

Urban Horticulture Symposium

Chaves County Cooperative Extension Service



THE SITUATION:

Roswell, New Mexico, with a population of approximately 47,800 residents, faces significant challenges related to food security and access to green spaces. Nearly 24% of residents live below the poverty line, and 1 in 7 New Mexicans—and almost 1 in 4 children—experience food insecurity. While Chaves County is a major agricultural hub, producing dairy, beef, hay, and pecans, most of this production is large-scale and geared toward export rather than local consumption. Consequently, many urban households lack access to fresh, affordable produce.

EXTENSION RESPONSE:

The Chaves County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent partnered with Agriculture Agents from Roosevelt, Eddy and Lea counties to host the SE Urban Horticulture Symposium.

The program was attended by 31 members of the community and utilized specialists from NMSU which presented information focused on how plants thrive in the heat, soil health and maintenance, integrated pest management, turf grasses, and vegetable gardening in SE NM.

Contact:

- Lea County Extension
- Eddy County Extension
- Chaves County Extension
- Roosevelt County Extension
- Curry County Extension

IMPACTS: Pre and Post survey showed:



Knowledge gained:

- 76% increased their knowledge of how plants thrive in the heat
- 71% increased their knowledge in soil health
- 71% increased their knowledge of integrated pest management
- 94% increased their knowledge of Turf grasses
- 64% increased their knowledge of vegetable gardening in SE NM.



Behaviors:

- 100% can apply what they learned in their work or home garden
- 100% intend to adopt at least one recommended practice
- 94% plan to share this information with others
- 94% felt the topics were relevant to their needs.

PUBLIC VALUE STATEMENT:

BY EXPANDING URBAN HORTICULTURE EDUCATION, ROSWELL CAN REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY, IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH, AND CREATE GREENER, MORE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS, ALIGNING WITH STATEWIDE GOALS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING.



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.
New Mexico State University

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NMSU AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING.