO
Food & Agriculture
POLICY COUNCIL

New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council
New Mexico Food Charter
REPORT CARD 2023-2024
As of November 1, 2024



Nutrition and Food Security



**Environment, Conservation and
Climate Change**



**Government Support and
Infrastructure**

What is the New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council?

The New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council, (the Policy Council) a program of Farm to Table New Mexico, is composed of groups and individuals impacted by food and agriculture systems. The mission of the Policy Council is to advocate for food systems that strengthen the food and farm economies in New Mexico, and encourage and advance keeping food grown, raised, and processed

in New Mexico, through support, education, and policy. The aim of its work is to enhance the health and wellness of people and communities, and to sustain natural resources. The Policy Council is the oldest continually operating food policy council in the country. For more information about the Policy Council visit our website at www.nmfoodpolicy.org/new-mexico-food-charter.

What is the NMFAPC New Mexico Food Charter?

The New Mexico Food Charter is a document that outlines the shared values, goals, and priorities of the New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council to guide its policy work over the next three to five years. It provides a practice-based approach to address food security in

an ever-changing climate, by investing in local production and consumption of food, with an emphasis on equitable and sustainable practices. You can access the New Mexico Food Charter at www.nmfoodpolicy.org/new-mexico-food-charter.

How Can We Use the New Mexico Food Charter?

The New Mexico Food Charter is designed to:

- **Set Priorities** to improve food security and access to nutritious food, promote practices to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and improve the food infrastructure through government support.
- **Guide Decision-Making** within the Policy Council, helping members align their actions with the shared values, priorities and goals outlined in the charter.
- **Advocate and Educate** policymakers, community members, and others about the importance of food-related issues, the Policy Council's policy priorities, and expected outcomes.
- **Build Partnerships** with governments, organizations and others that share similar values and goals, and strengthen our collective impact.
- **Monitor and Evaluate Progress** to hold government agencies, policymakers, and others accountable for the intended and unintended impacts of policy decisions and programs.

Report Card Purpose

The Policy Council aims to address food security in an ever-changing climate, by investing in local production and consumption of food, with an emphasis on equitable and sustainable practices. Its approach includes:

3 Priorities: 1) Nutrition and Food Security; 2) Environment, Conservation and Climate; and 3) Government Support and Infrastructure.

4 Strategies: state legislation, federal legislation, policy administration and rules & regulations

18 outcomes are monitored through 60 measurable indicators to assess the Policy Council's progress in improving the food system within its three policy priorities.

The Food Charter Report Card shows the results and impact of this work. The Report Card will be updated periodically to show how the impact measures change over time. The version date is at the bottom of each page.

Understanding Food Systems

Policy decisions influence our food systems, which affect the health of people, soil, plants, animals, the environment, and local economies. Food system disruptions during increasingly frequent and severe extreme events because of climate change will disproportionately affect food accessibility, nutrition, and health of some groups, including women, children, older adults, and low-income communities. Policymakers, governments, consumers, food producers, health advocates, and others must work together across sectors to create practices and

policies that make our food systems healthy, sustainable, equitable, and economically sound in an ever-changing climate.

“The Policy Council aims to address food security in an ever-changing climate, by investing in local production and consumption of food, with an emphasis on equitable and sustainable practices.”



Photo: courtesy: Donne Gonzales

Our Priorities

With input from over 50 members and partners, the Policy Council identified three policy areas that significantly influence New Mexico's food systems. These three areas are the focus of our policy work as outlined in the New Mexico Food Charter.

Nutrition and Food Security

Enhancing access to nutritious food and food security for populations throughout New Mexico, especially children, older adults and those who are food insecure.

Environment, Conservation and Climate

Air, water, soil, climate, pollinators and various other environmental factors significantly impact food production, food nutrition, and the economic well-being of food producers. If the land is not healthy and productive, the livelihoods of food producers are at risk. Growing food in an environment where access to clean water is threatened and the impact of the climate crisis is increasing requires implementing conservation and restorative practices.

Government Support and Infrastructure

Government plays a pivotal and multifaceted role in shaping a sustainable, equitable food system that meets the population's food and nutrition needs while minimizing adverse social and environmental impacts. Public policies and programs determine the funding and other resources available, who may benefit from those resources, and which aspects of the food system are deemed worthy of investment.



