



# Planning for Santa Fe's Food Future

*Querencia*  
*A story of food, farming and friends*

A publication of the Santa Fe Food Policy Council  
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*The New Mexico landscape is one of many contrasts: deserts, mountains, meadows, orchards, and gardens; dry as the bones in the cemetery, our final resting place. Part of what defines our querencia, which gives us this sense of place, is our food, contrary to those who say that there can be no sense of place in today's global experiment. And our food cannot be separated from how we work the land and how we water our crops.*

*Again we learn from folklore: paravos, paranos, y para los animalitos de Dios; for you, for us, and for God's animals (and plants). Water is a don divino, a divine right, not a commodity to be sold to the highest bidder. This dry landscape, with a beauty only we might understand and find sustenance in, is what defines our querencia.*

*- Estevan Arellano  
New Mexican Historian, Farmer, and Writer*

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# Executive Summary

*Planning for Santa Fe's Food Future* was developed by the Santa Fe Food Policy Council to ensure that a safe, healthy, and affordable food supply will be available to all residents for decades to come. This tool examines various issues through the lens of food, including health, distribution, economy, education, agriculture, land and water conservation. It also bridges local, state, and national issues pertaining to food.

The Santa Fe Food Plan recommends a variety of actions designed to promote food security (availability of healthy food, which is affordable to all residents), improve access to retail food outlets that offer healthy and affordable food, encourage healthy eating by all residents to reduce obesity and diet-related diseases such as diabetes, educate consumers, support farmers and ranchers, enhance the food system infrastructure (distribution and storage facilities, transportation, processing), and protect the natural resources necessary to produce food. This is not a static document, but a dynamic one that is meant to be discussed, acted on, monitored, evaluated, and modified periodically.

This plan is divided into three sections: “Getting Food,” “Growing Food,” and “Learning About Food.” Each section provides a list of recommendations that support that respective goal, and each of the recommendations identifies agencies and/or organizations that should take responsibility for its implementation.

In “Getting Food,” the Food Plan encourages the Santa Fe community to use all available means to make healthy and affordable food accessible to its residents. To that end, the recommendations ask public officials to ensure that public transportation services can be easily used by residents to connect them to high quality retail food outlets.

The Food Plan’s “Learning About Food” section underscores the connection between our food supply and healthy living. “Food is medicine” is not just a saying, but the best guidance one can receive when choosing what to eat and how to prepare it. The recommendations call for the widespread adoption of wellness policies, institutional practices, and educational programs that expand healthy community food environments and encourage responsible food choices for people of all ages.

The “Growing Food” section highlights the critical role that farmers and our region’s natural resources play in ensuring our food supply. The recommendations strongly urge that city and county governments use all available authorities to promote new and existing gardening, farming, and ranching opportunities.

The Santa Fe Food Policy Council is respectfully requesting that the Santa Fe City Council and the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners adopt *Planning for Santa Fe's Food Future: Querencia, A Story of Food, Farming, and Friends*. If adopted, the Food Plan should become the guiding document for City and County officials, food and farm organizations, and a variety of community groups that support healthy living, resilient communities and robust economies. It is expected that the full implementation of the Food Plan’s recommendations will occur over three years. This collaborative effort is our foundation from which we build a food system that nourishes all people in our community in a just, sustainable, and regenerative manner.

# The Santa Fe Food Policy Council

Starting more than 30 years ago, academic experts and food activists began to see that the food system was touching more and more parts of our lives. Environmental issues, public health, issues of social and economic justice were all part of a food system and had a direct bearing on the food we ate.

Food experts and activists realized that our food system was influenced by many factors including the marketplace and actions of local, state and federal governments. However, the average citizen didn't have much of a role in shaping them. One way to address this lack of participation was by creating food policy councils, to bring together all stakeholders in a community and give them a say in constructing a system that reflected their values.

Today's food policy councils come in different sizes and sometimes address different issues. But at heart they reflect the idea of food democracy. Achieving the goal of food security means bringing the bulk of society to work together to ensure there's enough affordable, easily accessible, and nutritious food for everyone.

Our local contribution to the growing national food policy council movement is the Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council on Food Policy. Established in 2008 by a joint City/County resolution, the Council's creation acknowledges a shared commitment to and concern for improving the local food production system and the importance of a vibrant and accessible "food future" for Santa Fe.

The Council is devoted to recommending laws, rules, and regulations that create and maintain a reliable and sustainable food system that nourishes everyone in the community. For more information, please go to [www.SantaFeFoodPolicy.org](http://www.SantaFeFoodPolicy.org).



# Food Plan Method



The Food Plan is the culmination of extensive community-level research that included interviews with hundreds of citizens, public and private officials, and food system stakeholders. It draws on the latest food, farm, and health related data relevant to the Santa Fe community. A review of current food system policies, programs, and regulations was also conducted. To the greatest extent possible, the Food Plan has aligned its recommendations with existing city and county plans including the County Health Action Plan, the County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, and the Sustainable Santa Fe Plan.

Data was referenced from a variety of resources available to our community: the Santa Fe Food Policy Council's Community Food Assessment, Santa Fe County 2013: A Community Health Profile, The Santa Fe County Health Action Plan, The City of Santa Fe's Sustainable Santa Fe Plan, The Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP), and The Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC), as well as a number of other local and state-wide research publications.

The Santa Fe Food Policy Council embarked upon a county-wide interview process, conducting over 60 interviews with stakeholders working in positions which relate to food access, health, education and production. We also held 6 Food Plan dialogue sessions in settings throughout Santa Fe County to learn about community members' first-hand experiences and priorities.

This process gave us the opportunity to understand how community members, agencies and Santa Fe City and County employees view their roles in changing the local food system. We inquired about the successes and challenges individuals have encountered while they live and work in the local food system. We captured visionary statements about how to improve our local food system relative to folks' daily routines, including how they take care of their families, make food choices, and interact with friends and neighbors to celebrate food.

# Strengthening the Food System in the Santa Fe Region

New Mexico has a rich agricultural heritage; the land we call home has been in production for thousands of years, supporting diverse populations throughout history. Farming and ranching have shaped lives and landscapes for many generations and this deeply forged connection is a unique part of our culture which remains intact amidst advancing technology of this age.

Today, the potential for our regional food system is unprecedented. New Mexicans, like many Americans, get most food from supermarkets which are served by vast and complex networks of transportation and storage. Veins of food travel throughout the country and world to reach homes here in Santa Fe County, with external producers and processors currently providing up to 98% of the food we access. Yet, another system exists within the national food network. Local markets in New Mexico and all over the country are increasingly providing a diversity of products which change with the seasons and celebrate wondrous varieties of regional seed stock. These local markets range from supermarkets that highlight local food to schools and other institutions buying more from local growers to farmers' markets, where the growers sell directly to the people.

The desire for bananas in winter and tastes from local soil necessitate a balanced partnership of local and global food supplies. We have an opportunity to blend the best of these systems and to create a resilient network of food. This work is essential as we strive to provide a range of culturally appropriate, affordable, and nutritious options for all Santa Fe City and County residents. It is important to be informed about how we can strengthen our food system for three major reasons:

1. Anyone who eats has a stake in the food system. Every dollar spent has a great impact. When we buy food for our family we are essentially voting by helping to make decisions about the cost of different types of food, which companies and businesses we want to see thrive, even what is on the shelves of the grocery store next time we go to shop.
2. Informed residents can help shape government policies that control food production and the availability of food products. These policy decisions include what foods will be supported through subsidies, what taxes and regulations farmers will be required to comply with, and what foods are available at what cost and where.
3. There are at least 21,270 individuals (14.9 %) living in Santa Fe County who can be classified as "food insecure" which means that they live in a household in which access to food adequate to support a healthy life is limited or uncertain. This is equal to two times the total population of Espanola, New Mexico. (A Community Health Profile: Santa Fe County 2013, page 78)





Within the City, nearly 10% of low income families live a mile or more from the nearest grocery store. These individuals not only have difficulty accessing healthy foods, but increasingly find themselves faced with only unhealthy food choices as nearly one-third of the restaurants in the county are fast food. Such limited access also contributes to a growing rate of obesity. With almost 30,000 county residents experiencing the effects of obesity, the current generation of youth is poised to be the first generation with a lower life expectancy than that of their parents. Limited access to fresh, affordable foods is a challenge for many of us. Thus, strengthening the food system in the Santa Fe region should be considered a major goal of our community.

For many, our relationship with food is changing. Our increased dependency on convenient and low cost food options means we rely more and more on heavily processed foods. Schools, senior centers, hospitals, and even restaurants are forced to view price as the deciding factor when choosing what ends up on the menu. These factors limit our ability to make independent food choices, to retain our cultural food traditions and to live healthy, active lifestyles.

While this is our current reality, let us work together to create an alternative.

Let us imagine a world in which:

-  **food is valued at its true cost, while remaining available & affordable for all**
-  **farmers and ranchers can make a living stewarding our rich agricultural traditions**
-  **our respect for the land is upheld by all who inhabit it**
-  **healthy foods color the plates of our children, elders and families**
-  **food choices are determined not by price, but by what is good for our bodies and supports our traditions**
-  **regulations are common sense and polices support our vision**
-  **food is simple, celebrated, and of course, local**

*“We have made the food system that we have... we have made it the way it is and we can make it a different way.”*

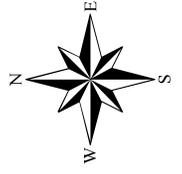
- Ricardo Salvador, Union of Concerned Scientists

# SANTA FE COUNTY

## Food & Agriculture System Map

### Legend

- Farmer's Markets
- Food Programs\*
- Senior Centers
- Food Stores
- Irrigated Land
- Cultivation Areas \*\*
- Grazing Areas \*\*
- Community Plan Areas
- Rail Runner/BNSF
- Major Roads
- Incorporated City Boundaries
- Santa Fe County Boundary



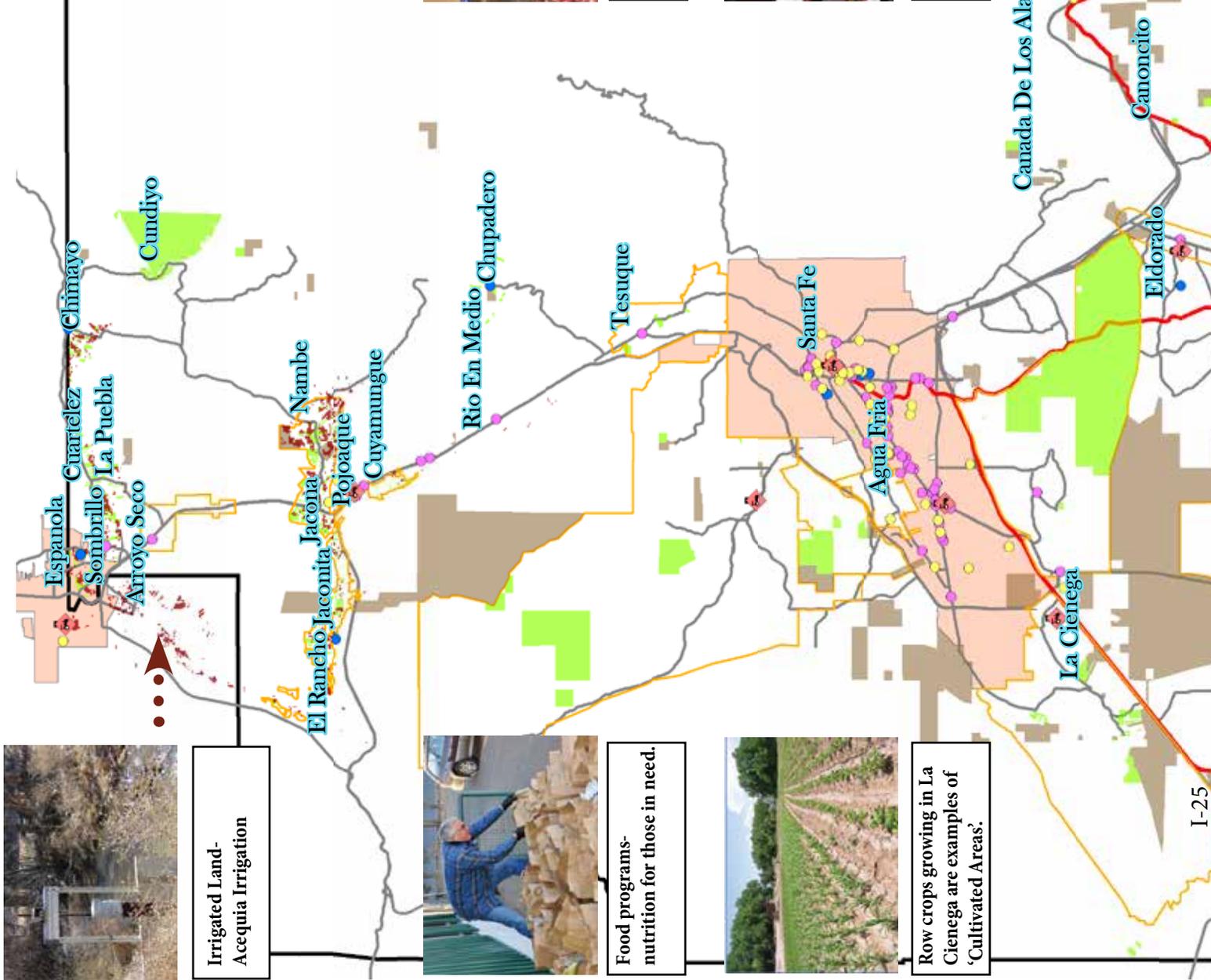
Cold storage for local food is an important part of safe food transport.



