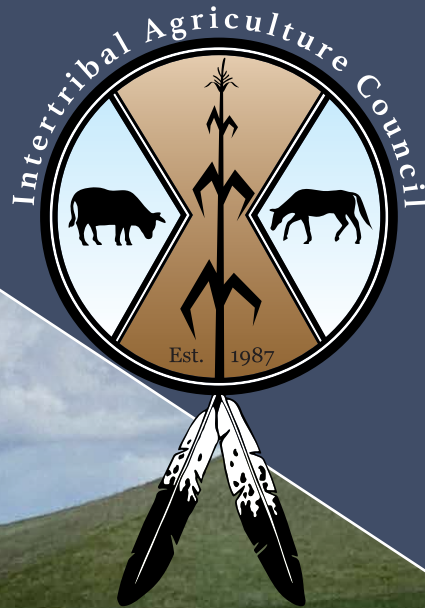


SUCCESS STORIES VOL. II

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL



INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL'S TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE AND YOUTH PROGRAMS SUCCESS STORIES

PHOTO: GREAT PLAINS REGION



WELCOME

2020 - Resiliency through Agriculture

The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) was founded in 1987 to pursue and promote the conservation, development and use of our agricultural resources for the betterment of our people. We recognize and understand the challenges facing our members and we are working tirelessly, along with you, and on your behalf.

During these unprecedented challenging times, IAC's commitment to providing technical assistance and sharing resources remains at the forefront of our effort. We will continue focusing on our mission of providing support for our members so that we can strengthen the ability to use our own resources so that our people, communities and nations will be resilient and vibrant now and in the future.

This collection of the past year's success stories illustrate how IAC is reaching participants to utilize available resources to improve their operations. The stories highlight achievements and progress made possible through our members and partners who have a shared mission and commitment to achieve long-lasting benefits.

We are proud of the successes achieved by the people we serve. Thank you again for your commitment and partnerships. We will not only get through these challenges, but we will resiliently thrive.

Enjoy the stories of this past year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Kari Jo Lawrence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kari" being more prominent.

Kari Jo Lawrence

Director of Programs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FIRST QUARTER

OCTOBER 1- DECEMBER 31, 20197

SECOND QUARTER

JANUARY 1- MARCH 31, 2020 21

THIRD QUARTER

APRIL 1- JUNE 30, 2020..... 33

FOURTH QUARTER

JULY 1- SEPTEMBER 30, 2020..... 45

LEGEND

The circular identifying icons from our Mission below will be used on each success story to show what kind of success was achieved.



LEGAL AND POLICY



FOOD SYSTEMS



ECONOMICS



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



CONSERVATION AND PRODUCT INNOVATION



COMMUNICATION



MISSION

TO PROVIDE A UNIFIED EFFORT TO PROMOTE CHANGE IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE FOR THE BENEFIT OF INDIAN PEOPLE

Intertribal Agriculture Council | www.indianag.org | Tel: (406) 259-3525

Legal and Policy

- Advocacy
- Research
- Policy Creation
- Federal Accountability

Professional Development

- Education Scholarship
- Internships
- Apprenticeships
- Employment Placement Pathways
- Research Experiences
- Staff Development
- Mentorship
- Native Youth Food Sovereignty Alliance (NYFSA)
- Community Engagement

Food Systems

- Access Delivery
- AIF
- Value-Added
- Needs Assessment
- Health and Nutrition
- Trademark
- Product Catalog
- Infrastructure

Conservation and Production Innovation

- Education and Outreach
- Peer to Peer
- Producer Scholarships
- Holistic Management
- Best Practices

Economics

- Finance
- Investments
- Financial Literacy
- Conservation Funding
- Trade/Market Access
- Marketing/Branding
- Workforce Development

Communication

- Switchboard
- Connecting People
- Stewardship
- Reporting



PHOTO: GREAT PLAINS REGION

1ST QUARTER

OCTOBER 1- DECEMBER 31, 2019



ON-FARM SOIL HEALTH: LESSONS SOAK IN!

EASTERN REGION

An on-farm soil health workshop for transitioning Lumbee Tribal farmers was made possible by a partnership between the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) and University of North Carolina (UNC) – Pembroke.

Producers of the Lumbee Tribe are generational farmers who have inherited farms once planted heavily with tobacco. Today these producers are writing a new history for their lands with mixed vegetable production and budding opportunities for local markets. Edward Hunt of UNC – Pembroke is an ally for these transitioning farmers. As the Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator, he is working to support the development of local aggregation and transportation systems for area farmers. His personal relationships with farmers in the community enabled him to see a need for soil health education – a need that could be met through partnership.

Hunt reached out to IAC to coordinate the workshop in partnership with the ILTF and the NRCS. The workshop was designed to connect farmers with the science behind soil health and the available resources to get started with cover crops and other regenerative approaches. To round out the event, a tour and demonstration was planned at Millard Locklear's farm.

After a few months of planning, Hunt, two NRCS staff, and the Eastern Region Technical Assistance Specialist (TA) opened-up the workshop for the farmers who had gathered at the Thomas Entrepreneurship Hub. Nathan Lowder, Southeast Regional Soil Health Specialist for NRCS, shared the science behind organic matter and the principles of building healthy soils. IAC's staff then provided background on the organization's mission and technical assistance network and provided materials from the ILTF on land succession and tenure. As the indoor portion of the day wrapped up, the participants gathered their belongings and headed out to Millard Locklear's farm for a demonstration of the rainfall simulator.

The past two hours of slides really clicked with producers as they watched the rain wash off topsoil or penetrate the soil pans, depending on the production practice. The pans with soils managed with no cover crops and intensive grazing fared



the worst, while the pans with cover crops, rotational grazing, and the forest floor fared the best. A half hour discussion ensued covering how to get started with cover crops or rotational grazing and the NRCS programs available to assist with planning and cost sharing in soil and water conservation practices.

Locklear, the host, thanked everyone for touring his farm and requested follow up with IAC about the IAC-supported Community Development Financial Institution – Akiptan. The follow-up meeting proved fruitful for Locklear and he intends to submit an application for an on-site United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified kitchen so he can sell washed greens to UNC – Pembroke and other institutions.

NORTHWEST - OR/ID

LEA ZEISE

Technical Assistance Specialist

(608) 630-2100

lea@indianag.org

FOOD ACCESS VISIONS

EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGION



On a Monday morning in January, Electa Hare-RedCorn and two motivated women had a morning coffee at Pawnee Nation Cultural Resource Division. They had hopes of meeting at a local small business that offered homemade pastries, coffees, and teas. Unfortunately, the coffee shop was closed – still, the three women’s minds were in business and their years of experience has promise of asserting Native Food Connections in Northern Oklahoma.

Hare-RedCorn met with Rita Scott, a grant writer who had co-designed the Native Food Sovereignty assessment tool that surveyed Pawnee Tribal members and citizens in 2017. She is a regional coordinator and volunteer for the Oklahoma Farm and Food Alliance which founded the Cherry Street Farmer’s Market. During the years since the Food Sovereignty assessment tool came to fruition, Scott connected with a Pawnee caterer (and six-time National Indian Taco championship chef) Monie HorseChief of Horsechief Catering. Both women had supported the growth of the Pawnee Seed Preservation project, an initiative focused on maintaining the Tribe’s homeland ties with the Pawnee’s home state of Nebraska. Scott began to mentor Horsechief in entrepreneurship and farm to market philosophy.

Horsechief recognized some of the barriers of being an Indian land homeowner and the need for local markets when it comes to the issue of food access. She outlined the lack of knowledge in Indian country of what United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs are available to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Being part of a large Pawnee family, Horsechief has a vision to “grow the growers” of the Pawnee County area.

Horsechief’s own children have developed a passion for land and plant management and an eye for citizen science opportunities – IAC recognizes her drive. While she would rather not travel long distances to large cities for annual meetings, she is



interested in the local movement and opportunities to highlight successes of others in food security.

Hare-RedCorn coordinated a sponsorship for Horsechief to attend a Horticultural Education meeting focusing on Climate Change Awareness. Even though there were some weather hitches, she attended and brought the knowledge and passion back home to her community. Horsechief has recently been connected to the IAC Native Food Connections network, where she will receive guidance and support for domestic marketing and trade, as well as work towards contributing her homemade salsas and other native food ingredients into the Pawnee Farmer’s market and beyond.

In the coming months – Hare-RedCorn, Scott and Horsechief have plans to meet with the Oklahoma Conservation commission and to also highlight some traditional squash and corn cuisine at regional leadership meetings. Our native caterers are valuable cogs in the food systems wheel and IAC is grateful to be able to provide support and encouragement to Horsechief and Scott’s food access vision.

EASTERN - OK REGION

ELECTA HARE-REDCORN

Technical Assistance Specialist

(918) 399-6999 *

electa@indianag.org

CONFIDENT STEPS TO CATTLE DREAMS

EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGION

On January 31, 2020, the Eastern Oklahoma Region Technical Assistance Specialist (TA) telephone rang at a quarter to four p.m. On the other end of the line was a mother from Midwest City, Okla., informing Hare-RedCorn that her son, Ethan Channel, had received his award letter from his county Farm Service Agency (FSA) manager. The family had contacted the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) back in October, after hearing the IAC Leadership Development Specialist Zachary Ilbery speak at an FFA event. One of the Eastern Oklahoma region caucus issues is representation of Tribal youth in FFA programming. This story aligns with that goal.



The young Creek Nation citizen had the vision, a slew of welding skills he had acquired from his time at his county technical school, a supportive family, and the drive to ask his mother to coordinate a meeting at a halfway point between the family's creek allotment outside of Muskogee and the family's home in Midwest City. On the first day that Hare-RedCorn and the family met back in October, Channel informed her they had just completed a Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS) survey of their family land. Channel and his family, along with his FFA advisor, have been stewarding a beginning cattle management

operation out on the back acreage of his suburban home with a few head.