NM Food & Farms Day, Photo Gabriella Marks



Nutrition and Food Security

Legislation and Budget Priorities We Supported That Passed

The **Food Initiative** is a multi-agency commitment to foster a food system that addresses hunger while simultaneously investing in economic resiliency for farmers, ranchers, and food businesses in New Mexico. Since state fiscal year 2022, budget and legislative wins secured through the initiative have resulted in the largest investment increase in food and agriculture in the state's history. Some of the core programs included in the Food Initiative include:

- New Mexico Grown for schools, preschools and senior centers (Summer EBT, 200% FPL increase, and Restaurant Program)
- Healthy Universal School Meals
- Kids Kitchen
- Double Up Food Bucks
- State SNAP Supplement for Seniors and Individuals w/ Disabilities
- SNAP expansion and enhancements
- Food is Medicine Medicaid-funded interventions
- Healthy Food Financing Fund
- Community Food Assistance
- Approved Supplier Program

School Kitchen Capital Improvement received \$20 million in Capital Funding beginning in FY24, with spending authorized for 5 years.

Legislation and Budget Priorities We Supported that Did Not Pass or Was Not Funded

Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Rx Program was not funded in FY25, a loss of \$500,000. The Fruit & Vegetable Prescription Program (FVRx) connected patients who suffer from diet-related illnesses such as obesity, diabetes, and hypertension with “prescriptions” or incentives used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at their local farmers’ markets. However, Medicaid

funded programs including Medically Tailored Meals & Produce Prescription for mothers with gestational diabetes and homebound seniors, will go live in FY25.

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, including staff, saw a loss of \$244,030 from FY24.

Rulemaking

The New Mexico Public Education Department released its proposed rule, **Healthy Universal School Meals (6.12.16 NMAC)**. The Policy Council developed a position statement on the rules emphasizing the economic and nutritional

benefits of purchasing NM Grown food. The statement was signed by 80 organizations and presented at the May 29, 2024 hearing. As of July 2024, the final rule is pending.

Nutrition and Food Security

Outcomes

Our goals for this priority are to increase access to nutrient-rich local food; education and awareness so youth and families can make better food purchasing and consumption

choices; access to foods that are not heavily processed foods; and enrollment in and access to programs with a nutrition focus; and to build strong and resilient emergency food systems.

Healthy Universal School Meals

The enactment of Healthy Universal School Meals will begin in July 2024. The numbers below report School Breakfast and National School Lunch Program data.

FY 23 50,804,277 meals provided

FY 24 55,132,589 meals provided

Value of NM Grown Food Purchased

NM Grown Programs, Value of Local Goods Distributed	FY23	FY24	Total
All Food Initiative Programs	\$5,305,503	\$4,483,472	\$9,789,476
NM Grown for Preschools	\$135,619	\$75,295	
NM Grown for Schools	\$1,891,738	\$630,477	
NM Grown for Seniors	\$592,228	\$684,996	
All Other FI Programs	\$2,685,917	\$2,186,179	

Source: NM Food Initiative Dashboard. www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/dfa-dashboards/food-initiative-dashboard

NM Grown Program for K-12

FY 22 199 participating School Food Authority (SFAs) serving 313,206 students

FY 23 144 participating SFAs serving 299,718 students

FY 24 160 participating SFAs serving 298,914 students

Nutrition and Food Security Outcomes

NM Grown Program for Seniors

Funding administered through New Mexico Aging and Long Term Services Department.

FY 22	37 senior centers
FY 23	83 senior centers participating
FY 24	92 senior centers participating
FY 25	167 senior centers participating

NM Grown Program for Early Childhood Centers

Funding administered through New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department

FY 22	15 awardees
FY 23	23 awardees
FY 24	42 awardees
FY 25	23 applicants (as of July 2024)



Photo: Seth Roffman

Nutrition and Food Security Outcomes

Food Producer Participation in NM Food Initiative

In FY24, 1,032 farms, ranches, co-ops, processing facilities and other agricultural businesses located throughout New Mexico helped to provide local produce to the New Mexico Food Initiative programs, valued at

\$4,483,472. These “farm to market” sales contributed to 10.8% of the total crop and livestock sales of \$3.71 billion in NM in 2022, up 17% from 2021 as reported by the NM Department of Agriculture, July 2024.

