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Workshops Promote Savings, Greening

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – The New Mexico USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is sponsoring a series of sustainable agriculture workshops that point the way to less energy use, less pumping of water, lower labor requirements, and less need for fertilizers and pesticides on the farm. The workshops will be hosted in Las Cruces, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Shiprock, Clovis, and Tierra Amarilla over the summer.

“The science of sustainability can really help farmers cut costs and improve crop production,” said Rudy Garcia, NRCS agronomist. “It is a matter of taking soil quality information and using an integrated approach that applies data from soil, water, and plant tissue testing.”

The workshops take participants through the science of soil biology and interpretation of data, followed by hands-on field demonstrations. This analysis enables farmers to evaluate their soil, water, plant, and other resource needs, and encourages the application of best management practices.

“The workshops are timely because in this bad economy we are all worried about costs, and at the same time we are thinking green,” said Garcia.

The workshops are scheduled in:

June 3	- Las Cruces
June 24	- Albuquerque
July 15	- Santa Fe
August 12	- Shiprock
August 26	- Clovis
September 23	- Tierra Amarilla

These workshops are attracting the attention of U.S. Foreign Service staff who are interested in agricultural advances for developing countries that suffer from drought and poor soils.

Farmers can sign up for a workshop by contacting the local NRCS field office at the locations that are hosting one of the events.

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