Hare-RedCorn educated the family about an online ag business planning tool that could help the family establish SMART goals and an agricultural business plan. She also encouraged them to call their local Farm Service Agency (FSA). A call was pulled together during that first meeting and initial inquiries looked bleak for the family to live out their dream in their current situation of living in an urban area. Fortunately, there was a misquote during the call, and Hare-RedCorn and the IAC team were able to point out a rule change in the 2014 Farm Bill that opened the door to youth who live in an area with populations more than 20,000 to apply for FSA loans.

Hare-RedCorn linked up the family with an IAC TA in Montana, who has a wealth of experience in applying for Farm Service Youth Loans. It was a busy time for Channel who was a senior and highly involved in fundraising, welding, and other FFA and school obligations. Then finally, on the last day of January, the news arrived of a successful application completion! Excitedly, Hare-RedCorn received the call, congratulated the family, and awaited the email providing proof of a promissory note.

At that point in time, Hare-RedCorn forwarded his award letter to the IAC home office in Billings, Mont. and in a short amount of time, Channel received a \$500.00 youth equity grant that can help him purchase further ag equipment or go towards repaying the agriculture loan as he raises his herd.

To quote famous Oklahoman Will Rogers, Ethan Channel can now agree that, "If you want to be successful it is just this simple – know what you are doing, love what you are doing, and believe in what you are doing."

Developing leaders in Indian Country is taking that first risk and supporting confident steps towards success in utilizing USDA and NRCS programs.

EASTERN - OK REGION
ELECTA HARE-REDCORN

Technical Assistance Specialist

(918) 399-6999 *

electa@indianag.org



BUILDING A SEASONAL YOUTH AGRICULTURAL CURRICULUM

GREAT LAKES REGION

The IAC staff in the Great Lakes Region worked with local Native students and the area school district to host an ongoing series of educational events focusing on seed-to-table curriculum throughout 2019. Beginning with a community feast in March, Native students and their families began learning about the preparation of foods that expanded with participation in the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Summit in April.

Regular, bi-weekly programming then began in June when students participated in a Three Sisters planting workshop at a new agricultural demonstration plot at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum that was initiated through IAC and partner efforts. Students and their families helped maintain the plot with workshops every other week, culminating in a harvest workshop in the fall and then another community feast in early December. These efforts will continue in 2020, starting with a maple sugar production workshop in March. This model youth curriculum has the potential to expand to other communities.



GREAT LAKES REGION

DAN CORNELIUS

Technical Assistance Specialist

(608)280-1267

dan@indianag.org



YOUNG RANCHER COMING BACK HOME

GREAT PLAINS REGION

Cal and Bailey Peterson, a young couple operating a small cow/calf and performance horse operation, were living the snow-bird life going back and forth from their home in Texas in the winter months, to Cal's hometown of Eagle Butte, S.D. located on the Cheyenne River Reservation in the summer months. This was working out well for them until they decided to expand their herd numbers both in cattle and kids. That is when they permanently decided to make the Cheyenne River home. When they made this decision, they knew what they wanted to accomplish, but did not know how to go about it – this is where help from the IAC Technical Assistant Specialist (TA) came in. During the first meeting, the TA sat down with the Peterson's and the Loan Officer from their personal bank to go over their current financial position. They went over the various options available to them and the banker and TA worked together with the same goal of helping the producer succeed. The Petersons made the decision to pursue a Farm Service

Agency (FSA) direct loan to purchase the real estate they were seeking.

The TA work through the FSA direct loan application process from start to finish with the Petersons and was able to assist the local county FSA loan officer on various issues that came up until a successful plan was put together and approval was met.



“It is hard to make it in the ranching industry without help. The support from IAC was a big part of having this deal work out the way we needed it to,” said the Petersons.

The couple are now landowners and plan to start building their new home this summer. Through the efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) FSA Loan program, the local banker, and IAC-TA efforts, a young tribal member was able to not only come back to his home country, but to also envision and implement a plan for a successful and sustainable future there.



GREAT PLAINS REGION

TOMIE PETERSON

Technical Assistance Specialist

(605) 200-0276

tomie@indianag.org

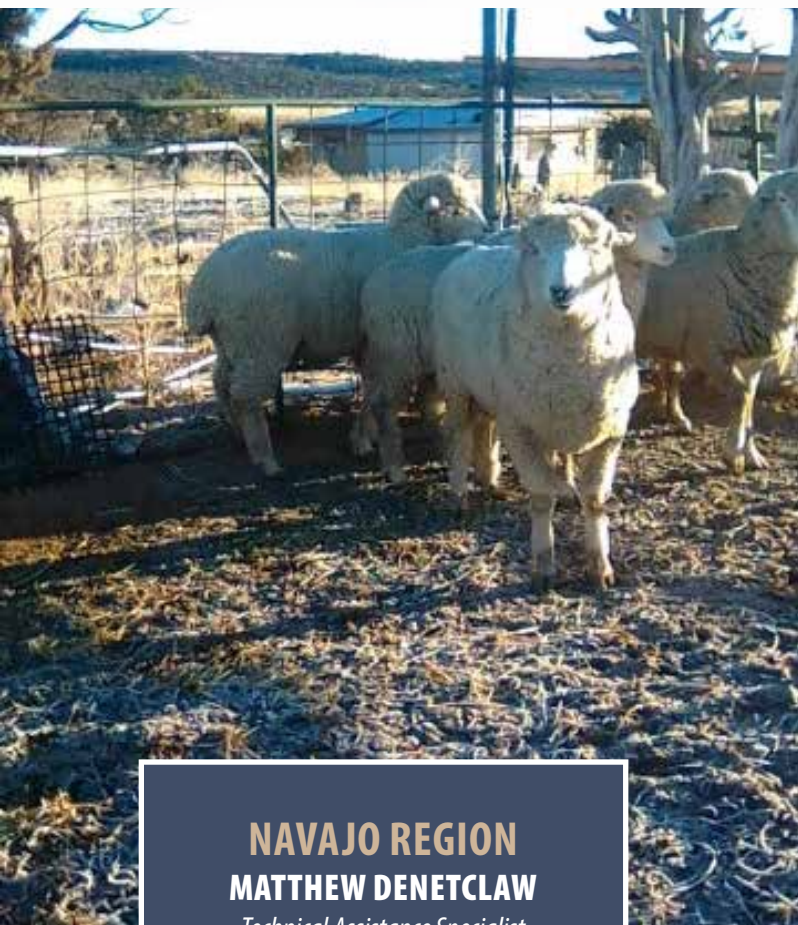
REINFORCING DINÉ SHEEP TRADITION

NAVAJO REGION

Autumn Salabye is a sophomore at Chinle High School with a driving passion for continuing the Diné tradition of raising sheep. Prior to engaging with Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) programming, she was working with sheep owned by the family, but envisioned a brighter future for an entrepreneurial venture through sheep ownership.

Thanks to a valued partnership with Chinle High School's Agriculture Instructor Barbara Lee, Autumn immediately garnered support from her closest supporters to inquire and receive funding from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to purchase a set of wool breeding ewes. With support from her family, Salabye has a buck at her disposal for breeding purposes. On top of the sheep purchases, she has been able to furnish her facilities with feeders so the feed will be consumed and better utilized economically versus feeding on bare ground.

The practical, hands-on experience gained from this venture will be an invaluable asset towards responsibility, time-management, and critical thinking. Salabye plans to pursue a future in animal health through Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, N.M. before taking the next step at a larger land grant university. Salabye would like to thank her supportive family, Barbara Lee, FSA, and the IAC for maximizing her potential and laying a foundation for her future.



NAVAJO REGION
MATTHEW DENETCLAW
Technical Assistance Specialist
(505) 801-4426
matthew@indianag.org





PARTNERSHIPS AND CAREFUL RECORDKEEPING IMPROVES CUSTOMER CARE

NORTHWEST OREGON REGION

The (IAC) Northwest Region Technical Assistance Specialist (TA) provided outreach assistance to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Tribal Relations in videoing USDA success stories on three reservations.

We were able to show the accomplishments of the Rural Development Program with financial assistance in building a K-8 Academy, Farm to School program and Rural Development Broad-band. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided 32 rangeland inventories and conservation plans on 160-acre allotments, along with Rural Development, Socially Disadvantaged Groups grant and formation of a cooperative to manage the land.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQUIP) were highlighted on a reservation farming approximately 8,000 acres. This site also has a strong history in use of the Indian Land Acquisition Program, and Rural Development Community and Infrastructure Improvement Project funding.

The Northwest IAC hosted a two-day regional meeting for the Tribes of the Northwest region; including, the Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF), Native American Agriculture Fund



(NAAF), Risk Management Agency (RMA), cover crop insurance and Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP). With IAC's new administration there is a lot of new statistical and reporting changes that is streamlining the workload for the TAs and providing greater customer service for the producers and Tribes in our regions.