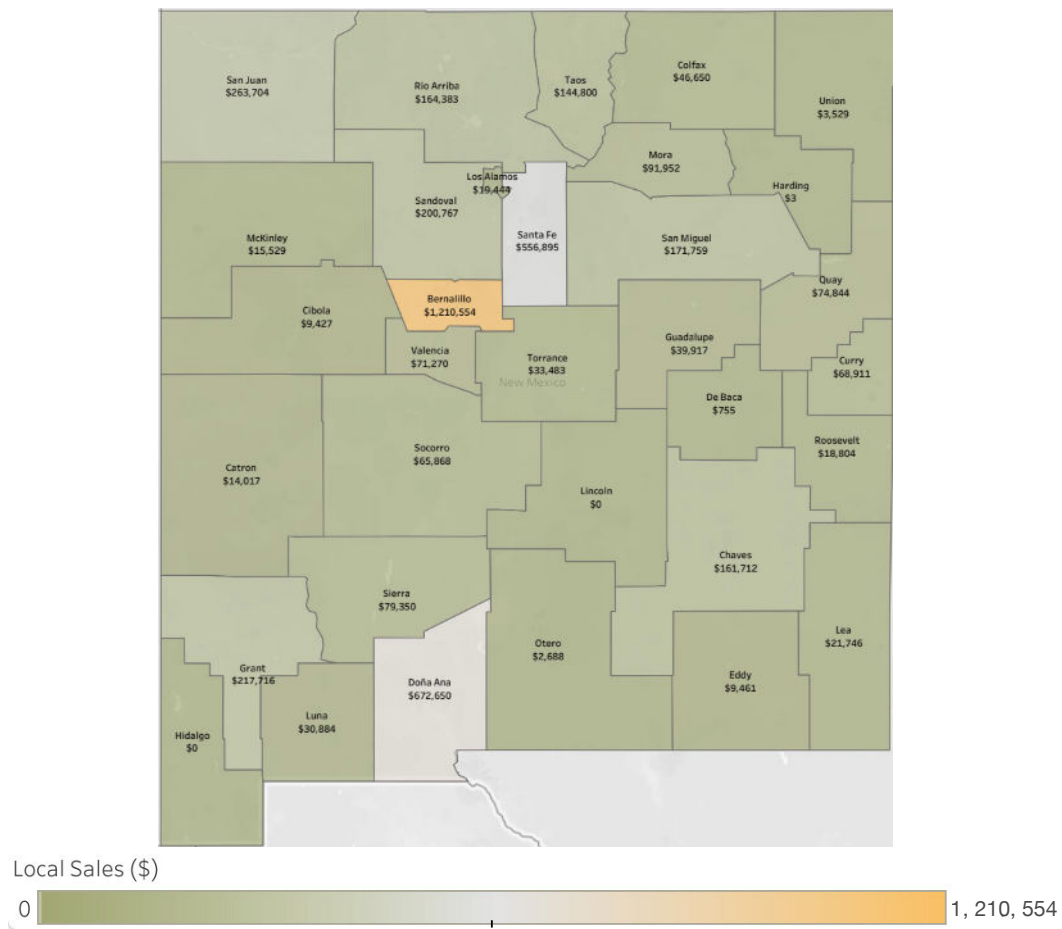


Figure 1: Sales figures or value of local produce sold/distributed through Food Initiative programs in FY24.
Source: NM Food Initiative Dashboard. www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/dfa-dashboards/food-initiative-dashboard

