The Intertribal Agriculture Council proudly introduces the youth drum group, Willow Creek Singers, to lead our opening ceremony with song and good energy.

The drum group’s leader, Leland M. Lukin, shares his story:

Oki. My name is Leland Michael Lukin, and I am an enrolled Blackfeet member. I reside on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana, and my Indian name is Guskagudce Suikamapii, meaning Star Boy. I am eighteen years of age. I attend the Browning Indians Public School. I am currently a senior and will graduate this spring in May 2024. My goal is to attend Blackfeet Community College and then pursue my degree in the health field at the University of Montana in Missoula. My parents are Michel Michell and Alan Lukin from Browning.

My hobbies are singing Indian, making drumsticks, and attending ceremonies and celebrations throughout Indian Country. I have a youth drum group, and we are called Willow Creek Singers. There are six of us who help sing at high school functions and Community events, and we are very proud to be asked to do so. We were honored to be chosen to host singers for two powwows. The songs I sing are the flag songs and society songs taught to me by one of my good friends, Josh Horn. He has shown me many of the songs composed by my great-grandfather, Sam Spotted Eagle, and the late Honored Earl Old Person. It is an honor to be awarded an intertribal Agriculture Council scholarship and to be able to be a part of this conference.

Thank you,
Leland M. Lukin
FEEDING OUR PEOPLE. GROWING OUR ECONOMIES. BUILDING OUR FUTURE.

NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FUND

PROUD SPONSOR OF IAC

The Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) is a private, charitable trust serving Native farmers and ranchers created from the historic Keeseepepa v. Villack litigation settlement.

The Trust’s Mission shall be to make grants to Eligible Grant Recipients to fund the provision of:

- business assistance,
- technical support,
- agricultural education,
- advocacy services

NEXT AVAILABLE GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE IN 2024

NAAF 2024 INTERNSHIP

NAAF offers paid Fall, Spring, and Summer internships for currently enrolled college students to gain hands-on experience with their university/institution. Interns will gain insight into the mission of the NAAF mission as they build organizational skills and complete special projects with experienced NAAF Staff. Applications for Spring 2024 are due December 15, 2023.

WHO CAN WE FUND?

- 501c3 Organizations
- Tribal Governments
- Education Institutions
- Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs)

Media Contact:
media@nativeamericanagriculturefund.org
Grantmaking Contact:
grants@nativeamericanagriculturefund.org
NativeAmericanAgricultureFund.org

USDA Supports Conservation on Tribal Lands.

To learn more, scan the QR Code to find your USDA Service Center or visit farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
MONDAY, DEC 11, 2023

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: REGISTRATION
LOCATION: BALLROOM
Youth, chaperones, and young professionals will check in and receive their welcome bag, per diem, and direction for the next day/week. Those who are unable due to specific circumstances will register early in the morning on Tuesday.

PUTTING TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY IN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Akiptan's mission is to transform Native agriculture and food economies by delivering creative capital, leading paradigm changes, and enhancing producer prosperity across Indian Country.

The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative focuses on putting Tribal sovereignty in food sovereignty, promoting Tribally driven solutions to revitalize and advance traditional food systems and diversified economic development throughout Indian Country.

IFAI provides Tribal governments, producers, and food businesses with resources, policy research, and strategic legal analysis as a foundation for building robust food economies.

Learn about IFAI’s FREE resources, trainings, youth programming, and more online:

indigenousfoodandag.com
IAC serves as the nation's leading voice on Native agricultural policies and programs that revitalize and advance Native food systems and economic development throughout Indian Country.

IAC's programmatic offerings include the following:
- Legal and policy development
- USDA technical assistance
- Natural resources management
- Domestic and international marketing support
- Regenerative financing assistance
- Native youth in food and agriculture leadership development

**USDA's Discrimination Financial Assistance Program**

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP) is a limited-time program that Congress authorized in Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act in August 2022 for the purpose of providing financial assistance to ranchers, farmers, and forest landowners determined to have experienced discrimination in USDA lending programs prior to January 1, 2021.

**Keepsage Participants are Eligible to Participate Based on the Same Claim(s).**

**IAC's Role in USDA's DFAP**

IAC is serving as a "cooperator" to ensure that the latest information about the Discrimination Financial Assistance Program reaches Tribal producers and to provide direct assistance to Tribal producers during virtual and in-person events throughout the application period. IAC has no role in processing the DFAP applications or making determinations on discrimination claims.

**Deadlines**

January 13, 2024: DFAP Application Submission Deadline

DFAP Application Available at [https://22007apply.gov/](https://22007apply.gov/)

Learn how YOU can get involved!

[indianag.org](http://indianag.org)
TUESDAY, DEC 12, 2023

7:30 AM - 8:15 AM: REGISTRATION
LOCATION: BALLROOM
Registration for those who missed on Monday.

9:00AM-12:00PM GENERAL SESSION IN THE PEARL THEATER

8:30 AM
Youth and young professionals meet in the lobby at 8:30 AM to prepare for the flag procession in the Pearl Theater

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Flag Procession: Youth and Young Professionals
Essay Contest finalists will be formally awarded and asked to read their essays.
Awards presented to youth essay contest finalists and honorable mentions

LUNCH - 12:00 PM
Banquet Luncheon by Chef Crystal Wahpepah

ALL YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE VIEW ROOM OF THE FANTASY TOWER

1:30 PM  IAC Law and Policy provide a Farm Bill overview and answer questions related to the Essay Contest topic. Abi Fain, Chief Legal & Policy Officer and Ridge Howell, Counsel

2:30 PM  IAC youth programs overview with Elaini Vargas, Youth Programs Director. Presentations from Summer interns, Letkwu Moore Stanger and Delaney Schroeder Echavarria, as well as Native Youth Advisory Council Great Plains member, Calico Ducheneaux.

