



SUCCESS STORIES VOL. I

INTERTRIBAL
AGRICULTURE
COUNCIL



IAC's Technical Assistance Program

2019: Making a Difference in Indian Country, One Story at a Time

Through collaboration between the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Tribal Relations and the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the Technical Assistance Centers were established in order to increase access and use of USDA programs and services by Indian producers and Tribes. By working to streamline existing programs and assisting producers with the application process, our goal is to build a more functional relationship between the USDA and Indian Country and play a role in the evolution of those programs over time.

Our stories will help us compile a wealth of knowledge that other agribusiness owners can draw on, to make an impact, for those featured and those who read the stories. This collection of success stories and photos illustrate how IAC is reaching participants to utilize programs and other available resources to improve their operations. The region-by-region stories highlight the achievements and progress made possible through our shared mission and commitment to achieve far-reaching and long-lasting benefits. Geographically diverse, the stories cover a wide cross-section of operations, practices and initiatives. We hope you enjoy learning about the people we serve and wish you all the best in your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kari Jo Lawrence". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kari Jo Lawrence

Director of Programs

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*Youth participants during the 2019 Annual Youth Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.
192 youth were in attendance, representing 47 tribes.*

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

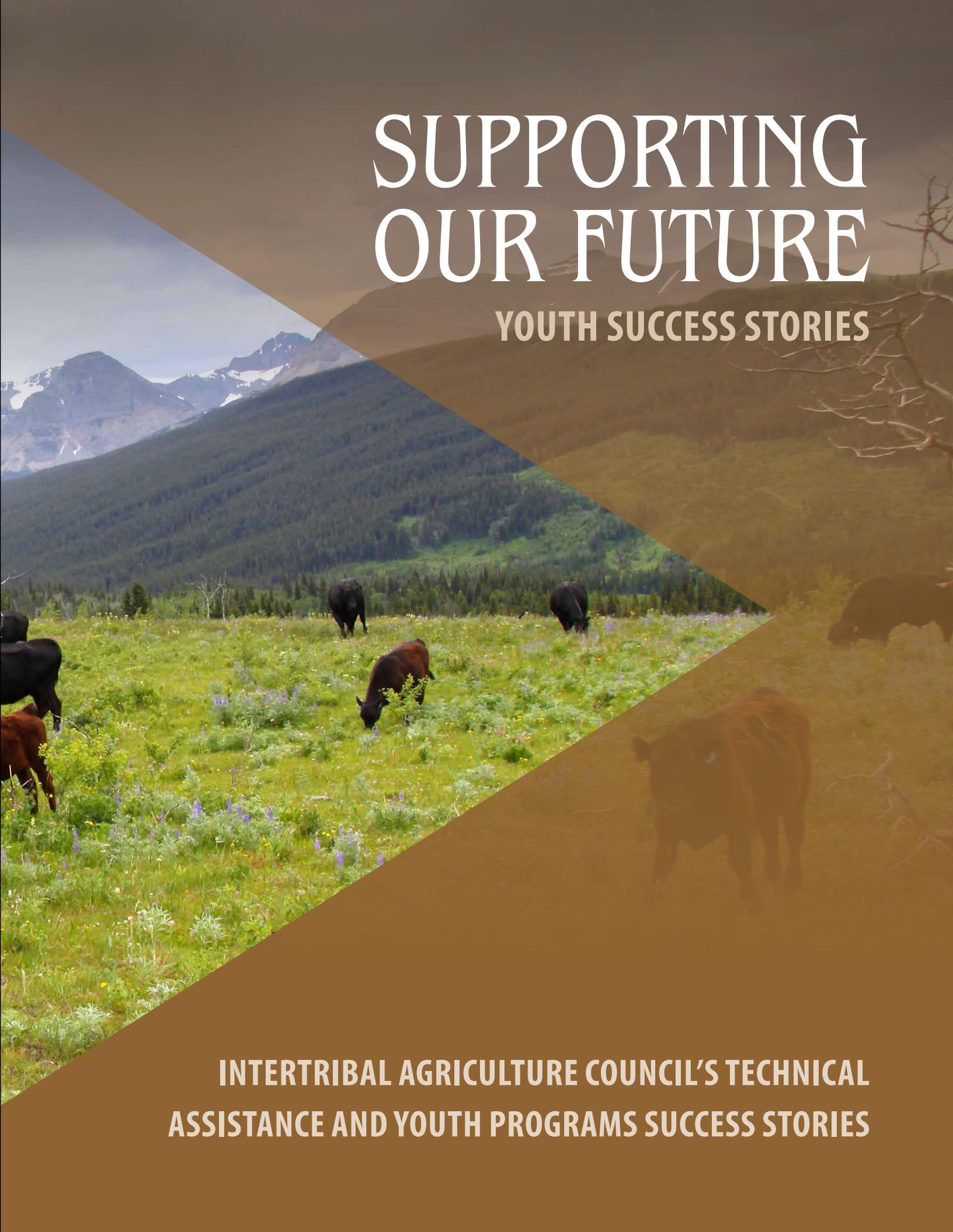
Economics

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

Communication

- Switchboard
- Connecting People
- Stewardship
- Reporting





SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE

YOUTH SUCCESS STORIES

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



FROM BEGINNING TO WINNING

NAVAJO REGION

In the last two decades, there has not been any evidence of educational opportunities for young adults who wish to become better at showing livestock in the Navajo Nation. Many families need to travel off the reservation for opportunities which unfortunately only benefits those with the available resources. In July of 2019, IAC Navajo Region started the inaugural "IAC Livestock Learning Institute" a free one-day hands-on clinic dedicated to those involved in 4-H and FFA. One participant, in particular, certainly took advantage of our program, which resulted in numerous rewards.

Dally Carlisle is a student at Rehoboth Christian High School. Outside of academia, he dedicates his time toward his livestock projects. In his interview he states, "I was very fortunate to have one on one sessions with both the lamb and goat professors. I was able to engage in show day fitting for goats and goat showmanship. They taught me how to feel comfortable with different styles of lamb showmanship. I was taught proper nutrition and the ideal feeding program for show lambs and goats. I became confident about the ins and outs of selecting a market lamb and goat prospects. Overall the camp helped me feel confident in what I have to compete with."

Following the clinic, Dally finished his year with roaring success including:

- 2019 Grand/Reserve Champion Market Goat Fitter Eastern Navajo Fair,
- 2019 Overall Lamb Showmanship Eastern Navajo Fair,
- 2019 Grand Champion Market Goat Ramah Navajo Fair,
- 2019 Overall Goat A Ramah Navajo Fair,
- 2019 Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb Ramah Navajo Fair,
- 2019 Grand/Reserve Champion Market Goat Fitter Bi-County Fair,

- 2019 Senior Champion Skillaton Bi-County Fair,
- 2019 Grand/Reserve Champion Market Goat Fitter Navajo Nation Fair,
- 2019 Senior Champion Skillathon Navajo Nation Fair, 2019 Herdsmanship Navajo Nation Fair



It's also important to realize it is not all about winning. The values taught through livestock projects go far beyond the winners circle which is fairly evident with Dally's short and long term goals which he hopes to achieve with the help of IAC, "I hope to continue to use IAC as a resource for my senior year of high school. I am planning to also apply for the 2019 IAC essay contest and be a youth council member. I would like to work in collaboration with IAC and set up another livestock camp for the younger show man because they are our future and we need to help them. I want to set an example for them and use my experience and success as a tool to help the younger

showman. I will also apply for the IAC youth loan. I hope to get a registered heifer to start a small herd and slowly build from there. It may not happen overnight but it's something I am more than willing to work on to achieve. I am truly thankful with the passion God has blessed me with. It takes a community to get me where I'm at so thanks to my family for the continuous support. One of my greatest influence has been Alex Carlisle, she has been such a great role model for me and I want to follow in her footsteps and make my own mark in the Ag industry. And lastly, a huge thank you to IAC Technical Assistant Specialist Matthew Denetclaw."

