NM WRRI Agricultural Water Resilience Program

Informational Webinar

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

3:00 – 4:30 pm MDT

NEW MEXICO
WATER RESOURCES
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Outline

- NM WRRI History & Mission
- NM WRRI AgWRP Purpose
- NM WRRI AgWRP Implementation
- Eligible Applicants
- Application
- Budget
- Examples of Potential Projects
- Water Impact Assessment
- Application Timeline
- Questions

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NM WRRI History & Mission

The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute (NM WRRI) is part of New Mexico State University (NMSU) in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The New Mexico Legislature established NM WRRI in 1963, and it was approved under the 1964 federal Water Resources Research Act. NM WRRI's mission is to develop and disseminate knowledge that will assist the state and nation in solving water problems.

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NM WRRI AgWRP Purpose

The NM WRRI Agricultural Water Resilience Program (AgWRP) implements Action A2 of the New Mexico 50-Year Water Action Plan to incentivize agricultural water conservation. The goal is to maintain the resilience of New Mexico agriculture and provide food security in a future with less available water, as stated in HB2.5 315, the enabling legislation for AgWRP.

Projects: NM WRRI will award funding to implement on-the-ground projects by ranchers and farmers partnered with eligible applicants. All project expenditures must be expended between September 15, 2025 and June 30, 2026.

Water Impact Assessment: NM WRRI will monitor and assess the impact of projects on water efficiency and resilience through June 30, 2027.

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Implementation

Request for Applications (RFA)

Released on June 16, 2025

Eligible applicants must partner with a rancher or farmer.

A comprehensive list of on-the-ground projects with examples can be found in Appendix A of the RFA and will be discussed later in this presentation.

The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute (NM WRRI) is located at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The New Mexico Legislature established NM WRRI in 1963, and it was approved under the 1964 federal Water Resources Research Act.
NM WRRI's mission is to develop and disseminate knowledge that will assist the state and nation in solving water problems. NM WRRI funds research and demonstration projects conducted by researchers, faculty, and students from universities across the state to address water issues critical to New Mexico and the region.

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Download Attachments from NM WRRI AgWRP website

Attachment I. **Application Template**
Attachment II. **Budget Template**
Attachment III. **Monitoring and Water Impact Assessment Agreement**

SECTION 1. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1.1. Program Purpose: The NM WRRI Agricultural Water Resilience Program (AgWRP) implements in part Action A2, New Mexico 50-Year Water Action Plan to incentivize agricultural water conservation. The goal is to maintain the resilience of New Mexico agriculture and provide food security in a future with less available water, as stated in HB2.5 315, the enabling legislation for AgWRP. To achieve this goal, NM WRRI will implement projects that improve farmers' and ranchers' ability to manage, conserve, and efficiently apply limited water resources for agricultural production.

This funding opportunity is posted on the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute website at https://nmwrri.nmsu.edu/nmwrri-agwrp/nmwrri-agwrp.html. The website includes three documents, the Application template, the Budget template, and the Monitoring and Water Impact Assessment Agreement, that can be downloaded to complete each document. Any updates to the Request for Applications (RFA), questions, answers, and addenda will also be included on the website.

1.2. Funding: Funding for selected projects is provided through New Mexico State Fiscal Year 2026 Special Appropriations. The total funding amount is $4.5 million and the maximum award is $250,000. Awarded projects will be selected through a competitive grant process for eligible New Mexico entities. Eligible applicants are not required to contribute to the project

