

ASC Visitor Guidelines

New Mexico State University's Agricultural Science Centers (ASC) offer a unique opportunity for the public to learn about agricultural research and the value of agriculture in everyday life. This is typically achieved through organized public events such as field days, open houses, and workshops. However, there are times when visitors may visit the grounds in a less formal setting. The general guidelines below offer guidance on proper protocol when visiting an ASC. Please note that each ASC may differ in their accessibility and may have certain areas with limited or restricted public access. This is related to visitor safety, security, and protecting the integrity of research.

All visitors must check-in and check-out at the ASC front office.

Hours Open to the Public

Visitors are welcome during the following hours:

8:00am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday (Closed from 12:00-1:00pm for lunch)

ASCs are closed during the following administrative holidays observed by NMSU: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Spring Holiday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving (2 days), Winter Break. [NMSU Academic Calendar and Important Dates](#). Additionally, ASC offices are subject to unannounced closures (e.g., due to health-related orders or weather that limits public access.)

The following activities and items are NOT permitted at any ASC facility without advance written authorization:

- foraging, hunting, and gathering;
- use of controlled substances, alcohol, and firearms;
- camping;
- lighting of fires;
- hiking off designated trails and roads; and
- use of off-road vehicles.

Pets

Pets, excluding service animals, may not be allowed at all ASCs, please check with the individual ASC to find out about its pet policy.

Hunting (If allowed by the individual ASC)

All hunters are required to apply for an annual New Mexico hunting license and adhere to all New Mexico hunting policies. Not all ASCs allow hunting. When hunting is allowed at an ASC, all hunters must receive prior written permission that will be limited to certain times and areas within the ASC. Hunters must work with ASC staff to be aware of restricted areas at each center. In addition to written permission, hunters must alert ASC staff at least 24 hours before hunting on ASC property.

Restricted and Research Areas

Certain areas are restricted to public access. Instructions will be provided when checking in with the ASC regarding restricted areas. Visitors must follow all ASC staff instructions and signage throughout the facility.

NMSU's animal research facilities are restricted access for three primary reasons: 1) to protect visitors from personal injury, 2) to protect animals from injury or disease, and 3) to prevent disruption of ongoing research activities. Each ASC where animal research is conducted will have specific guidelines for access to those areas/facilities that house animals.

Removal from ASC Property

NMSU reserves the right to remove anyone from ASC property that violates these guidelines, any New Mexico State University policy, or any federal or state law.

Volunteering

Volunteers are welcome and an important part of the ASC. All volunteers must complete a volunteer waiver form before proceeding with any volunteer activity. (Insert hyperlink)

Please contact the ASC Office with specific questions regarding volunteering.