IAC Navajo Region thanks our local and national resources for making this event possible and we hope to continue to put on this clinic for many years to come.

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IAC LIVESTOCK LEARNING INSTITUTE

NAVAJO REGION

There is no question the IAC Livestock Learning Institute was needed to serve the youth with livestock projects on the Navajo Nation. What exactly, made this inaugural event a success? It was not just the winners resulting from this clinic. It was not just the well received feedback from participants. It was bringing kids involved in 4-H and FFA together who share similar interests to work together and build bridges with industry professionals thus, laying a foundation for a successful future in an innovative industry which is consistently growing beyond the standard.

With the recent push in agriculture to bridge the gap between producer and consumer, there is no better way to introduce this initiative to the youth than through the IAC

Livestock Learning Institute. For an entire day, participants worked one on one with industry experts to master skills required for being competitive at their end point competition. While taking advantage of hands-on instruction, participants learned about the true purpose of raising livestock projects which is to contribute to feeding a growing population. Experts estimate the world's population will double by the year 2050. With that in mind, it is safe to say there will be a continuously growing market for locally grown locally sourced foods. The modern day consumer is armed with more information than ever before and strives to know more about all their consumables. All participants are now aware there is a future in producing food not just for a local market, but engaging their efforts to disrupt the local food chain by pursuing a future in the Farm to School initiative. With food distributors and processors along the chain ready to achieve this goal, all we need are the future Navajo producers who have a goal to invest in this unique opportunity. It all begins with the IAC Livestock Learning Institute.

IAC Navajo Region would like to thank all the local and national contributors who made this event possible and we look forward to continuing this annual program for years to come.



2019 IAC LLI Instructors



2019 IAC LLI Participants with Instructors





STEPPING INTO LEADERSHIP

PACIFIC REGION

In January of 2019, Donald Moore (Yurok, Hupa, Tolowa, and Karuk) applied to an IAC Pacific Region Summer Internship position to gain greater experience in Tribal food sovereignty initiatives and natural resources. He was excited to come home to the Northern California coast, given that his studies brought him to Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado where he is finishing his sophomore year in the Environmental program. Donald came into the internship with research experience in aquaponics through the Research Experience for Undergraduates program at Humboldt State University, volunteer experience with Conservation Colorado, and community-based agriculture experience with the Good Food Collective in Durango, CO among a host of other applicable skillsets.

Upon being accepted into the IAC Pacific Region Summer Internship program, Donald met with IAC Pacific Region representation to co-design his internship experience. The Klamath Trinity Resource Conservation District (KTRCD), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Eureka, CA Field Office, and the United Indian Health Services Potawot Community Food Garden were selected as internship partner sites. Each site offered a unique vantagepoint into Tribal food systems initiatives and land management. Early in his internship program, Donald agreed to assist the KTRCD and IAC with the development of the 2019 IAC Pacific Region Native Youth Food Sovereignty Summit, both entities were primary partners in the facilitation of this year's youth summit. Donald was the ideal local point of contact to work amongst community members, organizations, and agency partners to build a robust agenda in coordination with IAC's Leadership Development team and partners.

The internship program created opportunities for Donald to step into leadership positions that he is naturally inclined

towards. Recently, Donald noted that his 2019 Summer internship experience positively impacted his career goals, and that pursuing future employment with NRCS is a strong possibility. He is in coordination with NRCS to continue to gain experience with the agency while in Colorado for school.

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Internships formed under agreements such as these directly contribute to outreach efforts that aim to diversify applicant pools for careers in natural resources.

TRADITIONAL FOOD SYSTEM



PACIFIC REGION

The Karuk Tribe is strongly committed to growing opportunities for Tribal and local youth to engage with their traditional food system. Lisa Hillman, the Director of the Píkyav Field Institute, has led a powerful effort to build integrative traditional and local foods curriculum into years of Farm 2 School (F2S) related initiatives. The Karuk Tribe initially received a F2S subaward in 2015 which enabled staff to hire Native food forager contractors who collected hundreds of pounds of acorns, grapes, huckleberries and more. The

program organized field trips to foraging sites, conducted a baseline survey of traditional foods consumption at area schools, and built and implemented K-12 Native food system curriculum. Many schools throughout the Mid Klamath Region of California (Junction, Orleans, Happy Camp, and Forks of Salmon Elementary Schools, Yreka Tribal Headstart, and Happy Camp High School) partnered to implement this important programming.



In 2017, the Karuk Tribe received a \$100,000 F2S grant to expand upon ongoing initiatives (developed under their initial sub-award) to further support their impressive traditional foodways educational initiatives. Under this grant, Lisa and her team were able to publish many articles and present findings and best practices at venues across the region and beyond. Continued emphasis was placed on honing and expanding K-12 curriculum as well. A digital library, archives, and museum (Sípnuuk Digital Library, Archives and Museum) was developed as an educational resource to support future research focusing on Karuk cultural topics, including the Karuk food system. The true impact of the F2S based efforts over the years is immeasurable. Lisa and her team are cultivating meaningful change in their communities through food and nutrition-based curriculum that follows the unique practices of the Karuk people.



Lisa has been very impressed by the process of working with both F2S grants and has recently shared that the “Farm 2 School grants have been the best grants I have ever worked with.”



IAC has been a longstanding partner of the Karuk Tribe’s Department of Natural Resources (which houses the Píkyav Field Institute among other programs), sharing resources and assisting with identifying funding for youth-led initiatives, highlighting the Karuk Tribe’s impressive community-based programming nationally, advocating for the protection of Tribal sovereignty and ancestral territory management, and outreaching to Karuk youth to involve them in IAC Pacific Region Native Youth Food Sovereignty Summits in 2018 and 2019.



FARM TO CAFETERIA



SOUTHWEST REGION



- Farm to Cafeteria
- Healthy Kids = Healthy Learning
- Connecting Farmers and Schools



In July, the Intertribal Agriculture Council was invited to speak at the “Healthy Kids = Healthy Learning: Connecting Farmers and Schools Symposium” at a successful Farm to School program called Star School near Flagstaff, Arizona. At the symposium, organizational and program professionals presented to approximately 150 farmers, gardeners, educators, health officials and other partnerships interested in pursuing a Garden to Cafeteria program to support nutritious meals in their schools.

The Intertribal Agriculture Council has been working closely with National Farm to School Network in pursuing this challenging development. There are several schools in New Mexico who are currently developing Garden to Cafeteria Pilot Programs who are paving the way for other schools as well.

There are many partnerships necessary in developing protocols that include a food safety plan, environmental regulations, school garden staff, food and nutrition staff, etc. The Belen Consolidated Schools is partnering with the School Nutritional Services Department and is one example of pursuing the task of a Farm to School Program to provide students with fresh and healthy garden grown foods through their school lunch program. The other school researching the program is Magdalena Municipal School located in Southern New Mexico.

The Intertribal Agriculture Council will continue partnering with the National Farm to School program officials as we continue to bring awareness to programs such as the Garden to Cafeteria Program.

SOUTHWEST REGION

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Fresh fruit and produce (photo taken by DPadilla)



Farm to Cafeteria Workshop (photo taken by DPadilla)

YOUTH PRACTICES FARM TO TABLE

SOUTHWEST REGION

- Farm to Table Practices
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Strengthening traditional Pueblo farming methods

Cochiti Pueblo is located 47 miles north of Albuquerque, NM and is a historic pueblo with a population of 528 according to the 2010 census. The people from Cochiti Pueblo have



been practicing traditional agriculture for centuries before the Spanish Colonizers arrived. However, influence from western society and the creation of the Cochiti Dam flooded most of the Pueblo's farmland and destroyed a generation of farmers.