Application

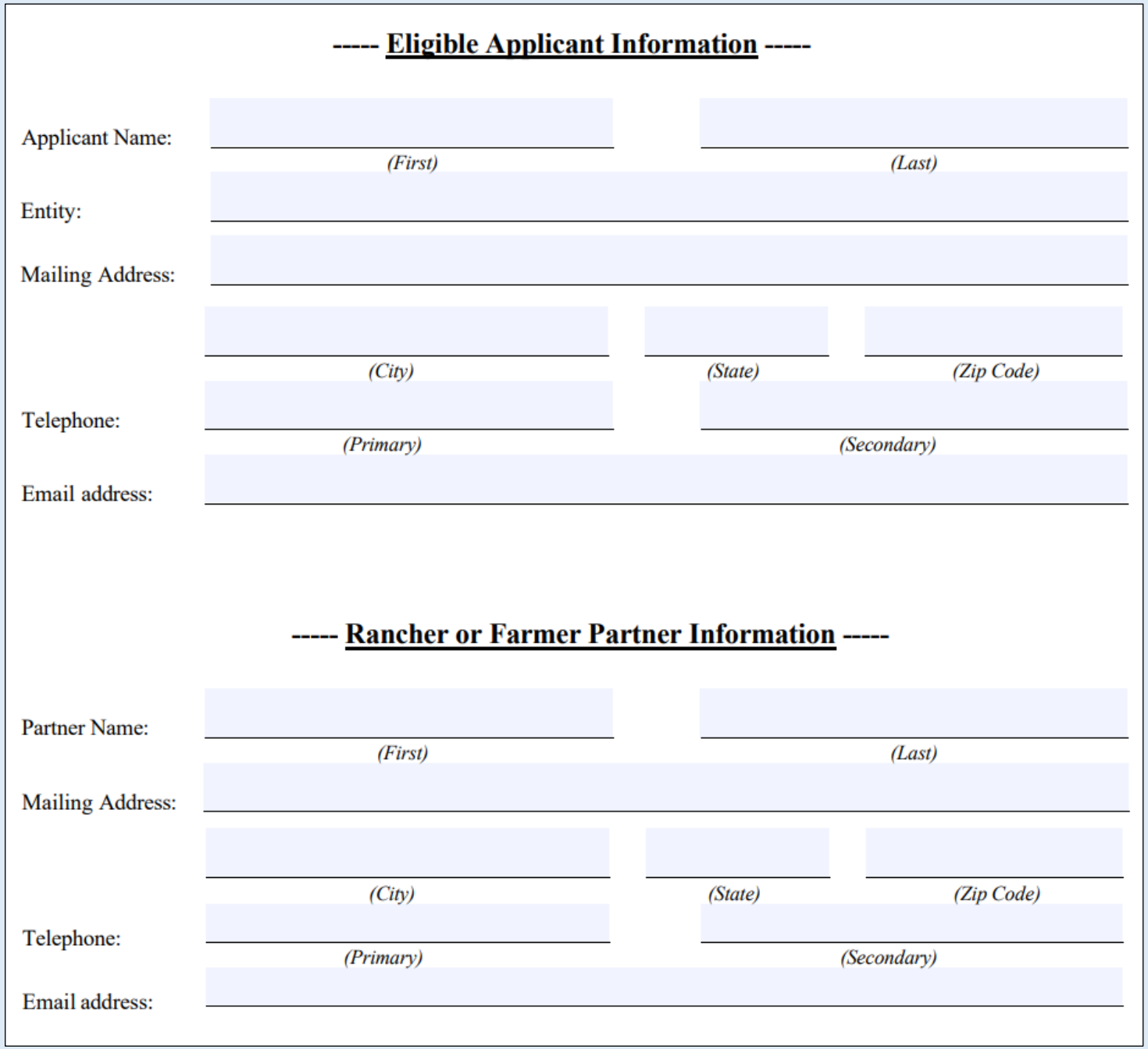
Funding:

Total funding pool of $4.5 million.

Maximum award of $250,000.

Eligible applicants are not required to contribute to the project costs; however, a 25 percent match is desirable (not to include restricted state or federal funds).

Eligible applicants must partner with a rancher or farmer.



----- **Eligible Applicant Information** -----

Applicant Name: _____ (First) _____ (Last)

Entity: _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip Code)

Telephone: _____ (Primary) _____ (Secondary)

Email address: _____

----- **Rancher or Farmer Partner Information** -----

Partner Name: _____ (First) _____ (Last)

Mailing Address: _____

_____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip Code)

Telephone: _____ (Primary) _____ (Secondary)

Email address: _____

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Application

Project Location: Include the address (include the county) and coordinates of the project site location as well as a map of the target region.

Goals and Objectives: Indicate the overall background and need for the project. Include a clear statement of the long-term goal(s) of the proposed project. If possible, specify goals associated with the volume of water conserved, increased yield per amount of water, etc.

Methods: Describe the technical approach for the project. Include details of your operation such as acreage, crop type, water source, basin/watershed, etc. Include the tasks necessary to achieve project results, deliverables for each task, a description of how the task will be accomplished, and the person responsible for implementing each task. Demonstrate capacity to design, install, and operate the project, including subcontractors, researchers, or specialized technical or engineering expertise if required.

Capital Equipment: Detail the equipment greater than $5,000 needed for the project to be implemented.