NORTHWEST - OR/ID
KATHERINE MINTHORN
Technical Assistance Specialist
(541) 969-4685
katherine@indianag.org



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-Todds 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



JOINT YOUTH FINANCING

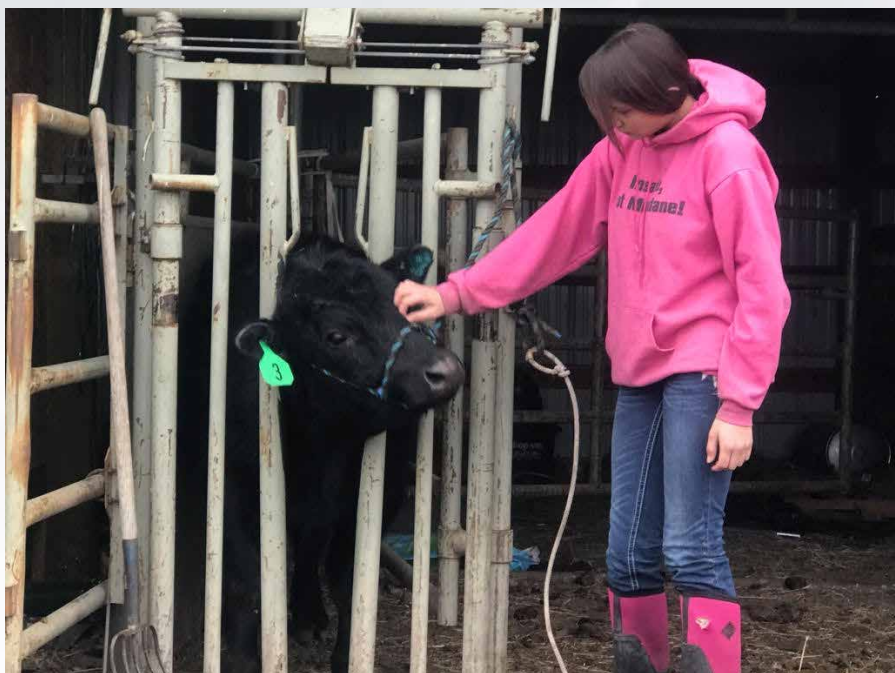
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Maggie Jo Matt is a young cattle rancher from the Blackfeet Reservation. She has been operating a small cow/calf operation with her father's cows for the past few years. Matt started her ranching endeavors with a heifer from her dad and she has built the herd up to four, bred cows. Matt has been active in 4-H throughout the past eight years, raising various market animals and showing numerous projects she has learned from her agriculture background. This year, she is working on finishing a market steer to show and sell.

This fall, she inquired about financing additional bred cows for her operation with the Intertribal Agriculture Council's (IAC) Rocky Mountain Technical Assistance Specialist (TA). We were able to help her apply and receive financing from two sources to increase her buying power. Matt received \$5,000 from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Youth Loan Program along with another \$5,000 from the Youth Loan with Akiptan using an investment loan model.

Matt was also able to purchase an additional 10 bred cows to add to her operation using the two loan funds. She is going to be able to make interest only payments to Akiptan that will enable her to retain more heifers and grow her operation without needing higher financing lending limits youth are not eligible for. She is extremely excited about being able to keep more of her own heifers and is already planning on showing a breeding heifer project and market steer at the 4-H fair next year out of her own livestock.

Matt is enthusiastic to attend IAC's national and regional youth events to share her successes and endeavors with peers her age. She truly has a bright future in the cattle business and any of her future endeavors. Her plans are going to college after high school and she would eventually like to take over the farm operation from her father. Matt is a very smart, hard working cowgirl that has an exciting future in the agriculture industry. IAC is honored to help assist her in packaging financing that gives her the best opportunity for success.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

KOLE FITZPATRICK

Technical Assistance Specialist

(406) 450-8704

kole@indianag.org



ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY AND PROFITABILITY THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORT

SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

Tammy and David Byars of Byars Farm have cleared \$12,000 in produce sales annually in Carter County, Okla. since the 2017 growing season. They have now expanded their market to include a u-pick strawberry and blackberry component to compliment market and contract sales (approximately two dollars/pound of produce or an average of 24,000 pounds per annum over the last three years).

Originally, the Byars were only considering plasticulture tomatoes and needed assistance to diversify and finance a broader farm plan from scratch as beginning farmers. Since the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) facilitated their original Farm Service Agency (FSA) microloan of around \$15,000 dollars and assisted with advanced growing technique educational opportunities, the Byars have received multiple high tunnel grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). They use these facilities for winter leafy-greens and strawberries.

The Byars continue to supply fresh produce to the Farm-to-School network and contract with the Chickasaw Nation in the

"Get Fresh" program that is also funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support Food and Nutrition Services. In the winter of 2019, David Byars had an accident while riding a horse that left him partially paralyzed; however, he has been able to continue to use the specialized BCS tractor they originally purchased and IAC is working to help with adjusting equipment options to better suit their needs. They refer to this tractor as "their saving grace."

The Byars and several other farmers in the IAC network throughout Oklahoma provide an integral supply of fresh produce in some of the most remote communities in Oklahoma while assuring other USDA initiatives in this region are a continued success. Through the IAC network, hundreds of small-scale beginning farmers across Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains have received assistance with USDA programming. The ongoing support of the TA network is needed to ensure sustainability and profitability.

**SOUTHERN PLAINS
REGION**
STEVEN BOND-HIKATUUBI
Technical Assistance Specialist
(928) 699-6774
steven@indianag.org



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IS ATTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FOR FSA YOUTH LOAN RECIPIENT

SOUTHWEST REGION

The newest recipient of the 2020 Farm Service Agency (FSA) Youth Loan is Shyanne Eustace, an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Cochiti. She is in her second year of college at Northland College in Ashland, Wis. near Great Lake Superior. Eustace is studying Natural Resources with an emphasis in Ecological Restoration and minoring in Sustainable Agriculture. She is an active member of Wisconsin's Green Fire, a non-profit organization established in 2017 to be the voices in conservation management and science-based practices. Eustace has also been an active member of the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) for several years.

Eustace grew up in a single parent household and began raising chickens for eggs during her freshman year of high school. She also began selling eggs to her community. The Pueblo of Cochiti is in a very rural area north of Albuquerque along the Rio Grande River and the nearest grocery store is in Albuquerque – 47 miles away.

With the help from the Southwest IAC Technical Assistance Specialist (TA), Eustace applied for a FSA Youth Loan and was approved to further her goals of practicing sustainable agriculture by growing her own produce for her family and her community. The loan will assist with clearing two acres of land that has been invaded by Siberian Elm and invasive weeds. There are also several apple and peach trees that she wants to preserve and take care of so the fruit trees can provide fresh, healthy fruit by replenishing nutrients back into the soil and making sure they are deeply watered. Eustace also plans on building a fence around her fields, with help from her Tribe, to keep the horses out of her field. She plans on purchasing fencing material with the funds from her loan.

Eustace is a clear example of the next generation taking the lead to provide food security for her family as well as her community. Her studies have directed her toward the meaning of sustainable agriculture, and she is making a concerted effort to provide fresh, healthy foods that are readily available. As far as her goals for the future, Eustace said, "I am excited to see my project come together so that I can continue to educate others by growing traditional crops and living off the land like our ancestors did in a sustainable way – free of pesticides and harmful chemicals. I am super excited to see my goals come to life for my people."



SOUTHWEST REGION

DESBAB PADILLA

Technical Assistance Specialist

(505) 377-0342

desbah@indianag.org

PLANTING THE PAST IN THE FUTURE

WESTERN REGION



The newest recipient of the 2020 Farm Service Agency (FSA) Youth Loan is Shyanne Eustace, an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Cochiti. She is in her second year of college at Northland College in Ashland, Wis. near Great Lake Superior. Eustace is studying Natural Resources with an emphasis in Ecological Restoration and minoring in Sustainable Agriculture. She is an active member of Wisconsin's Green Fire, a non-profit organization established in 2017 to be the voices in conservation management and science-based practices. Eustace has also been an active member of the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) for several years.

Eustace grew up in a single parent household and began raising chickens for eggs during her freshman year of high school. She also began selling eggs to her community. The Pueblo of Cochiti is in a very rural area north of Albuquerque along the Rio Grande River and the nearest grocery store is in Albuquerque – 47 miles away.

With the help from the Southwest IAC Technical Assistance Specialist (TA), Eustace applied for a FSA Youth Loan and was approved to further her goals of practicing sustainable agriculture by growing her own produce for her family and her community. The loan will assist with clearing two acres of land that has been invaded by Siberian Elm and invasive weeds. There are also several apple and peach trees that she wants to preserve and take care of so the fruit trees can provide fresh,

healthy fruit by replenishing nutrients back into the soil and making sure they are deeply watered. Eustace also plans on building a fence around her fields, with help from her Tribe, to keep the horses out of her field. She plans on purchasing fencing material with the funds from her loan.

Eustace is a clear example of the next generation taking the lead to provide food security for her family as well as her community. Her studies have directed her toward the meaning of sustainable agriculture, and she is making a concerted effort to provide fresh, healthy foods that are readily available. As far as her goals for the future, Eustace said, "I am excited to see my project come together so that I can continue to educate others by growing traditional crops and living off the land like our ancestors did in a sustainable way – free of pesticides and harmful chemicals. I am super excited to see my goals come to life for my people."



WESTERN REGION

TERESA HONGA

Technical Assistance Specialist

(605) 964-8320

teresa@indianag.org



PHOTO: NAVAJO REGION

2ND QUARTER

JANUARY 1- MARCH 31, 2020



MICMAC FARMS STRIVES FOR PROFITABILITY WHILE PROVIDING FRESH, HEALTHY FISH

EASTERN REGION

Micmac Farms has developed a hatchery program that meets several needs in the Micmac Tribal community and the state. Micmac people have always relied on fish for the health of their people, so this project is especially salient for their elders and the next generations. Their efforts keep fish stocked in state waterways for anglers. Once the fish have matured into adults, the trout provide a culturally relevant protein source free of contaminants found in local waters.

Important as the project is, it has not yet reached its stride economically. Even if the farm managed to sell its available stock, they wouldn't net enough funds to keep the doors open. Jacob Pelkey, Marketing Manager for Micmac Farms, was working hard on the issue when he learned about the Rural Development Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG). The grant offers valuable financial support for operations of all sizes to investigate pathways to value-added production. He saw a potential solution in the program, which provides 50 percent of eligible costs to determine the feasibility of new products.

Pelkey developed a proposal around three product concepts: a smoked fish product, a cider product planned for when the orchard had matured, and specialty preserves from their berry patch. He also reached out to the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) for technical assistance on the proposal, building on what was already a well-established relationship. Aroostook Band of Micmacs has been an active member Tribe of IAC for several years, and the farm staff regularly participates in regional and national events as well as the American Indian Foods (AIF) Program.

The foundational relationship enabled regional staff to quickly assess the Micmac Farms proposal and identify that the 50 percent match required by the VAPG would be a burden on the farm's operating budget. In order to address the issue, IAC staff mobilized to secure funds to assist Micmac Farms in meeting the matching requirement and provide a letter of support. With the backing of IAC, Micmac Farms was able to successfully submit their proposal without excluding any elements or



absorbing operating funds. Jacob expressed his gratitude with, "The support is greatly appreciated!"

