

## Crossroads Resource Center

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### **Tools for Community Self-determination**

#### **Northern New Mexico Local Farm & Food Economy**

*Highlights of a data compilation*  
by Ken Meter, Crossroads Resource Center (Minneapolis)  
for  
**New Mexico Acequia Association**  
July 30, 2009

*Drawing upon 2007 Census of Agriculture data  
For the five counties in the region:  
Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, & Taos Counties*

#### **Northern New Mexico: (Bureau of Economic Analysis)**

248,266 residents receive \$8.7 billion of income annually (2007). Real personal income has increased five-fold since 1969, in part due to rising population. Although population has more than doubled since 1969, there has been only limited public planning to assure a secure and stable food supply.

#### **Issues affecting low-income residents of the Lower Rio Grande region:**

83,179 residents (36%) earn less than 185% of federal poverty guidelines. At this level of income, children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. These lower-income residents earn a combined \$802 million per year, spending \$155 million buying food. Their food purchases are supplemented by SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) and by WIC coupons (these two benefits combined generally amount to about 10-15% of low-income food expenditures). Low-income residents alone lost net assets worth \$51 million in the year 2007. *Data from Federal Census of 2000, & Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

#### **Food-related health conditions in New Mexico:**

One-fifth (20%) of New Mexico residents have no health insurance — the second highest rate in the U.S. Only half of state employers offer health coverage.<sup>1</sup> This lack of insurance carries significant public costs, since both county governments and medical facilities pay for treating customers who are not covered. Costs of this treatment are estimated to be \$6 billion per year.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, State summary for New Mexico, <http://covertheuninsured.org/>, accessed May 24, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> New Mexico Human Services Department (2007). "Summary of New Mexico's Universal Health Coverage Reform Efforts." SCI/Academy Health Summer Workshop for State Officials, August 2.

Food has become a leading cause of death in the U.S, rivaling tobacco. A high-calorie diet, combined with a lack of exercise, accounts for one-fifth of the annual deaths in the U.S.<sup>3</sup> Six of the fifteen leading causes of death are related to poor diet and low physical activity.<sup>4</sup>

60% of New Mexico residents are overweight or obese, with one-third (34%) overweight and more than one-quarter (26%) obese. Nearly four of every five state residents (78%) eat fewer fruits and vegetables than nutritionists recommend (five servings per day), and 22% report they have no physical activity. 7.8% of state residents have been diagnosed with diabetes. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

### **The region's ranches and farms (U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2007)**

*Agriculture Census data for 2007 were released February 4, 2009. Note that the Census of Agriculture uses the term "farm" to include both ranches and farms.*

#### *Land:*

- The Northern New Mexico region has 3,792 ranches and farms, 18% of New Mexico's ranches and farms.
- This is 32% more ranches and farms than were counted in the 2002 census. *One important reason for the increase in the number of farms is better Census reporting of farms in limited-resource communities, especially on Pueblos and tribal lands.*
- With 5.6 million acres, the region has 13% of the state's farmland.
- Average value of land and buildings per farm is \$674,439 — just under the state average.
- The most prevalent farm size is 10-49 acres, with 1,073 farms (28%).
- Next most prevalent is 1-9 acres, with 745 farms (20%).
- Two-thirds of the region's farms are less than 180 acres.
- 516 farms (14%) are 1,000 acres or more.
- The northern region has 242,100 acres of cropland (10% of New Mexico's).
- 60,347 acres (25%) of this cropland is harvested.
- Half of the region's cropland is irrigated (121,642 acres).
- This is half of the irrigated land in the state of New Mexico, and one-quarter of the state's farms with irrigation. It is not clear how completely the Census of Agriculture counts *acequia* irrigation in this total.
- 375 of the region's farms use irrigation water from the Bureau of Reclamation (12% of New Mexico's).

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Viewed May 24, 2009, at [www.statecoverage.org/files/2007\\_SCI\\_Summer\\_Meeting\\_Esquibel.ppt](http://www.statecoverage.org/files/2007_SCI_Summer_Meeting_Esquibel.ppt) .