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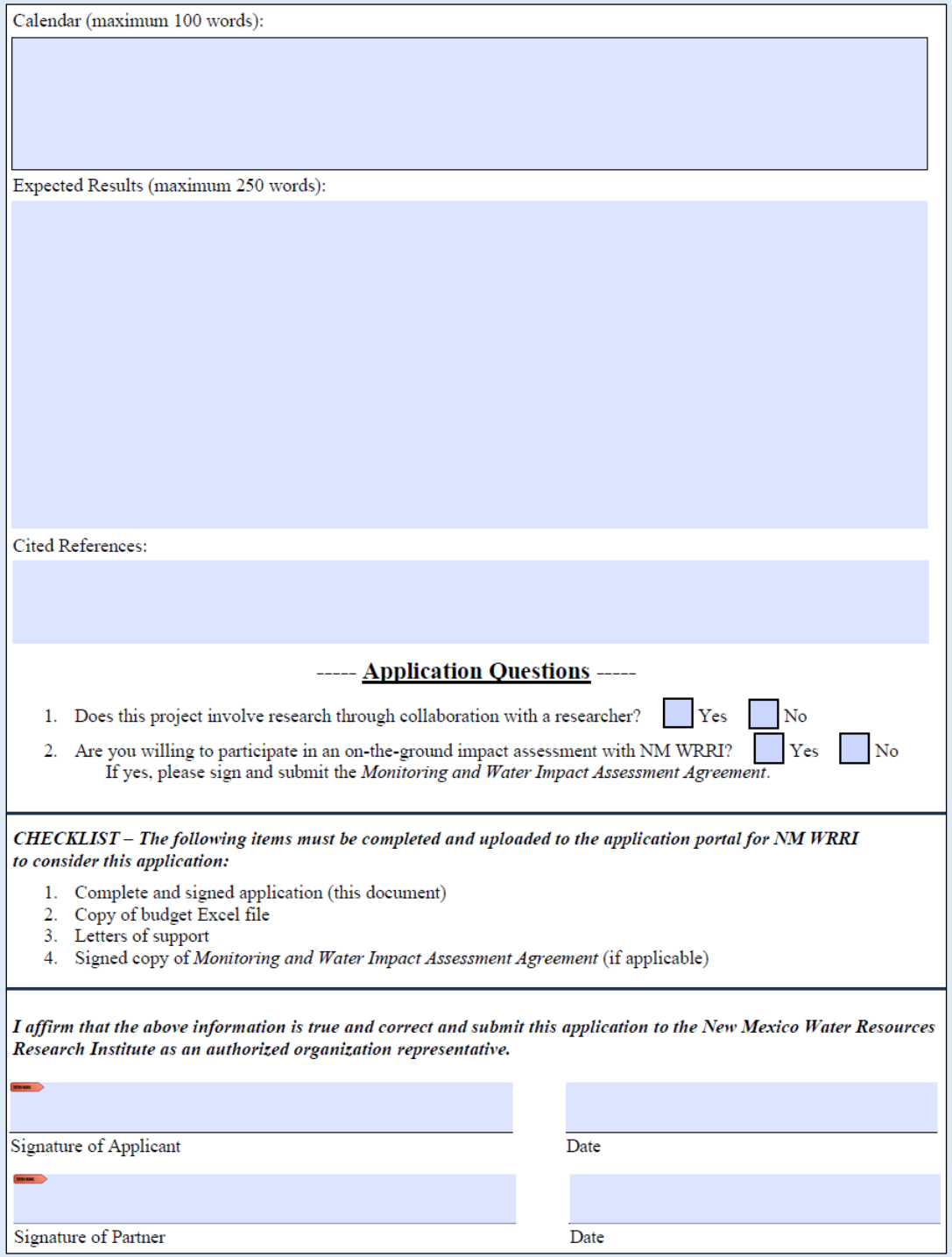
Application

Calendar: Detail the planned start and completion dates for each task in the project.

Expected Results: Describe the expected results of the project including water savings and water resilience impacts.

Application Questions
1. Does this project involve research through collaboration with a researcher?
2. Are you willing to participate in an on-the-ground impact assessment with NM WRRI?



Calendar (maximum 100 words):

Expected Results (maximum 250 words):

Cited References:

----- **Application Questions** -----

1. Does this project involve research through collaboration with a researcher? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Are you willing to participate in an on-the-ground impact assessment with NM WRRI? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, please sign and submit the *Monitoring and Water Impact Assessment Agreement*.

CHECKLIST – The following items must be completed and uploaded to the application portal for NM WRRI to consider this application:

1. Complete and signed application (this document)
2. Copy of budget Excel file
3. Letters of support
4. Signed copy of *Monitoring and Water Impact Assessment Agreement* (if applicable)

I affirm that the above information is true and correct and submit this application to the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute as an authorized organization representative.

