New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association

Legislative Report

Funding to pay for direct and indirect damages from Mexican wolves and administration



Legislative Requests

1. **Funding to pay for direct and indirect damages from Mexican wolves and administration—$4.5MM over three years.**

   The County Livestock Loss Authority is charged with compensating livestock producers for damages they incur from Mexican wolves. In 2024, the Legislature appropriated $1.5MM to be used by the County Livestock Loss Authority to compensate livestock producers for confirmed and probable damages from Mexican wolves and for indirect damages (losses due to a decrease in conception rates and a decrease in weaning weights). As of December 31, 2024, the Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that there were at least 286 Mexican wolves roaming in New Mexico and Arizona, a 53.8 percent increase over 2020. Through June 30, 2025, there had been more livestock depredations than in all of 2024. The value of the direct losses has likewise increased. CLLA is currently spending $1.2MM per year, of which $400,00 is paid on depredations and injuries, $72,000 is paid for pro-active conflict avoidance, $600,000 is paid to compensate livestock producers for indirect damages (decreased conception rates and decreased weaning weights) and $110,000 is spent on administration. CLLA projects that it will need $1.5MM by 2026 to sustain its mandate.

Funding in the 2026 State Budget

$3,000,000 over three years

Funding to eradicate trich



Legislative Requests

2. **Funding to eradicate trich—$7MM over four years: $1.75MM per year, of which $750,000 per year is for testing and $1MM per year is for treating quarantine areas across the state.**

   Trichomoniasis, or "trich" as it's generally called, is a venereal disease in cattle. It's primarily transmitted through sexual contact with an infected bull and can lead to significant reproductive issues in cows, including early embryonic death, abortions, and prolonged calving intervals. Bulls are typically carriers, often without showing symptoms, while cows may experience temporary infertility. Trich is found in 16 New Mexico counties. There are 28 quarantines in place. Data indicates that with a 27 percent lower calf crop due to trich and 50-pound lighter weaning weights on calves, the loss per head of cow for an operation with trich is $702.94. Assuming an average herd size of 400 head and 28 quarantines in place, the decrease in annual revenues is $7,872,928. Using a multiplier of 1.83 to capture the effect of that loss on total state output, trich reduces total state output in New Mexico by $14,422,055 annually.

Funding in the 2026 State Budget

$5,100,000 over three years

Funding to encourage agricultural water resilience



Legislative Requests

3. **Funding to encourage agricultural water resilience—$10MM per year, recurring.**

   Initiated during the 2025 legislature and administered by the NM Water Resource Research Institute, this program promotes agricultural water conservation across New Mexico. Even with an abbreviated, one-month application process in July 2026 for $4.5MM in available funds for projects, there were 61 applications requesting $8,574,210. Proposed projects included infrastructure upgrades for water control and efficient delivery, projects to reduce evaporation, projects to traditional ditches and watershed areas, and projects to promote efficient water management. This program is a key, bipartisan initiative to conserve New Mexico water used in agricultural production.

Funding in the 2026 State Budget

$10,000,000

Funding to encourage large, food animal veterinary services in underserved areas of New Mexico



Legislative Requests

4. **Funding to encourage large, food animal veterinary services in underserved areas of New Mexico (SB8)—$1.55MM.**

During the 2025 general session, the legislature appropriated $1.55MM to Higher Education to administer this program to encourage large, food-animal veterinary services in rural, underserved areas of New Mexico. At $80,000 per veterinarian over a four-year commitment ($15k, $15K, $25K and $25K), this appropriation will pay for just short of 20 veterinarians to facilitate this important work for the food production system in New Mexico. However, we need at least 40 such veterinarians. This proposed appropriation will fill that remaining gap.