<sup>3</sup> McGinnis, J.M. & W.H. Foege (1993). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 270(18):2207-12; and Mokdad, A.H, J.S. Marks, D.F. Stroup, & J.I. Gerberding (2000). "Actual causes of death in the United States." *JAMA* 291(10):1238-45 [with published corrections in *JAMA* (2005), 293(3), 293-294.]

<sup>4</sup> Heron M., D.L. Hoyert, J. Xu, C. Scott, & B. Tejada (2008). *Deaths: preliminary data for 2006*. National Vital Statistics Report 56:16. [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56\\_16.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_16.pdf).

*Sales:*

- Cash receipts for all ranchers and farmers in the region in 2007 were \$56 million [*Note that these figures may differ from Bureau of Economic Analysis data, below*].
- These sales were 7% above 2002 levels.
- This amounted to 3% of New Mexico’s agricultural sales.
- Of total sales in the region, \$38 million (68%) were sales of livestock and related products.
- Another \$18 million (32%) of crops was sold.
- Crop sales were 35% higher than in 2002.
- The number of farms selling crops rose 135% from 2002 to 2007.
- 1,860 farms sold livestock, poultry and their products, an increase of 37% over 1,359 farms in 2002.
- However, total sales of livestock and products fell 3% from \$39 million to \$38 million.
- Cost of producing all commodities was \$69 million.
- This results in a loss from production of farm commodities of \$13 million in 2007.
- Production costs were 26% higher in 2007 than they had been in 2002.
- Largest cost of production was feed costs, at \$9.9 million. Labor costs ranked second, at \$9.7 million. Supplies cost farmers and ranchers \$9.4 million. Fuel and oil cost \$9.4 million. Depreciation write-offs totaled \$8.6 million. Costs of purchasing livestock totaled \$6 million. Interest on farm debt cost farmers and ranchers \$5.8 million.
- 3,068 (81%) of the region’s farms sold less than \$10,000 of products in 2007.
- \$6.2 million — 12% of the region’s farm sales — are earned by these farmers selling less than \$10,000 of products.
- 637 farms selling \$10,000 to \$99,999 of farm products sold \$16.8 million, 33% of the region’s commodities.
- 17 larger farms selling over \$500,000 of commodities sold \$16.5 million, 32% of the region’s farm products.
- Farmers received \$1.3 million in federal subsidies in 2007. [*Note that these figures may differ from Bureau of Economic Analysis data, below*].
- Farmers earned another \$6.5 million of farm-related income.
- One of every six farmers in the regions lists farming as their primary income.
- The Agriculture census lists 252 farms in the region that engage in value-added processing on their farms. This is 29% of all the farms in the state that add value to farm products.
- 72% (2,721) of the region’s farms reported net losses in 2007, after subsidies are taken into account. This is greater than the New Mexico average of 65%.

**Principal Products** (*\*Sales data for many of these and other products is suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality*):

	<b>\$ millions</b>
Cattle	35*
Ornamentals	5*
Forage	5*

*Cattle & Dairy:*

- 1,889 farms held an inventory of 98,224 cattle, 6% of the state's cattle inventory.
- Of these animals, 62,431 were beef cattle.
- 26 farms raised 58 dairy cows.
- 1,395 farms sold 56,190 cattle in 2007, 6% of the state's sales.
- The number of farms selling cattle and calves rose 28% from 1,087 to 1,395 from 2002 to 2007.
- Cattle sales fell 1%, however, from \$35.2 million to \$34.8 million, over those five years.
- 18 farms in the region raised dairy cows, compared to 1 farm in 2002.
- Dairy sales totaled \$150,000.
- 10 farms raised 113,043 tons of corn for silage on 4,370 acres.
- 1,732 farms raised 103,420 tons of forage crops on 52,712 acres.
- 881 farms sold forage crops in 2007, earning more than \$5 million. *Sales data were suppressed in several counties, so this total is low.*
- This was a 241% increase in the number of farms selling forage since 2002.

