



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2026

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## **Farm to Table's Farmer Innovation Program Awards Summer 2026 Rural/Tribal Agriculture Micro-Grants**

*Grants for Rural and Tribal Farmers Working to Provide Solutions for Our Changing Climate and Advance Regenerative Agriculture, Water Conservation/Efficiency, Energy Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation.*

**SANTA FE, NM** - Farm to Table's New Mexico Farmer Innovation Program (NMFIP) has announced the recipients of its Summer 2026 Rural/Tribal Agriculture Micro-Grants, awarding \$53,000 to seven innovative agricultural projects across seven New Mexico counties. These competitive, one-time grants support short-term projects that advance regenerative agriculture, water and energy conservation, and climate change mitigation in rural and Tribal communities. These micro-grants help producers implement practical, climate-smart solutions that strengthen local food systems and increase access to healthy, culturally-relevant food. "We are excited for our second cycle of Rural and Tribal micro-grants for Regenerative Agriculture, Climate Change Mitigation projects. We look forward to working with these farms and seeing their projects move forward." said Maya Martinez, NMFIP Program Director.

The grants, up to \$20,000 each, support agricultural producers, Tribal entities, local governments, and nonprofit organizations working to build resilience and expand food production. The goal is to implement conservation practices that will improve resilience to climate change and on-farm sustainability and increase the capacity of smaller-scale farms for growing food, expanding operations, implementing climate-friendly practices, and building resilience to a changing climate.

"Past Farm to Table micro-grant recipients are innovating by expanding the links between farmers and the New Mexico food system, and improving their environmental sustainability." said Cathy Day, Executive Director of Farm to Table. "The expansion of sustainable local food provision in New Mexico has been exciting to watch.

The new awards granted to rural and tribal farmers are no exception and we can't wait to see these projects realized over the coming year.”

The NMFIP Advisory Committee, composed of field experts, farmers, and agriculture professionals, reviewed over 62 applications and selected the following based on the projects' effectiveness. Farm to Table's New Mexico Farmer Innovation Program will be opening up its final competitive cycle of grant opportunities in early summer 2027, awarding an additional \$59,500 to Rural/Tribal farms and ranches with projects or operations that advance regenerative agriculture, water conservation/efficiency, energy conservation and climate change mitigation.

## **Grant Recipients**

### **Alcala Livestock Ranch, LLC - Curry County, NM**

Alcalá Livestock Ranch, a family-run farm in eastern New Mexico, will expand its regenerative grazing infrastructure by constructing sheep pens and feeders, building a mobile chicken coop, and installing an electric fencing system to support rotational grazing. These improvements will enhance livestock management, improve pasture health, and increase the ranch's capacity to produce locally raised food using sustainable agricultural practices.

### **Ampersand Sustainable Learning Center - Santa Fe County, NM**

Ampersand Sustainable Learning Center will expand year-round organic vegetable production by installing ten water-conserving wicking beds inside an existing high tunnel. Designed to maximize food production while minimizing water use, the project will strengthen local food access in the Madrid and Cerrillos area and demonstrate a practical, replicable approach to regenerative, water-wise agriculture for drought-prone communities.

### **Chimayó Cultural Preservation Association - Rio Arriba County, NM**

Chimayó Cultural Preservation Association (CCPA) will continue restoring 2.5 acres of historic farmland at Plaza del Cerro in Chimayó through regenerative agriculture practices that improve soil health, conserve water, and increase local food production. The project includes cover cropping, pollinator habitat development, improved water management, compost application, and youth-led agricultural education activities. These efforts will strengthen local food security, preserve traditional acequia farming practices, and build community resilience to climate change.

### **Fairy Cross Farm LLC - Taos County, NM**

Fairy Cross Farm will construct a covered wash-and-pack pavilion and energy-efficient walk-in cooler to improve post-harvest handling, reduce food loss, and expand access to locally grown organic produce in the Peñasco Valley. The project will increase the farm's capacity to safely store and distribute fresh produce through

its farm stand, farmers markets, and future mutual aid efforts, strengthening local food access in this rural community.

#### **The HQ Farms LLC - Socorro County, NM**

The HQ Farms LLC will upgrade its post-harvest processing facility in La Joya by installing a dedicated hand-washing sink, commercial produce-washing stations, and energy-efficient hot water infrastructure. These improvements will support safe food handling, efficient water use, and compliance with food safety standards while expanding the farm's capacity to provide fresh, locally grown produce to the community.

#### **Kiksuyapi Collective - Valencia County, NM**

Kiksuyapi Collective will improve water conservation, climate resilience, and local food production through upgraded irrigation infrastructure, greenhouse climate management, soil health improvements, and the establishment of a climate-resilient orchard. The project includes a high-efficiency irrigation pump, expanded drip irrigation, approximately 25 fruit trees, moisture-conserving soil amendments, and greenhouse circulation fans. These investments will strengthen sustainable food production, support community education, and increase resilience to drought and extreme weather conditions.

#### **Testudo Enterprises LLC dba Bodhi Farms - Dona Ana County, NM**

Bodhi Farms will construct two caterpillar-style greenhouse tunnels to support year-round production of nutritious, shelf-stable crops such as beets, carrots, squash, cucumbers, garlic, and onions. Building on existing soil health and water-conservation practices, including cover cropping and drip irrigation, the project will increase local food availability while enhancing the farm's resilience to drought and climate challenges.

## **Strengthening New Mexico's Local Food System**

**Farm to Table's mission is to build a local, healthy, equitable and sustainable food system through education and advocacy.** The 2026 micro-grant recipients embody this mission by expanding climate-resilient food production, preserving agricultural heritage, and increasing access to fresh, healthy food across New Mexico. These projects show what's possible when we invest directly in farmers, ranchers, and community-based food producers. Their innovation and leadership are essential to building a more resilient future.

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