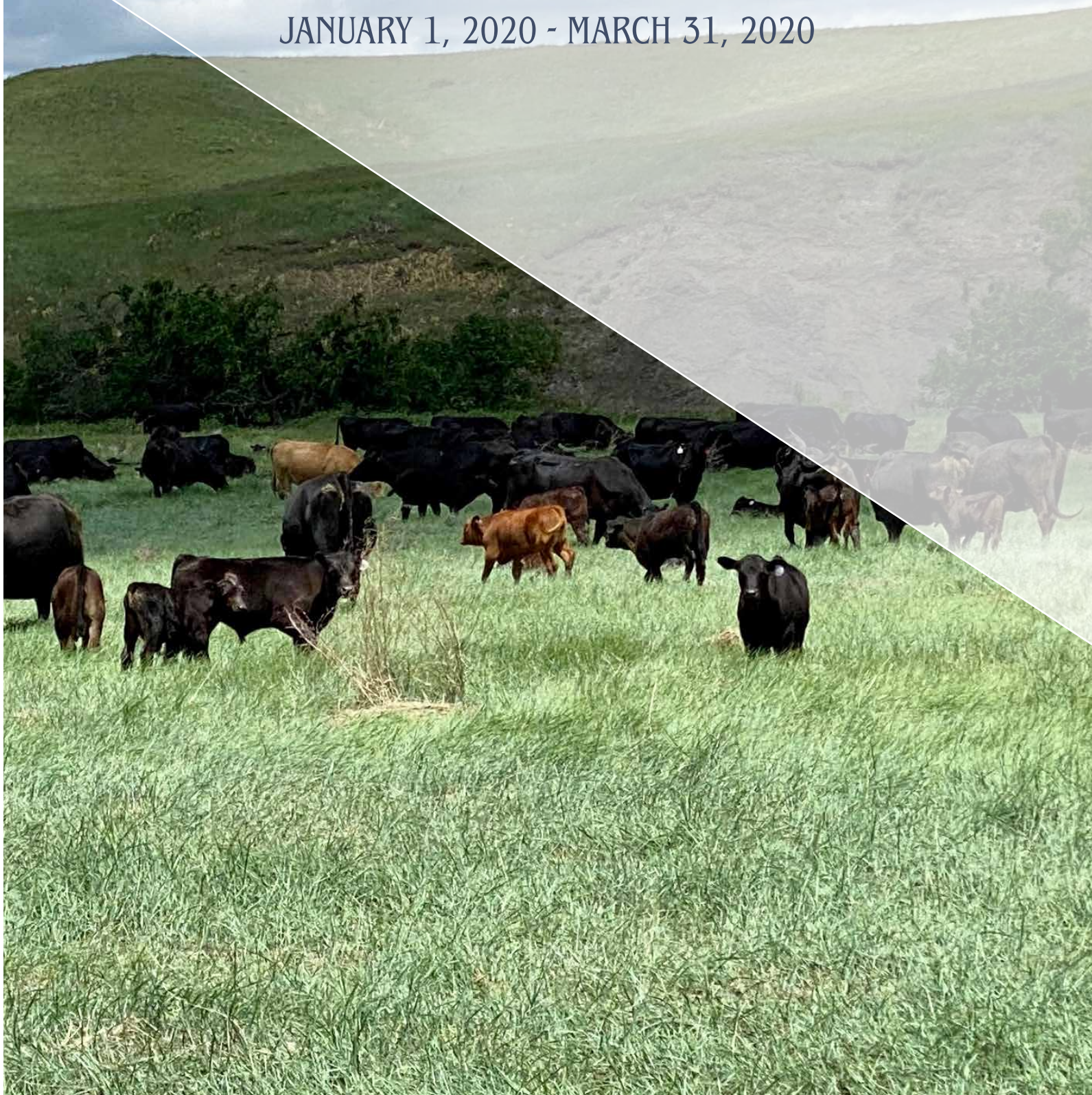


1ST QUARTER

JANUARY 1, 2020 - MARCH 31, 2020





STIMULATING RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR TRIBAL LAND MANAGEMENT

PACIFIC REGION

On Dec. 5, 2019, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Pacific Region and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS-California), held a Tribal Outreach and Technical Session as part of an existing five-year agreement at Wilton Rancheria near Sacramento, Calif.

The session brought together representatives from United Auburn Indian Community, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok, Lone Band of Miwok, Greenville Rancheria, Colfax-Todd's Valley Tribe, Wilton Rancheria, Buena Vista Rancheria, and an intertribal organization. All Tribes in attendance had not historically been involved with NRCS programming. The day started with a discussion on various land management scenarios that fall under the Tribal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in California. The primary resource concerns brought up by the Tribes involved fuel load reduction, cultural burning, and traditional plant restoration.