*Other livestock & animal products:*

- The number of farms selling hogs and pigs rose 31% since 2002.
- 72 farms hold an inventory of 172 hogs and pigs.
- 55 farms sold a total of 226 hogs and pigs.
- Hog and pig sales total \$26,000, one thousand less than in 2002.
- Sheep or lambs are raised by 233 farms, which hold 7,416 animals.
- 29% more farms sold sheep, goats and their products (234 in 2007 from 182 in 2002).
- 347 farms have laying hens, and hold an inventory of 8,647 birds.
- 308 farms raise poultry and eggs, 27% of New Mexico's poultry farms.
- This is a 280% increase over the 2002 level of 81 farms.
- Poultry sales totaled \$278,000.
- 228 farms sold horses, 16% over 196 in 2002.
- Horse sales rose 23% to \$786,000.

*Grains, dry edible beans, oil crops, and others:*

- 85 farms raised grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and peas, an increase of 467% over the 15 farms who raised these crops in 2002.
- However, sales of these products plummeted 97%, from \$5.6 million to \$162,000.
- 22 farms raised corn for grain on 155 acres, producing 10,933 bushels, and selling \$2,000 worth in 2007.
- Wheat was raised on 12 farms. 11,909 bushels were raised on 448 acres.
- Sales of wheat totaled \$68,000.
- This included 5,077 acres of winter wheat, and 6,832 acres of spring wheat.
- 13 farms raised oats for grain on 171 acres. This is 29% of New Mexico's oat farms.
- Oat production of 6,649 bushels was 40% of the state's crop.
- 55 farms (31% of state's bean farms) raised edible dry beans.

*Ornamental & Nursery Crops:*

- 70 farms sold \$5.4 million of nursery, ornamental, or greenhouse crops.

- This is a 52% increase in the number of farms since 2002.

*Vegetables & melons (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent vegetable production):*

- 275 farms raised vegetables. *Acreage data were suppressed for Rio Arriba and Santa Fe counties by USDA to protect confidentiality.*
- 250 of these farms reported vegetable sales, an increase of 324% over the 59 farms that sold vegetables in 2002.
- *Vegetables sales data were suppressed for San Miguel and Taos counties by USDA to protect confidentiality.*
- Most of the vegetable acreage in the region is devoted to sale of fresh products, rather than for processing, but at least 39 farms in the region plant for processing.
- 30 of the region's farms raised potatoes.

**Detailed list of vegetables harvested in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census:**

*Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.*

**Mora County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Harvested acres</b>
Broccoli	-	-
Cabbage, Head	-	-
Cauliflower	-	-
Cucumbers & Pickles	-	-
Garlic	2	(D)
Peas, Green	2	(D)
Potatoes	2	(D)
Pumpkins	2	(D)
Spinach	-	-
Sweet Corn	1	(D)

**Rio Arriba County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Harvested acres</b>
Asparagus	9	6
Beans, Snap	16	(D)
Beets	3	1
Broccoli	-	-
Cabbage, Head	3	2
Cantaloupes	35	7
Carrots	11	2
Collards	2	(D)
Cucumbers & Pickles	46	14
Eggplant	3	1

Garlic	18		4
Herbs, Fresh Cut	7		1
Honeydew Melons	2	(D)	
Kale	-	-	
Lettuce, all	6		2
Lettuce, Leaf	6		2
Okra	1	(D)	
Onions, Dry	15		3
Onions, Green	3	(Z)	
Peas, Chinese	1	(D)	
Peas, Green	6		2
Peas, Southern	23		7
Peppers, Bell	9		9
Peppers, Chile	56		56
Potatoes	22		12
Pumpkins	4		1
Radishes	7		1
Spinach	-	-	
Squash, all	25		7
Squash, Summer	25		6
Squash, Winter	7		1
Sweet Corn	83		121
Tomatoes in open	65		26
Turnips	1	(D)	
Vegetables, other	19		22
Watermelons	10		1

### San Miguel County

	Farms	Harvested acres	
Beans, Snap	2	(D)	
Cantaloupes	-	-	
Cucumbers & Pickles	2	(D)	
Garlic	-	-	
Peas, Green	1	(D)	
Peppers, Chile	1	(D)	
Squash, all	2	(D)	
Squash, Summer	2	(D)	
Sweet Corn	6		6
Tomatoes in open	2	(D)	
Vegetables, other	2	(D)	
Watermelons	2	(D)	