Signature of Applicant Date

Signature of Partner Date

Files to Upload:
Application
Budget
Letters of Support

Optional: Monitoring and Water Impact Assessment Agreement

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Budget

COST CATEGORY	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION Use this column to describe the expense and use for the expense on the project.	COST BREAKDOWN	NM WRRI AgWRP FUNDING REQUEST	OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS
Salaries and Wages for Applicants	Provide personnel, title/position and work performed.	hrly rate x hrs/wk x number of wks = total			
	Example: Farmer overseeeng and directing the project	Example: $40/hr x 2.5 hrs/wk x 40 wks = $4,000		4,000.00	4,000.00
	Example: Laborer to install water system	Example: $20/hr x 20 hrs/wk x 40wks = $16,000	16,000.00		16,000.00
Total Salaries and Wages			**16,000.00**	**4,000.00**	**20,000.00**
Fringe Benefits for Applicants	Provide the overall fringe benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the projects. Note: include health insurance here, if applicable.	Example: Salary x fringe rate			
	Example: Fringe rate is applied at 26% for seasonal employees	Example: $16,000 x 0.26 = $4,160	4,160.00		4,160.00
Total Fringe Benefits			**4,160.00**	**-**	**4,160.00**

Costs must be solely related to the proposed project, justified, and allowable as described in “Eligible Reimbursement Items” in section 2.1.4.1 of the RFA. Reimbursement will only be made or considered as match costs and contributions that fall within the approved project period.

The Budget Template includes examples of cost categories and the amount of detailed justification to be included in your budget. Each cost category must provide a justification as to why the cost exists and a breakdown of how it is calculated.

Budget

COST CATEGORY	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION Use this column to describe the expense and use for the expense on the project.	COST BREAKDOWN	NM WRRI AgWRP FUNDING REQUEST	OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS
Supplies	Describe supplies and their purpose in relation to the project. Example: New irrigation pipe to provide reliable watering in xyz field improving crop health and yields. The pipe will be installed from the [water source-well, pump, etc.] to the field. Example: Sprinkler pipes placed underground between [type of crop] rows to distribute water more efficiently. Example: Cultivater to prepare soil for planting for planting [new crop] in [xyz field].	Provide a breakdown of the supplies by item Example: Field sampling supplies: 10" aluminum irrigation pipe 10 X 10 ft at $400 each = $4,000 Example: In-ground Drip Irrigation: $4,000 x 2 acres = $8,000 Example: Cultivator (1) = $3,000	12,000.00	3,000.00	15,000.00
Total Supplies			**12,000.00**	**3,000.00**	**15,000.00**
Equipment	Identify non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one (1) year and an acquisition cost of more than $5,000 per unit. If fabrication of equipment is proposed, list parts and materials required for each, and show costs separately from the other items. A detailed breakdown is required. Example: One headgate valve system to control the flow of water	Example: One Headgate valve = $1,745 One Valve Box = $100 (20) Pipe @ $5/ft x 500 ft + $10 each = $20,000 Seals and Gaskets = $155 Total system cost = $22,000	17,600.00	4,400.00	22,000.00
Total Equipment			**17,600.00**	**4,400.00**	**22,000.00**

Supplies and Equipment should provide a description of their purpose and provide quantity and cost per item

Budget

COST CATEGORY	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION Use this column to describe the expense and use for the expense on the project.	COST BREAKDOWN	NM WRRI AgWRP FUNDING REQUEST	OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS
Subcontractors	Identify the specific tasks for which subcontracts would be used. Provide a detailed narrative description of the services the subccontractor will helpful fulfill in relation to this project.	If there is a subcontractor for the project, it must have the same level of detail including unit costs. Include personnel, time, salary, supplies, travel, etc. A breakdown is required for each cost.			
Total Services or Consultants			-	-	-
Travel	Provide the purpose and estimated cost for all travel. Include beginning location and ending destination. Example: To haul [equipment/machinery] from [location] to [xyz field]. Project personal will spend night in [field site area] for two nights to perform [planting, harvesting, inspection] in	A breakdown should be provided to include round-trip miles, mileage rate, lodging, meal actuals, or meal per diem, airfare, etc. Example: 320 miles round trip at $0.65 per mile = $208 Two nights' Lodging for 2 people @ $93 each	640.00	160.00	800.00
Total Travel			**640.00**	**160.00**	**800.00**
Total Budget Request			**50,880.00**	**11,680.00**	**62,560.00**

