

CENTRAL CURRY

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

March 2022

918 Parkland Dr., Clovis, NM 88101

centralcurry@gmail.com

Programs Available:

Rain Water Harvesting Cost-Share

Shade Ball Cost-Share

Playa Restoration Cost-Share

Windbreak Drip Supplies

To apply to any of our programs, please
email us at centralcurry@gmail.com

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HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM GRANT



The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) is pleased to announce an 8-week application period for FY23 Healthy Soil Program grants, opening **Friday, March 18, 2022** and closing **Thursday, May 12, 2022**.

NMDA will host webinars in tandem with the application launch. Please stay tuned, as those details will be posted on [the Healthy Soil Program website](#) and shared via this newsletter. In the meantime, what you'll find on the Healthy Soil Program website are webinars that *prepare* you to apply, featuring past and current Healthy Soil Program grantees sharing details of their projects.

INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT QUESTION SPOTLIGHT

Q: How should I get started planning my Healthy Soil Program project?

A: Individual Applicants include farmers, ranchers, and other land managers; as well as businesses and nonprofits

engaged in farming, ranching, and/or other forms of land management. NMDA requires Individual Applicants to **start at the start...with conservation planning**. Conservation planning will reveal the particular strengths and challenges (i.e., “natural resource concerns” or “soil health-related resource concerns”) on the land you manage. Identifying your particular resource concerns will help you choose the appropriate healthy soil principles and agricultural / conservation practices for your land, which in turn will help you determine the list of items for which you might seek Healthy Soil Program funds. Learn more about conservation planning (required for Individual Applicants) on [the Healthy Soil Program website](#).

In addition to conservation planning, **Individual Applicants must secure project support** from *either* their soil and water conservation district (SWCD); *or* their pueblo, tribe, or nation. Having the backing of either an SWCD or their tribal entity allows Individual Applicants to access grant funding – and to access institutional support that can help ensure project performance.

We invite you to share this newsletter with others; they can subscribe via the form at the bottom of [the Healthy Soil Program website](#).

www.nmda.nmsu.edu/nmda-homepage/divisions/apr/healthy-soil-program/





GUIDE TO RESTORING & MAINTAINING PLAYAS



While playas provide critical wetland habitat for wildlife, they also provide important benefits for the people who live in this region. Playas, when healthy, provide a sustainable water source for communities and rain-fed operations, water filtration, flood control, livestock forage, and recreation.

So, what is a healthy playa?

A healthy playa has an intact clay basin — without excavated pits or ditches — that is not buried by sediment from nearby fields. Water from the surrounding watershed freely enters the basin through a native vegetative buffer without being diverted from the playa by roads, terraces or other impediments.

Unfortunately, many playas don't fit that description, but there are opportunities to help landowners restore playas and maximize the many benefits provided by a healthy playa.

As described below, playa restoration reverses past modifications to playas by removing accumulated sediment, filling drainage features, redirecting water back into the playa, and protecting the playa with a buffer composed of native vegetation.

Remove accumulated sediment. Other than excavation, wind is the only other way sediment is removed from a playa; but wind alone cannot remove all the excess sediment that is often found in modified playas and those without a grass buffer. Sediment accumulation in playas is usually not evenly distributed across the playa basin, with sediment depth related to where it came from and how it was deposited.

Fill drainage features. Pits and ditches concentrate water into a small area and keep the playa from going through its normal wet and dry cycle. In addition, ditches are often cut into playas to facilitate draining the water. While a pit may trap and hold water for a longer period of time, it comes at the cost of keeping the rest of the playa functional since it cannot go through the critical wet-dry cycle, which reduces habitat for wildlife and affects groundwater recharge. Filling pits allows rainwater and runoff to reach all the large cracks in a dry playa — which is essential for recharge to occur — rather than collecting in the pit.

Keep sediment out by establishing a native prairie vegetation buffer. Playa buffers — areas of permanent vegetation surrounding a playa — protect the playa by preventing sediment, which may carry contaminants from surrounding farm fields, from reaching the basin and should be a part of every restoration project when the playa is in cropland. Buffers provide habitat for many species of wildlife, while improving the quality of the water entering the playa basin and, in turn, the water that reaches the aquifer.

Restore water flow. Redirecting water diverted from the playa is a critical but often overlooked part of playa restoration. Terraces, diversions, roads, clogged culverts, and other modifications to the area surrounding a playa have likely changed the water flow and may be preventing water from reaching the playa basin and reducing playa function. To fully restore playa function and recharge potential, include the surrounding area in your planning process.