**Santa Fe County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Harvested acres</b>	
Beans, Snap	5	(D)	
Beets	2	(D)	
Broccoli	-	-	
Cabbage, Chinese	2	(D)	
Cabbage, Head	6		4
Cantaloupes	1	(D)	
Carrots	11		2
Celery	-	-	
Cucumbers & Pickles	17		3
Eggplant	5		1
Garlic	4	(Z)	
Herbs, Fresh Cut	4		6
Lettuce, all	-	-	
Lettuce, Leaf	-	-	
Onions, Dry	10		5
Onions, Green	2	(D)	
Peas, Green	5		1
Peas, Southern	8		3
Peppers, Bell	5		3
Peppers, Chile	21		28
Potatoes	6		1
Pumpkins	13		10
Radishes	5		1
Spinach	2	(D)	
Squash, all	17		4
Squash, Summer	11		2
Squash, Winter	6		2
Sweet Corn	27		40
Tomatoes in open	29	(D)	
Vegetables, other	9		3
Watermelons	8		3

**Taos County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Harvested acres</b>	
Beans, Snap	5		1
Beets	3	(Z)	
Cabbage, Head	5		3
Carrots	5		2
Collards	1	(D)	
Cucumbers & Pickles	11		3
Garlic	6		2
Herbs, Fresh Cut	-	-	

Kale	4	(D)	
Lettuce, all	3		2
Lettuce, Head	-	-	
Lettuce, Leaf	1	(D)	
Lettuce, Romaine	3	(D)	
Mustard Greens	2	(D)	
Onions, Dry	1	(D)	
Onions, Green	1	(D)	
Peas, Green	1	(D)	
Peas, Southern	9		4
Peppers, Bell	2	(D)	
Peppers, Chile	3	(Z)	
Pumpkins	10		5
Spinach	4		2
Squash, all	3		2
Squash, Summer	3	(D)	
Squash, Winter	1	(D)	
Sweet Corn	29		37
Tomatoes in open	9		10
Turnips	2	(D)	
Vegetables, other	7		10

*Fruits & nuts (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent fruit production):*

- 1,154 acres of orchards are maintained by 442 farms.
- *Sales of fruits and nuts were suppressed in Mora, San Miguel and Taos counties by USDA to protect confidentiality, but regional sales totaled at least \$1.5 million.*
- This is an increase of 87% in the number of farms since 2002.

**Detailed list of fruit & nut acreage in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census:**

*Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.*

**Mora County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Apples	15	29
Cherries, Tart	2	(D)
Other noncitrus	2	(D)
Peaches, all	2	(D)
Pears, all	2	(D)
Plums & Prunes	6	3

**Rio Arriba County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Apples	252	629
Apricots	18	6
Cherries, Sweet	42	30
Cherries, Tart	6	3
Grapes	43	52
Nectarines	3	1
Other noncitrus	7	3
Peaches, all	92	73
Pears, all	40	16
Pecans	3	1
Plums & Prunes	26	21

**San Miguel County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Apples	8	30
Grapes	2	(D)
Other noncitrus	1	(D)
Peaches, all	3	4
Pecans	1	(D)

**Santa Fe County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Apples	81	123
Apricots	8	4
Cherries, Sweet	3	(D)
Cherries, Tart	2	(D)
Grapes	13	23
Noncitrus, all	92	185
Other noncitrus	5	6
Peaches, all	28	12
Pears, all	21	15
Plums & Prunes	11	2

**Taos County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Apples	35	43
Apricots	2	(D)
Cherries, Sweet	1	(D)
Cherries, Tart	1	(D)
Peaches, all	4	2

Pears, all	5	(D)	
Pecans	2	(D)	
Plums & Prunes	7		6

**Detailed list of berry acreage in 2007, as recorded by the Agriculture Census** (if a given county in the region is not listed as producing berries, the county is not named below):

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality; (Z) means less than half of an acre.