Shyanne Eustace is an enrolled Tribal member and was raised in a single parent household along with two other siblings. She was brought up in a very traditional upbringing. Access to healthy foods was always a challenge. In high school, Shyanne began to raise chickens for eggs to help feed her family and began bartering with community members, a natural practice that was passed on to her. As a result, she was practicing farm to table and sustainable agriculture through high school..

Shyanne is a second year student in the Natural Resources program with an emphasis in Ecological Restoration and minoring in Sustainable Agriculture at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. She is a first generation student to pursue a college education.

Since 2014, she has been an active participant in the Intertribal Agriculture Council. She recently attended the 2019 Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Summit in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The Summit is a week-long skilled development focused event open to all American Indian youth interested in food production and policy issues. Programs like these have provided Shyanne with many resources and opportunities to further pursue her future in the agriculture related field of study.





IAC OUTREACH BENEFITS YOUTH

NORTHWEST- WASHINGTON REGION

IAC's collaboration with the Colville Nation's FRTEP yields a successful FSA youth loan for a Colville Nation descendant. The youth will use his funding to purchase livestock to show and sell at Jr. livestock shows. He will gain experience and profit monetarily, gaining confidence with his success. Eli Katich is a 12 yr. old decedent of the Colville Indian Tribe located in Eastern WA. He lives on his family's cattle, goat and sheep ranch. He has been seeking funding to purchase cattle, goats and sheep. He especially enjoys raising goats for meat and dairy production. Eli states, "I love working with animals and watching them grow; it's kind of hard work but its fun".

Early September of 2019, Eli was referred to Mike Shellenberger, the IAC-USDA Technical Assistance Specialist for Washington State seeking advice on what type of funding was available to help him to buy more animals. We com-

pleted a FSA youth loan application for the maximum amount of \$5,000 dollars to purchase several Charolais steers to raise for livestock shows around the state and eventually sell his livestock. His loan was approved and the cattle were purchased. Eli attended the Central WA State Fair in Yakima WA, in late September, showing his Charolais steers, dairy and meat goats and sheep. All of Eli's livestock won top prize! Eli is soon to pay off his FSA loan, "I'm ready for another one," he states.

Eli's involvement with IAC will open up more opportunities for him. He'll get education ON USDA programs that can help him succeed now and in the future. Eli's dream is to become a full-time rancher, preserving the land and continuing his heritage.

**NORTHWEST- WA
REGION**

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YOUTH PROGRAMMING BY NUMBERS

LOCAL IMPACT

700+

Youth involved across the 12 BIA regions

REGIONAL EVENTS

32+

Youth Leadership Summits since 2016

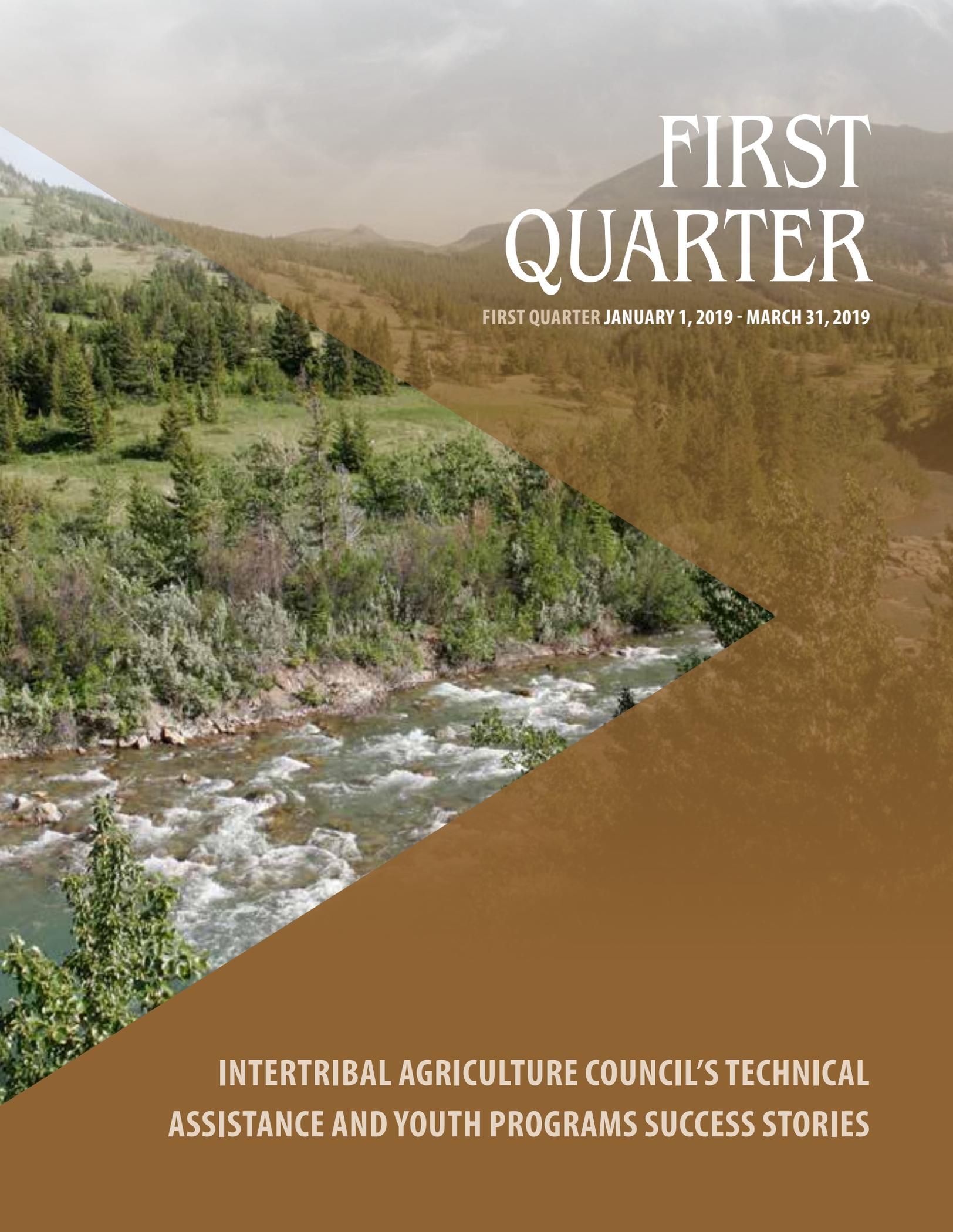
NATIONAL INFLUENCE FOR INDIAN COUNTRY

20

National Leadership Summits and Outreach Opportunities







FIRST QUARTER

FIRST QUARTER JANUARY 1, 2019 - MARCH 31, 2019

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



TRAIN THEM UP EARLY



NORTHWEST (OREGON) REGION



Many learning opportunities took place over the first 6 weeks, both for the children and the cows. One noticeable difference with daily handling was the noise level, there is virtually no mooing with this type of handling. Children learned to use pressure zones and flight zones to control the movement and lead the cattle in the direction they wanted them to go. Low pressure does not mean that the animals have control, it's a clear consistent communication with established leadership, which allows the cows to relax. The cows calved during March and April 2018, which was perfect for the weather conditions, the calves were born after the snow and ice storms that are prevalent in the region. Another innovative practice involved using the cattle to control weeds and fire fuel on some lower pastures which were drying fast with the hot summer. With the small herd trained on electric fencing, they were able to be used in place of chemicals to control unwanted vegetation. By this time, the animals were fairly docile and accepted the presence of their handlers. They were easily moved to several smaller acreage locations. They were utilized in the spring to manage cheat grass infestations, in the summer they were used to graze off giant wild rye and, in the fall, used to clean up stubble fields after wheat harvest. In the winter they were on the stubble along with feeder alfalfa in a large square bale feeder and automatic watering system which helped make winter less labor intensive. This feeding program drastically decreased the cost for feed.

