

CONSERVATION Showcase

Corrales Benefits from NRCS Farm Bill Program

In the fall of 2008 the Corrales Farmland Preservation Committee succeeded in culminating work for the acquisition of a portion of the historic Gonzales family lands located within the Village of Corrales. These lands had been part of the Town of Alameda Land grant that dates back to 1710 and is a portion of a larger tract of land that has remained in the Gonzales family for centuries – and continuously farmed since 1712.

The Village of Corrales established the Corrales Farmland Preservation Program in 2000 to protect some of the area's remaining agricultural land and open space from ever increasing development in the region. Its seven member volunteer citizens committee has found partners in the New Mexico NRCS through its Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program and other entities such as the New Mexico Land Conservancy, to keep farmland there in productive use.

The Gonzales conservation easement purchase was possible through partnership support from the Village of Corrales bond funds, New Mexico NRCS Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, and New Mexico Land Conservancy. The Village is pursuing plans for farming a portion of the land or developing a community supported agriculture project. The conservation easement ensures that the land will remain permanently protected and preserved for



agricultural and open space purposes.

The Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) is part of the USDA's Farm Bill, and provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural use. Working through existing programs, NRCS partners with state, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners.

The Village of Corrales has a vision for their community that values mixed land uses and a willingness to act to ensure agriculture maintains a place in that mix. It is with partners like NRCS New Mexico and the New Mexico Land Conservancy that the Village is able to realize its vision and succeed in its locally-led conservation efforts.