After the morning session, Tribal representatives were paired with planners from the field offices that serve each Tribe to begin rudimentary planning discussions. This model has been refined throughout the years and has really assisted with stimulating future contracts. Oftentimes a follow up site visit is established at the outreach event and this occurred several times from this event. After lunch, the scope of the day changed to enable a Tribal representative to present to the NRCS staff in the room on key considerations when managing for traditional plants.

After this session, meetings were established with nearly all the communities to further discussions around the conservation planning process. The IAC Pacific Region attended a few of these follow up meetings and was excited to note the interest in re-

ceiving both technical assistance and follow up on financial assistance needs. This effort, among others IAC has been involved with, directly assists with increasing engagement with NRCS. Outreach and technical assistance efforts throughout the last two years, in coordination with NRCS State Tribal Liaisons and Leadership, have contributed to nearly tripling Tribal EQIP contract allocations in FY2020 to more than \$1,600,000 in California.



PACIFIC REGION
KEIR JOHNSON-REYES
Technical Assistance Specialist
(916) 995-3209
keir@indianag.org

2ND QUARTER

APRIL 1, 2020 - JUNE 31, 2020

IGNITING SOLUTIONS

PACIFIC REGION



On January 29, 2020, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Pacific Region brought together representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service – California (NRCS-CA), including the State Forester, State Rangeland Specialist, Woodland District Conservationist, State Tribal Liaisons, and representatives from the Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD), Cache Creek Conservancy, and local Tribal gatherers, to expose NRCS technical leadership to a cultural burn (prescribed fire) site near Woodland, Calif.

The intention of this meeting was to expose the NRCS team to the functional purposes behind small-scale, cultural burning that supports traditional gathering stands utilized by local Tribal land managers for food, fiber, and ceremonial uses. With catastrophic fires only increasing in California, prescribed fire techniques, (whose origins are derived from indigenous land management practices), have gained a lot of traction with local, state, and federal fire and land management agencies. However, for Tribal communities in California, the scale and approach to prescribed fire often differs from the landscape level treatments state and federal agencies deal in.

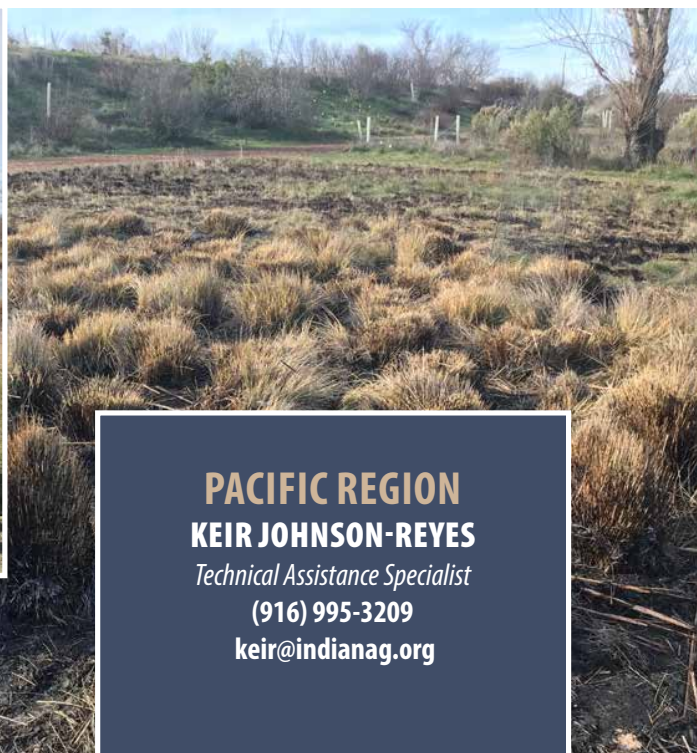
This creates an incongruence between agency prescribed fire concepts and Tribal ones. Currently, any prescribed fire practice associated with an NRCS-CA contract requires the presence of an individual holding a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type II certification. Very few individuals in the entire state hold the level

of certification required by NRCS to implement prescribed fire practices as part of an EQIP contract. This can result in Tribal fire and land management departments being unable to access these helpful resources. This certification requirement does not take small-scale, cultural burns/prescribed fire treatments into account. A primary objective of this meeting was to stimulate dialogue around this issue.

The site visit took place on property managed by the Cache Creek Conservancy, in coordination with local Tribal gatherers and land managers. The various burn treatment areas spurred much consideration – from red bud shrubs, deer grass stands to tule beds along a waterway. “Lightbulbs” switch on in the heads of several NRCS representatives who realized the scales they were used to dealing in did not align with those of many Tribal communities throughout the state.