In December 2018, the steers were advertised as natural locally raised, grass grazed with no antibiotics, or steroids. Two of the steers were weighed and sold to private parties. One was split between two buyers and the other between three buyers. Live steers were delivered to a local slaughter facility where the steers ownership was changed to the name of the buyer (eliminates USDA inspection), who paid for processing at .70 per pound and a 70.00 kill fee. The heaviest steer dressed out at 828 pounds of various cuts of meat which netted a payment of \$2,484.00 and the lighter steer dressed out at 590 pounds for a payment of \$1,770.00.

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November 2017 the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla

NORTHWEST - OR/ID

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Technical Assistance Specialist

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Indian Reservation dispersed the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux payment to Tribal members; two families with young children decided to invest in cows for their children's future. Myles Minthorn, Denise and Cecilia Morningowl each invested in a bred black cow from a dispersal sale in Billings Montana. The cows needed some work to contain them for the children to work with. IAC and Chris Schachtschneider, OSU Extension came and worked with the youth and their livestock, showing them the fundamentals of low stress livestock management on how to set up an electric fence to teach the livestock to stay off the fencing by placing in several locations within the pen.

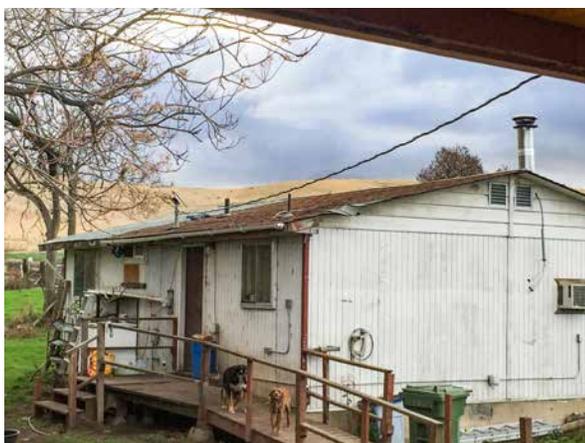


IT'S TOUGH TO GET OLD....



NORTHWEST (OREGON) REGION

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Housing Authority (URHA) applied to Rural Development for the Housing Preservation Grant Program and were a successful recipient in 2015 and again in 2019. The URHA was able to provide \$5,000.00 in grant funding to eligible homes to assist with health and safety concerns. The grant provides for roof repairs or replacement, updated electrical



wiring, new septic systems, updated bathrooms with walk in showers to meet American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, installation of well pumps and siding repairs to help weatherize the homes. Advertisement went out through the Tribal newspaper and Tribal website, however the program wasn't being utilized by the elders aged 62+. IAC Technical Assistance staff made contact with the URHA to let them know we are available to assist with the application process. The Umatilla Indian Reservation in north eastern Oregon has the Blue Mountains within the boundaries. Along the foothills the weather can be fierce with high winds, blowing either snow, rain or ice, all of which weigh trees and roofs with excessive weight in the winter months.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley James' family lives at the foothills in their two bedroom home, both are retired. Mr. James had a stroke and Mrs. James stays home and cares for her husband both receive a monthly social security payment. Upon contacting the family regarding the application for the funding, Mrs. James advised she had received the application in the mail from the URHA, however she didn't understand the application process and threw it away. When asked if IAC could assist in the application process Mrs. James said yes, she said her daughter who had recently passed had always filled out all her applications and submitted for her, now she had no assistance and just didn't apply. The application which contained information on the home and income verification, along with a Title Status Report (TSR) from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (showing ownership of land and home) was submitted to URHA.

Mrs. James contacted IAC with the news that they had been a successful applicant for the USDA RD Housing Preservation Grant program. The James' residence received a replacement roof, as the winter storms had caused a tree to fall on the roof, causing extensive damage, a new wheelchair ramp and the septic tank had been pumped. Mrs. James was so thankful and said, "we didn't even ask for the septic tank to be cleaned," she was told that during the application process the box for pumping the septic tank had been checked as well.



NATIVE YOUTH GRADUATES TO FSA MICRO-LOANS

NORTHWEST (WA) REGION

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NORTHWEST (WASHINGTON) REGION

Wyatt Wiltse is a 21 yr. old American Indian. He is enrolled with the Yakama Nation Tribe of Eastern Washington. Wyatt is a graduate of White Swan Senior High and lives with his family located in White Swan, WA. The family is active in raising livestock that includes hogs, goats and cattle along with alfalfa hay.

Wyatt is a prime example of what can occur when a combination of resources are utilized in a positive manner. The Intertribal Agriculture Council, Farm Service Agency, White Swan FFA chapter, and his family have all contributed to this youth's great success.

Several years ago Wyatt became interested raising livestock and decided to seek an FSA youth loan that he heard of through the outreach of the Intertribal Agriculture Council. Wyatt has secured several FSA youth loans in the past and recently has graduated to the FSA Micro-Loan and has built his cattle herd to 50 cows and calves. Wyatt has incorporated his cattle herd into the family operation and is very active in the management of the herd.

Wyatt was also active in showing hogs at local events including the Central Washington Jr. Livestock Show in May of 2013 and the Central Washington State Fair. Wyatt won best of show for his hogs. Wyatt states, "FFA was very valuable in teaching me about animal husbandry."

Wyatt obtained several youth scholarships to the annual Intertribal Agriculture Council Membership Meeting. He hopes to attend the meeting representing the Yakama Indian Nation and his family's livestock operation. Wyatt has stated that he is interested in slowly building his cattle herd to a self-sustaining source of income.



Wyatt at his local 4-H fair

THE INNOVATIVE SOCKEYE SUZY



NORTHWEST (WASHINGTON) REGION

Suzy Lumley aka “Sockeye Suzy” is an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation. Her ancestors have been fishing the Columbia River for centuries. Suzy and her family have been following that tradition for as long as she can remember.

Suzy has started her own business “Sockeye Suzy’s” to capitalize on the abundant salmon runs that the Columbia River normally provides. She sells fresh Chinook, Coho and Sockeye Salmon during their perspective runs. Suzy also adds value to this product by having her salmon canned with many different flavor varieties.



Suzy at Seafood EX Hong Kong

Back in 2012, Suzy met with the NW IAC Washington State USDA Technical Assistant Specialist concerning the Inter-tribal Agriculture Council’s American Indian Food Program, which is funded by USDA Foreign Ag Service. This program provides technical assistance, business training, and access to numerous trade shows. Suzy completed all the required training and began attending many domestic and international trade shows.

Over the course of several years, Suzy’s business sales began to increase. Suzy has stated that many of those sales were directly related to attending these trade shows and making contacts that purchased her products. Unfortunately, the salmon runs are cyclical and recently they have begun to decline causing Suzy to look to other means to supplement her income. Suzy bought some real estate along the Columbia River and opened a small shop. Suzy stocks this shop with her Salmon, Huckleberries, Native American Jewelry and other works of art. Suzy is now in the process of adding other American Indian Food Products to carry in her store.



Suzy Lumley aka “Sockeye Suzy” is a prime example of what can be accomplished if an individual is willing to use the resources available and hard work. Suzy is a steadfast person that has a vision that benefits her family, community and the American Indian Foods Program. IAC’s longstanding relationship with Suzy continues to enable her visions to become realities.



