

**NMARCD
NRCS agreement
Outreach and Technical Assistance Project**

In July of 2024 the New Mexico Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils entered into a five-year agreement with the New Mexico USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist with meeting their statewide goals by providing outreach and technical assistance through three different components.

Watershed structures and their continued correct operation and maintenance is of paramount importance to the owners of record of those structures. Many of the existing dams in New Mexico were constructed utilizing the NRCS PL-566 Watershed Program. The sponsors (owners) of those dams have been able to continue to partner with the NRCS during annual inspections of those structures, along with working with the NRCS to help facilitate sediment removal and other ongoing maintenance concerns. With staffing levels reduced nationwide in the federal government, meeting the sponsor's needs has been a challenge. This agreement will provide someone working with the NRCS State Conservation Engineer to be able to meet with those sponsors and other partners to help vocalize those needs and bring those forward to help secure additional engineering and financial support.



Forest health is a key component of a healthy watershed. Forest Stand Improvement is one of several NRCS Conservation Practices that addresses improvements to woody species within a forested area. One aspect of this agreement is to work with various field offices within New Mexico and to provide technical assistance in completing inventories, developing treatment plans and conducting inspections on approved practices.



One of the new programs that the NRCS has been charged with through the Farm Bill is to assist underserved landowners within a recognized urban area who would like information and technical and financial assistance in learning about and utilizing NRCS programs. One component of the EQIP program is a new cost-share program that would help traditional urban homeowners with learning how to best improve cultivation and processing of home-grown crops, beekeeping, aquaculture and animal husbandry. It could also encompass education on how to distribute those agricultural products through such methods as Farmer's Market, Food to Table, etc. The NMARCD will be responsible for securing an Urban Agricultural Coordinator and Liaison and for this first portion of the agreement will be focusing those efforts in Bernalillo County.

Hoop House

