

# 2021 NMACD ANNUAL MEETING

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OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION AWARDS



# OUTSTANDING LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD

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- James Johnson is this year's winner of the Outstanding Land Stewardship Award. James was nominated by the Deming SWCD and lives in Columbus, New Mexico.
- Not only is James an amazing farmer, but he also serves as a member of New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, appointed by USDA to the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Advisory Committee in 2014. He has served as a presenter of the Healthy Soils Working Group and Regenerative Agriculture Podcast.



# OUTSTANDING LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD

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- James and his family farm approximately 3,100 acres. Crops include cotton, onions, chili, pecans, pistachios, watermelon, pumpkins, spinach and lettuce.
- James Johnson is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer who is extremely progressive in his approach to food production. Carzalia Valley Farms is currently trying to change from chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides to biological crop supplementation.



# OUTSTANDING LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD

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- Over the last few years James has reduced his fertilizer, herbicides and pesticide usage by using microbiology instead. Carzalia Valley Farms has reduced their use of glyphosate from 1,700 gallons per year to about 250 gallons per year. James uses satellite irrigation app to adjust application rates that improve the evapotranspiration for more efficient water use. The farming enterprise has begin using a robotic weeding machine; this machine uses laser thermal energy to destroy weeds without use of chemicals. Cover crops and reduced till are also a part of the model.
- James credits his new machines and innovative approach to farming for saving the farm during the pandemic when labor has been hard to come by.

# OUTSTANDING LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD

## JAMES JOHNSON, CARZALIA VALLEY FARMS

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# NMACD OUTSTANDING DISTRICT AWARD ROOSEVELT SWCD

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# OUTSTANDING DISTRICT 2021

## ROOSEVELT SWCD

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- Roosevelt SWCD has had a very active 2021, from selling shade balls, drip irrigation supplies, as well as annual tree sales. They are also paying off their district building which they share with FSA and NRCS.
- The district stays involved in local, regional and state NMACD meetings as well as their monthly district meetings which are in person and on zoom and El Llano Estacado RC&D meetings. Adding to their busy schedule, the district also sponsors 4-H and FFA judging contests. Supervisors have two major projects that contribute greatly to conservation throughout the region. The first being the Shade Ball Water Conservation District Project where they provide cost-share to local producers in the purchase of Shade Balls to conserve water in livestock water tanks. To date, the district has sold approximately 310,000 shade balls.

# OUTSTANDING DISTRICT AWARD SHADE BALL PROGRAM

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# OUTSTANDING DISTRICT WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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- The district along with Lea SWCD have been working on increasing rainfall in Southeastern New Mexico for the last 20 years. Funding for this program has been sporadic. As funding becomes available, the rain enhancement program moves forward. The district has the data that supports weather modification and a firm belief in the program. Last year the district received legislative funding to start a winter program around the snow ski basins to increase winter snowpack. Board supervisors put on educational workshops at both the NMACD Region 4 meeting and the Region 6 meeting to share their passion for moisture generation throughout NM. The district plans to work with SWCD's throughout New Mexico in bringing science-based technology to help mediate the drought conditions in our State.

# OUTSTANDING SWCD DISTRICT 2021

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# 2021 OUTSTANDING SWCD OF THE YEAR ROOSEVELT SWCD

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# OUTSTANDING FRIEND OF CONSERVATION GORDON (CORKY) HERKENHOFF

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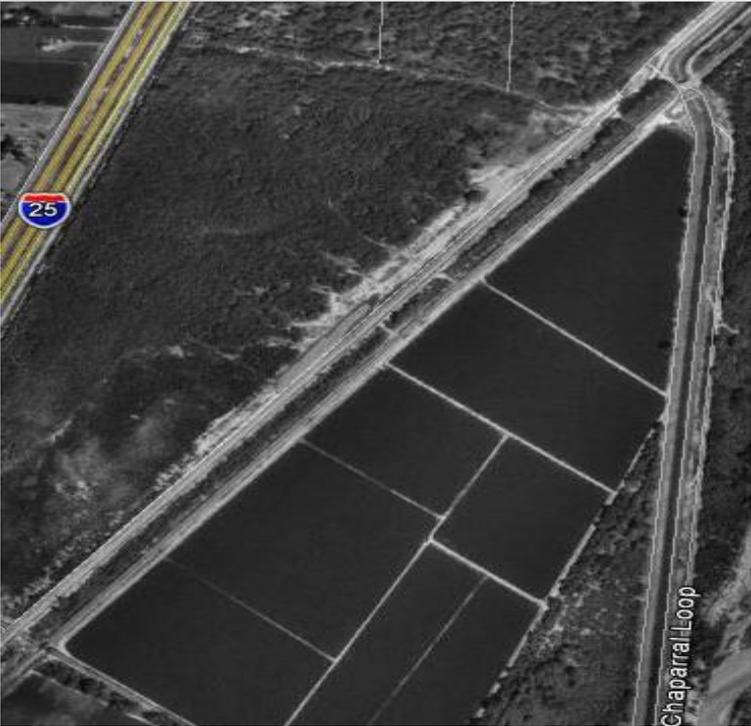
- Corky has been improving his 4<sup>th</sup> generation farm since the 1960's. In that time he has quadrupled its size from 139 acres to over 700. Nominated by the Socorro SWCD, it is the passion for conservation that stands out about Indian Hill Farms.
- The clearing of Salt Cedar and installation of concrete ditches has allowed the farm to become more resilient.
- The farm borders I-25 and serves as a wonderful visual for conservation for motorists traveling north.
- There is not one inch of dirt dirt ditch on the farm.



# OUTSTANDING FRIEND OF CONSERVATION

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Aerial Images of Salt Cedar turned to Alfalfa at Indian Hill Farm



1996 Salt Cedar

2017 in Alfalfa



# OUTSTANDING FRIEND OF CONSERVATION AWARD GORDON (CORKY) HERKENHOFF

Another impressive conservation effort made by Herkenhoff farm is to designate the entire Farm as a Wildlife Refuge. No cranes are chased off, and deer and elk are welcome to graze. Corky also left all of the old growth Cottonwood trees on his farm and has planted hundreds more. It is much more common for farmers to clear all the trees in favor of crops, but Corky sees them for what they are--an important part of his ecosystem. If a Cottonwood was in the way of a ditch, he poured the ditch around the dripline of the tree.

