



# AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Agricultural Workforce Development (AWD) Program grant application period opened **June 10, 2022** and *will continue until funds are fully allocated or by March 31, 2023, whichever comes first*. Internships must occur between July 1, 2022 and May 31, 2023.

**NMDA'S AWD PROGRAM OFFERS** incentives to the state's agricultural businesses to hire interns. The AWD Program is intended to provide hands-on educational opportunities for students aspiring to careers in agriculture, as well as young or beginning farmers and ranchers. The AWD Program is the result of the Agricultural Workforce Development Program Act, which was signed into law in 2019.

**NMDA WILL REIMBURSE** qualified agricultural businesses up to 50 percent of the actual cost of hiring a qualified intern, not to exceed \$15,000 per internship. An agricultural business may request funding to hire as many as three interns per calendar year. Each intern must be provided with **at least one hundred thirty (130) hours** of work experience, not exceeding one (1) year in duration per intern.

1. The period for agricultural businesses to apply is from June 10, 2022 to March 31, 2023 **or until funds are fully allocated**. NMDA will award funding to agricultural businesses based on: **a) their compliance with program requirements; and b) funding availability**.
2. Internships must occur between July 1, 2022 and May 31, 2023

## PLEASE NOTE:

- NMDA will **not** match agricultural businesses with potential interns.
- Agricultural businesses must identify an intern prior to applying for funding.
- Interns must be 18 years or older by the start of the internship.
- Immediate family members of the agricultural business are NOT eligible to participate.
- Participating agricultural businesses must pay minimum wage (or higher) to each intern, as well as carry workers' compensation insurance for each intern.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:**  
<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/agricultural-workforce-development.html>.

**NMDA**  
New Mexico Department of Agriculture