Seed saving ensures a future supply of local, traditional food.



Farmers Markets growing throughout the County.



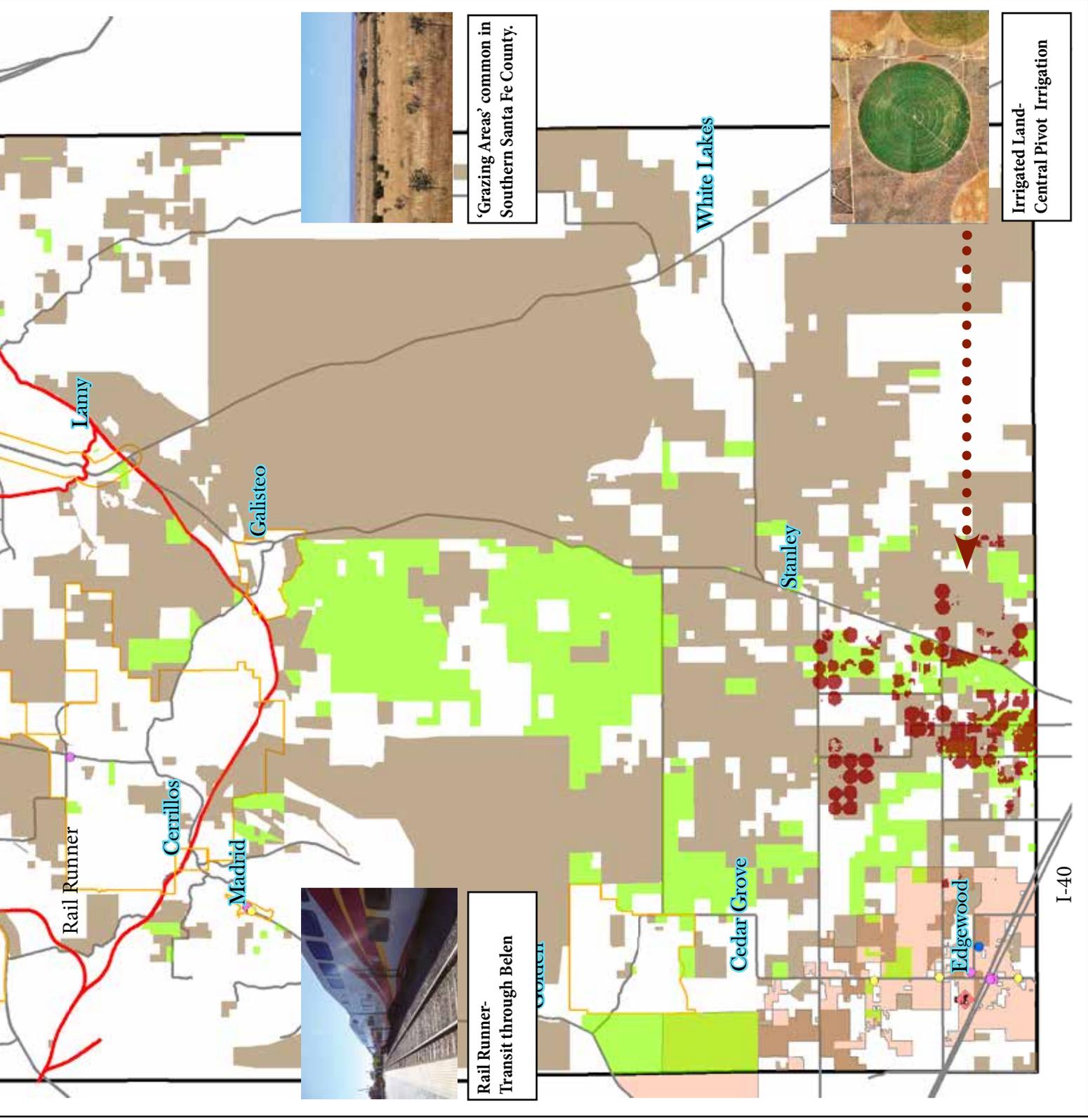
Irrigated Land- Acequia Irrigation



Food programs- nutrition for those in need.



Row crops growing in La Cienega are examples of 'Cultivated Areas'.



'Grazing Areas' common in Southern Santa Fe County.



Irrigated Land- Central Pivot Irrigation



Rail Runner- Transit through Belen

\*Food Programs include non-profits, social aid, and emergency food programs which provide free and/or discounted food for those in need.

\*\*Cultivation and Grazing Areas are based on 2014 Agricultural Exemptions, parcel data from the County Assessors office. The properties identified on this map have been granted an Agricultural Exempt status based on agricultural cultivation or grazing activity occurring within the property, which may be only a portion of the entire property.