Conversations were started around how NRCS-CA may reexamine the certification requirements for small-scale burns within Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) management contexts. A collective understanding was also increased around fire’s role in the evolution and productivity of traditional plant, tree, shrub, and native grass species.

Often, exposure to another vantage point can become a starting point to transformative change. IAC leverages partnerships and opportunities to contribute to such ends.



PACIFIC REGION
KEIR JOHNSON-REYES
Technical Assistance Specialist
(916) 995-3209
keir@indianag.org

3RD QUARTER

JULY 1, 2020 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2020





DRAWING UPON IAC'S NETWORK TO SUPPORT BUDDING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY PROJECTS

PACIFIC REGION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) retooled to online and remote platforms to continue offering exceptional programming and technical assistance to Tribal communities and individual producers.

On June 26, 2020, IAC Pacific Region held a Tribal Food Sovereignty Program Examples Webinar for the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians who are exploring options for developing robust food security programming to support local food access and economic development goals. Several meetings occurred prior to this event, which was part of a strategy implemented by IAC Pacific Region, to expose Tribal representatives to key concepts pertaining to planning, funding, program sustainability, and designing for community impact.

effective program models spanning from community outreach, nutritional initiatives, farmers markets, food distribution and more.

Next, the Klamath Trinity Resource Conservation District (KTRCD) presented on the structure of the Tribal RCD, its establishment as a Tribal non-profit under the Hoopa Valley Tribal business codes, and the functionality of this type of entity as a stand-alone organization that operates alongside various Tribal department activities. KTRCD program examples were offered that cover youth programming, direct assistance to Tribal producers, USDA technical assistance and food security initiatives designed to empower Tribal members to grow, gather, process, and store their own foods.

Finally, the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation presented on Tribal community garden and food forest programming that has involved the Tribe's education and natural resources departments, a host of community volunteers, partnerships with the local community college, and other local organizations. This presentation focused on the intricacies of certain funding opportunities and strategies for maintaining sustainable community-based agriculture initiatives.

This remote event was recorded and has ultimately been drawn upon as a resource for other Tribal communities seeking to respond to food security needs during the pandemic and beyond. IAC is appreciative of the continued

partnerships with so many Tribal community leaders, who are willing to lend a hand to other Tribes to support food security initiatives and the growing unity inherent in Indian Country's food sovereignty movements.

Three Tribal programs were selected to offer remote presentations covering the above topic areas, with a focus on the nuts and bolts of program development. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agency resources were discussed, including Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development, along with other public and private funding sources. The Bishop Food Sovereignty Program presented first and highlighted the components of their multifaceted and

Program Components & Staff

Production Sites

Cultural Center Garden

Elders' Garden

Farmers' Markets

Thursday Community Market

Farm Stands

Elders CSA

Mobile Market

Education

FoodCorps Garden Ed.

