



For Your Information

NMSU Sustainable Agriculture Science Center at Alcalde

If you are interested in catching up with events that are taking place at the ASC at Alcalde or if you would just like general information about what takes place here at the Science Center you can log on to either of the following links.

Sustainable Ag. Science Center Website:

<http://alcaldesc.nmsu.edu>

Rural Ag. Improvement and Public Affairs
Project Website:

<http://cahe.nmsu.edu/raipap>

If you do not have access to a computer or to the internet but you would like to be added to our mailing lists you may do so by sending us a letter indicating your interest.

Please address your request to:

Mailing Lists

Sustainable Ag. Science Center at Alcalde
P.O. Box 159
371 County Road 40
Alcalde, NM 87511

Business Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30am - 4:30pm
Closed During the Noon Hour

Telephone Numbers:

505-852-4241 - Science Center
505-852-2937 - Shop
505-852-2668 - Cooperative Extension

Fax Number:

505-852-2857

ASC Staff:

Steve Guldán, Superintendent
David Archuleta, Farm/Ranch Supervisor
David Salazar, Field & Shop Technician
Shengrui Yao, Fruit Specialist

CES Staff:

R. Edmund Gomez, Assistant Dept. Head, Ext. Ag. Ec.
Del Jimenez, Agriculture Specialist
Judy Finley, Ag. & Small Business Development Agent
Joseph Garcia, Agriculture Agent
Tory Hougland, Agriculture Agent

Administrative Office Support:

Augusta Archuleta, Admin. Asst. Associate - CES
Anna Trujillo, Admin. Asst. General - AES

New Mexico State University Sustainable Agriculture Science Center Alcalde, NM



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**New Mexico State University
Sustainable Agriculture Science Center
Alcalde, NM**

Brief History

New Mexico State University's Sustainable Agriculture Science Center at Alcalde is located approximately seven miles north of Espanola on the Taos Highway.

The Science center sits on 60 acres of property formerly known as the "San Gabriel Ranch," which had been part of a large land grant given to General Juan Andres Archuleta, an officer in the Spanish Army, in the early 1700s, by the Spanish Crown. Two of the buildings served as the seat of justice for an area that now encompasses three counties, which is where the name "Alcalde," meaning mayor or Justice of the Peace, comes from. The original building, which was used as the courthouse, still stands on the property.

In the early 1800s, Josefina, who was the daughter of General Juan Andres Archuleta, married a man named Joseph Clark. From this union came a son named Elias. In the early 1900s, Elias sold a small part of the original land grant to Caroline Stanley who later married Richard Pfaffle. With this land the Pfaffles established the San Gabriel Ranch, operating it as a 'dude ranch' that catered to a lucrative dude crowd from the East Coast, including the Rockefeller family who at times leased the entire pavilion for parties. Other elite personalities were Mary Cabot Wheelwright, who founded the Wheel-

wright Museum, and Georgia O'Keefe, a painter/writer who moved to Abiquiu, New Mexico, in 1929, only after visiting the San Gabriel Ranch as a visitor several times. Ms. O'Keefe would return to the Alcalde Science Center to use the gazebo on the third floor where she would look out over the valley and work on some of her paintings.

In the early 1910s Richard Pfaffle mortgaged the ranch to Florence Bartlett, a philanthropist from Chicago. Ms. Bartlett had the present offices of the Alcalde Science Center built in 1923 as well as the outbuilding in what is now called "Santa Maria El Mirador Home" which is located next door. A patron of folk art, Ms. Bartlett founded the International Folk Art Museum and attempted to establish it at this location, but due to the remote nature of Alcalde at this time, the museum failed here but it did flourish in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

In 1950, Ms. Bartlett deeded the ranch property to the State of New Mexico. The Museum of New Mexico received part of the property, but not knowing what to do with it, later sold it to New Mexico State University for \$80,000. Since 1952, New Mexico State University has been using the site for agricultural research. The main office building had been Ms. Bartlett's house. It was obtained by NMSU in the late 1960s from the Welfare Department.

Research at the Science Center focuses on crops and cropping systems for north-central New Mexico. Crop research includes various horticultural and agronomic crops.

The Center is also cooperating on acequia hydrology research. Presently, the Science Center serves as a weather station for the U.S. National Weather Service providing climatological data. The Science Center has provided this information since 1953.

The Science Center has also supported youth development and education through Research/Extension Apprenticeship Programs as well as through hiring youth taking part in the New Mexico Department of Labor Summer Youth Program.

The Science Center serves as the headquarters for the Cooperative Extension Service's Rural Agricultural Improvement and Public Affairs Project (RAIPAP), providing programs in sustainable agriculture, financial planning, and public policy skills in Bernalillo, Cibola, Guadalupe, McKinley, Mora, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe, San Miguel, Taos, Torrance and Valencia counties, as well as to the Jicarilla Apache Tribe.