New Mexico Hay Association

Program is responsible for publication of market newsletters and aiding with annual Southwest Hay & Forage Conference. Aimed primarily at the state’s premium alfalfa production, New Mexico’s #1 cash crop.

United Sorghum Checkoff Program

Grant participation, production guide publications and research projects. Educational events to show sorghum growers the outcomes of their checkoff contributions.

Other Commodity Groups

• New Mexico Sorghum Growers Association
• New Mexico Wheat Growers Association

Work with to secure funding and promotion of research and education directly related to statewide growers of these crops. Wheat and sorghum are ranked #1 and #3 in acreage in NM.

University Collaborations

Kansas State University
Oklahoma State University
Texas A&M University
Texas Tech University
Washington State University

Educational Presentations:

• Grower/Commodity Conferences
• Regional/National Conferences
• Field Days and Workshops
  • Alfalfa Hay Management
  • Corn, Sorghum & Wheat
  • Water and Other Resource Use

Applied Research:

• Forage Production Systems
  • Irrigated and Dryland
• Alternative Crops and Strategies
  • New Technologies

Public Outreach:

• Publications
• Radio, and News Releases
• Website Resources
  (http://forages.nmsu.edu)

New Mexico State University

Mark A. Marsalis, Ph.D.
Extension Agronomist
Extension Plant Sciences Dept.
Agricultural Science Center at Clovis
2346 SR 288, Clovis, NM 88101
Phone: 575-985-2292
Fax: 575-985-2419
E-mail: marsalis@nmsu.edu
The High Plains of eastern New Mexico is the largest contiguous agricultural region in the state. While comprising only 30% of the state’s total land area, the counties of Chaves, Colfax, Curry, DeBaca, Eddy, Guadalupe, Harding, Lea, Quay, Roosevelt, and Union account for 60% of all agricultural cash receipts.

Over 350,000 dairy cows are present in the eastern NM-W. Texas area. Forages constitute a large proportion of the dairy cow diet and are necessary for high milk production.

Underground water resources used for irrigation are declining. Current forage production systems are not sustainable and new, alternative crops and cropping systems must be developed to maximize water-use in order for farmers to maintain a level of productivity necessary for continued feed, food and energy supply.

Sorghum is a water-conserving crop that shows potential as an alternative to traditional corn grown for silage, particularly in limited irrigated situations.

Extension and research programs involving silage and alfalfa hay management, lowering inputs, marketing, and variety selection are necessary in all areas of NM so that continuous crop improvement information can be supplied to growers, dairies and horse owners.

Forage Production

New Mexico Forage Facts

**Alfalfa Hay**
- 220,000 acres of hay grown
- Over 1 million tons harvested
- Value: $250 million every year

**Corn Silage**
- 80,000 acres grown each year
- Over 2 million tons harvested
- Value: $80 million every year

**Sorghum Silage**
- 35,000 acres grown each year
- Over 600,000 tons harvested
- Value: $18 million

**Curry & Roosevelt Counties**
- Rank 2nd and 3rd in silage production in NM
- 300,000 acres of wheat grown
- 30,000 acres of corn silage grown
- 16,000 acres of alfalfa hay

New Mexico State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.