**Mora County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Acres</b>	
Raspberries	2	(D)	

**Rio Arriba County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Acres</b>	
Blackberries	3	(D)	
Blueberries	4	(D)	
Other berries	1	(D)	
Raspberries	13		3
Strawberries	4		1

**San Miguel County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Acres</b>	
Loganberries	2	(D)	

**Santa Fe County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Acres</b>	
Blueberries	1	(D)	
Other berries	2	(D)	
Raspberries	6	(D)	

**Taos County**

	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Acres</b>	
Raspberries	4		1

*Direct & organic sales:*

- One quarter of the farms in New Mexico that sell directly to consumers are in the Northern New Mexico region.
- The number of farms selling direct rose 65% to 377 from the 2002 level of 229.
- Direct sales more than doubled, to \$1.9 million from \$924,000 in 2002.
- Direct sales amount to 3.4% of total agricultural sales, over eight times the national average of 0.4%.

- According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 48 farms report they sell through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) style farms; this is 35% of New Mexico's total [*Note: some questions have been raised about the Agriculture Census count of CSA farms since it appears to overcount the number of such farms*]. Local food leaders count 12 CSA farms in the region.
- 46% of the organic farms in the state of New Mexico (140 of 321) are in the northern region.
- This is 7,046 acres of land.
- The New Mexico Organic Commodities Commission reports that Northern New Mexico hosts 51 farms that are organically certified, 31% of New Mexico's certified organic farms. These farms operate a total of 19,047 acres, 18% of the state's certified acreage.
- According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, organic cropland totaled 1,527 acres.
- 3,626 acres of pastureland are organically farmed.
- According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, sales of organic products from the region's farms totaled \$1 million, 9% of the state total.
- 64% of the farms in the region selling organically sell less than \$5,000 of organic products; this represents 12% of organic sales.

*Note: direct and organic sales are likely to be underrepresented since data are often withheld to protect confidentiality.*

*Conservation practices:*

- 865 farms practice rotational grazing or land management (27% of New Mexico's).
- 498 farms follow conservation practices (23% of New Mexico's).
- 137 farms generate electricity on the farm (25% of New Mexico's).

**Mora County highlights**

- Mora county has 589 farms, 44% more than in 2002.
- The county has 914,549 acres of farmland, 4% less than in 2002.
- 79% of farmland is pastureland.
- The most prevalent farm size is 50-179 acres, with 175 farms.
- About 110 farms are between 10-49 acres.
- About 110 farms are between 180-499 acres.
- About 110 farms are over 1,000 acres.
- Mora County lists 670 Latino farm operators.
- The county lists 17 Native American farm operators.
- Mora county farms sold a combined \$7.6 million of products in 2007, 48% less than in 2002.
- It cost county farms \$10.3 to produce these products.
- Livestock sales totaled \$5.8 million, of which \$5.5 million was cattle sales.
- Crop income totaled \$1.8 million.
- Mora County ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in New Mexico for acreage devoted to field and grass seed crops.
- The county also ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state for acreage of Christmas trees, with 42 acres.
- Mora County farms raise 10,758 acres of forage crops, selling \$1 million.
- Sales of fruits from Mora County farms were not disclosed by the Census.
- County farms sold \$3,000 of vegetables.

### **Rio Arriba County highlights**

- Rio Arriba County has 1,312 farms, 33% more than in 2002.
- Acreage farmed increased slightly to 1.46 million acres.
- Rio Arriba has 1,400 Latino farm operators.
- The county lists 87 Native American farm operators.
- County farms sold \$12.8 million of commodities, 21% more than in 2002.
- The Census reports that production costs for these products totaled \$17 million.
- This included \$8.8 million of livestock (70%), and \$3.7 million of crops (30%).
- 88 state farms collected \$32,000 in federal subsidies.
- The most prevalent farm size is 10-49 acres, with 400 such farms.
- Next most prevalent size is 1-9 acres, with 340 farms.
- Rio Arriba is the top apple producing county in New Mexico, with 629 acres of orchards.
- The county ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state for turkey inventory, but the count of birds was not disclosed.
- Rio Arriba County ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in New Mexico for Christmas tree sales, with \$2,000.
- The county ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state for inventory of laying hens, with 3,040.
- Rio Arriba held an inventory of 3,202 horses, third largest in the state.
- The county has the 4<sup>th</sup> largest acreage of nursery and ornamental crops.
- The county ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the state for poultry sales, with \$108,000.
- With 121 acres of corn, the county is the 6<sup>th</sup> most important county in the state.
- Rio Arriba County ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the state for sheep and goat sales, with \$398,000.
- The county is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest seller of fruits and nuts in New Mexico.
- The county also ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in land devoted to forage production, with 20,777 acres.
- Largest selling item in Rio Arriba County is cattle, with \$7.9 million.
- Fruit and nut sales total \$1.2 million.
- \$714,000 of vegetables were sold by county farms.

