



New Mexico Agricultural Leadership Program August 2022

NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION AND TRADE MISSION TO ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

Seminar Objectives

- Identify themes in international policy and trade by meeting with government agencies and private agricultural commissions
- Recognize similarities and differences between conservation practices and environmental policy, especially water quality and use; assess the effects of such policies on environmental health and commerce
- Analyze the leadership styles of individuals whom we meet, such as producers, politicians, public officials, entrepreneurs, and other agriculture professionals
- Explore the history, cuisine, and language of this country through tours and local encounters.

The New Mexico Agricultural Leadership program is committed to developing knowledgeable, multicultural leaders within the food, agriculture, and natural resource industries of New Mexico.

New Experiences by Dineh John



Dineh, Sec Witte, Lord Benyon, Heather, Taylor, and Bob

The New Mexico Agricultural Innovation and Trade Mission to England and Scotland was a very exciting learning experience. Not only did we travel to a country I have never visited; England and Scotland have a unique agricultural setting. Being a

Navajo farmer, I was interested in comparing our practices, observing how trade is addressed and if our company, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry, could be a supplier.

While in London, we attended meetings at the U.S. Embassy and Department of Environment Food, and Rural Affairs to discuss International Trade. The last meeting was at Parliament to observe a debate in the House of Lords. I was one of five members selected to meet Lord Benyon, where I was able to introduce him to Navajo Agricultural Products Industry and how exceptional our company is.

One of the most beautiful gardens I have ever seen is Kew Gardens. Known for its 50,000+ plant varieties and scientific research, the garden dates to the early 18th century and covers over 300 acres. Due to its size and our time constraints, we toured a small section but observed many plant species and research technology such as the Hive. The Hive was created by Wolfgang Buttress and is



Kew Gardens

luminated at night with over 1,000 flickering LED lights and plays low orchestral music that creates a pulse like bees buzzing. The purpose is to draw attention to the importance of pollinator survival and food security.



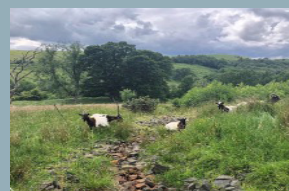
The Hive

My favorite part was when we traveled to Scotland. Being out in the country with fresh air, lush green land and various livestock was breathtaking.

We toured Cragend Farm, Hundleshope, Kinblethmont Estate, and Cairnie Fruit Farm.



The Cragend Farm started in the 1800s and was one of the first to have electricity. Mr. Renwick took us on a tour to show their projects and livestock. Most interesting are the rare Bagot goats that are used to remove weeds. As we know, goats will eat practically anything, so they are penned in areas with weed overgrowth which they naturally clear out.



Cairnie Fruit Farm has a very impressive drip irrigation system and hoop houses that protect produce from pests. Cherry trees are trimmed at the very top to prevent from growing through the netting. The strawberry operation was fascinating in that they are grown on stands and have twine on the sides which raises the leaves to allow for easier harvesting. Planting is completed in rotations. The first hoop house is planted, once they start to develop flowers, the next strawberry hoop house was planted and so on. This way, when one was done with harvest, the next hoop house was almost ready to harvest.



The New Mexico Agricultural Innovation and Trade Mission to England and Scotland was a great experience. I learned that even though we live in different countries separated by the Atlantic Ocean, our agricultural practices and challenges are similar such as the cost of operations like fertilizer, labor shortages and weed prevention. I look forward to hearing more about possible trade agreements with England and Scotland because we can help each other.

INTERNATIONAL TRIP TO ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

BY MARSHAL WILSON

As part of the New Mexico Agricultural Innovation and Trade Mission to England and Scotland, class 14 and 15 of the New Mexico Agricultural Leadership Program were given the opportunity to learn about the food and agriculture systems, culture, and history of our neighbors across the pond. The trip was packed with tours and presentations that gave everyone a chance to broaden their knowledge base and appreciate the similarities and differences in food and agriculture. Our time was split between London and Scotland. In London, we visited the U.S. Embassy, Parliament, the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) which is similar to our USDA, and had a 3 AM wakeup call to tour London's Central Meat Market. Though there was much to learn and do in London, it seemed as if the New Mexico delegation breathed a collective sigh of relief when we escaped the urban confines of the city and journeyed to the relative openness of Northern England and Scotland. The trip continued with farm tours, a distillery visit, learning about aquaculture at the University of Stirling and a visit Edinburgh Castle.