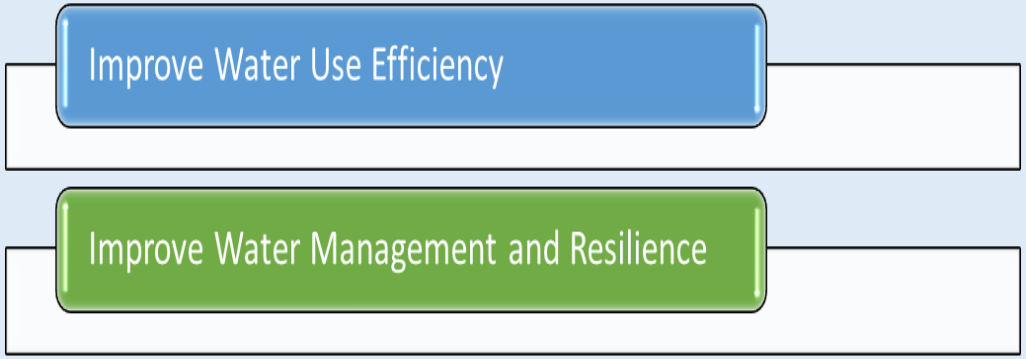
Subcontractors' budget must entail the same level of detail as the eligible applicant. Costs must be solely related to the proposed project, justified, and allowable as described in “Eligible Reimbursement Items” in section 2.1.4.1 of the RFA. Reimbursement will only be made or considered as match costs and contributions that fall within the approved project period.

Travel must be justified and provide a breakdown per trip.

Ensure your total budget request totals correctly and does not include the amounts in the examples.

Examples of Potential Projects

Funded activities can be summarized as projects that:



If an applicant is uncertain about whether their proposed project or technology aligns with these goals, they are encouraged to submit questions to nmwrri@nmsu.edu. **Responses will be provided in the FAQs on the NM WRRI AgWRP website.**

The list serves as a **set of examples** *(See Request for Applications (RFA) – Appendix A)* of projects and technologies that help achieve the program's key goals and eligible for funding include, **but are not limited to**, the following:

Improving Stockwater Management

- Upgrading and installing modern drinking water systems such as covered, insulated, or shaded water tanks to reduce evaporation.
- Using shade balls in livestock drinking ponds.
- Sediment removal systems and filtration systems.
- Installing or upgrading windmills and solar-powered pumps for livestock drinking water.

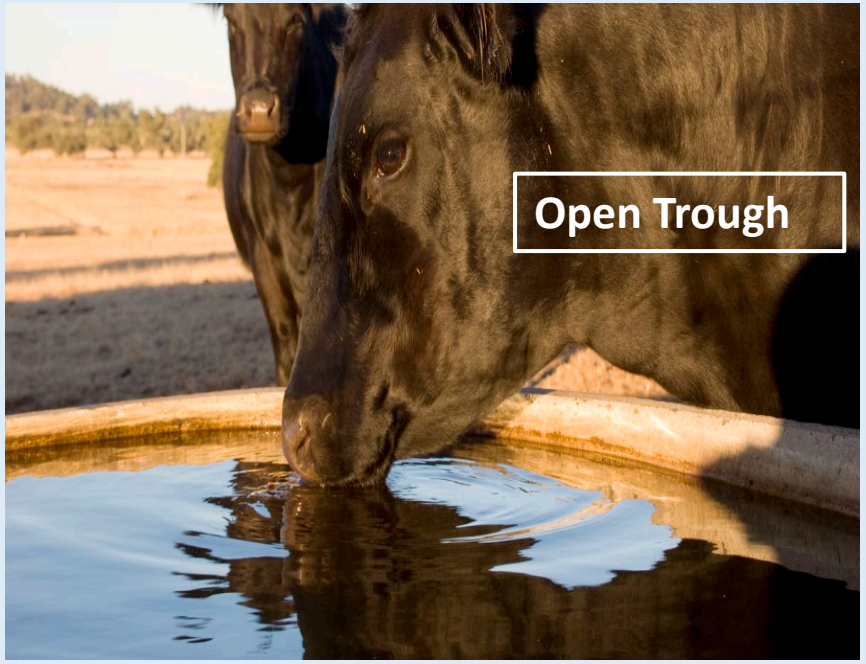
Improving Water Use Efficiency in Irrigation

- Converting or upgrading irrigation systems to smart drip, subsurface, or sprinkler irrigation technologies.

Agricultural Water Management Improvement

- Installing sensors, well meters, water gauges, and soil moisture probes.
- Installing automated irrigation gates and upgrading pipes in open irrigation channels and canals to improve water distribution efficiency.