Approved Supplier Program

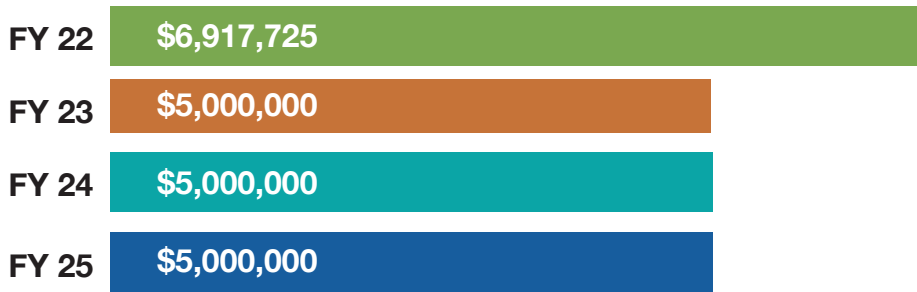
FY 22	46 vendors
FY 23	52 vendors
FY 24	94 produce and 32 meat vendors

Nutrition and Food Security Outcomes

Healthy Food Financing Funding¹



Community Food Assistance Funding¹



NM Regional Farm to Food Bank (RF2FB) Program

RF2FB connects local producers with New Mexico food banks and their partner agencies by paying competitive fair market prices for local products and increasing economic opportunities for New Mexico's small to mid-sized socially disadvantaged producers. This

program received one-time federal funding in the amount of \$4,094,608 for May 2023 to June 2025. The Policy Council would like to see this program continue in the future.

1. Note that these figures do not include other funding that support Food Initiative programs, such as GRO/Junior allocations, interagency transfers, agency base budgets, and federal funds. You can find the full allocation per program in the Self-Reported Funding on the Food Initiative Dashboard at: www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/dfa-dashboards/food-initiative-dashboard

New Mexico Food Initiative - FY2025 FUNDING ^{2, 3}

The total appropriations for the Food Initiative in the general spending bill (HB2) for FY25 was \$93,311,880 for 20 programs, an increase of \$16,589,865 or 122% over FY24. Figure 1 shows the annual change in state general funds from FY22 to FY25. ⁴

NM Food Initiative Total Funding State Fiscal Years 2022-2025



Figure 2: NM Food Initiative Funding 2022-2025

New Mexico Food Initiative Program Funding

The NM Food Initiative was first funded in SFY2022. Since then, the overall funding amount has increased, and the programs funded have expanded and changed over the years (see Figure 3).