The group was able to watch the House of Lords debate several issues while we were in Westminster. During our time there, the House of Lords touched on several issues affecting their nation but also spent some time discussing recent rulings from the United States Supreme Court which reinforce the notion that "The eyes of the world are upon our nation."

I enjoyed seeing the countryside while in Scotland and the opportunity to tour a distillery, but I learned the most from visiting with people we met. Two distinct things were said to us that I will carry with me are "Europeans think 100 miles

is a long distance, Americans think 100 years is a long time" and "We have been able to produce food so cheaply that it has lost its value to the consumer" both were said by individuals closely associated with agriculture production.

It is also worth noting the influence that Brexit is having on agriculture in the United Kingdom. Though it has been over three and a half years since the United Kingdom voted to withdraw from the European Union, the country is largely operating under the EU's regulatory scheme while contemplating how to form its own agricultural policy. Forty-seven years have passed since the United Kingdom has been in control of its own agricultural destiny, meanwhile, farmers and ranchers are hanging in the balance while the future policies are being discussed in the halls of Parliament and details are hammered out in the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs.

My key takeaway from the trip is despite the differences between our two nations, whether they are climate, regulatory environment, or consumer preferences, there are more similarities between us than my preconceived notions allowed. Similar to us, producers in the UK face challenges stemming from the rural/urban divide, defending their production practices, regulatory uncertainty, and an average age of producers that is increasing.

Despite these differences, agriculture remains the fabric and backbone of many communities, not for the money, though that is always a factor, but because it is ingrained in our bones and steeped in our blood, regardless if one is English, Scottish, or American.

International Trip by Juan Sanchez

The goal for the New Mexico Innovation and Trade Mission is to provide New Mexico producers with unique opportunities to build relationships, expand on trade markets, and gain valuable perspective on shared challenges impacting agriculture. Being an international marketing specialist, the trade mission to the United Kingdom was a special experience for me. I was eager to learn more about the culture, food systems, and regenerative ag practices. It was overwhelming to think of the history in the United Kingdom, however, I arrived in London with an open mind and heart.

One of my goals was to gain a deeper understanding of large population agriculture, as the UK encompasses 93,628 square miles of land with a population of 67 million. In comparison, New Mexico has a total area of 121,967 square miles and a population of 2.12 million. How



do you feed this many people? What is the supply chain like? Does the government support Ag? We met with producers from numerous industries, and

we all agreed that our job of feeding a growing hungry population is getting harder. We had good discussions about regenerative agriculture and climate change. We all face the same challenge; how do we reduce atmospheric carbon in a substantive form and how do we do it in an economically sustainable manner? After discussions, New Mexicans, and the British share the same concerns and challenges. Both are faced with an aging population of farmers, high acquisition, start-up costs, price takers, division between rural and urban folks, uninformed consumers, and government policies. With those challenges, just like New Mexicans, British farmers are resilient. They may not know what a drought is, but they overcome challenges just like we do. They are passionate people who care for the land

and animals and are proud to be agriculturalists.

I find it challenging to say what my favorite part of the trip was. The bond created with my fellows of Class 15 was the best. The opportunity we had as a group to learn, and grow was priceless.

Visiting Scotland was remarkable. Photos don't do it justice on how beautiful it is.