3:30 PM  Caucus Meeting Announcement by Keir Johnson-Reyes, IAC Chief Stakeholder Engagement Officer

4:00 PM WORKSHOP: “How to Apply for an FSA Youth Loan.” USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Jennifer Perez, National Outreach and Education Specialist and Tribal Liaison

TUESDAY, DEC 12, 2023

4:30 PM  Directions for Tradeshow walkthrough and the following day by Elaini Vargas, Youth Programs Director

5:00 PM  Tradeshow walkthrough

5:30 PM  End of day
The soil ecosystem in crop fields is facing significant challenges due to modern agricultural practices. The relentless impact of farming has taken its toll on soil health. However, by reintroducing and revitalizing the natural biological life within the soil, farmers have the power to restore their soil to its former pre-farming days. It’s important to recognize that there is no single “silver bullet” solution that can magically reverse damage. What sets Biotech Innovations apart is our approach, which is data-driven, by providing in-depth soil and tissue testing. We commission a program that works best for the farmer. While there are a number of individual products that work together in harmony, they also work with other products farmers may use. Our products will give the farmer an arsenal that will protect, restore, and improve the soil biology. The benefit of Biotech Innovations products extend far beyond soil restoration. As you witness the transformation of your soil, you’ll also experience increased crop yields, improved plant health, and ultimately, a more sustainable and profitable farming operation. We are dedicated to delivering real results and empowering farmers to unlock the full potential of their land and save money in the process.

The Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) is a network assembled by the USDA’s National Organic Program to support transitioning and organic producers with mentorship and technical assistance.

Get Support to Go Organic
Apply today to be connected to an organic mentor, find technical assistance, and learn about organic-focused events in your region.

Are you transitioning to certified organic production? You don’t have to do it alone.

**The Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP)** connects producers interested in organic certification with experienced organic producer mentors, technical assistance resources, and organic-focused regional events. Mentors guide transitioning producers through the process of organic certification and share their expertise in organic farming, intending to become certified organic?

- Get real-time advice and troubleshooting support from an experienced certified organic producer via site visits and regular communication.
- Receive a $500 stipend for participating in the mentorship program.
- Connect to valuable, free technical assistance to help with paperwork and compliance.

Get connected with an organic mentor by completing an application online at go.coop.org/mentor-apply. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Learn more about Technical support resources and regional events at www.organictransition.org.

Contact toppmentorship@cooop.org with questions or for more information.

Scan to learn more about Northwest TOPP events.
ALL YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE VIEW ROOM OF THE FANTASY TOWER

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM  Regional Caucus Meetings (optional for youth, mandatory for NYAC)

8:00 AM  Food and Mood - Nourishing the Mind, Body, and Spirit with Traci Pole, Assistant Regional Director, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

9:00 AM  Akiptan - Skya

9:30 AM  Advocacy and Action: Youth Fighting for Food Sovereignty with Jayden Lim and youth panel, California Indian Museum and Cultural Center (CIMCC)

10:00 AM  Break, drinks and snacks provided

10:15 AM  continued Advocacy and Action: Youth Fighting for Food Sovereignty

10:30 AM  Tonka Youth institute with Zintkala Eiring and youth panel

11:30 AM  Teaching Weaving While Healing with Alice Lincoln-Cook

LUNCH - 12:00 PM  Pizza Party (lunch provided): Meet and Greet with IAC’s Regional Technical Assistance Specialists

1:50 PM  continued Teaching Weaving While Healing with Alice Lincoln-Cook

2:00 PM INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP: Basics of Risk Management and Crop Insurance with RMA Risk Management Specialist Jeremy Not Afraid & Custom Ag Solution’s Brett Crosby

2:40 PM  Break, drinks and snacks provided

3:00 PM  USDA AMS with Sara Hernandez - Careers with the Department of Agriculture

3:30 PM  USDA NASS: Sharing professional development opportunities with Troy Marshall

4:00 PM  NRCS Internship opportunities and Professional round tables with Rick Tafoya and team

5:30 PM  Survey, reflection, share outs, instructions for the next day

5:45 PM  End of day
8:30 AM    Empathy in the Workplace with Celya Glowacki
9:30 AM     University of Nevada Reno, Do I Belong? with Dr. Kari Emm
10:30 AM    Closing youth track with a survey and reflection share out
10:45 AM    Collectively walk over to the Pearl Theater for conference closing ceremony
11:30 AM    End of day

THURSDAY, DEC 14, 2023

ALL YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE VIEW ROOM OF THE FANTASY TOWER

8:30 AM    Empathy in the Workplace with Celya Glowacki
9:30 AM     University of Nevada Reno, Do I Belong? with Dr. Kari Emm
10:30 AM    Closing youth track with a survey and reflection share out
10:45 AM    Collectively walk over to the Pearl Theater for conference closing ceremony
11:30 AM    End of day
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**American Indian Alaska Native Employee Association (AIAEAA) is proud to be a 2023 youth sponsor!**

Visit the AIAEAA Facebook page for more information about membership opportunities.

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**American Indian Alaska Native Employee Association (AIAEAA)**

Join AIAEAA and support our initiatives!

- Assist students with internships with NRCS
- Network with tribal elders, representatives across the country
- Fellowships and internships opportunities
- Memberships

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**MARBLESEED ORGANIC FARMING CONFERENCE**

Roots and Rhizomes: Growing Together
February 22-24, 2024 | La Crosse, Wis.

Registration now open!