An example of increasing efficiency and resilience by shifting from open water troughs to shade ball-covered troughs.



https://www.hubbardfeeds.com/blog/water-quality-and-concerns-beef-cattle

TRANSITION

https://www.farmprogress.com/conservation-and-sustainability/how-to-make-water-saving-reusing-can-extend-resources

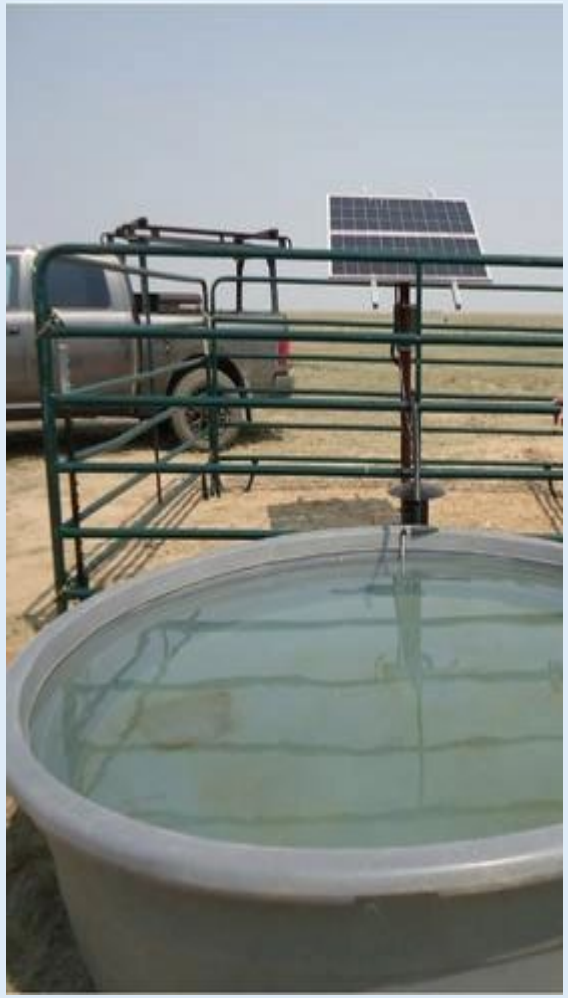
High evaporation, dust, algae growth.

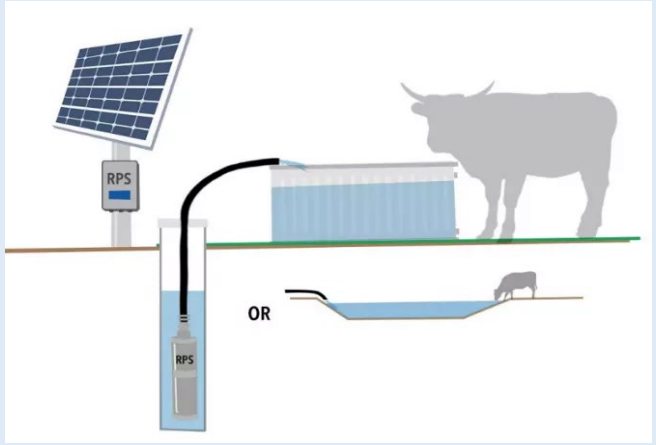
Reduce evaporation, improve water quality, limit algae growth.

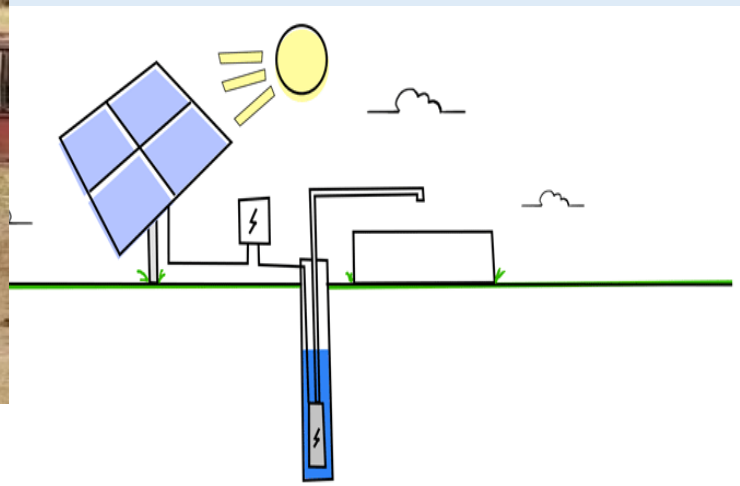
Livestock Solar Pump

Providing a reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly way to access water, especially in remote areas.

Reduces carbon emissions, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change and drought in the long term.





