



Navajo Agriculture and Natural Resources Sustainability Project

Project Director: Michael Patrick– New Mexico State University

Situation: This project helped to increase the profitability and sustainability of 242 Navajo ranchers by reducing their production, marketing, financial, legal and human risks through a series of workshops, webinars, "how to" videos, and technical assistance.

One particular family has raised sheep, cattle, chickens, rabbits, and horses through generations. The way they care for their livestock now is different from how it was done before. The producer stated “I remember there was a lot of rain and a lot of feed, which was the reason the animals got to graze free range, now that is not the case. I’ve learned a lot from Jesse’s (NANRS field coordinator) workshops and webinars, especially about the purpose of a conservation and ranch plan and how to create one. The future use of the plan will help sustain the range land that our cattle grazes on and to ensure sustainability as well as conserving the feed”. The workshops and webinars have so much information, I am grateful for the opportunity to gain so much knowledge with all these workshops and webinars.”

Outcomes: While 35 producers were initially targeted to receive training, 296 producers were able to improve the quality of their rangeland through the implementation of rangeland management monitoring protocols; 221 producers learned to reduce their production risk by adopting practices for improving animal quality and herd health; and over 350 learned to reduce their financial risk and improve their profitability through the use of ranch management plans. Thirty-seven producers received technical assistance to help improve their ranching operations.

Impacts: The Navajo people value their livestock immensely and agriculture has always been a way of life for generations. The majority of Navajo producers supplement their incomes with sales from their livestock and some solely depend on these sales. This project provided ranchers with knowledge of livestock market targets including livestock quality related to vaccination records, preconditioning livestock, and low input costs to increase profit margins. Even though Covid presented multiple challenges, it is estimated that Navaho ranchers’ profitability increased by 5-10% through improved ranch management plans.



“I never seemed to make the money I wanted selling my cattle...At the workshop I learned why. I was not able to show that my cattle were properly vaccinated because I didn’t have good records, and I received lower prices. At the workshop I learned how to keep vaccination records, and more, like keeping track of all my costs. I also learned about different markets where I could sell my cattle for a higher price.

Now I know how to sell my cattle and make more money.””

– Navajo Producer





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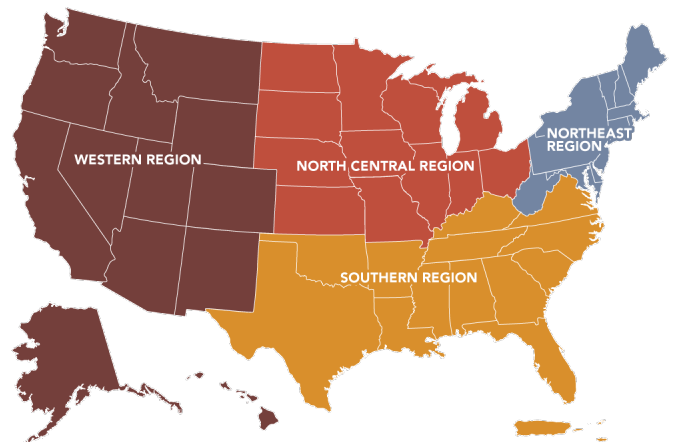
Extension Risk Management Education is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers to manage the unique risks of producing food for the world’s table.”

Extension Risk Management Education (ERME) is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative education projects that have generated tangible results for agricultural producers in 56 US states and territories. Beginning in 2020, the Centers initiated a new funding opportunity for the delivery of risk management education to agricultural producers underserved by the Federal crop insurance program. Priorities for both of these programs include commitments to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. The accomplishments of all funded projects are available for public viewing on the ERME website: <http://ExtensionRME.org>



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