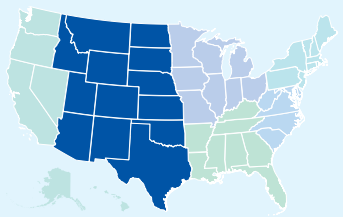


Program Trains Youth on Both Modern and Traditional Irrigation Techniques and Emphasizes the Sacredness of Water

Southwest and Mountain Region



Overview

The New Mexico Acequia Association's [Los Sembradores Farming Training Project](#) works to build a new generation of farmers. The training project teaches young farmers modern farming techniques, as well as traditional irrigation techniques (acequia systems) and ancestral farming methods. The project focuses on providing opportunities for rural and land-based New Mexicans who have connections to their acequia systems.

Notable Features

- **The program provides funding for farmer apprentices.** Apprentices receive a stipend for participating in an entire growing season on a family farm in northern New Mexico. The program is funded by a combination of foundation funding and a grant from USDA for farmer education.
- **It fosters a community of farmers.** Through the training project, apprentices can attend workshops where they can meet other farmers, build their network, and learn about farming practices, including seed saving and irrigation.
- **It includes cultural activities in the farmer training curriculum.** The curriculum is supplemented by activities such as making traditional medicines and preparing traditional foods.
- **It emphasizes the sacredness of water.** A crucial aspect of the project is embracing the cultural connections to water. Love and gratitude for water and the land are key values centered in the project.

People Involved

- Paula Garcia, Executive Director, New Mexico Acequia Association.
- Serafine Lombardi, Director of Education and Outreach, New Mexico Acequia Association.
- Donne Gonzalez, Farm Trainer, New Mexico Acequia Association.

Additional Resources

- [New Mexico Acequia Association YouTube Channel.](#)

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