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NEWS RELEASE

September 12, 2012

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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT PROVIDING OVERSIGHT FOR FOOD SAFETY AT THE NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR

Albuquerque, NM - The New Mexico State Fair opens today and runs through September 23rd. The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Food Program will be inspecting all food serving vendors throughout the fair to ensure the health and safety of all fairgoers. There are approximately 140 food vendors this year including both temporary and annually permitted food vendors.

"Our primary concern is to make sure food is properly handled and prepared for fairgoers," said NMED Environmental Health Bureau Chief Frank Fiore. "The food booth owners are aware of our instructions and know we are available onsite for assistance."

Food vendors are required to attend a food safety training provided by NMED prior to opening at the fair. NMED will have eight inspectors at the Fair during the first few days, and then rotate a smaller number for the remaining days. Inspectors are already inspecting food vendor booths, checking for any food safety concerns and advising vendors on any last-minute glitches like electrical, water and gas connections, foods out-of-temp, sanitizer levels etc.

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