Photos:

1. Sunflowers and high tunnels at Micmac Farm. Photo credit: Linda Cronin.
2. Live brook trout at Micmac Farm. Photo credit: Linda Cronin.

EASTERN REGION

LEA ZEISE

Technical Assistance Specialist

(608) 630-2100

lea@indianag.org



TRIBAL FOOD SAFETY WORKSHOP AT ONEIDA

GREAT LAKES REGION

In partnership with the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WT-CAC), the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) assisted in organizing a Tribal Food Safety Workshop at Oneida from February 18-20. Starting with a FSMA Produce Safety Rule certification training, this three-day workshop assisted participants in developing their own GAP (Good Agricultural Plan) Farm Food Safety Plans with a template developed by Iowa State Extension.

The workshop concluded with roundtable presentations and discussions covering the following – Oneida's food safety inspector on their training and inspection program, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)'s effort to develop and implement a food code for wild harvested foods, and the University of Arkansas Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative's Model Tribal Food Code.

This comprehensive, three-day training was structured to give participants both practical certifications and assistance in the planning development that is needed to advance their operations while also helping to strengthen partnerships and connections to support expanded capacity and regional partnerships. Several participants expressed a desire for a follow-up training in 2021 to continue their learning while bringing more growers and staff from their respective communities.



Tribal Food Safety Workshop

The US Food Safety Modernization Act of 2010 (FSMA) requires certification for any produce farm with over \$25,000 in sales.

This workshop will provide that certification and will also cover developing a plan allowing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification required to sell food to the federal government (ie "commod" program). The workshop will conclude with an overview of implementing Tribal food codes.

Schedule

Tuesday, 2/18

1:00-5:00pm | FSMA Produce Safety I

Wednesday 2/19

8:00am-12:00pm | FSMA Produce Safety II
1:00pm-5:00pm | Developing a Farm Food Safety Plan for GAP Certification

Thursday 2/20

8:00am-12:00pm | Tribal Food Codes



February 18-20, 2020

Radisson Conference Center | Oneida, WI

2040 Airport Rd., Green Bay, WI, 54313

Tribal Scholarships and Hotel Room Block Available

Questions or Want to Signup? Contact:

Jerry Thompson | 715-821-0555 • TribalConsultationServices@gmail.com

Registration is required but no-cost for Tribal members and staff.

GREAT LAKES REGION

DAN CORNELIUS

Technical Assistance Specialist

(608)280-1267

dan@indianag.org



FIRST LAKOTA FOOD SUMMIT: YOUTH LEADERSHIP

GREAT PLAINS REGION



The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) was able to partner with the Lakota Food Sovereignty Coalition at their First Lakota Food Summit held in Rapid City, S.D. in February of 2020. This was the first summit to have a youth leadership aspect.

Thirty youth from six different schools throughout South Dakota attended the summit. Speakers from various agribusiness backgrounds gave presentations about their jobs to the youth. They also had individual round table discussions with all the invited speakers, where the students could have one-on-one conversations with professionals from the agriculture field.

IAC's Technical Assistance Specialist (TA) for the Great Plains Region gave a presentation: "Navigating Careers in Ag Business and Economic Development" to the students. The presentation described the TA's past agriculture banking career in detail, along with the grand scope of what IAC TA's do for native producers throughout the nation. The TA's presentation also described the large variety of businesses in the ag industry and the options available to fund agribusinesses.

The students were not only there to attend the summit. Each school also put together a presentation on what food sovereignty means to them. They had great ideas on how to preserve native foods, natives taking back their diets, and youth being the starting point to having tribes start speaking about food sovereignty. The highlight of the whole food summit was



the youth panel Q&A. Individuals attending, along with all the presenters/speakers were able to ask the big questions to the youth panel. Every youth panelist stepped up to the plate and offered viable and realistic answers on how to get the food sovereignty ball rolling in their communities.

GREAT PLAINS REGION

TOMIE PETERSON

Technical Assistance Specialist

(605) 200-0276

tomie@indianag.org

CENTERED AROUND YOUTH SUCCESS

NAVAJO REGION

The second quarter of the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Navajo Region was a busy one. From transitioning to the new year in Phoenix, Ariz. with youth clients exhibiting livestock at the Arizona National Livestock Show, to strong advocacy prioritizing conservation programming issues relevant to Indian Country at the National Association of Conservation Districts Convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

All these efforts bring us right back to the very core of Indian Agriculture – our youth. The young men and women who participate in IAC programming are second to none with a drive and passion for finding solutions to achieve food sovereignty.

Dally Carlisle is just one of those many amazing young people. In fact, we mentioned him in an earlier success story as a participant in the 2020 IAC Navajo Region Livestock Learning Institute, where he transitioned his focus from sheep, goat, and hog projects towards raising a market steer. With the IAC Navajo Region providing access to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programming, Dally purchased his first

high quality show steer from a reputable breeder.

Once the animal was purchased, he then immersed himself into the show cattle industry by exhibiting his steer at national shows to local jackpots that exceeded expectations. Carlisle gives all the credit to his family for supporting his goals and pushing him forward to participate in shows as well as the IAC for assisting in the process of selection, funding, and general support.

"I cannot wait to see what my steer can do for me in the show ring as well as helping fellow 4-H members with their showmanship skills," Carlisle said enthusiastically.

"Dally is a great example of the type and kind of young person we seek to take advantage of IAC's Professional Development programming," said Matthew Denetclaw – IAC TA for the Navajo region. "His benevolent nature combined with an inspiring work ethic is truly what makes my career nothing short of rewarding."



NAVAJO REGION
MATTHEW DENETCLAW
Technical Assistance Specialist
(505) 801-4426
matthew@indianag.org



IT COULD GET WESTERN.....

NORTHWEST OREGON REGION

The Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe is a federally recognized tribe of Northern Paiute and Western Shoshone peoples, whose reservation Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation spans the Nevada and Oregon border next to Idaho. The reservation has 16,354 acres in Humboldt County Nevada and 19,000 acres in Malheur County Oregon. The Paiute had traditional territory ranging from the Southwest up into Nevada, Oregon and southwestern Idaho. The Paiute in this area became known as the "Northern Paiute." They are related culturally and linguistically to the Shoshone, Bannock and other tribes of the region. In October 2016 a federal law was passed to put approximately 19,094 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land into trust for the Tribe in order to expand their reservation; this was done under the Nevada Native Nations Land Act.

The Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe is governed by the Fort McDermitt Tribal Council, which consists of eight elected councilmembers. The Tribal Council elects from within its own number a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and a treasurer. Councilmembers hold office for a term of 4 years, every 2 years four councilmembers are elected for a term of 4 years. Any member of the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe who is 21 years of age or over is entitled to vote.

Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone live on an 18 square mile reservation of wind swept desert, with steep hills and drought dry grass, which contrasts like night and day with the fields of alfalfa just across the road. Which brings IAC into the picture, Lorraine Snapp Dyer requested a meeting for her and her sisters Deloria and Helen Snapp (tribal councilmembers) requesting assistance with crop insurance claims. Upon meeting with Lorraine and Deloria it quickly became apparent they would become a long term project with the Oregon/Idaho and Nevada/California IAC TA program, as their crop insurance claims were being denied due to operators in their vicinity who were receiving irrigation and therefore not filing crop insurance claims, and no drought declaration. However, we were taken on a tour of the irrigation project to the dam location, where the irrigation canals below the dam clearly showed the Snapps irrigation canal having



been diverted to another canal, causing the Snapp field to go with no irrigation and therefore no production. IAC will act in support of highlighting this issue at the local and State level to assist in remedying the situation.

NORTHWEST - OR/ID

KATHERINE MINTHORN

Technical Assistance Specialist

(541) 969-4685

katherine@indianag.org



FSA YOUTH LOAN MAKES A DIFFERENCE

NORTHWEST WASHINGTON REGION

The Intertribal Agriculture Council's (IAC) collaboration with the Colville Nations Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP) yields a successful Farm Service Agency (FSA) youth loan for a Colville Nation descendant. The youth will use his funding to purchase livestock to show and sell at junior livestock shows. He will gain experience and monetary profit while gaining confidence with his success.

Conner Katich is a 10-year-old decedent of the Colville Indian Tribe located in Eastern Wash. He Lives on his family's cattle, goat, and sheep ranch. He has been seeking funding to purchase cattle, goats, sheep, and llamas. Katich especially enjoys raising llamas that are used to help guard his goat and sheep herds from coyotes.

"Lamas are neat because they'll spit on you if you make them mad," Katich joked.

Early September of 2019, Katich was referred to Mike Shellenberger – IAC TA for Washington State seeking advice on what type of funding was available to help him buy more animals. The FSA youth loan application was then completed for the maximum amount of \$5,000 dollars to purchase several Charolais steers to raise for livestock shows around the state and to eventually sell.

His loan became approved and the cattle were purchased. Katich attended the Central Wash. State Fair in Yakima, Wash. in late September, showing his Charolais steers, dairy and meat goats, sheep, and llamas. All his livestock won top prize! He will soon be paying off his FSA loan.

"I'm ready for another one," Katich confidently and enthusiastically said.

His involvement with IAC and the FSA Youth Loan, will open more opportunities for him. He will get education about USDA



programs that can help him succeed now and into the future. Katich said it is too early to permanently decided if wants to be a rancher, but now he is having fun! That is what really matters.



NORTHWEST (WA) REGION

MIKE SHELLENBERGER

Technical Assistance Specialist

(509) 833-4937

mike@indianag.org

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

USING THE SUITE OF RESOURCES

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION



John and Brenda Kramer have purchased land near Garryowen, Mont. to run their cattle on using the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm loan program in 2016.

After the land purchase, the Kramers were looking for additional resources to expand their operation and rehabilitate some of the issues that become apparent with the land. After an introduction to the resources the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) has to offer the Kramers were successful in applying for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds to tear down their dated corals that were in the riparian areas and build new facilities and dispose of all the old material that included a lot of concrete using IAC Technical Assistance Specialist (TA) help.