INNOVATION IN CONSERVATION PLANNING

PACIFIC REGION

Over the last two years, IAC has partnered with NRCS-CA to explore conservation planning in traditional plant management scenarios. The need was brought up by a Tribal representative during a bi-annual Tribal Conservation Advisory Committee meeting. Four California pilot sites are being established, in direct coordination with local field offices and the state office, to work in coordination with Tribal departments, traditional gatherers, elders, and technical staff to identify ways to improve the applicability and receptivity of NRCS conservation planning tools within traditional management contexts.

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, located in Del Norte County, has been selected as one of the project sites. The Tribe designated environmental and natural resource staff and local Tribal gatherers as consultants for the project. Trainings have been held to assist the representatives in understanding the scope and function of the NRCS conservation planning process. Resource inventories, along with local knowledge, have identified stands of culturally relevant plant populations and the planning process is assisting in prioritizing goals around active management and increasing access for community use. As part of the agreement, the Tribe will be responsible for submitting a detailed report of recommendations around how NRCS may improve its conservation planning process when serving Tribes. As part of this pilot, the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is focusing on restoring a sacred site, a massive prayer rock overlooking the Pacific Ocean, to increase basketry and traditional foods plants at this location. A staff member recently commented that the process is assisting the Tribe in refining their definition of Tolowa Dee-ni' agriculture, which extends beyond their vegetable and orchard operation, including traditional forms as well.

These conservation planning for traditional plant management pilot projects will wrap up by the end of 2020 and the reports from each Tribe or Tribal organization will assist in

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building justification for the development of a national Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for traditional plant management scenarios. At this juncture, three of four sites have been identified and there all involved are enthusiastic about the prospects of the partnerships and co-developing responsive solutions to meet Tribal goals, while increasing technical input into NRCS service delivery.



Tolowa Dee-ni' team discussing priorities with NRCS field staff



Tolowa representative outlining project site parameters

DEVELOPING MARKETABLE SKILLS

PACIFIC REGION

Since 2015, IAC Pacific Region has administered cooperative agreements with NRCS-CA to implement natural resource internships for Native college students in the state of California. These statewide opportunities enable participants to co-develop and implement their own multifaceted field-based experiences over several months. There are three overarching components to the internships: the program is inherently collaborative, it is integrated with an active Tribal natural resource project or issue, and there is direct coordination with NRCS to gain exposure to agency programs and structure.

The internship program continues to evolve as a result of student collaboration and new opportunities to partner across the spectrum of IAC partners. The framework of this intern-



Ellen displaying seedlings she's grown from gathered seeds



Ellen gathering on-site as part of a Tribal restoration project

ship program has been shared with other states as a model for developing NRCS/IAC internship programs reflective of goals to increase diversity in agricultural and natural resource professions and fields of study.

In the spring of 2017, Ellen Sanders-Raigosa (Paskenta Band of Nomlaki), was selected for a summer internship. She is a student in the Environmental Policy and Planning program at the University of California, Davis. Her internship focused on the restoration of culturally significant plant species and furthering connections with her people. In collaboration with IAC Pacific Region, she forged a partnership

with the UC Davis Arboretum Teaching Nursery to learn a variety of propagation skills. This enabled her to conduct fieldwork in Plumas County (at an active Tribal restoration site) to glean seeds and plant materials. After collection, she brought the materials to the Arboretum Teaching Nursery for processing and grew plants out at the NRCS-CA Lockeford Plant Materials Center.

After the internship, Ellen has sought to further her experience in native plant propagation, natural resources, land management, and youth development. She is a regular presenter at local and regional events and recently presented at Sherman Indian High School and University of California, Riverside as part of an IAC youth outreach initiative in April of 2019.

This internship program continues to expand, leveraging opportunities and building bridges between Tribal communities and agency partners





SOUTHWEST IAC PROVIDES IMPACT

WESTERN REGION

On September 25 – 26, 2018, Intertribal Agriculture Council’s Western Region hosted the 4th Annual Southwest IAC Conference, with nearly 220 attendees representing 16 Tribes present.

The Conference was open to Tribal producers and Tribes of the Southwest. IAC’s Western Region Board Member, Johnnie Hill, Jr. & the IAC Western Regional Technical Assistance Specialist were on hand. On the second day, the IAC Southwest TA & a past IAC SW Student intern were in attendance / assisting.

The Tribal Administrator from the Kaibab Paiute Indian Tribe opened the Conference with prayer. Various USDA Agencies presented on the first day; the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA), gave program information and updates relevant to Tribal producers and tribes and also brought information on drought mitigation. Rural Development (RD) also delivered program information for Tribes. Trent Teegerstrom of U of A Extension also presented.

One of highlights of the first day was the presentation made by Bob Kinford, “Burning the Bridges of Conventional Ranching”. There was much discussion during his question and answer period which resulted in a local tribal rancher requesting a “Forensic Grazing Study” in his grazing area. It was decided that a tour would take place on the day after the conference.

The Ute Tribal Enterprises also presented on “Who We Are, and the Journey”. Their presentation covered their journey utilizing Tribal, USDA, IAC, & ITBC resources to reach their current state as a successful

growing Tribal Enterprise. The presentation by the Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture, “Rebuilding Culturally Sustainable & Healthy Communities” was also a big hit.

The post event comments were positive and everyone is looking forward to this year’s 5th Annual Southwest IAC which will be taking place September 24-25, 2019 in Albuquerque, NM and with planning led by IAC’s Southwest Region TA.

WESTERN REGION

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HOPI NATION YOUTH SUMMIT INSPIRES

WESTERN REGION

The 2018 Western Native Youth in Food & Agriculture Leadership Summit was hosted in Polacca, Arizona, September 15th-16th, 2018, with the support of the Hopi Nation and the Intertribal Agriculture Council and support coming in from the Hualapai Nation, the Yavapai Apache Nation, 3 Lazy H Cattle (Hualapai) and the Arizona State Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA). Over 10 Tribal nations were represented by the participants.

We had the Arizona State NRCS Assistant Conservationist presenting. She started her presentation with a video on how the NRCS started in 1930 as the SCS and the Dust Bowl, conservation, erosion reduction, soil health, etc., and talked about what NRCS does to “Help People Help the Land”. The youth gained an understanding of the relationship between the food we eat, the climate and the soil and the importance of conservation.



Youth attending the Western Summit focused their learning through hands on activities, exploring the Hopi Nation of Arizona as their classroom. Youth toured a traditional terrace garden, (on the edge of a mesa) and learned about traditional terrace gardening from a Hopi elder. Other hands on activities included; learning how to prepare “Lasagna Beds” for sustainable gardening, preparing traditional food, playing traditional Hopi games. Knowledgeable presenters engaged the youth with identifying traditional plants and their use, elders shared the history, tradition and practices of Hopi Agriculture and dry farming; a unique blend of tradition with today’s technology; youth also engaged in group activities centered around conservation planning, and marketing indigenous food products.

Team Volunteers, and Student Employment Opportunities and requirements for eligibility in the programs; how NRCS works with Tribes and Tribal conservation districts, and gave examples of TCDs here in Arizona and the work they undertake for the Tribes.

Leadership skills were refined through youth led, youth taught training sessions. Goal setting, opportunity seeking, and business planning were each one of the many segments of the discussion driven by improving the health of native communities through economic development; agriculture being the key to success in doing so. The youth left for home with their sights on improving their communities, with an expressed confidence in their ability to do so.





YOUTH EQUITY FUND SUPPORTS BEGINNING PRODUCERS

SOUTHWEST REGION

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans to youth from the ages 10-20 interested in agriculture to begin to operate income producing projects that teach them agriculture related skills. In 2015, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) developed an equity fund to assist youth who are successful youth loan applicants. The application process begins with an evaluation by the Regional Technical Assistance Specialist and will then recommend and forward their recommendation to the Master Review Committee.