### **San Miguel County highlights**

- San Miguel County has 765 farms, 35% more than in 2002.
- County farms have 2.2 million acres of land, 7% more than five years before.
- Market value of production was \$17 million, up 40% from 2002.
- This included \$15.9 million of livestock sales, \$15.5 million of which was cattle sales.
- County farms made \$1.3 million of crop sales.
- Production costs for these commodities was \$18.7 million.
- The most prevalent farm size was over 1,000 acres, with 190 such farms.
- The county has 863 Latino farm operators.
- San Miguel County lists 40 Native American farm operators.
- Federal subsidies were given to 46 farms, totaling \$502,000.
- The county ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in New Mexico for acreage planted to oats, with 118 acres.
- San Miguel County is the only county in the state with significant acreage planted to soybeans.
- With 104 acres planted to corn, the county is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest corn producing county in the state.
- The county ranks 4<sup>th</sup> for inventory of horses, with 2,354.
- San Miguel ranks 4<sup>th</sup> for inventory of laying hens, with 1,667.
- Sales of fruits and vegetables were not disclosed by the Census.

### **Santa Fe County highlights**

- Santa Fe County has 489 farms, 6% more than in 2002.
- Farm acreage decreased 17% to 569,404 acres from 2002-2007.
- 86% of farmland was devoted to pasture.
- County farms sold \$12.6 million of commodities, 7% over 2002 sales.
- 68% of these sales were crops (\$8.6 million) and 32% were livestock sales (\$4 million).
- Production costs for selling these commodities was \$16.3 million.
- Santa Fe county has 233 Latino farm operators.
- The county lists 45 Native American farm operators.
- Most prevalent farm size was 1-9 acres, with 186 such farms.
- Next most prevalent size was 10-49 acres, with 140 farms.
- A total of \$49,000 in government payments was made to 22 Santa Fe County farms. This was 87% less than 2002 subsidies.
- Santa Fe County ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in New Mexico for sales of nursery and ornamental crops, with \$3.9 million. This was 99% of all crop sales in the county.
- The county ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state for turkey inventory, with 919.
- Santa Fe ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in New Mexico for acres planted for sod.
- The county is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest apple producing county in the state, with 123 acres of orchards.
- With 4,367 acres, Santa Fe County ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in New Mexico for corn silage acreage.
- The County ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the state for laying hens, with 2,300.
- Santa Fe ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in poultry sales, with \$97,000.
- Cattle and calf sales total \$3 million.

