

# NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Class 18: June 2026- January 2028**

***\*\*Please read before proceeding to the application\*\****



CONTACT US:

Tina Wilson, Program

Coordinator

575-646-6691

Email: [tiwilson@nmsu.edu](mailto:tiwilson@nmsu.edu)

Email: [nmal@nmsu.edu](mailto:nmal@nmsu.edu)

PO Box 30003 MSC 3501

Las Cruces, NM 88003-8003

Visit us online at [aces.nmsu.edu/nmal](http://aces.nmsu.edu/nmal) or follow @NMagleadership

The deadline to apply is April 15, 2026.

## About NMAL

For an industry to remain dynamic, well-informed leaders must emerge. New Mexico has one of the nation's most unique cultural and agricultural identities - we need individuals who have a firm understanding of the issues, policies, practices, history, and challenges surrounding agriculture. The New Mexico Agricultural Leadership program was created in 2001 to develop such leaders – ones who are both knowledgeable and multicultural – in the food, agriculture, and natural resource industries of New Mexico.

We accomplish this by guiding participants on a journey of leadership discovery and industry awareness. Our vision is to enhance every leader's confidence and competence through the program through site visits, workshops, meetings, travel experiences, and individual leadership growth.

The New Mexico Ag Leadership, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) governed by a Board of Directors. The program is housed in the Agricultural & Extension Education Department at NMSU and operated by a full-time program coordinator.

## Eligibility

Individuals applying for the NMAL program must meet the following requirements:

- Involvement in New Mexico's agriculture, food, or natural resource sectors
- 25 years of age or older by the first seminar of incoming class
- U.S. citizen, resident of NM, and an intention of remaining in-state in the foreseeable future
- Does not have a spouse or sibling applying for the same class

## Areas of Focus

NMAL is a comprehensive program focusing on six key areas:

- **Leadership Skills**
- **Issues Awareness**
- **Diversity**
- **Political Processes**
- **Networking**
- **Community & Service**

These areas are explored in varying degrees across eight seminars. Each seminar has stated objectives to ensure we are meeting the needs of participants and fulfilling our mission.

Leadership Discovery	Las Cruces
National Political Processes	Washington, D.C.
Trade & Communication	Southern NM – Las Cruces
State Political Processes	Central NM – Santa Fe
International Experience Varies	The class will suggest destinations to Sec. Witte.
Cultural, Oil & Gas Industry	Northwestern NM
Cultural & Social Issues Awareness	Central NM Albuquerque
Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources	Southeast NM – Artesia

# What to Expect

As an NMAL participant, you can expect to...

- **Attend topic-focused seminars** – these will require 35-40 days out of the office.
  - *Note: you may miss up to one seminar (cumulative hours) and still be eligible for graduation; all assignments must be completed regardless of attendance*
- **Choose a leadership book** based on your interests. Set your own pace while reading and develop a presentation on this leadership theory to present to the class by the program’s end.
- **Find a community or company issue** and consider how you can affect positive change, using each seminar to develop your strengths and gather information on this issue.
- **Participate in conference calls** every other month.
- **Network** with political officials, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, class alumni, and other critical agricultural affiliates
- **Travel** across New Mexico to our nation’s capital and an international destination.
- **Earn a leadership certificate** designating course completion and automatic membership in the alumni class.

The seminars that comprise the bulk of this program are designed to be meaningful, enlightening, and applicable. **To make the most of every seminar, you are expected to...**

<i>Before</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Read assigned leadership books and be ready to discuss</li> <li>✓ Complete prep assignments such as short articles, videos, website links, or profiles.</li> <li>✓ Prepare for a role as moderator of the session.</li> </ul>
<i>During</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Serve as a ‘moderator’ at meetings, introducing yourself and the class.</li> <li>✓ Write personalized thank you notes to our hosts</li> <li>✓ Bring a willingness to listen, learn, and ask questions</li> </ul>
<i>After</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Submit an online evaluation to provide feedback on content and organization.</li> <li>✓ Complete a reflection assignment.</li> <li>✓ Draft a newsletter article on a relevant topic.</li> </ul>

*In return*, you can expect the following from the board and staff associated with NMAL...

