



MoGro mobile grocery truck is an example of the growing means of distributing local food in New Mexico. (Photo courtesy of edible Santa Fe.)

January Ag Collaborative Meeting

How Local Food Gets Around--Opportunities in Distribution

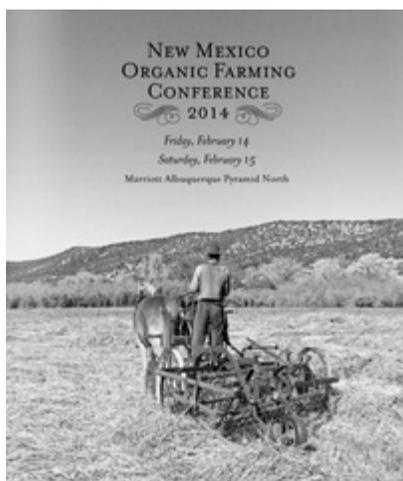
Join Sayrah Namaste and Don Bustos of the American Friends Service Committee New Mexico (AFSC NM) from 9-10:30am as they tell us about the emerging network of farmer-initiated food hubs, incubated by the AFSC NM.

Then stick around from 10:30am-12pm to dig deeper into New Mexico's food distribution opportunities. Private distributors, Ben E. Keith and Shamrock, will be available to talk with area growers about how to get local food onto their trucks. Let's keep the "food hub" conversation going!

DATE/TIME: Wed, Jan. 8th, 9am-12pm

LOCATION: [MRCOG Offices, 809 Copper NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102](#)

For more information: Contact Ann Simon at (505) 724-3617 asimon@mrcog-nm.gov, or Tiffany Terry at (505) 724-3619 localfoodnm@mrcog-nm.gov.



The 2014 New Mexico Organic Farming Conference will be February 14-15, 2014. Register now!

A Farmin' Good Time

Save the date, folks! February will be chockful of events sure to warm your bones as winter winds its way down.

First, we hope to see you at the New Mexico Organic Farming Conference. Then--while you're there--enjoy a little social time together after hours at the Farmer Social! The Rio Grande Farmers Coalition (RGFC) will be serving up delicious organic libations, snacks, and the sweet sounds of Wildewood. Bring your sweetie and your dancing shoes at 6pm on Friday, February 14!

The RGFC asks that you consider making a donation towards the event to help cover the cost of booze and band. You must be twenty-one years old to attend. [RSVP](#) for the Farmer Social. See you there!

The Southwest's Premier Conference for Organic Agriculture

opportunities for producers and researchers from around the Southwest to share their experiences and expertise. Check out the variety of workshops in the 2014 [Organic Farming Conference Program!](#)

- Friday, Feb. 14th - Saturday, Feb. 15th
- Albuquerque, NM
- [View Conference Program](#)
- [Register Here](#)

[RSVP](#) for the Farmer Social.

[Register](#) for the 2014 New Mexico Organic Farming Conference, or [view the program](#).



Brian Langwell realizes a long time dream with Left Turn Distilling. (Photo courtesy of [Roberto E. Rosale/Albuquerque Journal](#))

Local Food and Ag News

Albuquerque Has a New Craft Distillery

Brian Langwell recently transformed his career path and his machine shop to manifest a dream: Left Turn Distilling. This craft distillery is located in the emerging "brewery district" near I-25 and Comanche, joining local favorites like Il Vicino, La Cumbre, and Skarsgard Farms' brand new cidery. Left Turn Distilling is already producing Old Tom gin and La Luz vodka for sale, and also offers samplings on and off site.

[Read more about this latest addition to our NM craft spirits scene.](#)

FUNDING: Value Added Producer Grant

Feb 24th is the deadline for the USDA Value Added Producer Grant, which is available to help create new products, expand marketing opportunities, support further processing of existing products or goods, or to develop specialty and niche products. [Details available online](#). Contact Jesse Bopp with questions: 505-761-4952 or jesse.bopp@nm.usda.gov.

NM Food Scraps Management Forum

New Mexico Recycling Coalition co-hosted a forum to help businesses and food managing facilities become more sustainable through food scrap management. It provided a multi-tiered framework with a variety of stakeholders including Teresa Johansen of Roadrunner Food Bank, Danny Whatley of Noon Day Ministries, and Walter Dods of Soilutions. Effective food scraps management means a healthy bottom line in addition to the social and environmental benefits. [See the presentations](#) from the forum.