There are so many sheep! It is astonishing to think of the hard work to build endless miles of stone fences. It was a pleasure to see the famous Edinburgh Cattle and all the Angus and Herefords graze the pastures. It's crazy to think that we were in the country where the Hereford and Angus breeds originated from. Besides the beautiful architecture and landscapes, having the opportunity to sit and meet with USDA Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Dr. Jewel Bronaugh was a highlight. Working in the public sector, I appreciate her and her staff making time to meet with our delegation. She gave us the chance to talk about us and our tasks in the ag industry. Not many people have the chance to sit and talk with high-ranking officials. In addition, being hosted by the USDA Foreign Ag Service at the US Embassy was a special treat. The discussions about the UK market and trade opportunities was interesting and motivating for me to promote New Mexico ag products in the UK. After spending time in the UK, they need spice in their lives. I cannot wait for the day to roast green chile outside of a Tesco (supermarket chain). One thing is for sure, we all need to eat, and it is up to us to feed them.

“Mind the Gap” will forever be stuck in my head.



New Places, Same Ag Issues by Kaitlin Robinson



Flying 14 hours to get across the pond was well worth it! We were fortunate to spend a week visiting both the city and country in England and Scotland. I was blown away by the stunning green landscape as far as the eye could see. I always enjoy experiencing new cultures, so I was eager to explore new foods, a new way of living, and new cities & countries. Our travels included planes, trains, automobiles, buses, and tube (subway) lines!

Navigating the tube was a great experience and provided an expedient way to get around the city.



It was fascinating to hear farmers and ranchers talk about their operations and how so many of their problems are like our landowner issues, government oversight, consumer viewpoints, etc. The only issue they don't seem to have in common with us is rain... none of the operators we spoke to were able to tell us how much rain they get every year! Innovation and agriculture go hand and hand in the United Kingdom. Every operator is continuously looking to improve their operations and figure out how to make every pound and acre stretch further. The recognition of climate change is clearly farther ahead of the United States. The operators are making strides to help mitigate this as best as they can. While the idyllic rural land of the United Kingdom is striking, they are also struggling to feed a significant population with their land. With 70% of the landscape in agriculture, only 1% of the population is the farming work to provide food for 67 million people. It should prove interesting to see how Great Britain makes changes to their agriculture regulations as they continue to move forward with policies post-BREXIT.



My favorite city of the trip was Edinburgh. The architecture dates back thousands of years and as we were walking around, I couldn't help but wonder what it may have looked like when it was built and was a major shipping and trading port years ago. The streets of the Royal Mile have cobblestones and you can see for miles from the Edinburgh Castle. The views from the Castle, which we visited on our last day, was breathtaking.

My favorite visit of the trip, if I really had to pick one, would be the Cairnie Fruit Farm. There is no better tasting fruit than what is picked straight off the tree, bush, etc. Cherries are one of my favorite fruits and I loved being able to pick and eat them straight from the tree. I had never seen cherry trees in person, so it was a brand-new experience! They have taken innovation and run with it as they realized which pieces of their business help bring in more customers for the overall operation. They add something each year which keeps bringing people back year after year to get purchase delicious fruit. After we had a wonderful tea-style picnic, we had the opportunity to pick cherries and strawberries, and nothing will compare to how delicious they were!



New Mexico Agricultural Innovation and Trade Mission to England and Scotland was a Great Success!!

by Megan Schuller

Class 15 was able to join the New Mexico Department of Agriculture at the end of June and travel to the United Kingdom to expand our knowledge of international agriculture. Each of us had our own goals for the trip and hopefully expanded our appreciation of what issues face agriculture no matter what continent you are on. As we started our trip, I was encouraged to be introduced to international markets that I might be able to share with our industry to help them expand into different markets and what opportunities might be available to them if they wanted to look beyond their current market structure.

Our trip began in London with tours of the city, meetings with the United States Embassy, Department of Environmental, Farming and Rural Affairs and sitting in on a session of Parliament. This was a nice way to start off our trip with knowledge of the issues and challenges the United Kingdom is facing within the agricultural industry. With Brexit occurring recently, the United Kingdom faces many decisions. The United Kingdom imports approximately 50% of food, trade negotiations are extremely important. It is estimated to take seven years to transition their own agriculture regulations and for the time being they are following the European Union's regulations. The United Kingdom consumer is a strong supporter of specialized name brand food and tends not to support generic brands as much. I saw this as an opportunity for growth in the market for the United States, but would require some transition time and not ideal for all operations.

