

The total value of the agriculture output from New Mexico farmers and ranchers was \$3.3 billion in 2007. New Mexico produces more chile than any other state in the country, and we rank second in pecan production. Within the state, milk is our number one cash commodity, followed by cattle and calves with a cash income of \$955 million. The 2007 calf crop was estimated at 590,000 head with a total beef cattle count of around 1 million.

What makes New Mexico Unique?

#### Soil

- Penistaja soils are the state soil of New Mexico and cover more than 1 million acres.
- They are very productive grass and forage soils and are excellent for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and recreation.
- The Penistaja series was named after a small farming and stock-raising community in northwest New Mexico.
- "Penistaja" is a Navajo name meaning "forced to sit."

#### Climate

- The New Mexico climate is typical of high-desert conditions. There is a large amount of sun, wide temperature ranges, and lots of wind.
- The days are warm, 95° F (35° C), and the nights cool, 65° F (18° C).
- The mean annual precipitation is about 12".
- The mean annual soil temperature is about 51° F.
- A temperature fluctuation of 15-20° C over a 24-hour period is common.

#### General

- Annual crop and livestock sales exceeded \$3.3 billion in 2007.
- Agriculture directly employs 24,500 citizens in New Mexico. Another 84,000 citizens are employed in agricultural processing.
- The average size of a New Mexico farm is 3,249 acres.
- Farmland covers 45,787,108 acres, or 60%, of the state. 89% of that farmland is pasture ground.

#### Animals

- The livestock and livestock product industry is one of the largest in New Mexico producing over \$3.0 billion in 2007. The dairy industry brings in the most money annually at \$1.3 billion while the beef industry is second at \$951 million.
- There were over 1.5 million head of cattle in the state in 2007 with 340,000 of them being dairy cows.
- There were over 130,000 sheep as of January 1, 2007.

#### Crops

- Over 350,000 acres are in hay production with a total yield of 1.55 million tons.
- Over 49,000 dry tons of chile pepper was grown in New Mexico in 2007 with an estimated worth of \$28.68 million.
- Over 35 million pounds of peanuts were produced in 2007.
- The 2007 cotton crop was valued at over \$38 million with over 98,000 bales produced.
- Over 6,300 acres were in onion production in 2007 with a total harvest value of \$63.4 million.