Executive Summary
2022 Joint Stockmen’s Convention

**NMDA Healthy Soils and Agricultural Workforce Development Programs**, Katie Goetz, NMDA

Albuquerque, NM—2022 Joint Stockmen’s Convention: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities

**Summary:**

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) invites all qualified candidates to apply for the Healthy Soils Program and Agricultural Workforce Development Program.

The Healthy Soils Program (HSP) exists to improve health yield and profitability of soils of the state. Projects must occur between April 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024. This grant program is open to both individual applicants and eligible entities with proven land management capacities, including soil and water conservation districts, pueblos, tribes, and nations, acequias and other proven government entities. Individual applicants must complete a NRCS conservation plan and secure a project sponsor. Applications open for individuals on February 17 and for eligible entities on April 21.

The Agricultural Workforce Development Program (AWDP) is designed to incentivize agricultural businesses in the state to hire interns. NMDA will reimburse up to 50% of the costs of hiring an intern for an agricultural business, exceeding no more than $15,000. Applications for this program remain open until March 31, 2023, or until funding has been exhausted.

For more information on both programs, visit [www.nmdeptag.nmsu.edu](http://www.nmdeptag.nmsu.edu).

**Key Points:**

1. Funds available through two NMDA programs.
2. HSP open to individuals and eligible entities.
3. Applications open February 17 for individuals and April 21 for eligible entities.
4. AWDP reimburses up to 50% for businesses hiring interns.
5. Applications close March 31 or until funding is exhausted.