Funding in the 2026 State Budget

$1,500,000



Funding to promote meat processor technology to handle waste materials

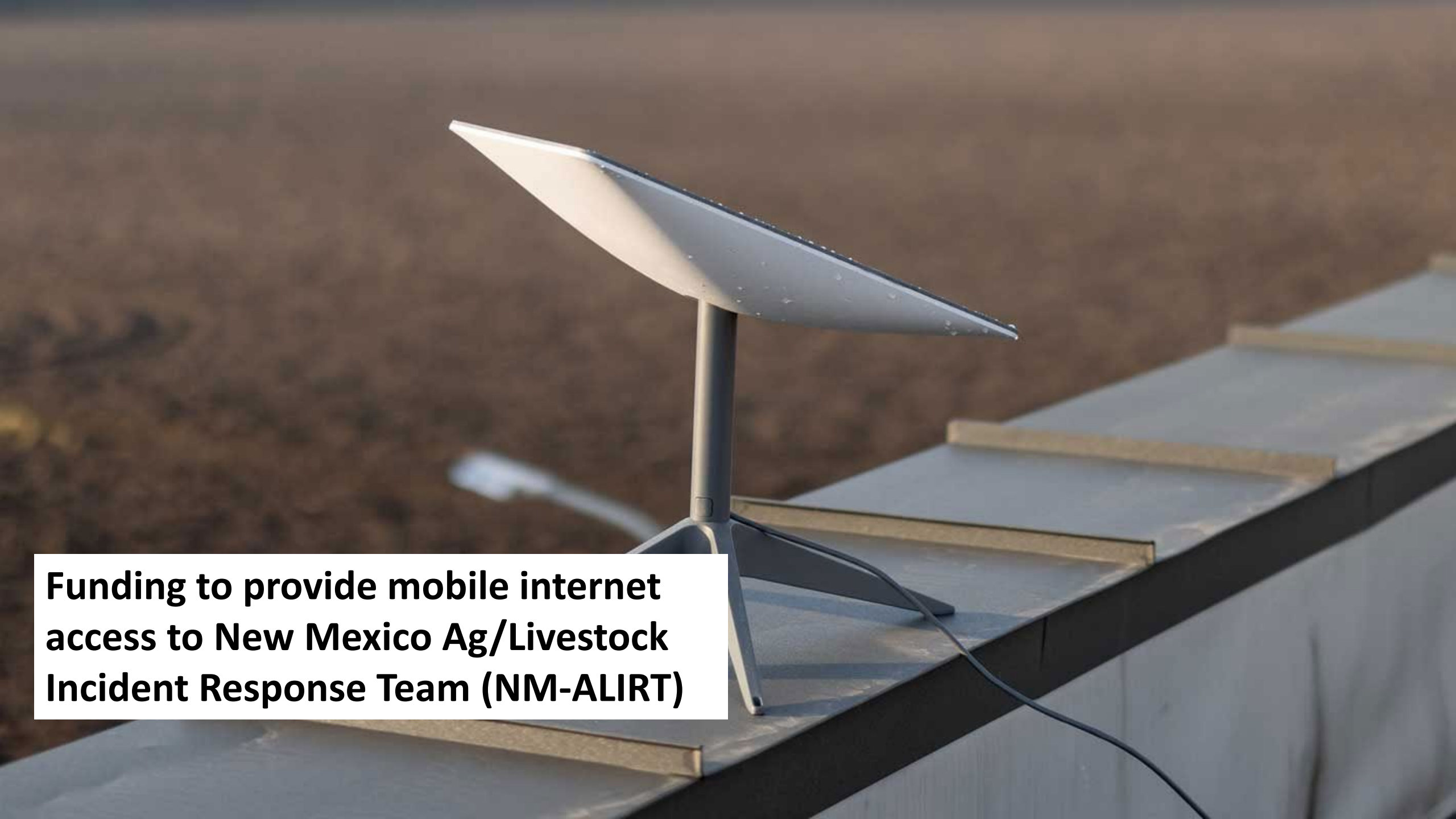
Legislative Requests

5. **Funding to promote meat processor technology to handle waste materials—$3MM.**

   The Legislature appropriated $3MM during the 2025 session for a grant program to enable New Mexico meat processors to buy the new technology they need to handle waste materials, wastewater and air emissions. The New Mexico Department of Agriculture administers the program. In response to the roll- out, 14 meat processors applied for $5.5MM. The applications were for wastewater/septic systems, composting equipment, and value- added byproduct equipment/logistics. The oversubscription on a compressed application schedule underscores the importance of promoting the development of local meat processors to harvest meat under the State's own meat inspection program. Doing so will improve environmental compliance, promote innovation and product diversification, reduce landfill waste, increase processor sustainability and create jobs in local communities.

Funding in the 2026 State Budget

$3,000,000



Funding to provide mobile internet access to New Mexico Ag/Livestock Incident Response Team (NM-ALIRT)

Legislative Requests

6. **Funding to provide mobile internet access to New Mexico Ag/Livestock Incident Response Team (NM-ALIRT)—$20,00 to buy 40 sets of equipment and $30,000 recurring to pay for annual subscriptions, equipment repair and replacement.**

   NM-ALIRT is New Mexico's rapid response team of veterinarians, Livestock Board employees and Extension personnel whose charge is to respond promptly to a large or suspicious livestock mortality event or intrusion of a Foreign Animal Disease such as New World Screwworm that occurs anywhere in New Mexico. Response times are critical. Undermining that mission, ALIRT members responding to an emerging event have no internet service in many rural areas of New Mexico. Internet connectivity will allow them to communicate in real time with regulatory and laboratory officials to enhance response capabilities, correct tissue submissions and share photos and videos to decrease diagnostic time. The appropriation will be added to an existing appropriation to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, which cooperates with New Mexico State University to administer NM-ALIRT funding, support and operations.

Funding in the 2026 State Budget

$50,000



Funding to complete the world-class livestock complex at New Mexico State University

Legislative Requests

7. Funding to complete the world-class livestock complex at New Mexico State University—$900,000.

During 2025, New Mexico State University completed two of the three components of an on-campus, world-class livestock complex. The meat processing facility opened in July. The exhibition arena opened in August. The third component is the feed mill. It is not complete. The remaining work on the feed mill is to install equipment that has been purchased. The projected cost is $900,000. With completion of all three components, NMSU will have the opportunity for teaching and research on feed formulations, equestrian therapy, livestock judging, meat judging, meat judging, meat judging, meat processing and food safety analysis.

Funding in the 2026 State Budget

Not funded

Legislative Actions

$22,650,000 in funding for agriculture championed by NMCGA

- Mexican wolves – $3,000,000
- Eradicate trich – $5,100,000
- Agricultural water resilience – $10,000,000
- Large, food animal veterinary services – $1,500,000
- Promote meat processor technology to handle waste materials – $3,000,000
- Mobile internet access to NM-ALIRT—$50,000