



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

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Susana Martinez
Governor

Jeff M. Witte
Secretary

April 3, 2013

The Honorable Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas
300 Southwest Tenth Avenue, Suite 212S
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Governor Brownback:

I understand that Kansas Department of Agriculture is entering into a working agreement to move most of its operations to the campus of Kansas State University. This is an exciting and terrific opportunity for Kansas that I feel will serve your agriculture constituents and all of Kansas well for years to come.

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) is a constitutional agency structured under the control of the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU). In addition to being director of NMDA, I serve on the Governor's Executive Cabinet as Secretary of Agriculture. This unique structure and location, relative to other state agencies, has led to a number of efficiencies for the citizens of New Mexico. I will attempt to outline a few of these.

1. The ability to leverage critical staff resources and avoid duplication of effort. NMDA currently "shares" a couple of staff positions with the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES), which has created opportunities to expand and maintain programs in tight budget cycles. This also has resulted in avoiding a duplication of staff resources while allowing for a consistent message and working relationship among our producers and processors. It has also allowed NMDA to have first-hand access to scientific research, which aides in sound regulatory decisions. Also, we have access to top economists; animal, plant, and food scientists; and engineers, allowing NMDA to better serve our constituents and stay current on research.
2. A strong partnership with the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service (Extension). Extension in New Mexico is a strong and viable program. Because of our close affiliation with NMSU, we have been able to form strong partnerships with Extension. This has created joint opportunities for producer workshops, pesticide training programs, and a variety of other service-related opportunities.

The Honorable Sam Brownback

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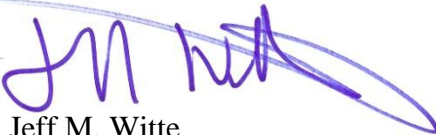
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3. The ability to jointly evaluate programmatic opportunities to avoid unnecessary duplication.
4. The ability to meet on a regular basis with leaders from ACES to plan, evaluate, and address issues important to our key clientele — our agriculture producers.

The agriculture community in New Mexico has a high expectation that NMDA and NMSU ACES will continue to work together to leverage and utilize limited resources to help them address their greatest needs. Being located on the campus provides that unique advantage.

You are fortunate to have a first rate university that is highly respected around the world and a top department of agriculture that can come together and forge a closer working relationship for the benefit of your constituents. In this era of seeking greater efficiencies, I know you will find this to be a positive development, and I congratulate you.

Sincerely,



Jeff M. Witte

JMW/ya

cc: The Honorable Dale Rodman, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture
President Kirk Schulz, Kansas State University