Brooke Trujillo is 14 years old and a member of the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo. She is in the eighth grade at the Santa Fe Indian School and is listed on the Junior National Honor Society. She is active in 4H and is the Vice President for the Rio Arriba County 4H Council. For the past four years, she has been able to complete a Poultry Project offered in her county. In 2018, she was able to add a rabbit project that took fourth place at the local fair. For her project this year, she was able to purchase a calf and is raising it as a livestock show animal.

Brooke is the primary caretaker for this calf and fortunately has the support of both of her parents and her agricultural mentors who openly assist her. These mentors include a 4H Agriculture Agent, USDA Extension Agent and NMSU Agricultural Specialist located in Rio Arriba County. Moving forward, Brooke's marketing plan is to raise and to participate in annual livestock shows that display her experience in raising livestock as well as her reputation for taking the time and care to grow prize animals. She keeps a daily feed log where she keeps track of the weight of her animals plus the amount of hay and grain given on a daily basis that tell her exactly how much weight her animals are gaining. This

shows her intuition and attention to detail in all of her hard work.

Brooke has received top awards in several competitive juried shows that attest to her business



and ranching skills. Her preference to add new species displays her full-fledged experience in wanting to raise a variety of farm animals. Brooke's agriculture background illustrates how deep her passion is for caring for farm animals. She has been able to benefit from experienced mentors but most importantly, she has the support from her parents who are willing to assist and encourage her in achieving her goal. Brooke's future plans include studying veterinarian sciences or crop management with a minor in business management.

"Brooke's agriculture background illustrates how deep her passion is for caring for farm animals." -Desbah Padillia, Southwest TA Specialist

SOUTHWEST REGION

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FSA YOUTH LOANS LEAD TO INCOME PRODUCING PROJECTS



SOUTHWEST REGION

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans to youth from the ages 10-20 interested in agriculture to begin to operate income producing projects that teach them agriculture related skills. In 2015, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) developed an equity fund to assist youth who are successful youth loan applicants. The application process begins with an evaluation by the Regional Technical

Julian has participated in events with NMSU Cooperative Extension Office, the Youth Leadership Summit hosted by Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative and the Intertribal Agriculture Council. Julian has over 5 years of experience with branding, vaccinating, roping and ear tagging his cows with his mentor observing. He is familiar with the amount of work that is necessary to maintain and

manage a cattle herd. He currently owns 22 head of cattle and has obtained knowledge about how cattle are sold at auction and is familiar with the time of year when the cattle markets are at their highest purchasing price. Julian's background consists of 5 years of cattle ranching experience with a very experienced cattle ranching family. He considers himself to be a 5th generation livestock producer and knowledgeable in the cattle business. His experience of selling calves at auction and researching current cattle



Assistance Specialist and will then recommend and forward their recommendation to the Master Review Committee.

Julian Louis is 17 years old and a member of the Pueblo of Acoma. He is in the twelfth grade at Grants High School and will be graduating this May, 2019. He received his first FSA Youth Loan when he was 11 years old and started a cow/calf operation with a pair of Black Angus cows. His project was to breed his cows and sell at auction to repay his loan and eventually make profits by raising and selling his own cattle and building an operation of his own. Julian has a grazing permit from the Pueblo of Acoma to graze his cattle upon the Acoma Reservation. His grandfather, who serves as his mentor owns a successful cattle operation and currently sells his beef through Labatt Food Service Distributor.

prices illustrates his knowledge of the finances of the cattle business. Julian benefits from his direct mentorship that helps to reduce some of his expenses.

"Being a cowboy has its costs. You need materials to fix fences, catch cows, brand them, feed them and the list goes on and on. Another thing you must have is land so that you can put your cattle in there. There is a lot of blood, sweat and tears because your cattle sometimes die. . . The main important thing is to have fun and cherish the time with your loved ones and learn as much as you can so you know how to do things so you can show your children if you have any. My dream is to carry on my family's tradition with cattle grazing and to have lots and lots of cattle when I get older."



COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION THROUGH OUTREACH

SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

Over the last eight years IAC has assisted with several community garden projects throughout Indian Country: Chickasaw Nation - Get Fresh Community Garden, Osage – Bird Creek Farms, Cheyenne River Youth Project- Taka Win Garden, Cherokee Nation – Citizen Seed Bank, Keetoowah – tomato project, Choctaw Nation – seed bank, Muskogee Creek – Tribal Farms, and Ponca – Community Food Project to name a few. This year two principal projects will be a continuation of this type of outreach: a multi-Tribal community micro-farm located in Anadarko to serve the greatest number of people and a commercial training opportunity with the Pawnee Nation; the community gardens have provided a training ground and opportunity to engage with every age group in the population. The youth and elders learn from one another and everyone discovers new and exciting food options. Occasionally, a participant decides they would like to pursue agriculture as a career and many folks decide to pursue a career in nutrition. Everyone learns of the importance of food-sovereignty and develops a greater appreciation for the farmers and programs that support agriculture. Many of the interested participants are now needing advanced training opportunities and this is the lead into the broader Pawnee Nation agriculture initiative.

Throughout implantation of community projects and developing tribal agricultural operations alongside USDA it is apparent that some communities can serve as an example and this has driven the work in Eastern Oklahoma Region and Western Region and will also carryover to Southern Plains. In the context of a community garden/farm there are several opportunities to introduce advanced technologies and best management practices and bring in authorities in the perspective fields. This paired with community meetings has provided training and broadly introduced USDA programming to thousands of interested parties over this last eight years.

Great things come in small packages... a place for 17 families and multiple programs to learn about healthy foods

SOUTHERN REGION

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and commercial veggie production – Ada, Oklahoma – Chickasaw Nation (2015-Present).

Three separate science classes assisted with installation and received training weekly for half a semester Ada High (2017-Present)



ENGAGING COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

The Pawnee Nation has been working with IAC to increase their food sovereignty- where trainings, departmental organization, USDA programming, and increasing partnerships have been a focus for the last three years. Pawnee is concurrently developing three separate endeavors with a unified mission all to be overseen by an in-house Agricultural Department.



Deb Echohawk has long been an advocate for preserving the traditional Pawnee cultivation methods and ancestral seed. Over the last decade Deb and the University of Nebraska have increased the seed stock and now are considering commercial value-added product development. The Pawnee Natural Resources Department has been working closely with NRCS to implement EQUIP across Tribally owned lands and have accumulated over 300 acres for a beginning buffalo operation, with several leases coming up this fall potentially adding another 1,000 acres. This last year the Pawnee Nation and Pawnee Tribal Development Corp. have decided to pursue commercial hemp production and have since developed the necessary legal framework. IAC has been involved with every aspect of the Pawnee agriculture initiatives: community development activities such as trainings and informative talks, developing partnerships with Oklahoma State University and the Pawnee Tribal College, introductions and continued support with

USDA programming, and the pursuit of grants and feasibility studies. The Pawnee Nation leadership is committed to increasing their community's access to healthy food and a sustainable position in the agricultural industry.

The Pawnee Nation will continue to accumulate lease and owned lands to facilitate the sustainability of the broader agricultural enterprise. Efforts are also underway with USGS and their in-house GIS team to identify area water rights including surface water and recharge aquifers, there are 22 water-monitoring sites within Pawnee jurisdiction. Pawnee Nation has an established group of employees with the necessary technical skills needed to address issues related to natural resources. This group is driving the development of an Agriculture Division to monitor, facilitate, and enforce production guidelines and standards for the Pawnee Nation food system. Under this Tribal government hierarchy, Pawnee will pursue formal intergovernmental agreements with DOI, USDA, and the Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture throughout this development. Currently, there is a Tribal Employment Rights Office to deliver workforce training for Tribal members seeking employment in agricultural and food system is being developed as well as potential workforce learning opportunities.

