

JEFF M. WITTE

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Las Cruces, NM

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jwitte@nmda.nmsu.edu

Summary of Qualifications

Twenty five years of professional experience with increasing responsibility in the food and agriculture sector public policy field with demonstrated success and achievement in bringing diverse groups together for the common good. A proven ability to work within and across agencies to achieve collective missions and to effectively manage an agency within established budgetary constraints to provide essential services to a broad constituency. A demonstrated ability and extensive experience in working with the executive and legislative branch of state government with tremendous respect for each while balancing the role as a member of the New Mexico State University administrative team.

Present Position

Director/Secretary, New Mexico Department, May 2011 to Present

Primary duties include managing daily operations of an organization with 140 full-time employees, an annual budget of over \$16 million, strategic planning, and the administration of state laws and regulations impacting the lives of all New Mexico citizens. Serve on the governor's executive cabinet for the state of New Mexico. Serve as a member of the senior administration for New Mexico State University

Past Experience

Director, Office of Agricultural Biosecurity, New Mexico State University/New Mexico Department of Agriculture, November 2003 to present. Co-Director, Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center, a partnership between New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, June 2006 to present.

Responsibilities include strategic planning with a special emphasis in risk assessment and coordination between the agriculture industry and federal/state agencies in securing a safe food supply and infrastructure. Activities include coordination of research in livestock syndromic surveillance, staff and industry training in emergency preparedness, and terrorism awareness including the ten states along the United States and Mexico border.

Significant Accomplishments:

- Developed a nationally recognized program in food and agriculture safety, defense and emergency response. This program serves as a model for agency/academic cooperation and coordination.
- Developed cooperative programs that brought together industry with local, state, tribal and federal agencies to deliver effective programs in the area of agriculture and food security.
- Assigned responsibility for all food and agriculture sector emergency response training programs in New Mexico by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency management.

- Successfully coordinated and served as training director for the ten state border exercise program (table top, functional, full scale) involving the six states from Mexico and four states from the United States to improve coordination and collaboration in the region to address any agriculture emergency.
- Created the New Mexico Food Protection Alliance to improve coordination among local, state, tribal, and federal agencies with industry to protect the food supply.
- Project leader for the New Mexico Syndromic Surveillance Program, a livestock health monitoring program developed to provide early indications of possible significant health issues. USDA is evaluating this program for national deployment.
- Successfully applied for, received, and administered over \$5 million in grants and contracts.
- Developed partnerships and programs with Louisiana State University, University of Tennessee, University of Minnesota, Purdue University, Kansas State University, University of Kentucky, and University of California at Davis in the area of food safety and defense.

Assistant Director/Deputy Secretary, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, May 1994 to November 2003

Primary duties included managing daily operations of an organization with 130 full-time employees, an annual budget of over \$13 million, strategic planning, and the administration of 38 state laws and regulations impacting the lives of all New Mexico citizens. Major department accomplishments include improved staff training and confidence, streamlining budget and personnel administration while recognizing the department's responsibility for strong consumer protection and compliance education programs, and improving legislative and agriculture organization relations. Successfully planned for and oversaw the hiring of critical positions. Additional duties included representing the director at governor's cabinet meetings, at state, national, and international meetings including with high level cabinet officials in Washington, DC and the New Mexico State University administrative council.

Significant Accomplishments:

- Successful and seamless integration of the soil and water conservation program from another state agency.
- Task force leader to establish a methodology for valuing agriculture land and livestock for tax purposes.
- Creation of New Mexico Agriculture Leadership Inc., a private, nonprofit organization to provide unique opportunities for future leaders in New Mexico.
- Successful management of the New Mexico Karnal Bunt Emergency Response.

Director of Governmental Affairs and Field Services, New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, September 1986 - May 1994

Primary responsibilities included serving as full-time lobbyist and coordination of legislative and membership program activities. Worked closely with agricultural producers to develop and implement policies of the organization and represent their interest at the local, state and federal level. Attended monthly meetings across New Mexico to promote and support member activities including the Farm Bureau Women's Committee, Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, Natural Resources Committee, Farm Programs Committee, and Public Lands Advisory Committee. Additional responsibilities included working with other agricultural and business organizations to coordinate activities on issues of common concern.

Significant Accomplishments:

- Organized the “Ag Group”, an informal working group of all agriculture organizations involved in the state legislative process. This improved and helped establish a unified lobbying effort among all agriculture organizations in New Mexico.
- Created “Ag Fest”, an annual event to showcase the food and agriculture industry to the New Mexico legislature, executive branch and their staffs. This event significantly increased agricultures presence during the legislative session and has been a highlight for over 20 years.