The project also included a new access road. The Kramers have applied for center pivots for their property using the EQIP program and are awaiting a decision. Their land also needed some erosion control on the riverbanks of their property, so they applied for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and were successful in their request and are awaiting implementation to prevent further erosion.

They also sought out additional funding to expand their operation. With the help of IAC, they secured additional funds to purchase another truck for their trucking business and additional cattle to fill the expanded land they have leased. The Kramers are very willing to utilize the assistance available to them and do the work required to implement projects using such a suite of programs.

Their success is a perfect example of the opportunity within USDA to survive in today's agriculture industry and the technical delivery of IAC.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

KOLE FITZPATRICK

Technical Assistance Specialist

(406) 450-8704

kole@indianag.org



ONGOING SUCCESS, DESPITE CHALLENGES

SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

Success took on a new point of reference in the second quarter: outreach efforts, on-site training, strategic planning based on site visits, and travel in general was severely limited. Ongoing projects across Southern Plains, Eastern Oklahoma and the rest of the United States (Ore., N.Y., Calif., N.C., and N.M.) felt the need to go digital and in most cases faced strict barriers to continuing site visits, especially with reservation restrictions.

Despite the barriers, projects continued and have moved toward their goals for the Spring 2020 production season. Commonly encountered issues this quarter was access to seeds, materials, and professional services. The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) worked closely with these projects, adjusting

farm plans and infrastructure development according to availability and timescale. The Seneca were able to go from two acres to more than 20 acres of vegetables and developed a few hundred acres for their in-house Buffalo program.

Pawnee continued development of their ag program, successfully receiving grants to build infrastructure for their traditional seeds project. Northeastern Band Cherokee increased their production acreage, automated through an extensive irrigation project, and procured specialty equipment to reduce manual labor requirements. Several individuals also benefited through the IAC network of digital resources and assistance with adjusting to this unusual production season.



SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

STEVEN BOND-HIKATUUBI

Technical Assistance Specialist

(928) 699-6774

steven@indianag.org



CONSERVATION PLANNING THROUGH OUTREACH

SOUTHWEST REGION

In September 2019, a group of producers from the Pueblo of Zuni attended the Southwest Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Conference that was held at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, N.M.

They were very impressed with the variety of speakers who presented on agriculture related topics. They were especially interested in the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) that was created from the *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* litigation settlement that was formed to serve Native farmers and ranchers through strategic grantmaking in the areas of agriculture education, technical support, advocacy services and business assistance.

As a result of the SW IAC conference and the information presented, the producers who formed and manage a non-profit organization called The Rock House Project, applied for a grant to NAAF to establish a comprehensive needs assessment for Tribal farmers and ranchers with the goal to develop solar water wells and explore conservation planning to improve farming and ranching in their community.

The Pueblo of Zuni was once known as a farming community surrounded by smaller villages of Pescado, Nutria and Ojo Caliente. It is the largest of New Mexico's 19 Pueblos located southwest of Albuquerque with an estimated population of 18,692 residents and a land base of 584,564 acres of land. At one time, there were three rivers running through the Pueblo that were used for agricultural purposes. Since then, the three local water sources have dried up due to drought and lack of snowfall from the nearby Zuni Mountains. The Rio Nutria no longer flows with running water. There is one standing pool of water that is no longer useful for irrigation purposes and an old artesian well available for community agricultural use. The Pueblo of Zuni people are totally dependent upon groundwater.

In January, the nonprofit organization was awarded \$75,000 to begin the comprehensive needs assessment necessary to establish water infrastructure requirements such as underground water lines, solar wells and irrigation systems and incorporating soil assessments to improve conservation practices for the community. The producers plan to establish pilot sites in coordination with IAC Technical Assistance Specialist (TA) staff and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local and state offices to identify ways to prioritize goals moving forward.

The IAC regional conferences and training workshops are useful to assist producers in understanding the function of USDA programs as well as providing rural communities financial resources applicable to Tribes/Pueblos and their communities. This is one example where producers identified a problem in their rural, Tribal community and worked in coordination with IAC and NRCS technical assistance staff to assist them with developing innovative water solutions to achieve a higher standard of sustainability and profitability in agricultural use of their farmland.

SOUTHWEST REGION

DESBAH PADILLA

Technical Assistance Specialist

(505) 377-0342

desbah@indianag.org



PHOTO: ALASKA REGION

3RD QUARTER

APRIL 1- JUNE 30, 2020





IAC ALASKA REGION ESTABLISHES NRCS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY

ALASKA REGION

In October, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) was informed the IAC Alaska Region had been selected to receive a grant for almost \$300,000 to help support multiple aspects of the work that Tribes and Tribal members are already engaged with. The agreement will provide outreach and technical assistance to the Indian Tribes of the State of Alaska and improve Tribal participation in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Programs.

The agreement will help accomplish multiple goals and remove identified barriers that Tribes have shared with the IAC. Some of the goals of the funding include hosting a Tribal Youth Summit, supporting a third-party internship program, and the development of a Tribal-informed ethical harvesting guide.

Through direct collaboration with Tribal stakeholders, this agreement will help inform Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)-Alaska collaborative approaches on Tribal lands. In partnership with individual land-holding Tribal producers/land managers/gatherers, the IAC Alaska Region will encourage more inclusive and traditional forms of land management for foods, fiber, and other useful cultural products derived from active land management of controlled lands.

Within the duration of the agreement, IAC will implement strategies and issue funding, including but not limited to, establishing conservation planning and traditional management sites throughout the state in partnership with Alaska Tribes, Tribal Conservation Districts, and/or individual Tribal members. The agreement will also support Alaskan Tribal Conservation Districts for the purpose of supporting outreach and technical assistance activities that can include professional development exposure initiatives to natural resources and land management activities and/or fields of study/careers. It will also support other approved activities to be determined by NRCS and IAC. Additionally, IAC will coordinate local administration and implementation of Alaska Native/Native youth summit programming for Tribal Youth in partnership with Alaska Tribal youth organizations, state universities, applicable agencies and/or other organizations.

The IAC Alaska Region is excited for the potential of this agreement to remove multiple barriers that are currently experienced by many communities in the region. It is in direct alignment with multiple IAC core values including conservation, holistic management, and utilization of best practices – all supporting resiliency through agriculture. Additionally, this agreement creates opportunities to help engage youth, and those who are interested in agriculture, by supporting professional development opportunities.

IAC internship programming places Native student interns at NRCS and Tribal partner sites such as Plant Materials Centers, NRCS Field Offices, Tribal Conservation Districts, Tribal departments, Tribal organizations, and/or other applicable natural resource-oriented sites, for the purpose of expanding professional and leadership development opportunities to Tribal student/non-student members and diversifying applicant pools in natural resources and land management careers and degree pathways.



ALASKA REGION
SILAS TIKAAN GALBREATH
Technical Assistance Specialist
(907) 750-0983
tikaan@indianag.org

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INNOVATION

GREAT LAKES REGION



The national COVID pandemic has posed major challenges to our communities and corresponding efforts to provide technical assistance. Yet, these major challenges also provide an opportunity for innovation that promotes expanded digital connections that offer much-needed support in this time of need and will continue to be a resource beyond the crisis. These overall efforts are highlighted by development and launch of the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) E-Learning Platform on Mighty Networks and the Virtual Intertribal Food Summit that drew more than 1,200 registrants and reached several thousand more people through social media and other digital formats.

The IAC E-Learning Platform features an expanding collection of digitally-based workshops covering important topics

ranging from conservation to traditional foods, as well as a workshop on United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs that are now expanding to include success stories on how those programs have supported Indian producers and communities.

The Virtual Intertribal Food Summit is an adaption to the current crisis, allowing large numbers of people to come together and share, while building content for future education and outreach. These efforts were complimented by three short trips that focused on essential services related to planting, and other efforts continued to provide support via digital means.

GREAT LAKES REGION

DAN CORNELIUS

Technical Assistance Specialist

(608) 280-1267

dan@indianag.o



FSA YOUTH LOAN PROGRAM HELPS YOUNG RANCHERS IN THE MAKING GREAT PLAINS REGION

Slater Ducheneaux (age 16) and his younger brother Ace Ducheneaux (age 12) are enthusiastic about helping their parents on the ranch any chance they can. These boys have spent many hours on horseback, riding the breaks and gathering cattle with their dad. With goals to one day be ranchers themselves, their father decided that perhaps they should get their start as a rancher early on and see where it goes.

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Youth Loan Program allows youth between the ages of 10 and 20 years old to borrow up to \$5,000 that can be paid back over seven years. This gave Slater and Ace enough to purchase three, bred cows. The boys worked out an arrangement with their parents to increase their labor on the ranch in exchange for the chance to run cattle in common with their parents' herd. They will identify markers for their cattle to separate them from their parents. They will also work alongside their father to implement management practices for their growing herd. Each year, the boys' calf sales will go towards the loan payment, with the remainder contributed to herd expansion or towards saving for college.

FSA's youth loans require a project advisor to sponsor each applicant. That is where the Great Plains IAC Technical Assistance Specialist (TA) came in. As Slater and Ace's project adviser, the Great Plains TA checks in periodically to ensure that everything is flowing smoothly and that everything is on schedule to make payments.

The TA directly consults with Slater, Ace, and family throughout the year, especially during branding and shipping times, so they can begin planning for the upcoming year. The TA will also visit about the importance an annual budget can play for the upcoming year. Additionally, the TA ensures that Slater and Ace have readily available access to youth agriculture leadership development opportunities that help shape young, native cattlemen.

FSA's Youth Loan Program provided Slater and Ace an opportunity to acquire experience and education in agriculture-related skills. They will not only learn responsibility of owning their

own cattle, but business management skills that they will be valuable throughout their lifetime.



