

Western Pecan Growers Association Opening Address



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The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES)

- ACES is an engine for economic and community development in New Mexico, improving the lives of New Mexicans through academic, research, and Extension programs
- The work of ACES is centered around these four pillars
- ACES positively impacts:
 - Foundational Educational and Training
 - Food and fiber production and marketing
 - Water usage and conservation
 - Family development and health of New Mexicans
 - Environmental stewardship



Food and Fiber Production and Marketing

- Production, protection and marketing of plant and animal products
- Foster technological innovation to enhance competitiveness and security of New Mexico agriculture
- Increase value-added (processing) in the state



NMSU Pecan Research Highlight

“Coordinated Development of Genetic Tools for Pecan”

- NMSU lead institution with 6 others on a \$4 Million+ USDA – NIFA funded project
- Pecan genome sequenced
- Genetic markers assist breeders in developing varieties and rootstocks for specific regions and conditions
 - Salinity tolerance
 - Tree size control
 - Disease management
 - Alternate bearing
 - Nutrient uptake efficiency
 - Water use efficiency
- Potted tree and field testing rootstocks for tolerance to a wide variety of environmental stresses
- This work will greatly improve the pecan industry in all regions of the United States



Water Use and Conservation

- Water is the most limiting resource for New Mexico
- All aspects of water use affect agricultural efficiency, profitability, and human health
- Water management is becoming more critical as water demands for urbanization and industrialization increase



NMSU Research Highlights

- USDA funded research at the Leyendecker Plant Sciences Research Orchards
- Developing irrigation techniques and technologies, including drip irrigation, that will help pecan growers in the west optimize:
 - Irrigation efficiency
 - Increase production and profitability for farmers per acre-inch of water applied



Family Development and Health of New Mexicans

- The family is the fundamental institution of society
- ACES conducts research on:
 - human behavior, child and adolescent development
 - Human nutrition and food science
 - Nutrition and wellness programs (prevent sickness)
 - Development of functional foods
 - Clothing and textiles
 - Family resource management
 - Learning development and educational training



Nutrition and Food Science

- Consuming pecans has numerous health benefits
 - High in antioxidants
 - High in unsaturated oils (“good fat”)
- NMSU is a leader in human health research related to pecans
- NMSU researcher was the first to show a link between pecan consumption and cardiovascular health
- Current work is showing how orchard practices may further improve the health promoting qualities of pecans



Photo credit: Jamie Silver

“Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems” (CESFAS)

- 2019 New Mexico Legislative Initiative (not finalized yet)
- “Sustainable agriculture is at the core of NMSU’s identity” – Chancellor, Dan Arvizu
- Research, education and Extension on all aspects of agriculture – “from farm to gut”
- Collaboration across public and private entities
- Support innovation that creates value-added industries, creates jobs, improves profitability, and protects our natural resources
- Pecans are a big part of this effort: water use efficiency, higher productivity, value-added industries, and higher profitability!

NMSU Update

- 2018 passage of GO Bond D - Agricultural modernization and educational facilities
 - Modern feed mill
 - Biomedical research facility
 - Food Science, safety and processing facility
- Along with the CESFAS, a great opportunity to build a state-of-the-art research and education facility to address critical issues related to food security
 - Nutraceutical and functional foods program
 - Specialty markets for meat and produce
 - Food safety program
 - Hemp research and development program
 - Biomedical research
 - Specialty animal feeds



NMSU Extension – A Leading Authority on Pecan Production

- Western Pecan Production Short Course
- Comprehensive course held every other October
- Attracts participants from all over the world
- Beginners learn a solid foundation for success
- Experienced growers brush up on the basics and learn new information and techniques
- The next short course will be October 2020 – mark your calendars!