National Food and Ag News



Ideal Location for Food Distribution Now Has a Formula

Penn State has developed a way to determine [the ideal geographic location for food distribution centers](#).

Mathematicians analyzed transportation, distributor-construction costs and other variables to create the mathematical model to help stakeholders understand how constraints on the distance food travels affects the distribution structure and make decisions accordingly.

Forget Golf Courses: Subdivisions Draw Residents with Farms

Many see farming and development at odds as US farmland is bought out by developers looking to build the next big subdivision or strip mall. However, a growing trend has developers returning to agrarian roots and designing subdivisions centered around small to mid scale farms--aka "development supported agriculture." [Read more about this trend in development](#).



LandLink

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- [Learn more about the LandLink program](#)

FEATURED LISTING:

Farm Job + 2 Apprenticeships at Historic Inn's Organic Farm

[VISIT THE FULL LISTING](#)

Reference#: 190

County: Bernalillo

Current Operations + Land Use: Los Poblanos Inn's organic farm sits on the property of the historic inn in Los Ranchos. The main crop is lavender, which is grown for essential oils to be used in the amenities. We also grow vegetables for use in the kitchen in addition to the pasture animals, poultry, orchards, vineyards, bees and flower gardens.

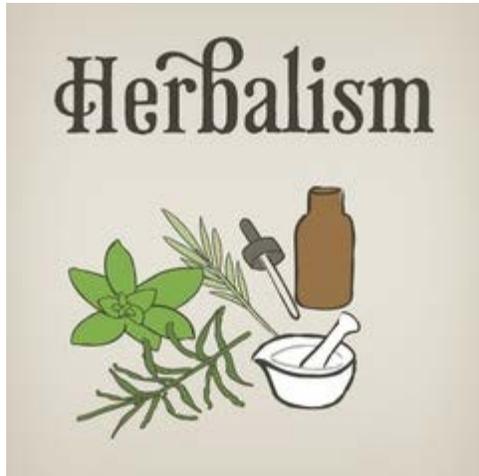
Preferred farming methods: Minimum tillage, Sustainable,

Organic, Rotational grazing, Integrated pest management,
Bio-intensive

Deadline to apply is Jan 31st.

[Read more.](#)

Find us on [Facebook!](#) For additional information about this opportunity [VISIT THE FULL LISTING](#) on our LandLink site. Or contact us at localfoodnm@mrcog-nm.gov or 505-724-3619.



January Events

Visit the [Events Calendar](#)
for more local food happenings.
[Add](#) your "local food" event to our
calendar!

FEATURED EVENTS:

1/7: Beneficial Soil Microorganisms Workshop

Soil microorganisms play an important role in decomposing organic material and processing plant nutrients. The home gardener will benefit by learning how to encourage microbial activity to benefit soil fertility.

WHEN: Tuesday, Jan 7th, 7:15-8:30pm

WHERE: [Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Lane Southeast, Rio Rancho, NM 87124](#)

FOR MORE INFO: Visit the www.sandovalmastergardeners.org.

1/30: Herbalism Series 2 (5 sessions)

In this 5 part series, participants will learn how to use herbs for a variety of conditions. Students will take home samples of the herbal preparations made in class and will build a booklet of reference handouts to keep. This series is designed to complement the Herbalism I Series, but may also be taken on its own. Each class is 2 hours. The price is \$135 for the series, which includes all supplies.

WHEN: Thursdays, Jan 30-Feb 27

WHERE: [Albuquerque Mennonite Church, 1300 Girard Blvd NE](#)

FOR MORE INFO: [Read more.](#)

Winter Growers Markets in Effect!

Some area growers markets will keep winter hours. Check out the Events Calendar to find the winter market near you:

<http://bit.ly/LocalFoodNMCalendar>



Facebook: We invite all friends to use our Facebook page, [Local Food in New Mexico](#), to post their excess harvest, fruit trees needing harvesting, food for trade, food for sale, and more!

Events Calendar: If you have an event you would like to have added to our calendar, please contact localfoodnm@mrcog-nm.gov or call 505-724-3619.

Mid-Region Council of Governments

Agriculture Collaborative

809 Copper Avenue, NW Albuquerque, NM 87102

Please contact us at localfoodnm@mrcog-nm.gov