2008 Orthophotography

This information is for reference only. Santa Fe County assumes no liability for errors associated with the use of these data. User are solely responsible for confirming data accuracy.

Food access points data-2010  
Area of grazing/ cultivation data-2014  
Irrigated land data-2010



# GETTING FOOD

Our vision for connecting diverse communities throughout the Santa Fe region to a reliable supply of healthy and affordable foods is rooted in building knowledge of available assistance programs and resources, as well as ensuring that these foods are readily available in local stores, farmers markets, senior centers, hospitals, and schools.

## Goal 1: Improve residents' ability to access fresh, nutritious food.

- 🌶️ Require public transportation routes to be aligned with food outlets that offer a full range of whole and fresh food options.

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe Trails, North Central Regional Transit*

- 🌶️ Require that City- and County-operated institutions include an increasing amount and variety of local food in their meal service programs to a maximum feasible percentage.

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Community Services Department, City of Santa Fe Community Services Division, Area Agency on Aging, Santa Fe Public Schools, PED, CYFD*

- 🌶️ Support provision of infrastructure and programming to improve food access in rural and under-served areas.

(Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, strategy 15.4.1, page 86.)

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, New Mexico State University (NMSU) Extension Service*

- 🌶️ Increase seniors' awareness of various food assistance programs.

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Community Services Department, New Mexico Income Support Division (ISD) Santa Fe County Office, NMSU Extension Service, non-profits, City and County Senior Centers administration and staff*

## Goal 2: Promote self-reliance, family gardening, and food storage.

- 🌶️ Conduct education and outreach campaigns which emphasize self-reliance as a cornerstone of sustainability.

*Potential Partners: Sustainable Santa Fe Commission, City of Santa Fe Environmental Services, NMSU Extension Service, Santa Fe City Council, Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners*

- 🌶️ Inspire our community to integrate emergency preparedness into our daily lives through various lifestyle shifts, from smart shopping techniques for storing food reserves to revitalizing food preservation and storage traditions.

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Emergency Management, NMSU Extension Service, City of Santa Fe Emergency Management, non-profits*

- 🌶️ Sponsor a "Grow Up Gardening" campaign which highlights creative and fun food production techniques tailored to families, including container and vertical gardening techniques for limited space.

*Potential Partners: Food for Santa Fe/Feeding Santa Fe, Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, NMSU Extension Service, area nurseries, and food retail outlets that offer seasonal plant starts*





### **Goal 3: Prioritize getting local, fresh food into schools.**

-  Support and advocate for universal free school meals, which would make free healthy schools meals the norm for all children, regardless of family income.  
*Potential partners: NM State Legislature, NM’s Congressional Delegation, the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council, New Mexico School Nutrition Association*
-  Continue to support Farm to School educational activities currently taking place within our schools, such as on-site school gardens, food system and farming curriculum, fruit and vegetable tastings, culinary programs, field trips to local farms and venues, farmers in the classroom, and food system entrepreneurship programs; these programs help children become familiar with healthy foods so they are more likely to eat them in school.  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe Public Schools, Santa Fe Farm to School Coordinator, NMSU Extension Service, Cooking With Kids, the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council, Farm to Table, school district administration and staff across Santa Fe County, area farmers, and non-profits*
-  Work with School Food Service Directors and District Procurement offices to increase the availability of local foods in schools by setting up sustainable systems to purchase foods from local farmers, including standing purchase orders and bid processes that emphasize local purchasing.  
*Potential Partners: School District Procurement Offices, School Food Service Directors, NMSU Extension Service, Farm to Table, Cooking with Kids, the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council*

### **Goal 4: Promote existing food assistance programs.**

-  Demonstrate and promote creative uses of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits—from tips for shopping on a budget to home gardening using seeds and plant starts available for purchase with monthly assistance benefits.  
*Potential Partners: New Mexico ISD Santa Fe County Office, Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, NMSU Extension Service, Local Organic Meals on a Budget, Homegrown NM*
-  Promote innovative programs aimed at increasing access to fresh, local food, such as the Southside Farmers Market and Santa Fe Farmers Market Double Buck Days which provide SNAP recipients with additional funds to shop at local farmers markets. Encourage clear signage at farmers markets and outreach about the WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Programs.  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, New Mexico ISD Santa Fe County Office, NMSU Extension Service, NM Department of Health, Kitchen Angels, non-profits*
-  Organize volunteers to collect leftover crops from local farms to expand the availability of fresh food at area food banks/food pantries.  
*Potential Partners: Food for Santa Fe/Feeding Santa Fe, The Food Depot, area farms, non-profits*

**“No one in Santa Fe should go hungry”**

- Carmichael Dominguez , Santa Fe City Council, District 3

## Goal 5: Celebrate local food and support regional food economy.

-  Grow the demand for local food by organizing an outreach campaign aimed at educating and inspiring residents to buy local.  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Planning Division-Economic Development, Santa Fe Food Policy Council, Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, La Montanita Coop, New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association, NMDA-Taste the Tradition and Grown with Tradition, area food retail, non-profits, farmers*
-  Develop a locally based approach to address concerns of consumers and producers about the potential impacts of Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) food consumption and production in the region.  
*Potential Partners: Joint City-County GMO Task Force, Homegrown NM, NMSU Extension Service, non-profits and initiatives*
-  Implement innovative strategies that support local economic development efforts such as mobile grocery stores, healthy corner store initiatives, and food carts to bring locally produced food into under-served areas of the county.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Economic Development Division, Santa Fe County Economic Development, North Central New Mexico Economic Development District, MoGro Mobile Grocery*
-  Maximize the efficiency of existing Community Commercial Kitchens and assess the need for additional facilities in order to enhance the economic potential of local value-added products and traditional foods  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Economic Development Division, Santa Fe County Economic Development, NMSU Extension Service, Santa Fe SCORE, Southside Merchants Association, Santa Fe Business Incubator, Pojoaque Pueblo, non-profits, community members*
-  Work with New Mexico regulatory agencies to streamline the process by which local producers and food processors can become certified for value added products.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Economic Development Division, Santa Fe County Economic Development and Planning Division, New Mexico Environment Department, NMSU Extension Service, New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council, Farm to Table*
-  Develop City and County Start-Up Resource Guides to help new entrepreneurs meet the requirements for starting food retail or agricultural businesses.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Economic Development, Santa Fe County Economic Development, NMSU Extension Service, Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce, Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce, Santa Fe Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*