Free Trainings & Workshops

Traditional Foods Partnerships



Program Coordinator



Garden Specialist, Cultural Center Garden



Garden Specialist, Elders' Garden



Community Market Manager



Food Corps Service Member



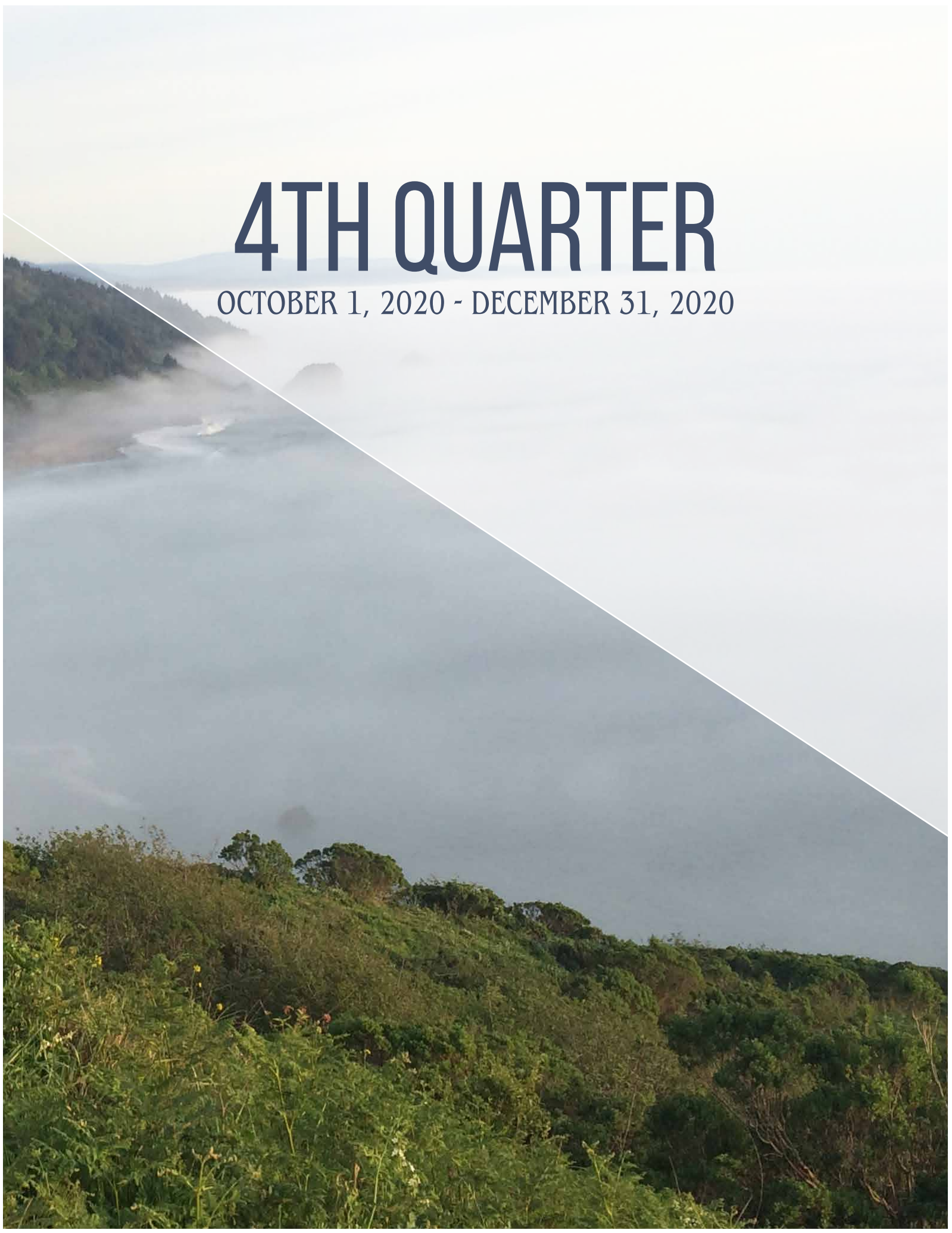
Family Formation Youth Worker

8:44 / 1:57:44

PACIFIC REGION
KEIR JOHNSON-REYES
Technical Assistance Specialist
(916) 995-3209
keir@indianag.org

4TH QUARTER

OCTOBER 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020





IAC CARES: AN ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT TO SUPPORT TRIBAL FOOD SECURITY

PACIFIC REGION

With the passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in late March of 2020, eight billion dollars from the Coronavirus Relief Fund was allocated to Tribal communities across the country. Due to staple food shortages, long wait times at meat processing facilities, and increased prices/scarcity of common materials central to some agricultural operations, Tribal leaders from around the country sought to prioritize food security related infrastructure in their COVID response plans. The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) received an increase of inquiries from around the country and our IAC Technical Assistance Specialists (TAs) responded with multiple forms of assistance. In June and July, IAC Pacific Region TA and IAC Alaska TA received numerous inquiries along these lines and ultimately approached organizational leadership to develop a remote educational campaign. The primary intention was to provide Tribal leaders and CARES Act Tribal committee members exposure to some of Indian Country's finest examples of successful agriculture/food system infrastructure projects. Many communities were able to earmark substantial assets, due to CARES Act assistance, but may not have had much experience in developing infrastructure for agriculture at the community/regional scale. It became necessary to magnify awareness around critical decisions that need to be made, common issues, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/partner resources that can assist with the sustainability of projects at any scale. "IAC CARES" was born out of the initial scoping process and developed in coordination with all of IAC's programs.



Prior to the establishment of this initiative, IAC had conducted a national survey initiative that highlighted COVID impacts on Tribal producers, food companies, communities, and grocers/food hubs. Preliminary data helped to inform the topic areas that would be covered in the IAC CARES initiative which included: meat processing infrastructure, greenhouse infrastructure, commercial kitchen/food processing infrastructure, and strategies for increasing local and traditional food access. Eight webinars covering the above topics were provided and engagement was very strong. More than 2,500 engagements occurred which included social media views, YouTube views, and general participation. Many COVID response food projects are springing up in Indian Country and positive feedback has been provided around what has been gained from this campaign.

zoom

IAC CARES: Commercial Kitchens - Shared screen with speaker view



PACIFIC REGION
KEIR JOHNSON-REYES
Technical Assistance Specialist
(916) 995-3209
keir@indianag.org