¡Hay, Chihuahua! Taste of Mexico
A traveling workshop: its outcomes and applications

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Introduction-In August of 2002, New Mexico State University’s Department of Agricultural and Extension Education (AXED) collaborated with New Mexico Agriculture in the Classroom (NMAITC) and PNM (a public service company of New Mexico) to sponsor a three-day traveling workshop into the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. The major goal of the workshop was educating teachers how to integrate international agricultural studies into K-12 curriculum to teach language arts, math, science, and social studies.

Description-The workshop entitled ¡Hay, Chihuahua! Taste of Mexico was designed to help teachers develop an understanding of the principles of Mexican agriculture that can be used to teach basic skills. This workshop was unique in that it was a three day trip into the Mexican state of Chihuahua, and an opportunity to visit some of the premier agricultural operations in the region, as well as some historical landmarks along the way. The journey took the participants to Nuevo Casas Grandes, the Pacquime Indian Ruins, San Buenaventura, and the Governor’s Palace in Chihuahua, with many other exciting and educational stops along the way.

Program Planning and Funding-This program was a collaboration with NMSU’s Department of Agricultural and Extension Education and the New Mexico Agriculture in the Classroom program. It was open to k-12 teachers from across the state. A limit of 25 participants was set to accommodate transportation and information dissemination needs. It was also a manageable number of participants for a three-day trip. During the planning phase of the trip the committee enlisted the help of Benjamin Segovia, a marketing specialist for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Mr. Segovia specializes in international trade and relations, and spends much of his time traveling in Mexico. He coordinated the scheduled stops on the tour and arranged for accommodations while the workshop was in Chihuahua. Funding for the workshop was providing through a grant by Power New Mexico (PNM). NMAITC has in the past worked with PNM for funding of different workshops and programs.
**Outcome**-The basis for this project stems from the desire to increase international awareness and relations with Mexico and integrate these ideas into classrooms throughout New Mexico. The workshop was advertised and open to New Mexico teachers grades K-12. This program in particular addressed the problem of access for many of the teachers who attended the workshop, and gave them an opportunity to travel into Chihuahua and see its agriculture. Most of these teachers who attended would not have done so on their own.

**Summary**-One way to bring about peace in the world, is to bring people and cultures together, so that an understanding and personal relationship/experience can be developed. It is much harder to "hate" someone that you have actually met, or "hate" a culture that you have experienced first hand. Agriculture is something every country, culture and peoples have in common. Therefore, it is a "tie that binds", and people seem to be curious and interested in foods and food processes that are different from their own. With New Mexico being so close to the Mexican border, many of our foods and agricultural products come from Mexico. Elementary teachers are required to teach a variety of subjects; math, science, and language arts for example. Agriculture is a perfect subject for social studies. All countries and peoples produce food. Identifying foods grown, how those foods are raised, harvested, processed, and eaten, along with the cultural significance they provide increases understanding and awareness. Because students and teachers all eat, it is a relevant topic that provides a vehicle for incorporating agriculture into their curriculum.