



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 9, 2014
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Refuge Seeks Agricultural Producers for Cooperative Agriculture Program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking one or two agricultural producers for a Cooperative Agriculture Program at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in San Antonio, New Mexico. The producer(s) will be selected based on their proposals. The producer(s) will farm up to 1,026 acres of irrigated land on the refuge for a period of five years.

The selected producer will operate under a Forage Production and Harvest Agreement. Under this Agreement, the producer will be responsible for producing 1.5 million pounds of non-genetically modified (GMO) corn for the benefit of migratory birds on 300 acres in exchange for the exclusive rights to produce and harvest crops within the refuge on the remaining 726 acres in an approved crop. Examples include, but are not limited to, silage corn, seed corn, chile, grain and pasture hay. A maximum of 500 acres will be allowed for the production of alfalfa.

Information meetings to provide details about this Program, which will include a short presentation followed by a questions and answer session, will occur at the following locations.

- *Wednesday, December 17 at 10 a.m., Candlewood Suites Hotel, 4 Military Heights Dr., Roswell, NM 88201*
- *Thursday, December 18 at 10 a.m., Hatch Community Center, 1001 State Hwy 187, Hatch, NM 87937*
- *Friday, December 19 at 10 a.m., Estancia Community Center, 513 Williams Avenue, Estancia, NM 87016*
- *Saturday, December 20 at 10 a.m., at Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, 1001 Hwy 1, San Antonio, NM 87832*

For more information about these meetings or for information on the Forage Production and Harvest Agreement, please call Kevin Cobble, refuge manager, at (575) 835-1828. The Forage Production and Harvest Agreement can be viewed on line at: www.fws.gov/refuge/bosque_del_apache/ Site visits to the refuge's agricultural areas are also available upon request.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.

For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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