

SENATOR TOM UDALL: ADVANCING OUR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL ECONOMIES

Tom worked hard in the Senate to keep New Mexico's agriculture industry strong and secure important resources for New Mexico farmers and ranchers. Tom also focused on laying the foundation for the state's farmers to adapt to the increasing frequency of droughts caused by the climate crisis, while making sure that the federal government provides appropriate support to New Mexico's traditional acequia communities.

He has secured critical support for farmers and ranchers across the country, while investing in sustainable agriculture and increasing access for new farmers and ranchers to develop their businesses.



Tom understands that farming and ranching for New Mexico families are not only built on deeply-rooted traditions like the cultivation of red and green chile, but also contribute over \$4 billion to the state's economy each year. As a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and a member of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Tom has centered his efforts on helping provide the tools and resources that farmers, ranchers and farmworkers need to thrive in the modern economy.

KEEPING NEW MEXICO'S AGRICULTURE STRONG

Tom knows that farmers, ranchers and farmworkers feed their communities and the nation, and has fought hard to get the resources they need. Tom has worked across the aisle to support the resilience of New Mexico farmers and ranchers facing a changing climate, while increasing opportunities for new farmers and ranchers.

"In New Mexico and across the country – farming and ranching are a way of life – with deep roots in our culture and heritage. Agriculture is also a key economic engine for our communities."

-U.S. Senator Tom Udall

Tom has secured major wins for the agriculture economy, including:

- Securing an amendment in the 2018 Farm Bill that protects New Mexico dairy producers by increasing price protections for dairy farmers by 25%. Dairy farmers contribute up to 40% of the annual agriculture revenue in the state.
- Passing his bill establishing access to capital for new farmers and ranchers to make it easier for new farmers and ranchers to get their start in agriculture as part of the 2018 Farm Bill.
- Reauthorizing and improving the Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Rancher Program as part of the 2018 Farm Bill. Tom successfully worked with others to expand the program so that veterans could also benefit from access to farming.
- Securing Small Business Loans in 2018 to help New Mexicans make up the losses from that year's drought.
- Working to protect New Mexico farm exports like pecans during trade negotiations with key markets like India and China. New Mexico has been one of the top pecan-producing states in the U.S. In 2019, New Mexico had a record production of 96 million pounds, taking the lead as the number one producer.

FEEDING OUR KIDS AND FAMILIES

Tom has fought to increase every child's access to healthy food and provide a nutrition safety net for families across the country. Tom has worked to increase resources for food access, including:

- Introducing the first piece of legislation calling for a national ban on lunch shaming, a shameful and archaic practice that humiliates children in front of their peers for their parent or guardian's lunch debt, and secured appropriations language directing the USDA to provide guidance to schools to protect children from lunch shaming. Tom has also worked hard throughout his career to secure further funding for free or reduced-price school lunches so that no child goes hungry in school.
- Fighting back against budget cuts to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and securing budget increases for Child Nutrition Programs, which provide meals for an estimated 31 million children.



FIGHTING FOR NEW MEXICO'S TRADITIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Tom knows that many farming communities throughout New Mexico uphold centuries-long traditions like acequia farming, while many counties encompass important federal public lands. Tom has worked hard to expand federal recognition and support for acequia farming and secure resources for rural counties in New Mexico, including:

- Agriculture appropriations that **fund updates for acequia, land grant communities and other agricultural users** through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Regional Conservation Partnership Program to maintain their traditional irrigation systems.
- Increasing the budget for and fully funding the **Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program year after year**, providing federal payments to New Mexico local governments to help offset losses in property taxes because of nontaxable federal land within their jurisdictions. New Mexico counties received over \$41 million in PILT funding during FY2020.



WATER CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Tom has championed provisions that maximize the potential of every drop of water to make sure that New Mexicans can farm the land for generations to come, including:

- Doubling the budget, from \$40 million to \$80 million, for the U.S. Forest Service nationwide to partner with local communities on science-based ecosystem restoration.
- Funding soil and water conservation, environmental restoration, and drought resilience through the National Resources Conservation Service.
- Nearly doubling funding for rural water projects to \$113 million.
- Funding from the Army Corps of Engineers for the Rio Grande Environmental Management Program – to repay past federal commitments to New Mexico towns and cities for water infrastructure.
- Securing more than \$20 million in federal funding for the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Supply Project to help secure a dependable water source for 39,000 residents of Clovis and military personnel at Cannon Air Force Base.
- Reauthorizing \$25 million for the Source Water Protection Program (SWPP). The SWPP prevents pollution of surface and ground water used as the primary source of drinking water by rural residents.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Language year after year that prohibits USDA from using any funds that support horse slaughter and inspection of meat for human consumption.