GREAT PLAINS REGION

TOMIE PETERSON

Technical Assistance Specialist

(605) 200-0276

tomie@indianag.org



INCREASED LOCALIZED BEEF PRODUCTION BECOMING A REALITY BEYOND THE DREAM

NAVAJO REGION

The third quarter of the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Navajo Region was a different level of “busy.” Rather than continuing with our successful model of in-person programming, the COVID-19 pandemic struck the Navajo Region with nuclear level impacts forcing us to pivot to virtual programming and adapting to what we now know as the “new normal.”

However, what was not negatively impacted, was our passion to reach the overarching goal of healthy food and healthy communities through healthy economies. Following the IAC’s programming launch of the weekly webinar series IAC CARES, the most well attended event was titled: “Building a Beef Processing Plant with Chris Roper.” After this webinar, “The Hand Ranch” (Anita Hand) immediately began investing her time toward further accessing resources through the IAC Navajo Region. Even the wisest of dogs can learn new tricks and this Navajo Region rancher was very direct in naming the goal of owning more cattle and receiving higher prices for her cattle. Still, she was not quite sure of goals beyond quantity.

The IAC Navajo Region Technical Assistance (TA) program initiated a conversation from a simple goal, leading to shaping a foundational goal of selecting efficient and quality beef cattle

with the longevity and ability to successfully complete the production cycle in the harsh Navajo Region terrain, combined with conservation methods provided by our Natural Resources Programming Director – Kelsey Ducheneaux, to reinforce her passion for land stewardship.

Anita was also a successful applicant for the American Indian Foods (AIF) Trademark Program to further enhance her goals of feeding her community locally through supplying beef to the local restaurant and food service providers. Following a conversation including AIF Director – Latashia Redhouse, she hopes to build her operation toward an e-commerce model with the goal of exploring our export options to supply sustainably raised and fed beef for international consumers.

Without access to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programming, this endeavor would have never been completed nor seen its successful outcome. The IAC Navajo Region was especially proud to support Anita’s goals. We look forward to seeing an outcome that will promote our vision for reestablishing a localized food system as an invaluable economic driver for communities and Tribal nations across the United States.



NAVAJO REGION
MATTHEW DENETCLAW
Technical Assistance Specialist
(505) 801-4426
matthew@indianag.org



PROUD OF OUR LEGACY

NORTHWEST OREGON REGION



The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) began working with the Numu Allottee Association in June 2014, upon request for assistance on the management of Public Domain Allotments located in Harney County, Ore. Throughout the past five years, the Numu Allottees Association (NAA) has provided technical assistance to the owners of the Public Domain Allotments, which encompassed approximately 11,000 - plus acres and 160 allotments designated for agriculture.

The NAA's a core passion is to, "protect the ancestral homeland" and work for justice and equity in rural communities. Most of the allotments are severely fractured and have been grossly mismanaged by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. An assessment of condition should be completed every five years as mandated by 25 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). However, these allotments have not been assessed on a regular basis. In May 2015, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), IAC staff, and the Burns Paiute Lease Compliance Officer conducted rangeland inventories on 32 allotments, followed by USDA and NRCS staff writing conservation plans for each of the allotments.

E'Numu Diip (END) Cooperative formed by the allottees has leased allotments 15, 16, 17 and 18 (640 acres) as a demonstration project for economic development. Partnerships with IAC, Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF), NAA, and Northwest Cooperative Development Center (NCDC), has contributed to the success of the project. The plan is for the cooperative to be a model and eventually bring other allotments (60-plus allotments) in the planning process. It is known that allottees are land rich and very low income, and with the passing of an elder in each generation the allotments become even more

disjointed and continually mismanaged.

The NAA, through USDA Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant (SDGG) and Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) obtained a \$230,000 and \$30,000 grant from the NAAF for youth program projects and allowed the END Project and END Cooperative to speak with one voice to ensure those who inherit the allotments will be able to create a thriving agricultural economy for future generations.

The undivided interest owners of allotment 97, located on the Round Valley Reservation have donated one acre to the Three Sisters Farm and Garden Project. The NAAF's grant allows for the FFA and 4-H club consisting of the 10 Youth Council to establish a demonstration garden-site. At this site, they did all the seed bed preparation with implements and limited equipment. They had no tractor, so a parent, Gabe Bowes Sr., found an abandoned plow and pulled it with his vehicle and plowed the garden site.

In the youth seed bed preparation, they have planted willow, chokecherry trees, wild sunflower and more! They are making plans for an increase in native plants supervised by their elders and parents. Ancestral knowledge and teaching are needed with the taking of some ceremonial plants. The Youth Council has learned how to fertilize, identify plants, and maintain their garden. They also learned the fine art of fence building to protect their investment from wildlife and livestock. The Three Sisters mission is to address health deficiencies in families due to poor food quality and promote local gathering sites that are becoming increasingly inaccessible.



NORTHWEST - OR/ID
KATHERINE MINTHORN

Technical Assistance Specialist

(541) 969-4685

katherine@indianag.org



SBA, EIDL AND CFAP RELIEF GREATLY APPRECIATED

NORTHWEST WASHINGTON REGION

Shawna Kalama and her brother, Wyatt Wiltze, operate a small cattle and hay ranch in White Swan Wash., located on the Yakama Indian Nation Reservation. Both brother and sister have Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans that finance their operation. They began as beginning farmers and ranchers five years ago and have been slowly growing since that time.

The brother and sister duo have 40 acres of hay and 60 cow/calf pairs. The COVID-19 pandemic had a very negative impact on their efforts. Cattle prices have plummeted, and hay sales have slowed. They are also greatly concerned about the future and their ability to make their FSA payments as well as their ability to continue to ranch.

The recent loan and stimulus package have helped relieved them for the short term. Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) has provided an injection of working capital of \$1,980 for the brother-sister team. Shawna and Wyatt have also received a Small Business Administration (SBA) grant of \$1,000 each. Shawna also took advantage of a \$19,000 low interest loan to be paid back over a 30-year period.

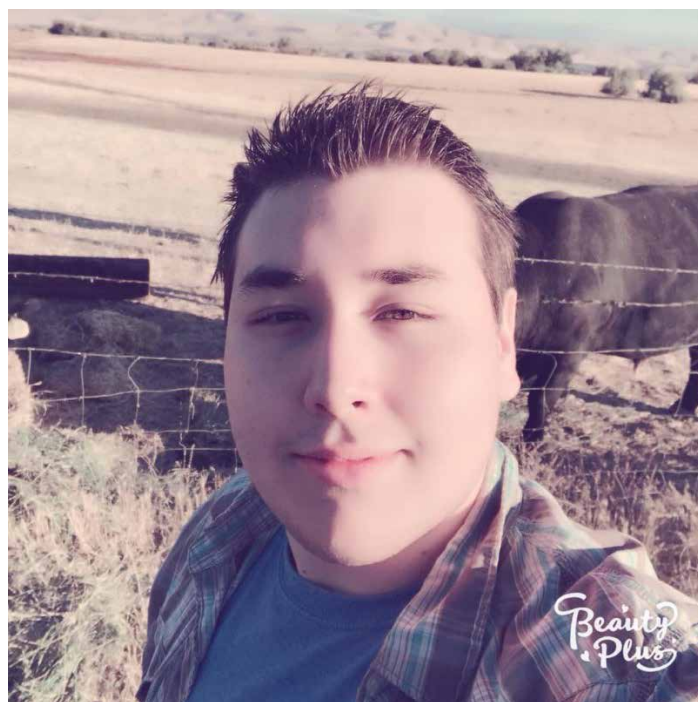
"This loan may just save our operation," Shawna pointed out.

Shawna and Wyatt both credit the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), Technical Assistant Specialist (TA) for the Northwest Washington (NW) Region for providing them with information concerning these programs, as well as for helping them fill out the applications.

"I wouldn't have even known that CFAP and the SBA EIDL program existed without IAC informing me," Wyatt said.

This example of success is bittersweet – it is a short-term fix for a long-term problem. IAC in the NW region has literally worked with numerous farmers and ranchers on CFAP and SBA

EIDL applications. Most of the farmers and ranchers have similar stories of varying degrees as Shawna and Wyatt. I believe this story is a great example of why it's important to have IAC's involvements with Indian Tribes and their Tribal Members.



NORTHWEST (WA) REGION

MIKE SHELLENBERGER

Technical Assistance Specialist

(509) 833-4937

mike@indianag.org



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

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

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.

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



IAC TA ASSISTANCE HELPS FUEL YOUNG AMBITIONS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Sydney is a rancher on the Blackfeet Reservation in northern Montana. She started her cow/calf herd with two cows and has been looking at adding more cows. Sydney has been active in 4-H for eight years completing numerous projects and multiple market swine projects. Sydney requested assistance from the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) with loan funds to add more cattle to her operation.

Sydney currently owns two bred cows and a steer for her next 4-H project. After some consultation with the Rocky Mountain IAC Technical Assistance Specialist (TA), Sydney decided to apply for both a Farm Service Agency (FSA) youth loan and Akiptan youth loan funds. She was very well collateralized prior to her loan applications which made it easy to get an approval from both organizations.