Commissioner, New Mexico Public Service Commission, August 1990 - March 1991

Appointed to fill out the term of a commissioner who left early. I took leave from the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau during this time frame. Responsibilities included the regulation of electric, gas, and water utilities in New Mexico. Managed agency budget and supervised staff. Appointed to the Committee on Finance and Technology of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. Graduate of 18th Annual Utility Rate Seminar.

Research Specialist, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business, New Mexico State University, August 1985 - July 1986

Research areas included grazing fee analysis, price forecasting, hedging analysis, and forage-fiber trade-off implications. Responsibilities included statistical analysis, econometric analysis, formulation of policy implications, and report writing.

Research Specialist, Range Economics Consulting Firm, Las Cruces, New Mexico, February 1985 - August 1985

Ranch budget analysis of 1982 cost and returns for small, medium, and large ranches for the 17 western states.

Research Assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Research, New Mexico State University, July 1984 - August 1985

Research areas included impacts from oil and gas development to rangeland, grazing fee analysis, and forage-fiber trade-off implications.

Awards

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, 2014

Man of the Year, New Mexico Cowbelles Association, 2012

Honorary State FFA Degree, New Mexico FFA Association, 2012

New Mexico State Employee of the Year Award, Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties, 2011

James Graham Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, 2009

Ayudando Siempre Alli, New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, 2009

Secretary's Honor Award presented by Dr. I Miley Gonzalez, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, 2004 and 2009
US Department of Justice Certificate of Commendation, 2008
Salt of the Earth Award, New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, 1999
Sam Steel Society, New Mexico State University College of Agriculture and Home Economics, 1995
Outstanding Community Service, New Mexico House of Representatives, 1994
Outstanding Service to the Industry, New Mexico Public Lands Council, 1994
Salt of the Earth Award, New Mexico Wool Growers, 1993 and 1994
Honorary State FFA Degree, New Mexico FFA Association, 1991
Outstanding Service to Beef Industry, New Mexico Beef Council, 1988
Distinguished Student Award, New Mexico State University College of Agriculture and Home Economics, 1984
Outstanding Senior Member, New Mexico State University Collegiate FFA, 1984

Current Professional and Community Activities

Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture, President – 2014 to present
Western United States Agriculture Trade Association, Treasurer, 2014 to present
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, Board member, 2014 – present
Chair, Natural Resources, Pesticide Management and Environment Committee
New Mexico FBI Citizens Academy Alumni – 2011
Association of Food and Drug Officials – 2010 to present
Southern New Mexico State Fair Livestock Committee, Sale Superintendant – 2009 to present
National Domestic Preparedness Coalition, Homeland Security Task Force Member – 2008 to present
New Mexico 4H Foundation – 2006 to present
New Mexico Infragard – 2003 to present
AgriGard – Founding member – 2003 to present
New Mexico Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council – 2003 to present
New Mexico Wool Growers' Association – 1994 to present
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau – 1986 to present
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association – 1980 to present

Past Professional and Community Activities

Las Cruces FFA Farm Business Management Team Coach – 2008 to 2011
New Mexico Agriculture Leadership, Founding Member, Past Board Chairman – 2001 to 2006
Southern New Mexico State Fair and Rodeo, Executive Board Member – 1998 to 2007
Dona Ana County EXPO Board – 2005 to 2007
Farm Credit of New Mexico, ACA, Appointed Director: March 1997 to February 2002
Santa Fe County Fair Board – 1994
Water Quality Control Commission, Public Member – 1993 to 1994

Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission Public Advisory Committee, Western Governors' Association – 1991 to 1996

Certifications

Certified instructor for the following Department of Homeland Security Courses:
The National Center for Biomedical Research and Training at Louisiana State University

- Preparedness and Response to Food and Agriculture Incidents
- Preparing Communities for Agroterrorism
- A Coordinated Response to Food Emergencies: Practice and Execution
- Readiness: Training Identification and Preparedness Planning

The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine;

- Agriculture and Food Vulnerability Training Course
- Food Vulnerability Assessment Training Course
- Implementation of Effective Sharing of Information and Intelligence Related to the Importation and Transportation of Food
- Utilization of National Credentialing Standards for Animal Emergency Responders: Managing a Disaster Response and Recovery

Education

Master of Science, August 1985

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico
Major: Agricultural Economics and Economics

Bachelor of Science, May 1984

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico
Major: Agricultural Business Management

Additional Training

United States Department of Homeland Security “Protected Critical Infrastructure Information” user training

New Mexico State University “Principal Investigator Training” program

US Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation “WMD Basic Course”

Emergency Management Institute “US Department of Homeland Security IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) an Introduction”

Emergency Management Institute “IS-800.A National Response Plan (NRP), an Introduction”

Emergency Management Institute “IS 195 Basic Incident Command System”

Emergency Management Institute “ICS 300 Incident Command System”

Emergency Management Institute “ICS 400 Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff, Complex Incidents and MACS for Operational First Responders”