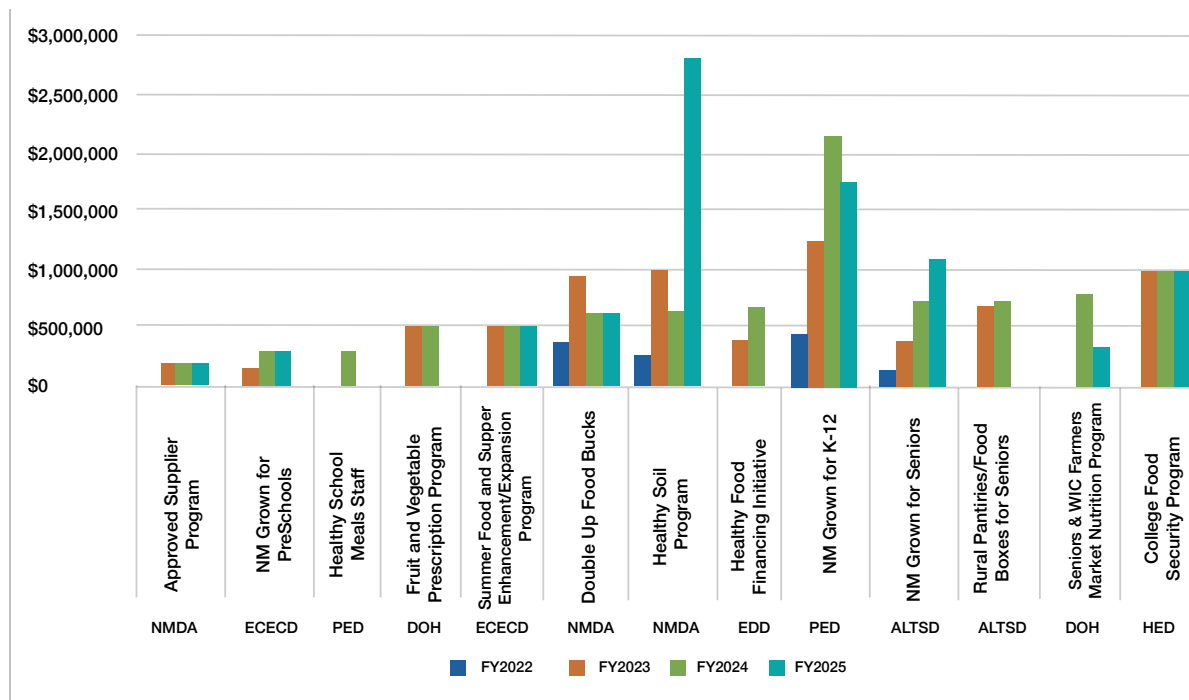


Figure 3: NM Food Initiative Selected Programs FY22-FY25

2. Source: New Mexico Food Initiative Dashboard, Food Initiative General Fund Budget, Detailed Budget by Agency, Program and Fiscal Year (SFY2024) Retrieved May 27, 2024 from: www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/dfa-dashboards/food-initiative-dashboard

3. Source: Chavez, K. March 5, 2024. Transmitted by email. FY25 Food Initiative Budget March 5, 2024.

4. Note that these figures do not include other funding that support Food Initiative programs, such as GRO/Junior allocations, interagency transfers, agency base budgets, and federal funds. You can find the full allocation per program in the Self-Reported Funding on the Food Initiative Dashboard at: www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/dfa-dashboards/food-initiative-dashboard

Environment, Conservation and Climate

Legislation and Budget Priorities We Supported that Passed

Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund (SB9) appropriated \$400 million into two funds: \$50 million for an expendable fund and \$350 million into a permanent fund. \$12.5 million will be distributed to eight existing state programs beginning in FY2024 and continuing until FY2028. The \$350 million in the permanent fund will generate interest over time which will be distributed annually through the expendable fund once it accrues sufficient interest.

Pollinator Protection Plan Work Group (HM33) requests the NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA) to convene a work group with representatives of NMDA, the New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council, and the New Mexico Beekeepers Association, among others, to consider a plan to protect and increase pollinators in New Mexico.

Legislation and Budget Priorities We Supported that Did Not Pass or Was Not Funded

Composting Initiative (SB79) to develop a statewide set of composting recommendations. The bill did not get any funding yet received support for its future.

Much appreciation to the **NM Healthy Soil Working Group** for starting this discussion and setting the stage for the future. In fiscal year 2025, NMDA is contracting a statewide study on compost production and use through Healthy Soil Program funds.

Acequia & Community Ditch Fund (SB266) An increase of \$350,000 to the Acequia and Community Ditch Fund was requested, for a total of \$1.5 million, to expand the number of grants to acequias and community ditch associations. FY25 appropriations were kept at the previous funding level of \$800,000. Investments in New Mexico's water infrastructure can help to bring more local food to New Mexicans.

Rulemaking

Produced Water. On May 14, 2024 New Mexico's Water Quality Control Commission began a hearing to consider a rule proposed by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to prohibit the discharge of produced water to ground and surface water. The

hearing will resume August 5-9, 2024. The Policy Council is evaluating NMED's proposal to prohibit the discharge of produced water, whether treated or not, to New Mexico's surface and groundwaters and the allowance of produced water for industrial reuse.

Environment, Conservation and Climate

NMFAPC's Water Statement

The Policy Council believes that planning for all water use in New Mexico now and in the future must prioritize providing adequate clean water for local food production by New Mexico farmers, cultivators, and growers. By doing so, these producers are economically

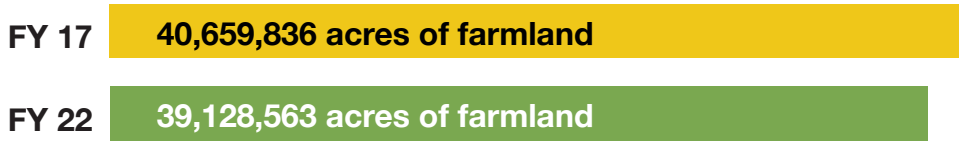
and environmentally resilient and can continue providing healthy foods. Consequently, the Policy Council adopted a water statement in May 2024. View the full statement at: www.nmfoodpolicy.org/water-policy-statement.

