

American Friends Service Committee

Rebuilding Food Hubs in New Mexico

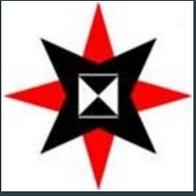
*Presentation by Don Bustos, Sayrah
Namaste, and Patrick Jaramillo*



Mission of AFSC- New Mexico

Founded in 1976 in northern NM, AFSC works to protect land and water rights and promote economic viability of sustainable agriculture through farmer to farmer training, technical assistance, and policy work.





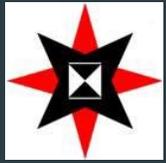
Social Justice

AFSC is a Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Our work domestically and internationally is for peace and justice.

“Food hubs” existed in New Mexico for generations but were dismantled.

Rebuilding food hubs so that people can live off their land, keep their water rights, have access to healthy food, and care for the environment are social justice issues.





Farmer to Farmer Training

AFSC offers hands-on training program led by farmers. It is a comprehensive, year round program covering:

- ▶ Farm planning
- ▶ Land assessment/land link
- ▶ Crop selection
- ▶ Planting
- ▶ Soil Health
- ▶ Harvesting
- ▶ Post Harvest Handling
- ▶ Equipment
- ▶ Season Extension
- ▶ Marketing
- ▶ Aggregation
- ▶ Business Planning
- ▶ Attaining Resources