Sydney received an approval for \$5,000 from each organization to purchase a total of eight more bred cows to add to her operation. Sydney's operating costs will be covered by her parents in exchange for help and work on their operation. She has since purchased her cows and is well into her first year with a larger herd. COVID has dampened the 4-H year and hopes of having a fair, but she is still participating with a market swine project. Sydney is looking forward to the 4-H year in 2021 in hopes of raising her own steer to bring to the 4-H fair next year. Sydney has ambitions of growing her herd further and saving money for college.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

KOLE FITZPATRICK

Technical Assistance Specialist

(406) 450-8704

kole@indianag.org

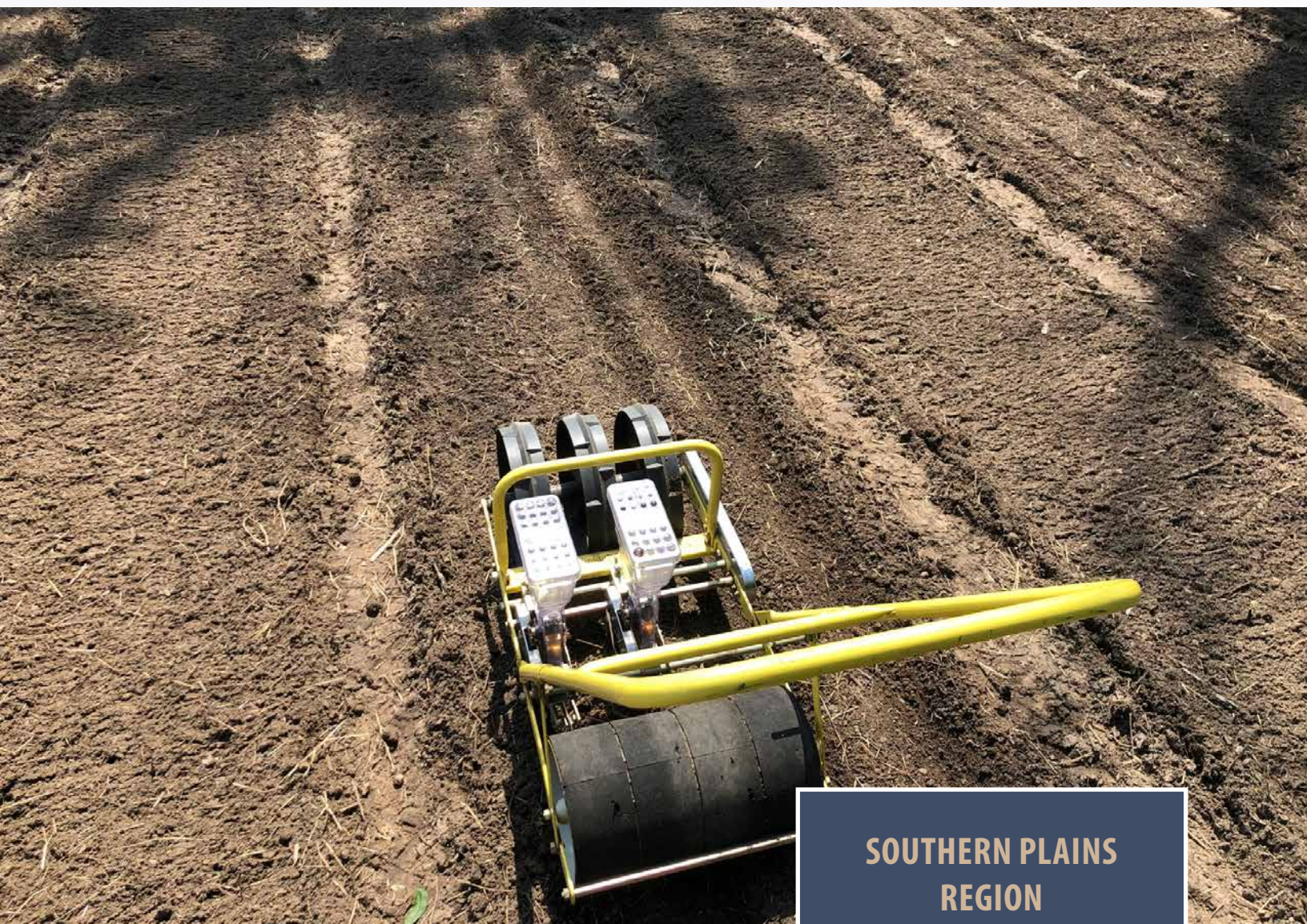


SEEING THROUGH TOUGH TIMES – IAC TA WORK DEMONSTRATES ENDURANCE

SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

Several Tribes were putting proposals together during this quarter and needed assistance with CARES Act funding opportunities. The Kinik, Pawnee, Osage, Shoshone, Seneca, and late comers are preparing for another round of funding. In addition to offering several educational opportunities in scoping commercial specialty crop operations, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) assisted with production layout, vendor sourcing, market development, and inclusivity in COVID United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programming opportunities.

During the same time period, several producers were also scaling-up food production and dealing with the exhaustion of working during a pandemic scenario. Many groups asked for assistance with funding and training opportunities in commercial vegetable production including recommendations for equipment, infrastructure development, irrigation, and cropping strategies.



SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

STEVEN BOND-HIKATUUBI

Technical Assistance Specialist

(928) 699-6774

steven@indianag.org

ASSISTING TRIBES IN ERA OF UNCERTAINTY

SOUTHWEST REGION



The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) received grant funding to assist with COVID relief responses to four tribes located in various regions. Braiding the Sacred, a project of IAC, is a network of Indigenous corn growers who protect and rematriate ancestral corn back to their indigenous nations.

On two occasions, the Pueblo of Acoma along with IAC and Braiding the Sacred hosted a gathering of producers, Tribal/religious leaders, artisans, and interested youth from the community. The events brought together hundreds of producers interested in seeds, culture sharing, hands-on demonstrations, educational videos, and information about conservation practices.

The first event was held during harvest time at the Pueblo of Acoma in 2018. Because the event was so successful and the community's response was so extremely welcoming, to complete the gatherings full circle they invited Braiding the Sacred back to host another event during their planting season. The second event was held on May 24, 2019. This event included several days of planting alongside producers to promote and encourage food sovereignty and use of vacant fields. The Tribal leadership/religious leaders and community members were very impressed with the outcome of the events and are continuing to move forward toward sustainability and food sovereignty.

As a result, there has been an overwhelming increase in producers and unused fields that are now being utilized. The gathering received such a positive response and welcoming atmosphere that when Braiding the Sacred had funding remaining from a grant, they decided to assist four tribes with COVID-19 relief responses. One of the Tribes selected was the Pueblo of Acoma as a way of giving back to the community for their gracious hospitality, rematriation of corn varieties and increase in food sovereignty practices.

On April 28, 2020, IAC Technical Assistance (TA) staff coordinated logistics with Red Feathers Corn Products, an active American Indian Foods (AIF) and "Made & Produced by American Indian" trademark participant, for food delivery to the Pueblo of Acoma. A variety of corn products was ordered, packaged, and delivered to the community to assist with feeding the community. The community was very appreciative of the food delivery in these times of uncertainty and offered their gratitude to IAC and Braiding the Sacred.

The other Tribes included in the COVID-19 relief response were located throughout three additional regions and were offered assistance by remaining grant funding. IAC, through Braiding the Sacred project, continues to improve their efforts to address producers' needs by leveraging resources and partnerships that have been formed to promote food sovereignty, encourage value-added products, and improve food systems sustainably throughout the region.



SOUTHWEST REGION

DESBAH PADILLA

Technical Assistance Specialist

(505) 377-0342

desbah@indianag.org





PHOTO: PACIFIC REGION



4TH QUARTER

JULY 1- SEPTEMBER 30, 2020



IAC HIRES A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST FOR THE ALASKA REGION

ALASKA REGION

During the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) 2019 annual conference one of the identified caucus issues for the Alaska Region was the need to have someone hired into the Technical Assistance Specialist (TA) position. During Quarter three, this goal was met. Though he was new to the IAC team, Silas Tikaan Galbreath brought a lot of experience related to food production and food systems which also meant that he had many existing relationships from throughout Alaska. In the role, he quickly engaged in multiple projects that were already underway in the region or just at the beginning stages.

Since joining IAC, Galbreath has developed many new relationships and strengthened old ones which has helped to better establish IAC's presence in Alaska. Partnerships and collaborations include organizations such as Anchor Gardens, Alaska Native Media Group, Alaska Village Initiatives, Alaska Native Village Corporation Association, First Alaskans Institute, Southeast Sustainable Partnership, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission, Alaska Farmland Trust, and Alaska Food Policy Council. In addition to the many partnerships, he has also worked to develop relationships with staff in various Alaska-based United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs including the National Resource Conservation Service, Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program, and the Farm Service Agency.

By developing relationships that support a robust network of nonprofits, state and municipal programs, and USDA agencies, Galbreath has quickly become aware of many opportunities and services that will help support Tribes and Tribal members accomplish their goals and objectives related to food security.



ALASKA REGION
SILAS TIKAAN GALBREATH
Technical Assistance Specialist
(907) 750-0983
tikaan@indianag.org



A CULMINATION OF EFFORTS: RED CLIFF FISH COMPANY

GREAT LAKES REGION

The pending opening of the Red Cliff Fish Company serves as a culmination of several years of technical assistance from the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Great Lakes staff. This effort's focus on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) has been detailed in previous reports because of its impact in initiating a process that has since leveraged millions of dollars in additional funding to construct a Tribal-ly-owned-and-operated fish processing and retail center. The IAC regional staff toured the near-complete facility in early October 2020. It is scheduled to begin operations by the end of October.

Situated just above Lake Superior with views of the Apostle Islands and Red Cliff's Legendary Waters Casino, the fish processing operation gives Tribal fishermen a new outlet for selling their whitefish, lake trout, salmon, herring, and walleye in a market that was largely dominated by a single processor for many years. The effort has already secured many prospective customers and will expand into new, value-added products once the basic fresh and frozen along with smoked fish products are established. Beyond supporting Tribal fishermen, the effort should draw additional customers into the community to support the casino and other Tribal businesses. This model has substantial opportunity to be replicated by other Tribes for additional products with value added potential.



GREAT LAKES REGION

DAN CORNELIUS

Technical Assistance Specialist

(608) 280-1267

dan@indianag.o



HELPING THE LOAN PROCESS DURING A PANDEMIC

GREAT PLAINS REGION

Chisum Farlee of Dupree, S.D. is a young rancher trying to expand his operation. At the beginning of 2020, he had the opportunity to purchase farmland in his area but needed assistance in finding financing.

Farlee contacted IAC's Great Plains Region Technical Assistant Specialist (TA) seeking guidance on the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) ownership loans. Being a beginning rancher with a weak equity position, traditional financing would be difficult to obtain. As a result, the FSA ownership loan program was a viable option for Farlee.

