



Kewa Farmers NRCS Soil Assessment Workshop

IAC Southwest Region

On March 21, 2019 IAC Southwest Region and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) collaborated with Tribes/Pueblos in New Mexico to host workshops that educate farmers on soil management. This one day training helped farmers understand types and needs of the soil that they grow crops and produce on. Opportunities such as these increase access and use of USDA programs and services by Indian producers and Tribes/Pueblos.

The workshop provided an introduction and presentation from NRCS State Natural Resources Staff and IAC Southwest Region Technical Assistance Specialist. In the morning session, technical information on Soil Health was provided to producers from Kewa Pueblo (formerly, Santo Domingo Pueblo). A demonstration of the Rainfall Simulator was used to demonstrate soil health. Participants asked questions and participated in discussions.



NRCS Soil Assessment Workshop at Kewa Pueblo

In the afternoon, a visit to the field was scheduled for hands-on education for the soil assessment segment of the workshop. The participants showed an interest and commitment to improving their lands and their operations. The participants were local community members who have farms and grow crops primarily for sustenance for their families and community members. Many of the farmers grow alfalfa, corn, squash, pumpkins and melons. Collaborations such as these are beneficial to Native farmers so that they have the opportunity to learn new innovations usable in their fields and enable them to continue their education in the natural resources field of study.

The Soil Assessment Workshops are a series of NRCS partnerships that will continue throughout the year. A workshop was held at the Pueblo of Cochiti and IAC Southwest Region Technical Assistance Specialist continues to reach out to Tribes/Pueblos in New Mexico to organize educational opportunities that are region specific and meets the needs of the producers. Future collaboration with Tribes/Pueblos, USDA resources and partnerships are being scheduled in the Southwest region.



NRCS Classroom Session at Kewa Pueblo