**“We don’t just want to do more and more, we want to do more and better”**

**- Viola Lujan , Food Depot, Program Manager**

# LEARNING ABOUT FOOD



**Our vision for food education is to equip residents with the knowledge, skills, passion and environment to make healthy choices for themselves, their families, and the community.**

## **Goal 1: Expand opportunities for creative and experiential learning through cooking, nutrition, and home economics.**

-  **Align Farm to School curriculum with required district and testing standards to ensure that lessons are beneficial to students' learning processes and are reinforced across subjects.**  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe Public Schools, Santa Fe Farm to School Coordinator, Cooking With Kids, school district administration and staff across Santa Fe County*
-  **Collaborate with area non-profits and agencies to conduct educational trainings that will clarify food safety requirements for using fruits and vegetables grown in our community, senior center, and school gardens in our local institutions.**  
*Potential Partners: New Mexico Environment Department, National Farm to School Network, Farm to Table, NMSU Extension Service, and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)*
-  **Develop education classes for parents and children that connect Farm to School activities with at-home cooking practices to help youth create lasting lifestyle shifts for themselves and their families.**  
*Potential Partners: National Farm to School Network, Local Organic Meals on a Budget, Cooking With Kids, NMSU Extension Service, Santa Fe Community College Culinary Arts program, school administration and staff, Americorps, Food Corps, and non-profits*
-  **Develop nutrition education and cooking programs tailored to the needs of tribal communities such as shopping on a budget, meeting special dietary needs, and learning creative ways to utilize commodity foods.**  
*Potential Partners: Indian Health Services, Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council (ENIPC) Commodity Foods Distribution Program, NMSU Extension Service, Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition (ICAN), Tewa Women United, Cooking with Kids, Local Organic Meals on a Budget, Santa Fe Community College Culinary Arts program and other non-profits*
-  **Develop nutrition/healthy cooking classes and educational materials, with an emphasis on reaching people at higher risk for food insecurity and diet-related health concerns.**  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe Community College, NMSU Extension Service, ICAN, Cooking With Kids, Kitchen Angels, Food Depot, area culinary schools, La Familia Medical Center, Adelante, Youth Shelters and Family Services, and other non-profits*
-  **Design community events, workshops, classes tailored toward youth and families that promote "learning-by-doing" in areas such as raising animals, growing food, cooking food, preserving food, etc.**  
*Potential Partners: NMSU Extension Service, Santa Fe County 4-H Program, Cooking With Kids, Kitchen Angels, Santa Fe Community College*

- 🌶️ Work with local non-profits to develop culinary programs aimed at seniors that promote increased knowledge about cooking techniques, diversity of dishes and nutrition information.

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Community Services, City of Santa Fe Community Services, City and County Senior Center staff, NMSU Extension Service, Cooking with Kids, Local Organic Meals on a Budget and other non-profits*

- 🌶️ Work with area governmental departments, agencies, and organizations to develop prevention and management programs for diet related conditions to help prevention folks' diets to meet medical needs in a way that is achievable and culturally appropriate.

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Community Services, City of Santa Fe Community Services Division and Wellness Coordinator, NMSU Extension Service, Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center, La Familia Medical Center and other medical clinics, Pueblo of Pojoaque Wellness and Healing Arts Center, Tewa Women United, the Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute: Pre-Contact Diet Project---Pueblo Food Experience, Kitchen Angels and other non-profits*

## **Goal 2: Promote the development of healthy and safe built environments.**

- 🌶️ Work with City and County Land Use to develop Complete Streets Resolutions aimed at making our neighborhoods more attractive, accessible, and safe. Complete Streets is a national program that attempts to promote physical activity by making streets safe and functional for all drivers, pedestrians, and bicycles.

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe City Council, Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners, City of Santa Fe Land Use Department, Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use, neighborhood associations*

- 🌶️ Establish “healthy food zones” near schools and public institutions to promote the availability of nutritious food and limit the marketing and availability of unhealthy foods.

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe City Council, Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners, City of Santa Fe Land Use Department, Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use*

- 🌶️ Increase opportunities for school-based events which emphasize fun physical activities for youth such as walking school buses (an alternate form of student transport: students are chaperoned by two adults while walking to school), the Bike Rodeo, and Girls on the Run

*Potential Partners: School District administration and staff, La Familia Medical Center, REACH Community Leadership Team (CLT), non-profit organizations*





### **Goal 3: Expand and diversify opportunities to access food assistance.**

-  Reinforce nutrition education and access by providing enrollment services, information, and vouchers for fresh, whole foods at area health care and senior centers  
*Potential Partners: La Familia Medical Center, REACH Community Leadership Team (CLT), New Mexico Income Support Division (ISD) Santa Fe County Office, New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association, City and County Senior Centers administration and staff, Santa Fe County Community Services, City of Santa Fe Community Service Division, non-profits*
-  Expand food assistance programs to meet specialized dietary needs and cultural preferences and to offer availability during the times and days many folks can most conveniently utilize their services, such as evenings and weekends.  
*Potential Partners: New Mexico ISD Santa Fe County Office, non-profits, food banks/pantries, and shelters*
-  Collaborate with area tribal governments, agencies, and organizations to ensure their communities have equal access to information and enrollment services for a variety of different assistance programs available to residents of Santa Fe County.  
*Potential Partners: Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council (ENIPC) Commodity Foods Distribution Program, NMSU Extension Service New Mexico ISD Santa Fe County Office, non-profits*

### **Goal 4: Align and publicize wellness policies throughout the Santa Fe region.**

-  Support Implementation of school wellness policies that align with federal requirements with achievable goals that are culturally appropriate for the students, families, and staff they serve.  
*Potential Partners: School District administration, NMSU Extension Service, School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) nurses, and staff*
-  Support wellness policies for Santa Fe City and County employees and their families, which offer incentives, and innovative solutions to maintaining good nutrition and active lifestyles; institute a “Farm to Work” CSA program that brings local produce to the workplace.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Wellness Coordinator, Santa Fe City Council, Santa Fe County Human Resources, Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners, NMSU Extension Service, Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute*
-  Encourage private sector wellness initiatives, incentive programs and policies that contribute to the well-being of employees and their families.  
*Potential Partners: Whole Foods Market, La Montanita Co-op, NMSU Extension Service, other businesses*

**“We should learn to value food as we value ourselves”**

- Lynn Walters , Cooking with Kids, Executive Director

# GROWING FOOD

Our vision for food production in Santa Fe City and County views farming and ranching as an economically viable way of life that promotes stewardship of the land and resources. This vision supports food security through the integration of sustainable agricultural practices into the built environment.