Outcomes

Our goals for this priority are to protect agricultural land and small farms, increase restorative practices and the use of resilient crops, increase water quality and quantity

for food production, increase New Mexico's pollinators, more seed preservation, and protect growers impacted by climate change.

Total Number of Farm Acreage in New Mexico



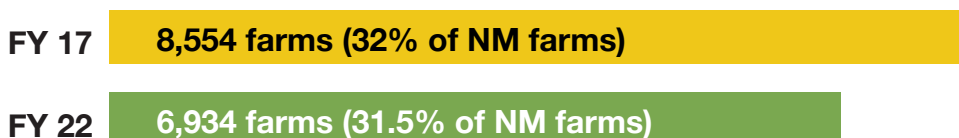
NM Farms in New Mexico



NM Farms Under 10 Acres

The average farm size in New Mexico is 1865 acres, however 33% of farms are less than nine acres. Ninety-five percent of all NM farms

and ranches are family owned. Source: [NM Department of Agriculture Report, July 2024](#).



Environment, Conservation and Climate

NMDA Agricultural Workforce Development Program

NMDA's AWD is an agri-busienss internship program that provides incentives to New Mexico agriculture businesses including

farmers, ranchers, value-added producers, processing and other agriculture-related businesses to hire interns.

FY 22 \$125,000 14 agriculture businesses 23 interns

FY 23 \$375,000 13 agriculture businesses 22 interns

FY 24 \$125,000 7 agriculture businesses 14 interns

NMDA Healthy Soil Program

FY 21 \$237,000 with 26 awards

FY 22 \$185,000 with 17 awards

FY 23 \$1,092,00 with 50 awards

FY 24 \$754,000 with 46 awards

Figure 4: Details for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program 2020-2024

Fiscal Year	Grant Applications for On-the Ground Projects		Approximate Dollars (in thosands)	
	Received	Selected	Requested	Awarded
2020 (pilot)	84	19	\$1,370.0	\$178.0
2021	49	26	\$513.0	\$237.0
2022	49	17	\$404.0	\$185.0
2023	77	50	\$1,405.5	\$1,092.8
2024	67	46	\$1283.0	\$754.8

Source: NM Department of Agriculture



Reunity Resources, Photo: Helen Henry



Government Support and Infrastructure

Legislation and Budget Priorities We Supported that Passed

County and Tribal Health Councils (HB67 and HB2) allocated one-time funding at \$3 million for FY25, a 450% increase over FY24. County and Tribal Health Councils support community food and nutrition programs and local efforts to mitigate climate change.

New Mexico Meat Inspection Act (SB 37 and HB162) authorizes the creation of a state

meat inspection program to ensure the safety and quality of meat for human consumption in New Mexico that meets or exceeds the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the federal Poultry Products Inspection Act and the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978. Investments across the food value chain can bring New Mexicans more sustainable, healthy, and affordable food.

Legislation and Budget Priorities We Supported that Did Not Pass or Was Not Funded

Public Banking Act (SB110) will enable NM to create a state public bank, which is operated by professional bankers and work in partnership with community banks, credit unions, and Community Development

Financial Institutions to make affordable loans available to local farmers, ranchers and food value chain businesses. Although this bill died in committee, it gained more momentum and supporters this session.

Outcomes

Our goals for this priority are to expand the infrastructure for NM Grown food by increasing state, federal and tribal resources to New

Mexican growers who have been historically discriminated against.

The Federal Farm Bill

The Policy Council's Federal Policy Committee has worked diligently over the past year to help shape the next Farm Bill and inform

our congressional delegation of areas most important to New Mexicans.

Take Action!

Here are some things you can do to address food security and improve food systems in New Mexico:

Become a member of the NM Food Policy Council www.nmfoodpolicy.org/membership

Talk to your elected officials and legislators

about the importance of New Mexico's food system and the New Mexico Food Initiative

Sign on to letters of support sponsored by the Policy Council.

Provide public comment at hearings or committees regarding proposed rule changes.

