

# Farming and Ranching

Sierra County is home to a thriving agricultural industry, providing 46% of the county's income. The fertile soil of the Rio Grande Valley provides thousands of acres of rich farmland. Life-giving water is diverted from the Rio Grande to irrigate farmland from early spring throughout the summer. Principal products include the state's signature crop, chiles, as well as onions, tomatoes, pecans and alfalfa. In addition, Sierra County's ranchland supports tens of thousands of beef cattle and milk cows. Ranchland covers a full 4093 square miles of private and BLM land.

A drive through the southern part of the county reveals bountiful croplands stretching for miles. The area surrounding the small agricultural communities of Caballo, Derry and Arrey is well worth a visit. See vast fields of chile plants in neat rows and groves of pecan trees growing in precision. High stacks of hay bales signal the area's many dairy farms. Enjoy a delicious "home-cooked" meal at a local eatery. Stop at an outdoor produce stand and take home freshly roasted chiles. Much of the Hatch chile crop is grown in Sierra County.



Sierra County's agricultural industry produces a colorful and bountiful supply of crops and livestock.