



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Kristie Garcia
Director of Public Affairs, New Mexico Department of Agriculture
kgarcia@nmda.nmsu.edu
575-339-5011

July 1, 2021

**Food, agriculture industry encouraged to attend cybersecurity
webinar July 8**

NMDA, NMSU offer webinar free of charge

LAS CRUCES – The New Mexico food and agriculture industry is encouraged to attend a cybersecurity webinar at 3 p.m. Thursday, July 8. The Southwest Border Food Protection and Emergency Preparedness Center (Center) is offering the webinar free-of-charge to New Mexico businesses.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Current cyber threat landscape.
- Recent cyberattacks targeting or impacting the agriculture sector.
- Basic cyber hygiene recommendations operations can implement.

The Center is a collaboration between New Mexico State University (NMSU), the NMSU College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, the Cooperative Extension Service and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA).

The webinar will include a ransomware presentation from George Reeves, New Mexico's Cybersecurity Advisor for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Register for the webinar at <https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvc-6gqjliHtwClgpiCXluZXcHybRFQVRg>.

New Mexico Agriculture Secretary Jeff Witte said it's more important now than ever to be vigilant when it comes to cybersecurity.

“We rely on cyber connectivity more today than we realize – from the phones in our pockets, to the watches on our wrists, to the complex computer systems that guide our business transactions on a daily basis,” said Witte. “Unfortunately, we have recently seen what bad actors are capable of doing, and the food industry has not been immune to these cyberattacks. It's our priority at NMDA and at the NMSU Southwest Border Food Protection and Emergency Preparedness Center to inform and educate the

industry in order to avoid any damage or disruptions to businesses or the food supply chain from cyber events. We must all take appropriate steps to protect this critical infrastructure in our own businesses and in our personal lives.”

For more information about the webinar, please contact Marshal Wilson, NMDA’s Agricultural Production Services Assistant Division Director and co-director of the Center. mwilson@nmda.nmsu.edu or 575-339-5035.

To learn more about the Southwest Border Food Protection and Emergency Preparedness Center visit <https://aces.nmsu.edu/preparedness/>.

###

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture benefits the public by promoting the viability and advancement of New Mexico agriculture and affiliated industries. The agency promotes a fair marketplace, food protection, marketing, and economic development; supports the beneficial use and conservation of natural resources; and works cooperatively with the public and private sectors. For grant cycles beginning in 2019, the agency has administered over \$1.5 million in funds to support agriculture initiatives in the state through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and Healthy Soil Program combined.

Find us at:

www.nmda.nmsu.edu

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @NMDeptAg

YouTube: NMDeptAg

LinkedIn: New Mexico Department of Agriculture

[Haga clic aquí para la versión en español.](#)

