

NAVAJO RC&D



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Many Farms Teacher Uses Navajo RC&D Grant

If you drive through the Many Farms area you will notice that there are more than a few crop fields standing idle. It appears that farming is not as popular as it once was. One of the challenges to this community is: what is the future of agricultural crop production?



Ernesto Zamudio is the Many Farms High School agricultural education teacher. He thinks often about the future of farming and his students. His Teaching is "hands-on" using the latest technology. Ernesto is a tireless advocate for youth, innovation and agriculture.

Mr. Zamudio was awarded a grant through the Navajo Resource Conservation and Development Inc. to expand his program. Navajo RC&D is

a non-profit corporation dedicated to improving Navajo communities. The grant complimented Mr. Zamudio's existing curriculum and provided instruction in the principles of crop production.

The Many Farms High School students that were in Mr. Zamudio's class reported on the knowledge they gained in soil science, crop science, irrigation water management and pest management. Upon completion of the program students were able to:

- Identify and describe soil properties
- Demonstrate how to use Soil Survey information
- Describe basic soil fertility information
- Identify basic crop nutrient management concepts
- Describe tools for crop selection
- Demonstrate knowledge of crop production

- Demonstrate knowledge of harvest and storage management
- Describe produce marketing concepts and estimate value of crops
- Identify crop water requirements
- Describe soil water holding capacity
- Identify methods of irrigation
- Describe how to schedule irrigation
- Demonstrate knowledge of weed identification
- Describe principles of weed management
- Demonstrate knowledge of insect and disease identification



Students then shared their knowledge with their families and their communities which would help to revitalize interest in crop production.



*The Navajo RC&D Mission
To develop partnerships through the spirit of volunteerism to
promote social, economic and environmentally initiated area
plans in communities through education and networking.*

*The Vision
To help improve the quality of life in harmony with mother earth
through demonstration and education of the Navajo People.*