## **Goal 1: Increase the impact and efficiency of community gardens.**

-  Enforce existing water conservation policies for community gardens. This will encourage appropriate growing methods that support efficient water usage and minimize negative environmental impacts.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Community Garden Council, Homegrown NM, Santa Fe Watershed Association*
-  Support development of community gardens that create educational opportunities with diversified crops.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Community Garden Council, Homegrown NM, Santa Fe County Open Space, NMSU Extension Service, Santa Fe Community College, Institute of American Indian Arts*
-  Define the populations intended to be served by community gardens and develop policies that ensure those populations have access and education to benefit from the increased food security of those gardens.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Community Garden Council, Homegrown NM, Earth Care, Somos un Pueblo Unido*
-  Support the development of community gardens and other agricultural projects by providing water, land, and infrastructure on County or public land where appropriate. (Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, strategy 15.5.1, page86.)  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails program, Santa Fe County Growth Management Department*
-  Allow the option for community gardens to be considered as part of the open space requirements for new developments. (Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, strategy 15.5.2, page86.)  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails program, Santa Fe County Growth Management Department*

## **Goal 2: Develop on-site gardens at senior centers to increase the availability of fresh and local foods for seniors.**

-  Design sustainability plans for senior center gardens to ensure they have operational support, are economically self-sufficient, and are integrated into the community.  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Community Services, City of Santa Fe Community Service Division, NMSU Extension Service, City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails program, Homegrown NM, non-profits*





- 🌶️ Connect garden coordinators to resources, technical support, and educational opportunities available within Santa Fe County.

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Community Services Department, City of Santa Fe Community Service Division, NMSU Extension Service, Santa Fe Community College, Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), Homegrown NM, non-profits*

- 🌶️ Develop the plan by which fruit and vegetables grown in senior center gardens can be practically harvested, washed, stored and integrated into food preparation for senior center meals.

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Community Services Department, New Mexico Environment Department, National Farm to School Network, Farm to Table, NMSU Extension Service*

### **Goal 3: Increase the number of school gardens aimed at helping youth learn about food, farming, and healthy lifestyles.**

- 🌶️ Develop and implement plans for school gardens that address the need for continuing support from the school district and community. Encourage schools to use school gardens as outdoor classrooms, integrating learning about food into the school day, cafeteria meals, and afterschool and summer programs.

*Potential Partners: National Farm to School Network, school district administration and staff, Americorps, Food Corps, non-profits*

- 🌶️ Work with school administration and local governments to develop joint use agreements establishing community gardens on school grounds. This will increase opportunities for multi-generational and multi-cultural learning and help gardens become long-term resources that serve the entire community.

*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Community Service Division, Santa Fe County Community Services Department, school district administration and staff*

- 🌶️ Develop partnerships with the Santa Fe Community College and/or other academic institutions to deliver arid-land agriculture training for residents and people pursuing careers in food production.

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe Community College, Sustainable Santa Fe program, Santa Fe Community Farm, IAIA, NMSU Extension Service, City of Santa Fe Economic Development Division*

### **Goal 4: Conserve water through educational programs, incentives, and policies.**

- 🌶️ Design educational landscapes in urban and rural settings that demonstrate the range of possibilities for water conservation, including harvested rainwater, xeric irrigation, re-vegetation and supplementing food production.

*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Water Division, Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee, Santa Fe Watershed Alliance, non-profits, Sustainable Santa Fe program*

**“The West was built on working landscapes, which are currently vulnerable to loss”  
– Coleen Baker, Santa Fe County, Open Space Trails Program Manager**

-  Require that urban farms that grow produce for sale or to donate to organizations that address food insecurity must provide a water use plan including a water budget for plantings and water sources which minimize the use of municipal drinking water for crop irrigation.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Water Division, Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee, Santa Fe Watershed Alliance, non-profits, Sustainable Santa Fe program*
-  Support rebates and other incentives for agricultural use such as rain barrels, drip-irrigation, composting systems, and water conservation techniques in areas where appropriate.(Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, strategy 16.2.1, p. 87.)  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Water Division, Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee, Santa Fe Watershed Alliance, non-profits, Sustainable Santa Fe program*
-  Support the use of rain fed agriculture where collected water is used to irrigate crops. (Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, strategy 16.2.2, p. 87.)  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, City of Santa Fe Water Division, Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee, Santa Fe Watershed Alliance, non-profits, Sustainable Santa Fe program*
-  Support farming techniques that facilitate the conversion from spray irrigation-based practices to lower water use systems such as no-till, drip irrigation, and/or greenhouse based agriculture. (Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, strategy 16.2.3, p. 87.)  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, Santa Fe Watershed Association, New Mexico Acequia Association, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), New Mexico State Extension Service*
-  Create educational programs that highlight our watershed, related policies, and water conservation tips.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Water Division, Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee, Sustainable Santa Fe program, NMSU Extension Service, Santa Fe Watershed Association, New Mexico Acequia Association, non-profits*
-  Develop and publicize incentive programs to reduce in-home water use by utilizing gray water and rainwater for irrigation and other purposes that do not require potable water.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Water Division, Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee, City of Santa Fe Land Use Department, Sustainable Santa Fe program, Santa Fe Watershed Alliance, non-profits*