- Prompt notification of dates, itineraries, travel information, and anticipated expenses
- Honest and personalized feedback on leadership development and goals
- An open mind to adjust program structure as needed for the group's success

### *Media & Photo Release*

Involvement in this program indicates your willingness to be photographed, recorded, and published on behalf of NMAL. We use images and videos to promote the program on our website and social media. A photo release is included in this packet and must be signed for your application to be complete.

## What to Expect (cont.)

### *Extended Benefits*

We will invite your significant others and family to attend specific seminars. Additionally, you may be unable to participate in the Washington, D.C. seminar or International Experience. In that case, you may return as an alumnus in a subsequent year and still have your tuition-covered portions sponsored by the program during the next class only.

### *Dress Code*

As with any training, participants should present themselves. Notification of specific dress codes will be sent out before the seminars start. Use the following dress code as a guideline for each seminar:

Business Casual

Men: casual slacks, dress jeans, collared shirts

Women: casual slacks, jeans, skirts, or dresses

Business Professional

Men: Coat and tie, dress slacks and coat, or suit

Women: dress slacks or skirt and blouse, semi-formal dress, or suit

## Tuition & Expenses

Many professional development workshops cost thousands of dollars for just a single week. The NMAL program offers the same high-quality experiences over a longer period and with more travel opportunities. Often, companies or organizations will sponsor participants to complete this program. Tuition is **\$3,500**, with a minimum of \$1,500 due at the first seminar and the remaining \$2,000 due after one year. Your tuition covers the following expenses:

- 1-2 group meals per seminar (i.e., breakfast meetings, lunch panels, alumni dinners)
- Assigned books
- Workshop and speaker fees
- Meeting room and facility fees
- Personality profiles & assessment kits
- Group transportation during in-state seminars
- Monument tour in Washington, D.C.
- Program/group tours during the International Experience
- NM Ag Leadership Padfolio and Name Tag (required at each seminar)

Your tuition **does not include** airfare to D.C. and our international destination, in-state travel, lodging, and additional seminar meals. We will do our best to secure discounted rates at hotels with continental breakfast and give flight information promptly to help reduce costs.

In-state seminars will run from Wednesday to Friday, so you can generally budget for two nights of lodging and 5-8 meals per seminar. Costs will naturally be higher for Washington, D.C., and our international trip.

*Scholarships are available to help cover costs such as tuition, in-state transportation, or airfare.*

*These are offered on a case-by-case basis and approved by our Board of Directors –*

*please get in touch with us directly if you are interested in applying*

## Tentative Class 18 Schedule\*

	Date/Month	Session	Days
<b>Preprogram Timeline</b>	<b>April 15</b>	Application Deadline	
	<b>Mid-April to Mid-May</b>	Applicant interviews in-person or via Zoom.	
	<b>End of May</b>	Participants are notified of selection into program. \	
<b>2026</b>	<b>June</b>	Seminar#:1 Leadership Discovery- Las Cruces In conjunction with Class 17 graduation	Wednesday-Friday
	<b>August</b>	Seminar #2 Trade & Communication Las Cruces and Santa Teresa	Wednesday-Friday
	<b>November</b>	Seminar #3 National Political Process Washington, D.C.	Sunday-Friday
<b>2027</b>	<b>February</b>	Seminar # 4: State Political Process Santa Fe during legislative session, includes Ag Fest	Tuesday-Friday
	<b>April</b>	Seminar #5: Energy, Minerals, Dairy, and Food Southeastern NM (Artesia)	Wednesday-Friday
	<b>June</b>	Seminar #6: Oil & Gas Industry Northwestern NM, includes cultural issues focus.	Wednesday-Friday
	<b>August/Sept</b>	Seminar#7: Social Issues and Cultural Awareness Albuquerque, NM	
	<b>TBD</b>	International Trip	
<b>2028</b>	<b>January</b>	Class 18 Graduation Evening Banquet and reception, welcome class 19.	Friday
<p><i>*Subject to change.</i></p> <p><i>The class will have a 1-hour conference call on the months between seminars.</i></p> <p><i>We will not meet in person or zoom in December due to the holiday season.</i></p>			