Stabilize channels. Runoff from roads, cow trails, or waterways in adjacent crop fields can create channels within a playa watershed, resulting in large amounts of sediment flowing into a playa basin. If possible, address the cause of the channeling, then stabilize the channels. Slow down the water flow and spread it out by installing structures to catch sediment before it reaches the playa. Revegetate the channel wherever possible with native grass and forbs.

To learn more about how to restore and maintain healthy playas, visit PlayasWorkForNewMexico.com and click on RESTORATION in the navigation bar to download the Playa Restoration Guide. You'll also find information about what to expect while working with conservation delivery staff to plan and implement a playa restoration project.

USDA Introduces First Market News Mobile App Providing Instant Access to Market Information

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a new USDA Market News Mobile Application, providing producers and everyone else in the supply chain with instant access to current and historical market information. The initial version of the free app includes nearly 800 livestock, poultry, and grain market reports, with additional commodities added throughout the coming year.

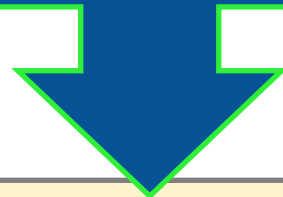
“USDA is focused on building more resilient and transparent markets and is taking steps to promote competition and fairer prices from farmers to consumers,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “This new Market News app helps create a more level playing field for small and medium producers by delivering critical market information to them where they are, when they need it.”

Producers and other users can search for markets based on their location, by state, or by commodity. They also can add market reports to their favorites for easier access, share reports via text or email, subscribe to reports, and receive real-time notifications when a new report is published. For additional data analysis, the app lets you share the source data behind the reports via email as well.

“One of the best features of the app is its simplicity,” Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt said. “The USDA Market News app was designed with small producers in mind. Regardless of whether you market livestock throughout the year or once a year, you can navigate through this easy-to-use tool and access the information you need on your mobile phone. Built-in tutorials help first-time users get the most out of their experience.”

There are both iOS and Android versions available to download through the [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) stores. The iOS version is available now and the Android version will be available later this week. Search for “USDA Market News Mobile Application” to download the app and begin exploring its potential. USDA will continue to expand the features of the app, including adding market information for all other commodities in the future.

Important Dates



April 14th @ 9 am
Monthly Meeting

May 19th @ 9 am
Monthly Meeting

June 16th @ 9 am
Monthly Meeting

Virtual Access to
Meetings can be

requested @

centralcurry@gmail.com

USDA
MARKET NEWS

EASTER WORD SEARCH



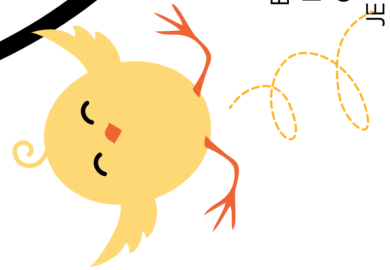
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BUNNY
EGGS
CHICK
JELLYBEAN

BASKET
SPRING
FLOWER
EASTER

GRASS
CANDY
HUNT
DYE

BONNET
SUNDAY
PEEPS
LAMB



Soil is an amazing substance.

A complex mix of minerals, air, and water, soil also teems with countless micro-organisms, and the decaying remains of once-living things. Soil is made of life and soil makes life. To the farmer, soil is where crops grow. To the engineer, soil is a foundation upon which to build. To the ecologist soil supports communities of living things. To the archaeologist, soil holds clues to past cultures. To the city dweller, soil nurtures grass and gardens. To the soil scientist, soil is all of these things. Soil has been called "the skin of the earth" because it is the thin outermost layer of the Earth's crust. Like our own skin, we can't live without soil.



National Association of
Conservation Districts
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DID YOU KNOW?

One teaspoon of soil can hold between 100 million and 1 billion bacteria and other organisms!



FUN FACT

You are walking on living organisms every time you walk to the school bus or through the yard to get to the mailbox!

What do you call
a worm with no teeth?
A gummy worm!!!



CUT OUT AND USE AS
A FUN BOOK MARK!

Central Curry SWCD
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To attend our
meetings virtually,
Please email us!

Central Curry SWCD
next meeting will be
April 14th @ 9 am

Drip Irrigation
Supplies
Available Upon Request
@ 575-799-1904