As the Pawnee Tribal College becomes active within the agricultural plan, the Board of Trustees are considering allocating 80 acres to develop an agriculture program for their curriculum. The Pawnee Nation and IAC will continue to provide assistance in guided curriculum that brings added value to workforce development. Several community efforts and an array of relationships between universities, NGOs, and government programs have been working toward a sovereign food system for the Pawnee and will continue to add to this good work.



TRIBAL FOOD AND FARMING WORKSHOP



GREAT LAKES REGION

The Tribal Food and Farming 101 Training was organized by IAC staff and hosted at the College of Menominee Nation on February 15-16 2019. The event began with a meeting for the emerging Wisconsin/Great Lakes Intertribal Agriculture Cooperative before highlighting Tribal success stories and then short presentation from USDA's NRCS, FSA, Rural Development, and NASS on how their programs can support small-scale agricultural producers that characterize most Tribal production in the Great Lakes Region.

The event's second day included background on plant biology and seed keeping, farm-to-table and value-added strategies, and youth presentations. All meals were prepared by a local Menominee caterer and a Ho Chunk chef, and IAC was able to work with several producers and a couple Tribes to print large format aerial maps of their operations. Sixty-seven participants registered and attend the workshop.

This 101 intro workshop is part of a series of agricultural and food workshops that are being organized throughout the 2019 Growing Season. Most of these workshops will be held in the field, focusing on hands-on education and highlighting successful Tribal operations. The in-person workshops are complemented by online trainings in partnership with other organizations and Tribes, including the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC), the Indigenous Seed Keepers Network, and state and Tribal academic institutions. IAC continues to refine ways to be responsive to producer's needs throughout the region to meet Tribal goals by leveraging USDA resources and partnerships.

GREAT LAKES REGION

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SUPPORTING VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS AND EXPANDED ACCESS TO AMERICAN INDIAN FOODS



GREAT LAKES REGION

Great Lakes Region staff has been working with the White Earth Tribe on a project to feature Tribally-produced products in retail stores to expand community access to these items while creating new market opportunity for local producers. Development of prototype shelving using specially-sourced Menominee Nation timber is a component of this effort, with the first shelves and product order being delivered to the Tribe in March. Additional shelving and ordering support is underway, and other Tribes have expressed interest in similar opportunities.

This effort highlights opportunities for cooperative marketing and distribution, in addition to strategies to support expanded value added production, including serving as a precursor to advancing additional Value Added Producer Grants and development of domestic American Indian Foods marketing program.





BEGINNING RANCHER'S FIRST STEPS WITH USDA PROGRAMMING

GREAT PLAINS REGION

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GREAT PLAINS REGION

While winter storm Wesley was hitting the Midwest with large snow amounts and continued blizzard conditions, IAC proactively posted an informational write up about FSA di-



Photo Courtesy of Mr Garrett- his horse

aster assistance focusing on Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) on social media. From this post IAC was contacted by Shorty Garrett, a rancher from central Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation regarding LIP. IAC learned that he was recently awarded a lease agreement on a range unit from Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. He had not been enrolled in any USDA programs thus far.

IAC met him at his ranch where he explained how he still does things the "old cowboy way" riding horse back much

of the time and doesn't have extensive cattle facilities. He has deep wooded draws in his calving pasture that are excellent protection during winter weather. Wesley left more than 28 inches of snow with 50 mile an hour wind causing up to 20 ft high drifts in some areas right during the heart of his calving period. Most of the death losses were not apparent until after snow melted the following weeks.

After this discussion IAC made sure his loss was reported to his county office, helped him fill out FSA forms for LIP, and gave him supplemental record keeping documentation. IAC went on to respond to his stated interest in NRCS conservation programming. IAC pulled up a map of his new Tribal unit, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the land. Mr. Garrett expressed that pastures had excellent water sources throughout, and a good variety of grasses, trees, and shrubs.





FROM A MICROLOAN TO A MOVEMENT

EASTERN REGION

Laura Manthe had no experience farming when she planted her first two acres of white corn in 2015. She just knew that her community in Oneida, Wisconsin needed more of it. Corn to the Oneida Nation means more than food. It's part of their creation story and a staple at community gatherings and ceremonies. When corn shortages befell her nation, Laura set to work. She rallied her family and traded wild rice for the corn seeds her ancestors had planted since time immemorial. That first year was a struggle. Her family scrambled to find the proper equipment and weeds quickly took over the field. When it came time to harvest they picked what they could, apologizing to the corn for not properly tending it.

She reached out for technical assistance to Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) and her colleagues at Oneida Department of Environmental Health and Safety. With the resources of the Tribe in her corner and a little nudge to apply for a Farm Service Agency Microloan, Laura came to the first meeting of a newly forming corn cooperative with access to land, a small tractor and implements, and a fresh sense of determination. Ten families joined the cooperative at that first meeting, confident in Laura's ability to lead them. Working with IAC, Laura then went after several grants and within one year had secured \$60,000 from USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), Global Greengrants, and Great Lakes Commission. With these resources in hand, the cooperative went to work, planting three acres of their cherished white corn and conducting a study on fish emulsion fertilizer. And this time, the harvest was a huge success.

The cooperative has grown to 15 families and named itself Ohelaku ("Among the Cornstalks" in Oneida). Intertribal Agriculture Council staff has assisted Ohelaku with coordinating three annual gatherings to exchange knowledge with Native producers throughout the region. The 2019 event will showcase no-till production compared to cultivated production to demonstrate the benefits of reduced tillage and cover cropping. All of these achievements were made possible from Laura's tenacity, the work of the community,

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and technical assistance provided by Intertribal Agriculture Council to leverage USDA and organizational resources.



Laura Manthe and Michelle Webster showing off a braid of white corn.



The health and wellness of Oneida youth play a central role in Ohelaku.

YOUTH SUMMITS GROWING LEADERS



EASTERN REGION

Intertribal Agriculture Council and Natural Resources Conservation Service have been partnering in the Eastern Region to bring Native high school and college-age youth together for Native Youth Food Sovereignty Summits for four years running. These gatherings serve to connect youth to each other, to mentors, and to their lands. Each event is hosted by a Nation in the Eastern Region and includes a myriad of hands on activities to teach conservation and agriculture skill sets in a culturally relevant way.



Maria, center, shows off her corn husk doll at the 2017 Eastern Native Food Sovereignty Summit