Sustainability and diversity are common themes among the places we visited. It is easy to understand why these factors are important. Each location we visited has multiple sources of farm income whether it was in crop diversity or agritourism. Sustainability seemed to be as common as breathing air and everywhere, no

matter if it was in the urban or rural parts of the country. This is a concept that the United States is just starting to become aware of and looking for changes to the agricultural industry to make, but these things do not happen overnight.

It was great to share this experience with my fellows of Class 15. Opportunities to travel abroad are always a great experience. It was nice to learn to navigate public transportation with ease. Something we don't do very often or even at all within New Mexico. I realize as Americans we over pack always and on my next trip, I am going to pack lighter. It was great to have conversations with our group about what we saw and how agricultural problems are not that different from what we see every day, but with these conversations also came a lot of brainstorming of what could be possible within each of our sectors.

I am grateful and humbled by our experiences. It is always great when I can expand my knowledge about agriculture and to share it with my fellows makes it even better. I will take these experiences with me on my journey. The strong foundation of relationships that we have only grew stronger. We were able to grow as individuals, get out of our comfort zone in some cases and miss New Mexico green chile, but being able to represent New Mexico agriculture in the United Kingdom was an amazing opportunity.



Class 15 Fellows at Edinburgh Castle

United Kingdom Livesotck by Marcy Ward

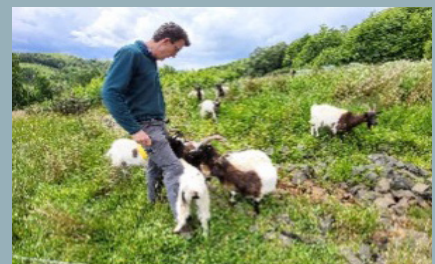
The international trip is everyone's highlight of the NMAL program. It gives members of the class an opportunity to gain a new perspective about global agriculture. My primary goal of this trip was to learn more about their livestock systems, marketing, and management. Though the experience is somewhat within the confines of the tour, it was clear producers were much in tune with today's narrative of sustainability, carbon sequestration, and positive messaging to their customers. Though the United States livestock industry is



Marcy, Megan, JD, Dineh, Justin, Sandra, and Bob in Dallas

starting to adopt some of these ideas, we still function with the primary intent of meeting global demand for protein. The United Kingdom's climate and land mass limitations, make it difficult to produce meat and dairy products to the scale of the United States. What I thought was interesting was aside from those difference, the challenges producers face in the United Kingdom are very similar to the United States. Lack of meat packing facilities, captive marketing, increasing input costs, and government regulations all are very frustrating and restrictive issues for both countries.

Currently the United Kingdom buys few animal products from the United States. This is mostly due to misinformation about our management practices. It does seem eventually they will find value in our products, and vice versa so that the trade relationship between these countries may improve. The 2022 international tour had many great highlights that created lasting memories. The countryside was stunning, small towns and farms picturesque, and the history behind the massive and beautiful buildings and structures were all what you imagine England and Scotland to be. Being able to experience this with class 15 drew us all closer together. The evenings at the pub allowed for us to reflect on the day and get to know one another better.



Renewable Agriculture and Tourism by JD DeGroat

Travelling is always rewarding. One can take in new sights and sounds. Anyone who travels experiences new cultures, explores new ideas, meets new people, and has a fresh look at old ideas. Those are some of the experiences Fellows of New Mexico Agricultural Leadership Class 15 were able to take in New Mexico Agricultural Innovation and Trade Mission to England and Scotland, from June 24 – July 3, 2022.

As part of that trade mission, the historian in me could not be contained as I witnessed firsthand the history (statues, architecture, and culture) of Scotland and England. The sight of ancient castles that housed centuries of monarchs. Gawking at statues and paintings of leaders, both ancient and modern that were once visible only in history books, in magazines, or on television and hearing stories from British citizens made for a great firsthand history lesson. Seeing the ancient sights in person was truly a dream come true.

