



Rio Arriba County Assessor

Arthur Rodarte
County Assessor
Tierra Amarilla / Española
Ron Smith
Chief Deputy Assessor
Tierra Amarilla / Española

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND POLICY

Rio Arriba is a county with many types of properties. It is therefore quite difficult to classify and/or appraise agricultural land without the assistance of the landowners. Grazing and irrigated land are the two most common types of agricultural lands.

Classification of agricultural property will be determined using the guidelines set forth by NMSA 7-36-20 and NMSA 7-36-21 and PTD Regulations 3.6.5.27 and 3.6.5.28. Agricultural use is defined as “the use of land for the production of plants, crops, trees, forest products, orchard crops, livestock, poultry or fish.”

Application for agricultural use shall be made to the Assessor on forms specifically designed for that purpose. Forms are available and may be requested at the Assessor’s Office or obtained on-line at the Rio Arriba County web site, http://www.rio-arriba.org/pdf/3/agricultural_land_application.pdf. Any change in classification shall be made to the Assessor’s Office within 30 days of the date of mailing of the notices of valuation.

Grazing land shall consist of 50 acres or more in order to qualify. In addition, privately owned elk and deer qualify for classifying land as grazing land. Grazing land will be valued at \$6.00 per acre.

Rio Arriba County (Class B Over)

Carrying Capacity (as determined by NMSU) is 13½ animal units per section (640 acres)
 $640 / 13\frac{1}{2} = 47.40$ acres per animal unit (rounded up to 50 acres).

Irrigated land must be one acre or larger and will be valued at \$165 per acre.

Property located within a subdivision will not qualify for agricultural classification regardless of the use by the owner. The primary use of subdivided property is residential and lots will be assessed at fair market value.

The landowner is required to report a change in classification to the Assessor unless livestock is reported annually to retain the agricultural use of the land.

If the landowner fails to report the change in classification and the Assessor has sufficient evidence of the change, they must change the classification.

If land is not used primarily for agricultural purposes, the classification will be changed to reflect the current use of the land.

For more detailed explanations, please refer to the statutes and regulations cited above.

Please feel free to contact the Assessor’s Office should questions arise.

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