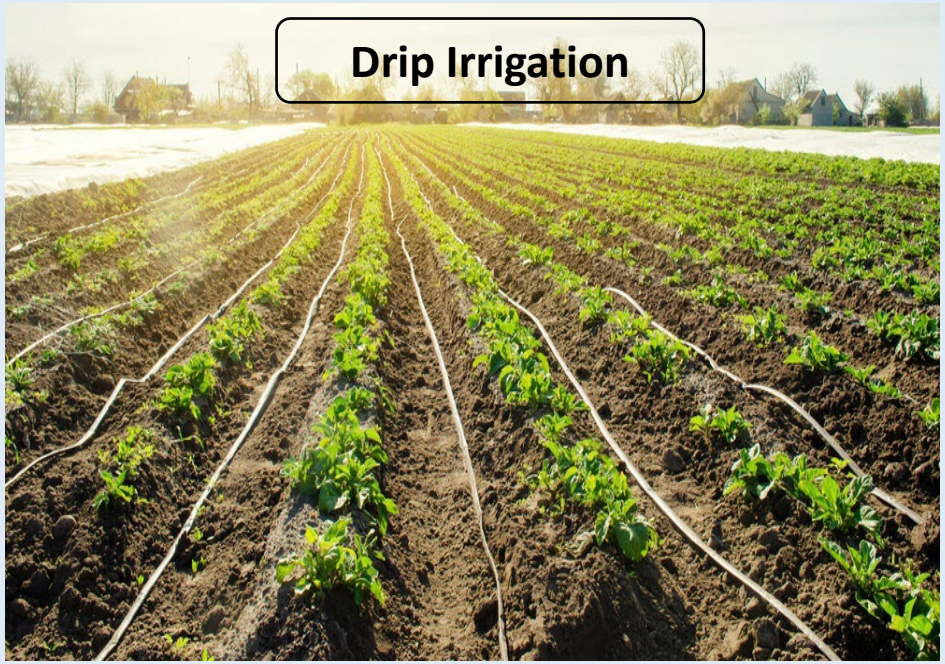


https://www.rpssolarpumps.com/livestock/

An example of increasing efficiency by shifting from flood irrigation to drip irrigation.

https://www.usgs.gov/special-topics/water-science-school/science/irrigation-methods-furrow-or-flood-irrigation

TRANSITION



https://www.twl-irrigation.com/how-drip-irrigation-saves-water/

Traditional method; less efficient.

Modern method; delivers water directly to plant root zone, saving water.

An example of improving efficiency and resilience by shifting from farming without mulching to using mulching.

https://hayandforage.com/article-1226-Lower-sprinkler-drops-save-water-and-energy.html

TRANSITION

https://sparkoncept.com/growing-green-the-role-of-biodegradable-plastics-in-agriculture/

Soil is exposed to direct sunlight, increasing evaporation and weed growth, which leads to water loss and reduced efficiency.

Reduces evaporation, conserves soil moisture, control weeds, regulates temp, and improves plant growth.

Other technologies enhancing Efficiency and Resilience

Multi-Depth Soil Moisture Sensor

https://shorturl.at/YstIg

Helping optimize and determine soil moisture and the timing of irrigation, enhancing water efficiency and resilience to drought.

Smart Float Valve

https://hpcattlesupply.com/product/jobe-topaz-3_4-float-valve/

Automatically maintains water levels, reducing waste/loss and ensuring continuous water availability for livestock in the tank.

Automated Irrigation Gates

https://watchtechnologies.com/irrigation-gates/

Opens and closes automatically as needed, distributing water accurately, reducing waste/loss and enhances irrigation efficiency.

General Considerations

- Applicants have complete freedom to choose the technologies, equipment, suppliers, or manufacturers that best suit their local conditions, specific cases, and operational needs — as long as their proposed projects align with the program goals mentioned before.
- Applicants will identify technologies that best serve their goals and support water savings, efficiency, and resilience.
- Applicants can search for specialists to help with their proposals, or they can submit questions to nmwrri@nmsu.edu and answers will be posted in the FAQs on the NM WRRI AgWRP website.
- Awarded applicants are responsible for the design, installation, and operation of their projects or technologies.