**“Self-reliance is a cornerstone of sustainability”**

– Martin Vigil, Santa Fe County, Emergency Management Director



## **Goal 5: Increase the viability and presence of local gardens, farms and ranches.**

-  Work with Santa Fe County to incorporate land use allowances for agricultural activity into the Sustainable Land Development Code.  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners, Water and Soil Conservation Districts, local farmers, non-profits*
-  Create a LandLink program which connects landowners in Northern New Mexico with farmers who need land, and also provides an opportunity to connect new farmers with experienced mentors.  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe Food Policy Council-Land Use Subcommittee, Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, North Central New Mexico Economic Development District*
-  Collaborate with area agencies and organizations to help small and medium scale farms meet market-based and Federal food safety requirements.  
*Potential partners: New Mexico State Extension Service, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Farm to Table*
-  Design and implement a City Harvest program, (as detailed in the Sustainable Santa Fe Plan), to create multiple growing, processing, storing and selling opportunities. (Sustainable Santa Fe Plan, 2008, Proposed Action 10-2 under Food Production, page 29-30.)  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, City of Santa Fe Water Division, Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee, Santa Fe Watershed Alliance, non-profits, Sustainable Santa Fe program*
-  Develop a Commercial Scale Urban Agricultural Permit to protect both neighborhood and agricultural interests within the City by setting policies for uses including, but not limited to water conservation, embedded greenhouse gas footprint, traffic, sales, employees, volunteers, visitors and community educational benefits.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Land Use Department, neighborhood associations, non-profits, farmers, and community members*
-  Work with the City and County to develop zoning and land use polices which clearly detail home-based agricultural activities such as raising chickens, small livestock, and honey bees.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Land Use Department, Sustainable Santa Fe program, Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, neighborhood associations, non-profits, farmers, and community members*
-  Encourage public and private land owners within the City to revitalize vacant and underutilized property by allowing land to be used for green space and gardening.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Land Use Department, Sustainable Santa Fe program, and community members*

## **Goal 6: Develop agricultural incentives and innovative programs to support small farmers and maximize food production/distribution in our regional foodshed.**

-  Promote and expand outreach and incentives for extended season farming techniques, supporting farmers to generate more income.  
*Potential Partners: NMSU Extension Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute*
-  Assess and develop resource tools such as conservation easements, improvement districts, and grants to support the viability of agricultural uses. (Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, strategy 14.2.2, page85.)  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Planning Division, Santa Fe Growth Management Department, Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners, New Mexico Land Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy*
-  Coordinate with local communities and organizations to promote the development of agricultural products and markets, including the development of farmers markets, buy-local campaigns, and a local products website to market and distribute fresh goods. (Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, strategy 14.2.3, page85.)  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, Santa Fe Food Policy Council, Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association, La Montanita Coop, Greenhouse Grocery, NMDA-Taste the Tradition and Grown with Tradition*
-  Establish Specialty Crop programs which support local farm and food based businesses by creating subsidies for fruits and vegetables.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Economic Development Division, Santa Fe County Economic Development, New Mexico Department of Agriculture*
-  Clarify and communicate the process by which landowners can apply for Agricultural Exemptions; Conduct a “Did You Know” campaign to make the public aware of qualifications for this classification, and to facilitate the application process.  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management, Office of the Santa Fe County Assessor, Santa Fe Food Policy Council--Land Use Subcommittee, NMSU Extension Service*
-  Maximize the efficient use of existing infrastructure in our regional foodshed. For example, the Rail Runner is a public transit spine which could be used to transport growers and their produce, expanding markets and food access points from Belen to Santa Fe.  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management, Rio Metro Board, Mid Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), University of New Mexico*





**Goal 7: Adopt sustainable land/resource management practices at a regional scale.**

- 🌶️ Encourage City planning initiatives such as urban forestry, green belts, and edible infrastructure to create continuous green space which can provide habitat for animals, food, shade, and places to play.

*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Parks Division, City of Santa Fe Roadway and Trails Engineering Division, Southwest Area Planning Initiative*

- 🌶️ Develop a list-serve for urban food harvesting opportunities to connect individuals to existing food production sites, allowing them to collect crops that would otherwise go to waste.

*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Economic Development Division, Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, Gaia Gardens, Greenhouse Grocery, non-profits, community members*

- 🌶️ Support the development of community elected “GMO Free Zones” to create buffer zones that protect farmland, crops, and seeds from the unknown impacts of genetically engineered organisms.

*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management, New Mexico State Extension Service, area Tribal Governments, non-profits*

- 🌶️ Promote educational opportunities in community gardens and public spaces that highlight native, low water plants and traditional uses.

*Potential Partners: Homegrown New Mexico, Tesuque Agriculture Department, City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails Division, Southwest Area Planning Initiative, NMSU Extension Service*

- 🌶️ Develop incentives, policies and programs throughout the City and County designed to support farming and ranching activities and improve environmental resiliency: develop a composting program, build soil to increase land fertility and groundwater recharge, improve functionality of waterways and irrigation networks, and promote growth of plants that are resilient in a wider range of climate conditions and provide habitat for beneficial insects.

*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Santa Fe County Growth Management, New Mexico State Extension Service, area Tribal Governments, USDA, Santa Fe Watershed Association, Quivira Coalition, other non-profits*

- 🌶️ Collaborate with area agencies and organizations to develop “Farmer to Farmer” outreach programs focused on innovative farming and ranching practices that build soil health.

*Potential partners: Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, Quivira Coalition, Natural Resource Conservation Service, New Mexico State Extension Service, Farm to Table, other non-profits*

## Goal 8: Prioritize sustainability and agriculture in future development in Santa Fe City and County.

-  Develop an Implementation Plan for the Agriculture and Ranching Element, Chapter 4 of the 2010 Sustainable Growth Management Plan.  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe Food Policy Council, Santa Fe County Growth Management, Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners, Santa Fe Food Policy Council*
-  Establish City and County development approval requirements to incorporate water-efficient edible landscapes, food production and composting areas for the future residents into their master plans.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Department of Housing and Community Development, Santa Fe County Building and Development Services, Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use, area developers*
-  Establish City and County development approval requirements with standards and regulations that do not limit home-based agricultural activities otherwise allowed by land use approval authority.  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Department of Housing and Community Development, Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use, Homegrown NM, area developers*
-  Revise the City of Santa Fe's Development Code landscape requirements to allow and/or require a percentage of plants produce fruits or vegetables that have low to moderate water requirements.  
*Potential partners: City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Sangre de Cristo Water Division, Santa Fe Watershed Association*
-  Assess and develop a county-wide composting program that considers food waste, green waste, and manure. (Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, strategy 15.3.3, page 86.)  
*Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Environmental Services Division, Santa Fe County Growth Management, New Mexico State Extension Service, area Tribal Governments, USDA, Santa Fe Watershed Association, Quivira Coalition, other non-profits*
-  Complete an Agricultural Overlay Zone to protect agricultural land and resources and create bonus and incentive zoning techniques.  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, Santa Fe Food Policy Council--Land Use subcommittee*
-  Work with Santa Fe City and County to develop urban agriculture ordinances.  
*Potential Partners: NMSU Extension Service, City of Santa Fe Water Conservation Office, City of Santa Fe Land Use Department, Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee, Sustainable Santa Fe Commission, Santa Fe Water Conservation Committee, Santa Fe Community Garden Council, Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, Santa Fe Food Policy Council--Land Use subcommittee, Santa Fe Community Farm, Gaia Gardens, Greenhouse Grocery*





