

**New Mexico State University  
Agricultural Experiment Station  
Seed Grants FY26**

The College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences' mission is to serve as "an engine for economic and community development in New Mexico, improving the lives of New Mexicans through research, teaching, and extension." The Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) works toward fulfilling this mission by conducting research that enhances agricultural productivity, stimulates economic development, improves the quality and safety of food and fiber products, promotes environmentally and ecologically sustainable management that protects natural resources, and improves the lives of New Mexicans.

AES seed grants, provided through AES state operation funds, are intended to further the mission of ACES and the AES by expanding research that benefits New Mexico's agricultural and natural resource industry. The awards will provide seed funding for new projects that would otherwise be difficult to fund, with the expectation that the funding will be leveraged to provide the basis for future competitive grant and contract applications. Proposals should be innovative in nature and illustrate sufficient intellectual merit to justify funding. Proposed work should directly address the needs of New Mexico and have the potential for broader impacts.

**Eligibility**

Faculty with an AES appointment or significant research allocation of effort are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to faculty who do not currently receive significant funding from federal capacity funds or other College-administered funding programs, e.g., Chile Association grants. Proposals that include multidisciplinary collaboration with other NMSU colleges or NMSU-affiliated institutions are encouraged, provided that the other colleges or institutions can contribute additional funding. Proposals that involve both junior and senior faculty are strongly encouraged.

**Funding**

AES expects to fund up to \$200,000 in the FY26 seed-grant cycle. Relative to the FY26 funding cycle:

- Proposals may be submitted for any amount up to \$25,000.
- Funds will be available after awardees are selected, and must be expended by June 30, 2026. No carry-over funds will be approved.
- Funds cannot be used for course buy-outs or summer salary for PIs.

**Proposal Criteria**

Proposals must clearly:

- Show how they will benefit New Mexico residents,
- Indicate that the proposed work is new in nature and not a continuation of previous work, and
- Address how the proposed work will support the development of proposals for external funding.

This funding cycle, priority will be given to projects that include at least one of the following AES priorities: supports one or more objectives of an Umbrella Project and includes two or more members of the team, includes new research to be conducted at an off-campus Agricultural Science Center (excluding Leyendecker and Fabian Garcia), and includes a new interdisciplinary collaboration.

## **Deliverables**

A project report, no more than three pages in length, including research accomplishments, outputs (publications, presentations, related funding applications, etc.), and budget expenditures, and an AES long-form impact statement (format to be provided) is due by July 31, 2026. Data collected or produced must be made available upon request to other researchers in the College of ACES within one year of collection or production.

## **Evaluation Criteria will be based on the following:**

- Addresses the needs of the citizens of New Mexico.
- Scientific rigor and merit.
- Project does not duplicate efforts already completed or in progress.
- Clear objectives and project plan.
- Feasibility that the work can be accomplished within the proposed timeframe and budget.
- Appropriate personnel to accomplish the objectives.

## **To apply for an AES Seed Grant, include the following:**

1. Project title and abstract (max 250 words)
2. PI name(s), department(s), email address(es)
3. Research Project Description, including project timeline with milestones, and data management **(3 pages maximum, excluding references)**.
4. Budget details - please use the budget template provided. Costs should be properly justified.
5. Please provide, as a supplement to your proposal, a two-page bio-sketch for each PI.

**Submit proposals to:** [aces\\_proposals@nmsu.edu](mailto:aces_proposals@nmsu.edu). Please submit a single PDF of your complete proposal packet using the title and subject: AES\_Seed\_Grant\_2025-2026 Proposal\_[PI Last Name]. **Proposals that do not follow the required title format and proposals submitted to a different email address WILL NOT be accepted.**

**Application Deadline:** September 30, 2025 (late applications will not be accepted).