Meeting with the TA, he was able to put together a feasible operating plan and made use of IAC's farm loan checklist to gather all the necessary supporting documents required for a complete application. In the middle of the loan request, the year took a sudden change. FSA offices would now be closed to the public making the process that much more difficult. Throughout Farlee's loan request, the IAC TA was involved in all correspondence between Farlee and his FSA Loan Officer to keep the process running smoothly. The TA helped provide clarification, along with needed items requested by the FSA. Even with the added difficulties this year brought, Farlee's loan was approved and finalized this past spring.

The TA reached out to Farlee this fall to check in and learned that it was quite the year so far. He was able to realize a good profit from the crop he planted on his new farm acres, as well as welcomed a new child into the world.

"With so much happening this year, I can't thank the IAC TA enough for assisting me with my loan request. I am sure it wouldn't have been as easy without your help," Farlee said.



GREAT PLAINS REGION

TOMIE PETERSON

Technical Assistance Specialist

(605) 200-0276

tomie@indianag.org



IAC PROGRAMS KEEP YOUTH PASSION FOR LIVESTOCK GOING DESPITE PANDEMIC

NAVAJO REGION

The fourth quarter of the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Navajo Region witnessed the drastic outcomes of many relatives suffering through the COVID-19 pandemic while helping shape policy at the Tribal governance level to ensure producers could continue to work and thrive in food sovereignty promotion. Many collaborations were ignited to combat food insecurity and to take all precautions to maintain a safe environment working with clients.

Unfortunately, with the limited amount of resources the Tribal fairs were unable to safely host the junior livestock shows where the Navajo youth directed their efforts to measure successful livestock projects through 4-H and FFA programs. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the University of Arizona Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FTREP) on the Navajo Nation and the IAC, the 2020 Resiliency Virtual Jr. Livestock Show and Sale was a success in providing youth the opportunity to showcase their hard work with livestock videos submitted online and evaluated by experts through the Show Circuit Online Sales (SCOS) Virtual Show format.

SCOS also hosted the virtual sale where IAC assisted in video creation and promotion for the public to offer their support

for the youth. The IAC was proud to assist exhibitors in preparation, and videoing livestock alongside FRTEP agents for a successful event.

FRTEP agent Alexandra Carlisle states, "With the help of Matthew Denetclaw, the partnership between the University of Arizona Tribal Extension staff, made it possible to put into use the 'Food for Families' program for our youth. The program assisted youth with livestock processing fees and allowed for the youth to have livestock processed with cost assistance through the program. Some youth had opted to donate their market projects to the community who were in need of meat during these trying times of uncertainty. This was especially true on the Navajo Nation which is known as a food desert. This program helped out youth, but also benefited some community members who were gifted meat from the 4Hers."

The IAC Navajo Region looks forward to assisting our numerous youth clients follow up on Farm Service Agency (FSA) youth loan payments, balancing statements, and accessing more capital to build their agricultural operation.



NAVAJO REGION
MATTHEW DENETCLAW
Technical Assistance Specialist
(505) 801-4426
matthew@indianag.org



WHAT CAME FIRST? THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

FEEDING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH EGG PRODUCTION

NORTHWEST OREGON REGION

This year has truly been a year to open our eyes to the importance of food sovereignty. In the early spring of this year, dairy farmers were spilling out thousands of gallons of milk, pork producers were forced to euthanize market animals and American citizens were buying shelves bare in the grocery stores in a panic that food would become unavailable. For the first time in this generation, people realized that even if they have the money to purchase food, there may not be food to be purchased.

On the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Minthorn and Morrison families joined together and decided to try and provide some of the basic food necessities for themselves and their families. Chickens were the focus, to ensure that a source of protein was available to them, as they already had their freezers full of beef, having butchered a steer in January.

Nobody had any experience raising and caring for chicken. So, in late April, 28 chicks were delivered from an online order of 36 (we lost a few to dogs mauling them). During the waiting time for the chicks to arrive, feeders, waterers, and chick feed was purchased. And, just by chance in early May, the local feed store had chicks arrive a day earlier than expected (feed stores were unable to keep chicks in stock this spring). So, in addition to those ordered online, 12 Red Sex Link chicks were purchased to learn how to care for chicks before the big shipment arrived.

Chicken panels were built out of two by two by eight-inch lumber with half-inch metal hardware cloth to fully enclose the chicks from predators. Because they were so defenseless, they had to be protected from all sides. As the chicks matured, larger waterers were provided along with two, 40-pound self-feed-

ers that keep rodents and other birds from contaminating the chicken feed.

Fast forward to September, with a total flock of 42 chickens. Just with the fifteen chickens producing eggs, there were around four dozen eggs per week and the families have been using the eggs themselves for about a month. As egg production picks up, they have decided to market the eggs, having made their first sale of five dozen to a local business. The high school on the reservation, senior's meal program, farmers market, and local grocery store on the reservation will be contacted for possible sales as well.

Throughout the summer, there have been several webinars on food sovereignty and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Farm Bill), in particular the USDA - Food and Nutrition Service, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPPIR). FDPPIR now has traditional foods available, including bison, wild salmon, catfish, blue cornmeal and wild rice and fresh eggs. Regulations to become a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) vendor will have to be adhered to, such as marketing the eggs to the school directly to determine the demand for the product in the National School Lunch Program. It is important to become a responsible entity by demonstrating responsibility in areas such as experience and past performance through successful participation in a commercial or governmental setting. The USDA will not be the first or only customer for a product. Vendors must also demonstrate financial solvency and the capacity to meet contract requirements in terms of quality, timeliness, and quantity.

We are hopeful this story will have a follow up, with this egg production being a source to feed families on the reservation a good source of protein that is healthy and tastes good.



NORTHWEST - OR/ID

KATHERINE MINTHORN

Technical Assistance Specialist

(541) 969-4685

katherine@indianag.org



SAKARI FARMS MAXIMIZING IAC SUPPORT AND USDA PROGRAMMING

NORTHWEST WASHINGTON REGION

Spring Alaska has been a re-occurring theme of success for the Intertribal Agricultural Council (IAC). She originally started working with the IAC's American Indian Foods (AIF) program with her Sakari Botanical business that focused on herbal and healing teas and ointments. After several years, Spring decided to expand her business opportunities.

Spring and her husband purchased several acres in Bend Oregon to start a small farm that focused on greenhouse production of traditional foods. This decision has proven to be a decisive change in Springs business fortunes. Sakari Farms has grown from 2012 sales of less than a \$1,000 to a projected \$80,000 for 2020. Spring has worked closely with IAC's staff and IAC's programs to ascertain all the benefits she could receive through the many benefits of the IAC's resources.

Sakari Farms has taken advantage of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Service Agency (FSA) Loan Programs to help with financing and planning on several of her projects. Spring also has worked with Akiptan, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) for financing as well.

Sakari Farms currently has one greenhouse in full production and has just recently purchased another identical greenhouse that is currently being erected. The farm is truly a family business. With the current COVID-19 online schooling requirements, Spring and her husband have been actively teaching their two teenage children about farming and business practices.

Spring states, "My kids are getting a great education right here at home".

Spring is a prime example of an innovative producer that takes advantage of USDA programs and the IAC's vast resources. She

is motivated to continue her expansion and innovation and plans on attending the AIF program planned international and domestic events as soon as COVID-19 restrictions are over. Sakari Farms has been a great example of IAC's capacity to make a great difference in an individual's life.



NORTHWEST (WA) REGION

MIKE SHELLENBERGER

Technical Assistance Specialist

(509) 833-4937

mike@indianag.org



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



IAC TA SPECIALISTS WORKING HARD TO INFORM PRODUCERS AMID LOCKDOWNS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

The COVID-19 pandemic has really disrupted the normalcy and future of the agriculture industry in the Rocky Mountain region this year. Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Technical Assistance Specialist (TA) efforts became a challenge not being able to travel and directly help producers.

There were various new assistance programs that producers were eligible for to offset the losses and market disruptions in the industry. Kole Fitzpatrick, the TA for the Rocky Mountain Region, was able to assist producers with new applications with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Small Business Administration (SBA), and the State of Montana.

The FSA enacted a program called the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program that offered direct payment support to producers for market disruptions. Fitzpatrick worked diligently to get producers the application for CFAP and worked with FSA to get their applications submitted with FSA offices closed to the public.

The SBA also had a program that aids businesses called the Economic Injury Disaster Loan. The EIDL loan had two parts of assistance that came in the form of a grant for up to \$10,000 and a loan amount based on the business's previous year financials. Fitzpatrick was able to get 63 producers throughout the region approved for assistance with this program that helped producers alleviate the burdens of lost income with their business due to the pandemic.

Another program that was available in the region was with the State of Montana Department of Commerce. They had a business stabilization grant available for businesses to apply for grant funds to offset expenses the businesses are still accruing during the pandemic.

Businesses were eligible for up to a \$20,000 grant from the state. Fitzpatrick was able to get 29 producers and their businesses approved for the grant funds. Getting producers and their businesses approved for the various assistance programs has been a big help to the Native American producers in the region. The cattle market has seen more and more disruptions throughout the past years and producers in need of assistance to stay in business.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

KOLE FITZPATRICK

Technical Assistance Specialist

(406) 450-8704

kole@indianag.org



All these projects take regional coordination, multi-discipline stakeholders, and sometimes years to develop successful outcomes. Other exciting projects that are in the developmental stage include: Birdcreek Farms – Okla., Knik Operations – Alaska, Shoshone – Idaho, Gak:w:yo Farms – N.Y., Oneida – Wisc., Chickasaw – Okla., Ardmore Tribal Complex – Okla.





CORPORATE OFFICE • 100 N 27TH ST, SUITE 500, BILLINGS, MT 59101 • TEL: (406) 259-3525 | FAX: (406) 256-9980
SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE • 408 MAIN ST, EAGLE BUTTE, SD 57625 • TEL: (605) 964-8320

COVER/BACK COVER PHOTO: GREAT PLAINS REGION - TOMIE PETERSON

WWW.INDIANAG.ORG