

A Look at New Mexico Agriculture



Capital: Santa Fe

Population: 2,009,671

Founded: January 6, 1912 (47th)

State Bird: Roadrunner

State Tree: Pinon Pine

State Flower: Yucca

Number of Counties: 33

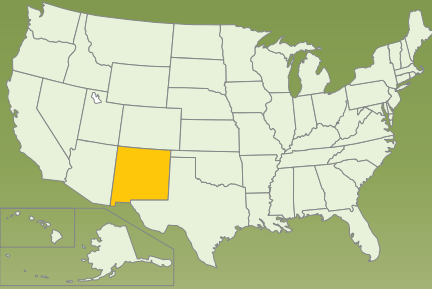
Largest City: Albuquerque - 521,999

Nickname: Land of Enchantment

Number of Farms: 20,600

Average Farm Size: 2,066 acres

Total Farmland: 43 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- The New Mexico climate is typical of high-desert conditions. There is a large amount of sun, wide temperature ranges, and lots of wind.
- The days are warm, 95° F (35° C), and the nights cool, 65° F (18° C).
- The mean annual precipitation is about 12"
- The mean annual soil temperature is about 51° F.
- A temperature fluctuation of 15-20° C over a 24-hour period is common.
- Penistaja soils are the state soil of New Mexico and cover more than 1 million acres.
- They are very productive grass and forage soils and are excellent for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and recreation.
- The Penistaja series was named after a small farming and stock-raising community in northwest New Mexico.
- "Penistaja" is a Navajo name meaning "forced to sit."

Crops & Livestock

- Over 350,000 acres are in hay production with a total yield of 1.55 million tons.
- Over 49,000 dry tons of chile pepper was grown in New Mexico in 2007 with an estimated worth of \$28.68 million.
- Over 35 million pounds of peanuts were produced in 2007.
- The 2007 cotton crop was valued at over \$38 million with over 98,000 bales produced.
- Over 6,300 acres were in onion production in 2007 with a total harvest value of \$63.4 million.
- The livestock and livestock product industry is one of the largest in New Mexico producing over \$3.0 billion in 2007. The dairy industry brings in the most money annually at \$1.3 billion while the beef industry is second at \$951 million.
- There were over 1.5 million head of cattle in the state in 2007 with 340,000 of them being dairy cows.
- There were over 130,000 sheep as of January 1, 2007.

General

- Annual crop and livestock sales exceeded \$3.3 billion in 2007.
- Agriculture directly employs 24,500 citizens in New Mexico. Another 84,000 citizens are employed in agricultural processing.
- Farmland covers 60 percent of the state. Eighty-nine percent of that farmland is pasture ground.