The aspiring leader and farmer in me learned a great deal from producers in the United Kingdom and how they are working to reduce their carbon footprint. The industry professionals we met relied heavily on renewable energy in their operations to limit their impact on the environment. The successful use of green technology has sustained their farms for years and appears to be beneficial for everyone.

During our trip I took a keen interest in the producers who tied agriculture and tourism together. Our group was able to visit Cairnie Fruit Farm in Scotland which is a tourist attraction and working fruit farm. The signature fruits of this farm cherries and strawberries, lure tourists which, during their visit pick their own fruit for purchase which in turn helps the owners with harvest. As a “newbie” farmer, I have seen this business model take hold in the United States and feel

it is beneficial for producers and tourism industry. Personally, it’s a business model and plan I will follow as I become more experienced in farming practices.

For Navajo, sheep are an important part of our culture. They provide food, clothing, and are used in rugs and other arts. They are a source of income for many shepherds across our land. In Scotland, I was amazed to see thousands of sheep throughout the countryside. Their presence gave me a sense of home while in a faraway land. Much like the Navajo culture, the British use sheep as a food source which we were able to feast on during our travels. Although prepared a little fancier with herbs, spices, and sauces the taste was similar.

While our time was limited in the United Kingdom, I gained insight into the agricultural practices of British counterparts. The struggles we face here in the United States are the same there. Struggles such as global warming, inflation, organic vs. conventional, high fuel prices are all topics and issues that affect farmers across the globe. Yet we don’t let those deter us from our life’s mission to produce high quality food for the people.

It was trip I will not soon forget, but one I will make again. Being among my class fellows, made it even more special. I believe this trip had different meanings for each participant but learning and growing from this was our goal. The lessons we learned, shared moments, and camaraderie we built will guide us on our



Cherry Trees and Strawberries at Cairnie Fruit Farm

National Conference on Weights and Measures Meeting by Roxanne Chepsongol

In lieu of the international trip I attended the 107th Annual Meeting of the National Conference on Weights in Measures (NCWM) where I represented New Mexico. This year the meeting was held in the “Evergreen State” of Washington in the city of Tacoma, meaning “snow covered mountain” which is the Native American name for Mount Rainier which can be observed from all skylines in mid-Washington.

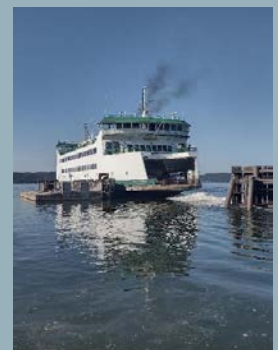
The purpose of the NCWM annual meeting is to debate, develop and vote on important proposals to amend the United States standards for weights and measures. My attendance at the NCWM Annual Meeting ensures that New Mexico’s interests and concerns are considered in developing weighing and measuring devices and commodity regulations, many of which automatically become law in the state.

During my time in Tacoma, I realized that the weights and measures industry is changing fast. Regulatory standards must change to ensure equity for consumers and sellers in commercial transactions. Some issues debated and voted upon at the meeting were Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS), Portable Digital Density meters and Advanced Dimensional Measurements Systems (ADMS). I learned from other state directors about being willing to try new testing and inspection methods and adapt to industry changes. My favorite part of the annual meeting was meeting other state directors and regulatory officials in-person for the first time. I have worked with them for over 2-years but due to the pandemic, have never met them in-person. It was a pleasure to have conversations about our state’s weights and measures programs which built cohesion with the group. I learned about management structures of other states programs, challenges with staffing, and overcoming barriers within industry to reach a common goal. During these conversations I was comforted by the fact that even seasoned directors face the same

challenges, and they offered resources to work through challenges.

The weights and measures communities are unique, we are the only ones in the nation that complete inspections for consumer goods, devices, and services. I discovered a new perspective for working with industry by interpreting regulation implications and converting those policies in a comprehensible manner for all regulated parties and the public. It was a pleasure to represent New Mexico and vote on critical regulations during the 107th NCWM Annual Meeting.

