



Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District

Winter NEWSLETTER 2023

FY2024



El Vado Lake is one of the reservoirs that stores water up stream from the Rio Grande. Irrigators down south rely on snow melt water from El Vado to irrigate. As of this year they are improving the dam and there is no telling when or if we get water this year.

Storage levels at El Vado Lake are currently 1,790 acre-ft, about 3% of normal. The average for this time of year is approximately 83,277.3acre-ft. Maximum recorded Storage since record keeping began in 1974 was 1986-06-26 when levels reached 190,261 acre-ft. Lowest recorded Storage was 2023-04-15 when levels receded to 899 acre-ft.

As of the new year 2024 The MRGCD is offering to farmers the following program. Farmers must have a minimum of one acre to apply.

Reasons why this can be a great program:

If you are a small farmer that doesn't rely on cash crops This can be a great program for you .

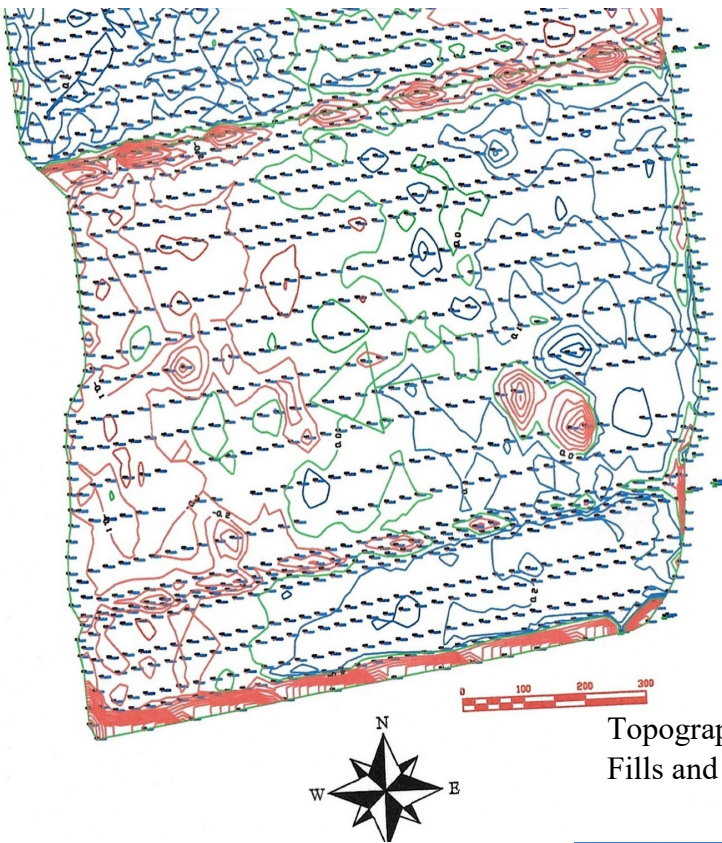
Fallowing can be great for the soil . Allowing the soil to have a specific rest period gives it time to replenish nutrients which can be leached from certain plants or regular irrigation. It also saves money on fertilizers and irrigation. Fallowing the soil can cause potassium and phosphorus from deep below to rise toward the soil surface where it can be used by crops later. Other benefits of fallowing soil are that it raises levels of carbon, nitrogen and organic matter, improves moisture holding capacity, and increases beneficial microorganisms in the soil. Studies have shown that a field that has been allowed to lie fallow for just a year produces a higher crop yield when it is planted.

<https://www.mrgcd.com/fallowing-program/>



COSTSHARE

Laser Leveling



Topographic map that shows Red= cuts Blue = Fills and Green= where it doesn't need work.

Need your field to be laser leveled? With our Agricultural Cost Share program our maximum cost share reimbursement is up to 6,000 dollars.



In production completed job

Simply schedule and appointment to do and Elevation survey on your field to see how much dirt needs to be moved on your field to best conserve water.

Important Upcoming Dates

December

11th Board meeting

21st First day of Winter

25th Christmas Day Office closed

January 2024

1st New Year Day (office closed)

8th Board meeting @12:00pm

15th Martin Luther king Jr. Day (Office closed)

February 2024

12th Board Meeting @12:00pm

19 Presidents Day (office closed)

March 2024

10th Daylight Savings

11th Board Meeting @12:00pm



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