Food Charter Report Card Data Sources

Nutrition and Food Security

Page 6. Healthy Universal School Meals, # of meals provided. *Source: NM Food Initiative Dashboard July 2024.* www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/dfa-dashboards/food-initiative-dashboard

Page 6. Value of NM Grown Food Purchased. *Source: NM Food Initiative Dashboard July 2024.* www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/dfa-dashboards/food-initiative-dashboard

Page 7. NM Grown for K-12 , Participating School Food Authorities and Students Served. *Source: NM Public Education Agency, July 2024*

Page 7. NM Grown Program for Seniors - # of Senior Centers participating. *Source: New Mexico Aging and Long Term Services Department, July 2024*

Page 7. NM Grown Program for Early Childhood Centers - # of Early Childhood Centers participating. *Source: Early Childhood Education and Care Development, July 2024*

Page 8. Food Producer Participation in NM Food Initiative. *Source: NM Food Initiative Dashboard July 2024.* www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/dfa-dashboards/food-initiative-dashboard

Page 8. Figure 1: Sales figures or value of local produce sold/distributed through Food Initiative programs in FY24. *Source :NM Food Initiative Dashboard July 2024.* www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/dfa-dashboards/food-initiative-dashboard

Page 8. Approved Supplier Program - # of approved vendors. *Source: NM Farmers Marketing Association, July 2024*

Page 9. Healthy Food Financing Funding – Annual funding and # of awards. *Source: NM Economic Development Department, July 2024*

Page 9. Community Food Assistance Funding – Annual Funding. *Source: NM Food Initiative Dashboard July 2024.* www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/dfa-dashboards/food-initiative-dashboard

Page 9. NM Regional Farm to Food Bank (RF2FB) Program – Federal funding amount and award period. *Source: New Mexico Regional Farm to Food Bank 2023 Annual Report. Retrieved June 2024 from: www.nmfoodbanks.org/2023annualreport*

New Mexico Food Initiative Funding

Page 10. SFY2025 Funding. *Source: Chavez, K. March 5, 2024. Food Initiative Legislative Session. FY25 Food Initiative Budget. Transmitted by email.*

Page 10. Figure 2: NM Food Initiative Funding 2022-2025. Sources: (1) Chavez, K. March 5, 2024. *Food Initiative Legislative Session FY25 Food Initiative Budget*. Transmitted by email March 5, 2024. (2) NM Food Initiative Dashboard July 2024. www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/dfa-dashboards/food-initiative-dashboard

Page 10. Figure 3: NM Food Initiative Selected Programs FY22-FY25. Sources: (1) Chavez, K. March 5, 2024. *FY25 Food Initiative Budget* March 5, 2024. Transmitted by email (2) NM Food Initiative Dashboard July 2024. www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/dfa-dashboards/food-initiative-dashboard

Environment, Conservation and Climate

Page 12. Total Number of Farms in New Mexico. Source: United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service 2022 Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, New Mexico State and Count Data.

Page 12. Total Acres of Farmland. Source: United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service 2022 Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, New Mexico State and Count Data.

Page 12. NM Farms Under 10 Acres. Source: United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service 2022 Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, New Mexico State and Count Data

Page 13. NMDA Agricultural Workforce Development Program, Source: Maitland, Julie, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, July 26, 2024, transmitted by email.

Page 13. Healthy Soils Program - Annual funding amount and # of awards. Source: NM Department of Agriculture, July 2024.

Page 13. Figure 2: Details for the Healthy Soils Program 2020-2024. Source: NM Department of Agriculture, July 2024.

For More Data and Information

[NM Department of Agriculture Food and Ag Update](#)

[NMDA Health Soils Program](#)

[Farm to Food Bank Fact Sheet and Spotlight](#)

[NM Economic Development Department Food Hunger and Agriculture Program \(Healthy Food Financing\)](#)

[Approved Supplier Program](#)

[NM Fresh Rx Program](#)

[Agricultural Workforce Development Program](#)

The New Mexico Food Charter and Report Card are projects of the NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council, which is a program of Farm to Table NM.



If you would like to contact us, please email us at nmfoodcharter@farmtotablenm.org.

Please visit www.nmfoodpolicy.org/new-mexico-food-charter to download the New Mexico Food Charter and the Report Card.

For more information about our policy work visit us at the New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council's website: www.nmfoodpolicy.org