I had limited time to explore the city of Tacoma and Hotel Murano, the hotel which takes its name from Italian glass art. In fact, the Museum of Glass was a short walk from the hotel. I visited the outside of the museum which featured the Seaform Pavilion, Crystal Towers and Venetian Wall. One afternoon, I hiked to the Point Defiance Park Beach where I saw a lighthouse, cargo ships and ferry ships. On the way to the airport in Seattle, I stopped at Kerry Park to check out the viewpoint of the Space Needle and Puget Sound.



Lighthouse at Point Defiance



View from Kerry Park

BITS OF NEWS



Drs. Rosencrans and Hodnett Photo
Courtesy of Lacey Roberts-Hill

Retirement Celebration

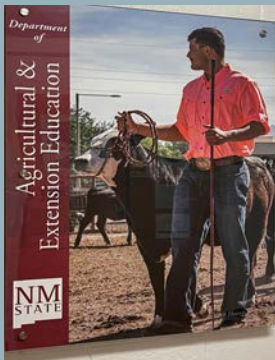
On July 14th a retirement celebration was held for Drs. Frank Hodnett and Carlos Rosencrans. Together they served New Mexico State University and students for nearly 67 years. We wish them well in retirement.



NMAL Board President Bob Mayberry
Left, Heather Salopek (center), and
NMAL Board Member Justin Salcido

Across the Pond Graduation

During the trip to England and Scotland Heather Salopek completed the requirements for New Mexico Agricultural Leadership Program. She was presented with her certificate and plaque during the Farewell dinner in London. Congratulations Heather!



AXED Hallway

If you happen to be on New Mexico State University main campus in Las Cruces, stop by Gerald Thomas Hall. Dr. Shannon Norris-Parish and Dr. Lacey Roberts Hill have been busy sprucing up the Agricultural and Extension hallway.



Have news? Tell us!

We love to hear what our alumni are up to! Send us a picture of a recent trip, conference, life event or milestone so we can share with fellow alumni and supporters. Send pictures and a brief description to nmal@nmsu.edu to be featured in one of our newsletters.

Oh the Places You'll Go! Bob's Adventures Across the Pond

BOB



**THE
ARTICHOKE**



A Word from College Drive

by Tina Wilson

Fall is right around the corner and what has been a busy summer for me is coming to an end. I visited five European Countries (Germany, France, Switzerland, England, and Scotland). Which one was my favorite? All of them! Each country offered a new unique type of agriculture to discover. The opportunity to reconnect with friends from the past and make new ones highlighted this hectic summer. Besides traveling around Europe, I helped judge 4-H presentations at the state conference. I am always in awe of the talents that youth have at such a young age to be able to give speeches in front of complete strangers.



One of the more interesting elements of agriculture in European countries is compensation farmers and ranchers receive from the government. Compensation is received for environmentally friendly practices such as not using pesticides, waiting to take first cut of wheat until later in the season, or animal welfare practices. There is talk of phasing out this practice in England and in its place will be compensation for producers that feed the country.

During our Innovation and Trade Mission Trip to England and Scotland, classes 14 and 15 examined agriculture and trade policy. As you have just read the fellows of class 15 enjoyed the opportunity to travel across the pond along with other stakeholders from New Mexico. This wasn't my first time in England but rather the first time I had any first-hand knowledge of agricultural industry. Where I lived in England can be considered rural and I was treated to cows walking by the window of the house we rented but other than knowing that area grew rape seed for canola oil, I couldn't have told you much about agriculture. I did return to Huntingdon after our trip was officially over and it was as if the blinders had been removed from eyes. Agriculture was everywhere!

My biggest take away from all my travels is that countries need to work together to solve issues relating to agriculture and not be stove piped. By this I mean we must share best practices with one another so that we can accomplish the mission of feeding the world's population.



Overlooking Heidelberg, Germany



Inside Parliament

THANK YOU

Thank you to our sponsors. We appreciate your continued support of New Mexico Agricultural Leadership.

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