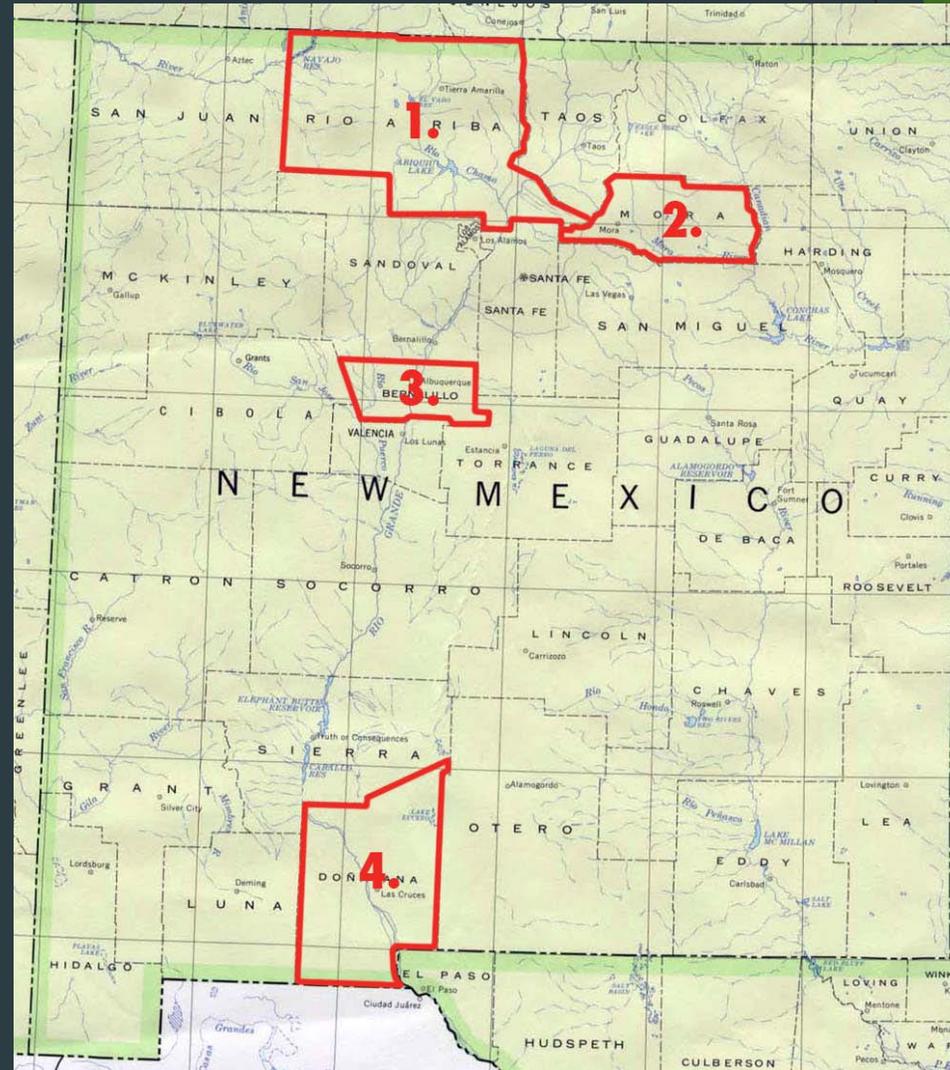




Training Programs in New Mexico

AFSC farmer training programs are in four counties led by local farmers & staff:

- ▶ Rio Arriba
- ▶ Mora
- ▶ Bernalillo
- ▶ Doña Ana



Our Partners

- ▶ New Mexico Acequia Association
- ▶ NMSU Ag Extension
- ▶ Northern NM College ¡Sostenga!
- ▶ Anthony Soil & Water District
- ▶ La Association del Acequias del Valle de Mora
- ▶ La Plazita Institute
- ▶ Valle Encantado
- ▶ E-merging Communities
- ▶ South Valley Economic Development Center
- ▶ UNM Research Service Learning
- ▶ La Semilla Food Center

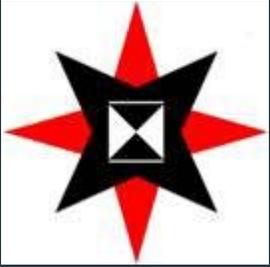


Building Infrastructure for Small Farms

AFSC has built 21 passive solar cold frames in New Mexico since 2009. In our training program we teach farmers how to build and use the cold frames.

Cold frames help farmers extend their growing season, which is essential for economic viability as well as sales to schools and wholesale markets.





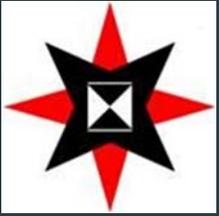
Collaborative Marketing & Creating Farmer Networks



AFSC teaches farmers to aggregate produce for markets especially institutional and wholesale buyers.

- ▶ Agri-Cultura Network (2009)
- ▶ Cosecha del Norte: A Growing Co-Op (2012)
- ▶ Sol y Tierra Growers (2013)





Statewide Farmer Collaboration

Every year AFSC brings together farm trainees and farmers for a statewide meeting to discuss collaboration across markets.

Building relationships among farmers across the state is key to developing a statewide network of collaboration rather than competition.





Institutional Markets and feeding low income children

AFSC has helped farmers sell to:

- ▶ Albuquerque Public Schools
- ▶ Las Cruces Public Schools
- ▶ Gadsden Public Schools
- ▶ Espanola Public Schools
- ▶ Mora Senior Citizen Center

...as well as restaurants, hotels, food co-ops, and grocery stores.



Aggregation Infrastructure & Distribution

Formal and informal networks for aggregation and distribution include:

- ▶ South Valley Economic Development Center
- ▶ Northern NM College !Sostenga!
- ▶ Mountain View Co-Op
- ▶ La Montanita trucks
- ▶ Roadrunner Food bank trucks
- ▶ AFSC staff vehicles
- ▶ Farmers sharing deliveries



Quality Control

Most of the farmers in the statewide network were trained by AFSC so the standards for crop selection, planting, harvesting, and post harvest handling are consistent.

AFSC staff work on quality control with all farmers aggregating.



Farm Bill & Policy Impacts

We want to see a full and fair Farm Bill passed. We work within the Western SARE, NSAC, and NIFI on federal policy.

Important programs include:

- ▶ SNAP
- ▶ Beginning Farmer Rancher
- ▶ State programs

And we are concerned about the impact of food safety & GAP standards that harm small farmers.



Additional Support Needed

We would like to:

- ▶ Hire a statewide marketing coordinator to help with aggregation and distribution among our farmers to move food around the state.
- ▶ Formalize the statewide network and distribution with current truck routes
- ▶ Work with policy makers for school funding for local food