Water Impact Assessment

- The NM WRRI—through its researchers—will work on assessing the project in terms of: **water use efficiency and resilience.**
- Water impact assessments will be conducted **on as many projects as possible** and representing the full breadth of projects in the program.
- **Some devices** will be installed and used in the selected projects for water impact assessment purposes.
- These devices are measuring instruments that have **no harmful impact on the project, whether it is a ranch or a farm.**
- More information can be found in Section 3 of the **Request for Applications (RFA).**

Examples of Instruments

- Flow Meters
- Pressure Transducers
- Rain Gauge
- Weather Station
- Data Loggers
- Sensors
- Battery and Solar Panels

For the full list of devices, please refer to **Request for Applications (RFA) – Appendix B.**

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Factors		Points Available
1.	Includes partnership between rancher or farmer and public entity eligible applicant for funding distribution, project coordination, and reporting	10
2.	Alignment with program goals and Action A2 of the New Mexico 50-Year Water Action Plan; supports agricultural water conservation and resilience, and food security	10
3.	Clearly stated goals and objectives with specific descriptions of the project activities; clearly outlined methods and defined technical approach to produce deliverables that fulfill the project's objectives; specific equipment requirements; and clearly stated expected results	10
4.	Innovation and novelty; uses funds to implement new or novel approaches	10
5.	Demonstrates capacity, including subcontractors if needed, to design, specify, install, and operate the project, including specialized technical or engineering expertise if required	10
6.	Project fits within timeframe of budgeted appropriation (all project funds must be expended by June 30, 2026, and monitoring and assessment are completed in collaboration with NM WRRI by June 30, 2027)	10
7.	Water savings and/or water resilience impact clearly stated with an estimate of anticipated benefits (that is quantified if possible)	10
8.	Details a reasonable budget that is aligned with the project scope and reflects good use of public resources	10
9.	Involves research through collaboration with one or more researchers, showing innovation and applied research; may include projects that demonstrate how water resilience practices can be transferred, adapted, and scaled for efficiency, ease, and effectiveness of broader adoption and application	10
10.	Agrees to interact with the NM WRRI water impact analysis and scientific assessment coordination efforts; includes signed Monitoring and Water Impact Assessment Agreement between the eligible applicant, the partner, and NM WRRI (Attachment III).	10
Total Points Available		**100**

Application Timeline

Monday, July 28, 2025

Applications must be submitted using the NM WRRI AgWRP website by 5:00 pm MT.

Friday, August 29, 2025

Applicants of projects selected for funding will be notified.

Monday, September 15, 2025

Projects begin.

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Questions

Submit questions to NM WRRI (nmwrri@nmsu.edu), subject line: "FY26 Agricultural Water Resilience Application Questions."

Answers will be posted in the FAQs on the NM WRRI AgWRP website.

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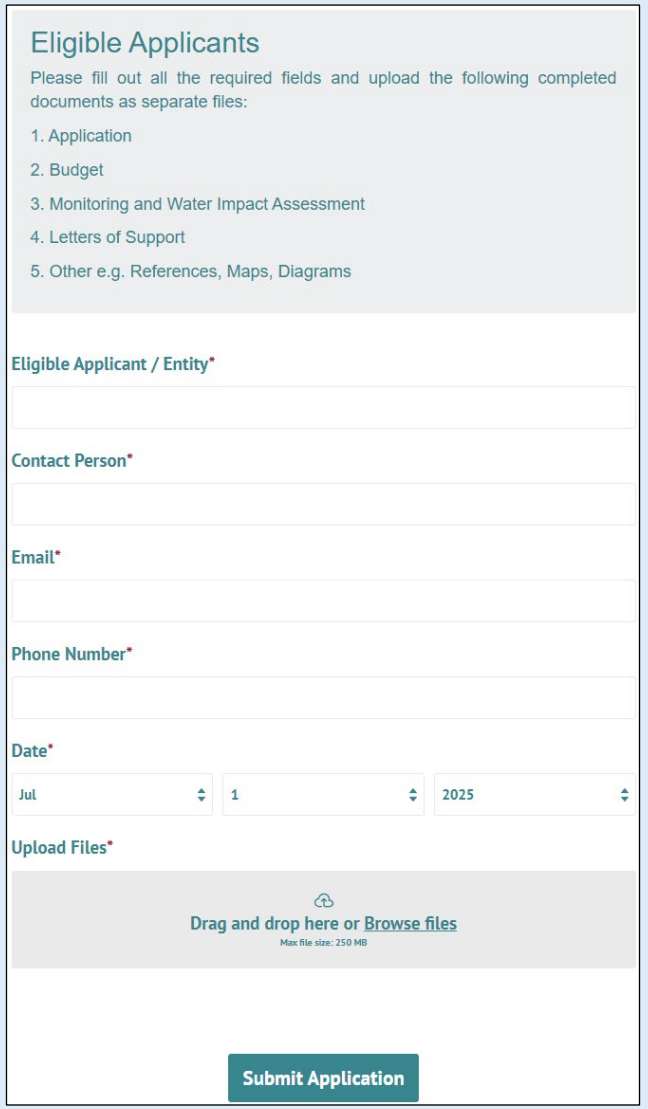
Thank You!



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