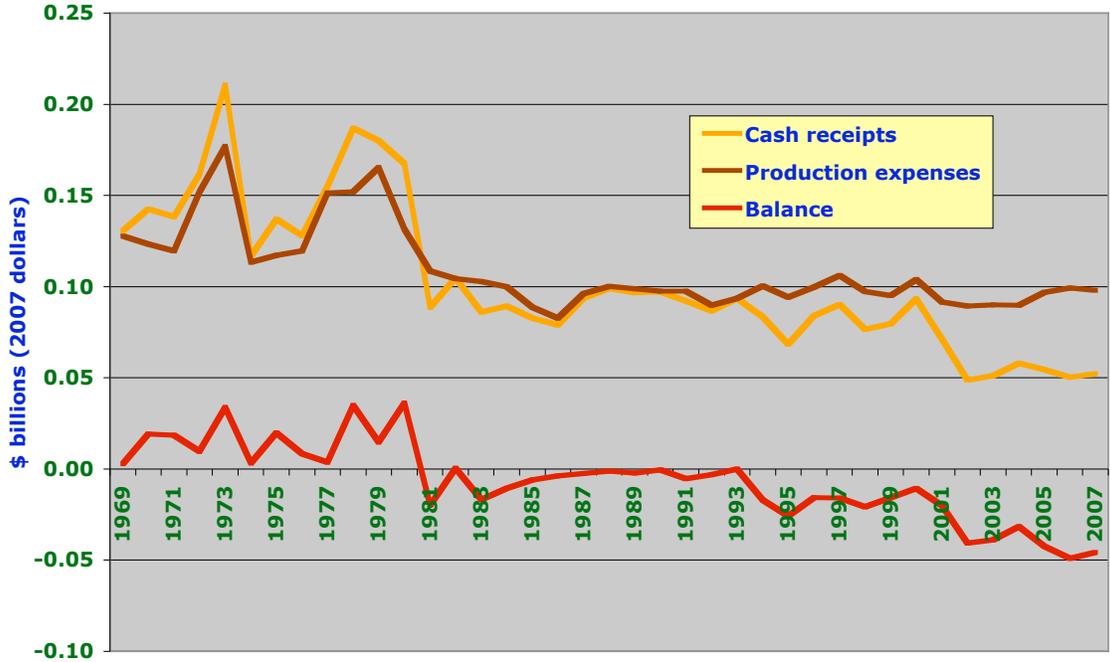
### **Taos County highlights**

- Taos County has 637 farms, 41% more than in 2002.
- Total farm acreage is 456,932 acres, 2% less than in 2002.
- Market value of production totaled \$5.9 million, a 75% increase over 2002.
- 61% of this was livestock sales (\$3.6 million).
- 39% was crop sales (42.3 million).
- Production costs for these commodities totaled \$6.9 million.
- Most prevalent farm size was 10-49 acres, with 290 farms.
- Over 80% of all farms are less than 180 acres.
- The county has 616 Latino farm operators.
- Taos County lists 63 Native American farm operators.
- Leading commodity was cattle, with \$2.9 million in sales.
- Sales of forage crops totaled \$1.4 million.
- Sales of fruits and vegetables were not disclosed by the Agriculture Census.
- Taos County ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in New Mexico for inventory of bison, with 375.
- The county ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in inventory of horses, with 1,913.
- Taos County is the 10<sup>th</sup> ranked county in the state for sweet corn acreage, with 37.
- The county has an inventory of 7,151 cattle.

**Balance of Cash Receipts and Production Costs (Bureau of Economic Analysis):**

*Note: Bureau of Economic Analysis farm income data differ from Agriculture Census data.*

