

2003 New Mexico Report Western Region Agricultural Education Conference

In spring, 2002, the Agricultural and Extension Education Department (AXED) started a statewide agricultural advisory committee on its \$350,000 Carl D. Perkins contract. Because of changing priorities and diminishing resources for secondary agricultural education in the New Mexico Department of Education, the committee recommended legislation for providing funding to New Mexico State University to establish positions, an operating budget, and incentive grant program to support New Mexico secondary agricultural education. A Senate and House compromise bill passed in March 2003, providing \$300,000 a year in recurring funds to the Agricultural and Extension Education Department at NMSU through the Agricultural Experiment Station state appropriation. While the allocation does not contain sufficient funds for the incentive grant program, dollars will fund the positions and operations of a State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, Assistant State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State FFA Executive Secretary, and a secretary. Legislators encouraged stakeholders to return for the incentive grant monies in two years. State FFA Executive Secretary Lane Widner will be moved from the Perkins contract to the new state agricultural education budget. Searches for the State Supervisor and Assistant State Supervisor of Agricultural Education will be most likely started in May 2003. The three professional positions will articulate responsibilities for secondary program development (including developing the incentive grant program), curriculum reform, teacher professional development, FFA youth leadership development, and recruitment of students into teacher education and placement of graduates in teaching positions, development, and other initiatives. Thank you to the advisory committee members, agricultural education teachers, New Mexico Legislature, Governor Bill Richardson, and other stakeholders for making this dream a reality.

The Agricultural and Extension Education Department welcomes Dr. Randall Andreasen, our new agricultural education teacher educator. Dr. Andreasen has university teacher education experience from Iowa State University and Southwest Missouri State University. He taught agriculture for seven years at North Sevier High school in Salina, Utah, and has two degrees in agricultural education from Utah State University and a Ph.D. in agricultural education from Iowa State University. Welcome to the Western Region, Randy! Dr. Carlos Rosencrans was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor and Dr. Brenda Seevers was promoted to Full Professor on July 1, 2002. Dr. Kenneth Sabo, Professor of Extension Education, retired from the department in summer 2002. He made significant contributions to the department, college, and university during his career, and will be missed. Notable accomplishments during the year were Dr. Rosencrans' regional NACTA John Deere Award and Dr. Seevers' Runner-Up Journal of Agricultural Education Author of the Year Award.

The department's Perkins contract funded statewide FFA and TSA leadership development and agricultural/technology education teacher in-service activities in 2002-2003. The contract is also funding statewide agricultural and technology education advisory committees; development of state standards and benchmarks for agricultural education; alignment of standards and benchmarks in both agricultural and technology education with FFA and TSA activities and the standards and benchmarks in language arts, mathematics, science, social science, and career readiness; and development of new courses in agricultural education in line with the career clusters initiative.

Dean Jerry Schickedanz has remodeled two old laboratories in Gerald Thomas Hall into an agriscience and technology education modular laboratory for the department. Dr. Dormody is teaching a three-credit course "Agriscience Laboratory Applications" to 22 students this spring

using the new laboratory. Topics include aquaculture, light and electron microscopy, hydroponics, tissue culture, entomology, Bottle Biology, Wisconsin Fast Plants, soil analysis, and electrophoresis of plant and animal proteins/DNA. Rocketry & space, mechanical systems, electricity, presentation technology, computer aided design, computer animation, robotics, Globe Environment Program, and electrophoresis modules have been purchased for next year's class.