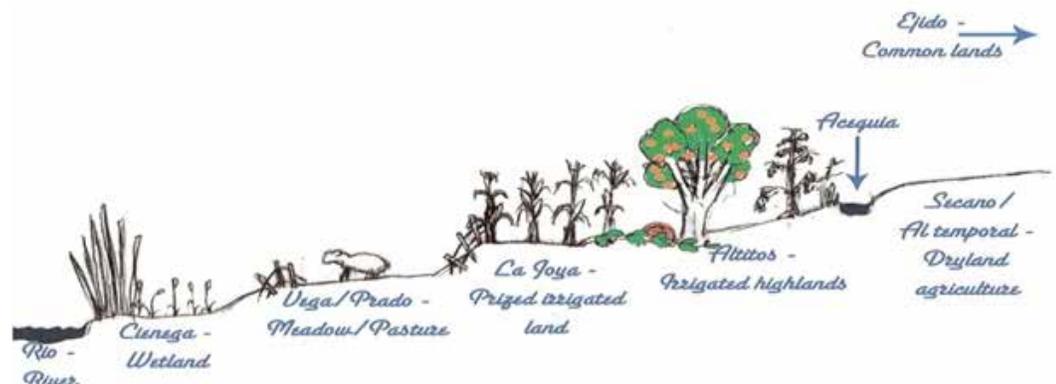
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Provide regulatory framework to accommodate sustainable historic development patterns and strengthen community planning efforts to ensure that traditional communities are supported in planning for their futures.  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management*
- 

Develop an agriculture preservation policy that is directed toward maintaining small agricultural parcels, including “working land” (such as barns, greenhouses, and other structures) as part of the developable land. (Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, strategy 14.1.3, page 85.)  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Planning Division, Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, Santa Fe Food Policy Council--Land Use Subcommittee, Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners, non-profits*
- 

Create an inventory of agricultural lands and conduct a land suitability analysis to identify agricultural potential and determine high priority of protection for agricultural soils and other sensitive arable lands, especially historical agricultural lands with water rights. (Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, strategy 14.1.5, page 85.)  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, Santa Fe Food Policy Council--Land Use Subcommittee, Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners, New Mexico Acequia Association, non-profits*
- 

Require clustering of new development on acequia-irrigated agricultural land. (Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, strategy 16.3.5, page 87.)  
*Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management Department, Santa Fe Food Policy Council, Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners, non-profits*



**Acequia landscape cross-section.** Traditional communities are characterized by historic acequia irrigated farmlands which are important to the culture, heritage, community and natural environment. When developing in and around acequia landscapes, it is essential to understand, prioritize, and maintain the natural and agricultural systems integrity. (Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, 2010, page 76.)



# Thank You & Acknowledgments

The Santa Fe Food Policy Council would like to thank the Santa Fe City Council and Board of County Commissioners. Above all, we would like to thank the community of Santa Fe for inspiring the vision for our local food system highlighted in this plan. Ours is a vision rooted in respect for the diverse history and deep connection to the land. It is one which celebrates our passion for local foods, honors our farming community, and embraces innovation as a path to ensuring food security for future generations.

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**Tony McCarty**, Vice- Chair, Executive Director, Kitchen Angels  
**Pamela Roy**, Executive Director, Farm to Table  
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## **CONTRIBUTING STAKEHOLDERS 2013-2014**

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# At a Glance Recommendations

## GETTING FOOD

Our vision for connecting communities in the Santa Fe region to a reliable supply of healthy and affordable foods is rooted in building knowledge of available assistance programs and resources, as well as ensuring that these foods are readily available in local stores, farmers markets, senior centers, hospitals, and schools.

*Goal 1: Improve residents' ability to access fresh, nutritious food.*

*Goal 2: Promote self-reliance, family gardening, and food storage.*

*Goal 3: Prioritize getting local, fresh food into schools.*

*Goal 4: Promote existing food assistance programs.*

*Goal 5: Celebrate local food and support regional food economy.*

## LEARNING ABOUT FOOD

Our vision for food education is to equip residents with the knowledge, skills, passion and environment to make healthy choices for themselves, their families, and the community.

*Goal 1: Expand opportunities for creative and experiential learning through cooking, nutrition, and home economics.*

*Goal 2: Promote the development of healthy and safe built environments.*

*Goal 3: Expand and diversify opportunities to access food assistance.*

*Goal 4: Align and publicize wellness policies throughout the Santa Fe region.*





## **GROWING FOOD**

**Our vision for food production in Santa Fe City and County views farming and ranching as an economically viable way of life that promotes stewardship of the land and resources. This vision supports food security through the integration of sustainable agricultural practices into the built environment.**

***Goal 1: Increase the impact and efficiency of community gardens.***

***Goal 2: Develop on-site gardens at senior centers to increase the availability of fresh and local foods for seniors.***

***Goal 3: Increase the number of school gardens aimed at helping youth learn about food, farming, and healthy lifestyles.***

***Goal 4: Conserve water through educational programs, incentives, and policies.***

***Goal 5: Increase the viability and presence of local gardens, farms and ranches.***

***Goal 6: Develop agricultural incentives and innovative programs to support small farmers and maximize food production/distribution in our regional foodshed.***

***Goal 7: Adopt sustainable land/resource management practices at a regional scale.***

***Goal 8: Prioritize sustainability and agriculture in future development in Santa Fe City and County.***

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