**Farm Production Balance  
in Northern New Mexico, 1969-2007**



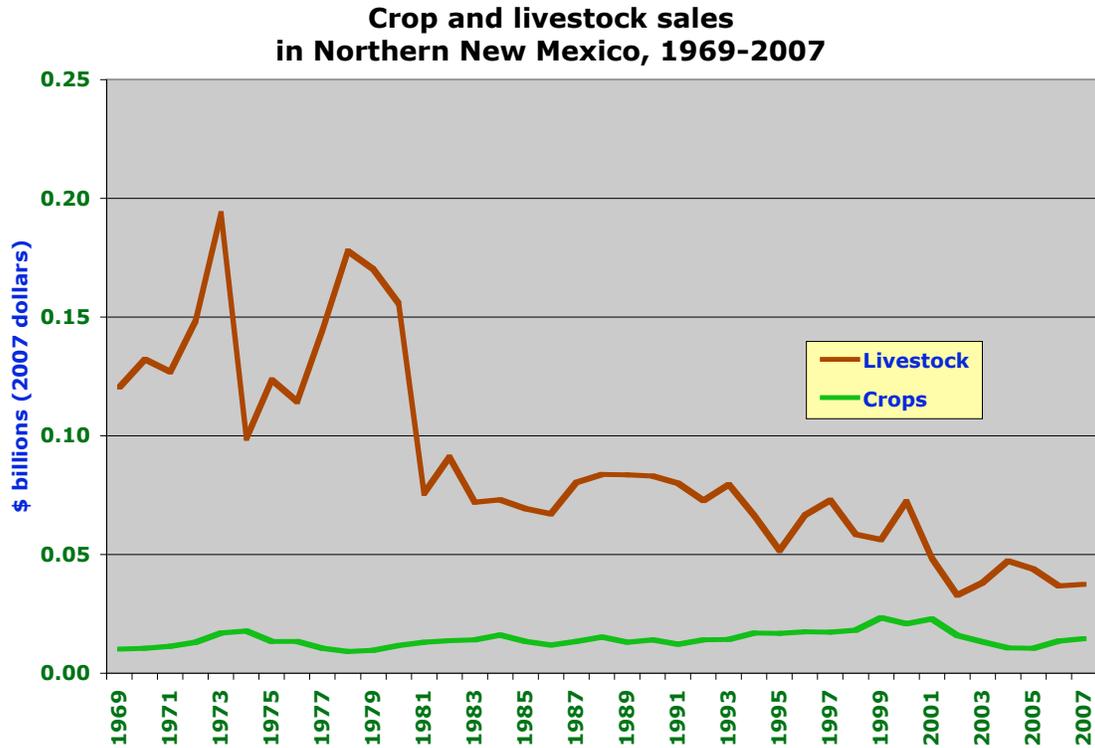
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Northern New Mexico farmers sell \$80 million of commodities per year (1981-2007 average), spending \$97 million to raise them, for an average loss of \$17 million each year.

72% of the region's farms and ranches reported a net loss in 2007 (Agriculture Census), even after subsidies are taken into account.

Northern New Mexico farmers and ranchers earned \$49 million less by selling commodities in 1969 than they earned in 2007 (in 2007 dollars). Sales of livestock and related products have fallen ever since the peak sales of \$180 million in 1978. Crop income has stayed fairly constant since 1969. The most steadily increasing cost of production is feed costs, now at \$9.9 million per year.

Farmers and ranchers earn another \$8 million per year of farm-related income — primarily rental income for land (27-year average for 1981-2007). Federal farm support payments averaged \$3 million per year from 2001-2005.



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Northern New Mexico consumers (2007):**

Northern New Mexico consumers spend \$668 million buying food each year, including \$375 million for home use. Most of this food is produced outside the region. \$1.9 million of food products (3.4% of farm cash receipts, and 0.3% of local consumer needs) are sold by 377 farms directly to consumers, but not always to Northern New Mexico consumers, since this includes internet sales.

Estimated change in net assets for all region households was a combined loss of \$352 million in 2007 alone (BLS). This places additional pressure on Lower Rio Grande region residents as they pay for food.

**Farm and food economy summary:**

Farms lose \$17 million each year producing food commodities, spending \$38 million buying inputs from external suppliers, for a total outflow of \$55 million from the region’s economy.

Meanwhile, consumers spend more than \$602 million buying food from outside. Thus, total loss to the region is nearly \$655 million of potential wealth *each year*. This loss amounts to seven times the value of all commodities raised in the region.

**Northern New Mexico: markets for food eaten at home (2007):**

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics*

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 81
Fruits & vegetables	68
Cereals and bakery products	47
Dairy products	41
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	137

If Northern New Mexico consumers purchased only 15% of the food they need for home use directly from region farmers, this would produce \$56 million of new farm income in Northern New Mexico — an amount equivalent to xx% of the 2007 farm sales in the region.

**Albuquerque metro area: markets for food eaten at home (2007):**

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics*

Residents of the Albuquerque metro area purchase \$2.3 billion of food each year, \$1.3 billion to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 288
Fruits & vegetables	241
Cereals and bakery products	167
Dairy products	146
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	485

**State of New Mexico: markets for food eaten at home (2007)**

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics*

New Mexicans purchase \$5 billion of food per year, \$2.8 billion of this to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 620
Fruits & vegetables	518
Cereals and bakery products	358
Dairy products	315
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	1,043