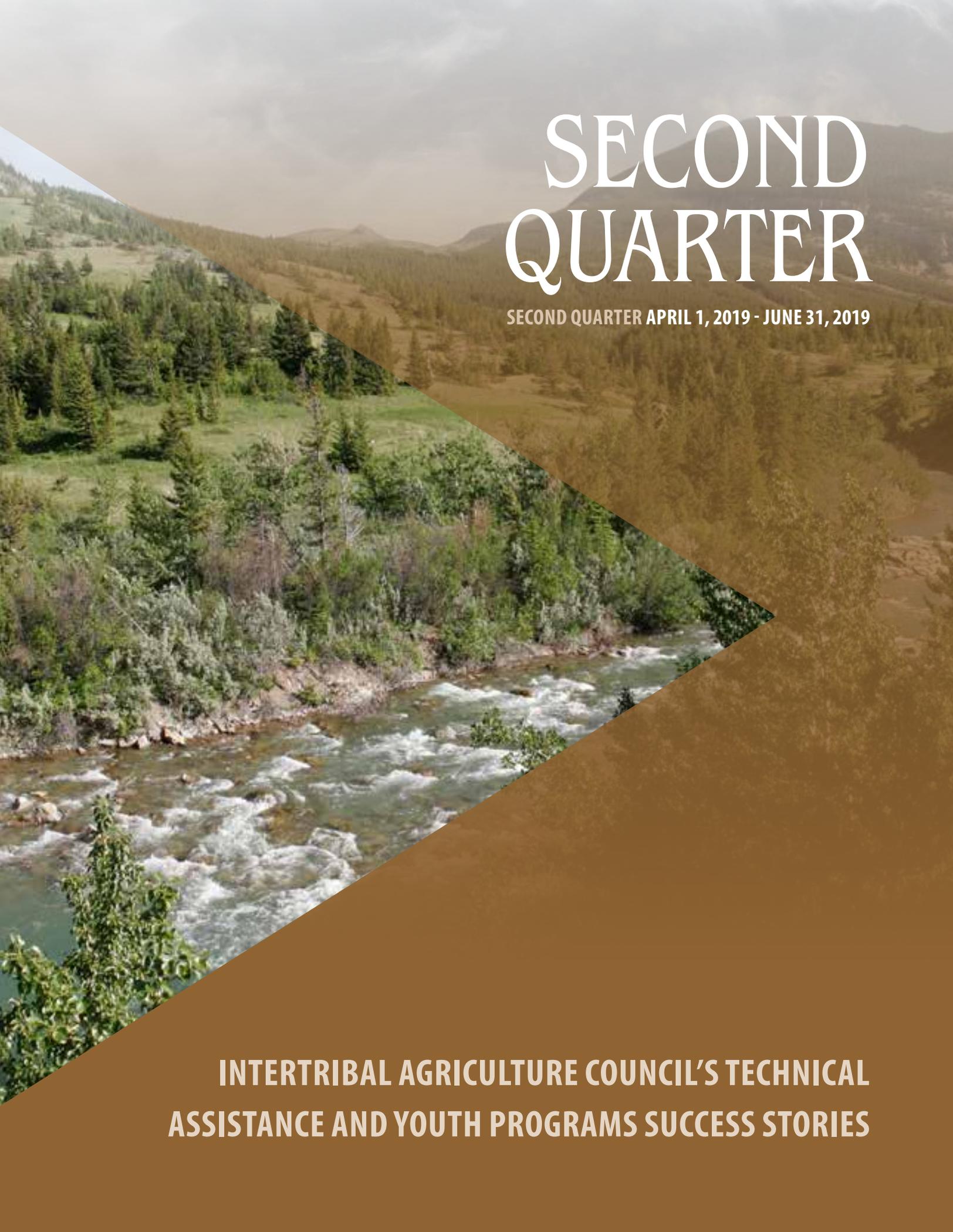
Maria, left, giving the thumbs up for the archery activity at the 2018 Eastern Native Youth Food Sovereignty Summit.

In addition, the benefit of the regional summits is that youth make friends with common interests who serve to build peer mentorship. Many youth having experienced a regional event, go on to attend IAC's annual membership meeting in Las Vegas where they spend a whole week learning about agriculture and natural resources.

Maria Sockabasin, age 19, of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Nations began attending the Native Youth Food Sovereignty Summits in 2015. She was still in high school then, and not sure what she would study. As she attended one event after the other, Maria slowly gained more confidence in herself and her goals. With a little encouragement she took the step to apply as a Youth Leader in 2017. As a Youth Leader Maria took on more responsibility at the event, and rose to the occasion. She did so again at the Intertribal Food Sovereignty Summit in August 2018 where she spoke to a crowd of 200 about her experiences in IAC's youth programs. As a Young Professional for the first time in 2018, she positioned herself as a mentor for younger participants at the IAC Membership Meeting.

Recently, Maria shared that she was exploring internship options for the summer, so assistance was offered in reaching out to partners and complementary organizations. Through these efforts she landed a position at the Wabanaki Youth and Science (WaYS) program through the University of Maine. Her project will be defined in the coming weeks with guidance from the WaYS program and, of course, support from IAC's Eastern Region Technical Assistance Specialist. She'll start college in the fall as an Environmental Sciences major.





SECOND QUARTER

SECOND QUARTER APRIL 1, 2019 - JUNE 31, 2019

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



CULTURAL VALUE-ADDED CURRICULUM INSPIRES PRIDE IN YOUTH

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IAC EASTERN REGION

Falling Leaves 4H has taken off in 2019 with 23 youth participating in a series of workshops in the Oneida community. On June 13, 2019 the youth gathered at the Ohelaku (“Among the Cornstalks”) Cooperative barn to learn about cooperative development values, production, storage, and value-added production. Youth used hand-cranked corn shellers to shell the kernels and then learned how to sort and grade the corn for seed or food. Each step offered an opportunity for Ohelaku, 4H, or IAC staff to lead a discussion on why these steps are so important in maintaining high quality seed stock and traditional food products.

The event concluded with a talking circle where youth shared how learning about traditional crops and foods made them proud to be Oneida. Our event was a highlight for them in their several months long workshop series on Indigenous Agriculture. Passing on traditions with hands on activities and discussion is in itself a tradition that IAC, Falling Leaves 4H, and Ohelaku intend to continue.



Youth identify bees in Micmacs’ pollinator habitat

Brad Skenandore, a member of Ohelaku, shared his experience farming in the Oneida community raising produce and bees. His lifelong experience offered insights into why and how to attract wild swarming bees into an apiary to keep strong genetics in a bee colony. Dr. Rebecca Webster, also a member of Ohelaku then led a value-added demonstration on making kan[^]stohale (“Corn bread”), a traditional boiled bread dish made from white corn and kidney beans. As the youth prepared and tasted the bread, they shared their takeaways from the afternoon at the barn.



Maria Sockabasin, 20, holding her brown ash basket

YOUTH ARE OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

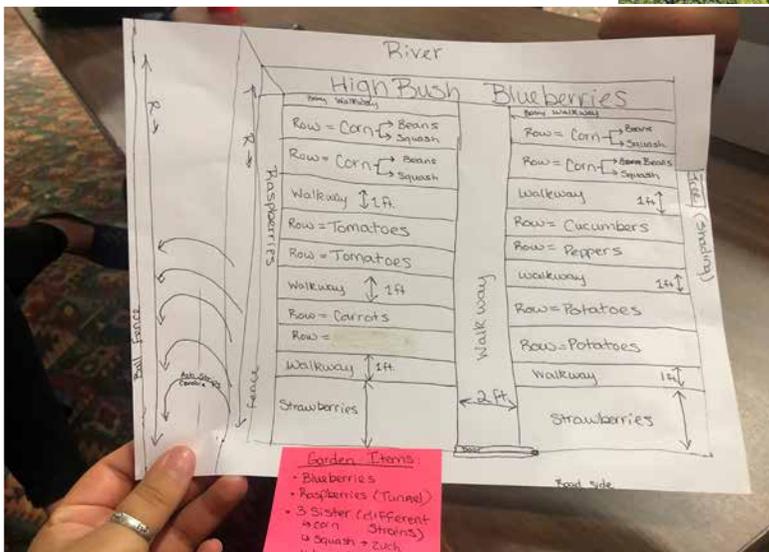


IAC EASTERN REGION

Five years ago it was common to hear elders lament the involvement of youth in agriculture. Those grumbles have turned into applause for the hundreds of youth who have taken advantage of IAC's youth programming in partnership with NRCS, dozens of Tribes, and local organizations.

Starting as a Youth Participant, Maria Sockabasin, now 19 attended her first IAC Youth Summit three years ago. In that short time she has developed into a leader for her community, landing an internship at Penobscot Community Garden in Maine. She continues to dedicate herself to teaching her peers and the next generation by actively participating in the planning of the 2019 Eastern Native Youth Food Sovereignty Summit, to be held August 1-3, 2019. No longer just a participant, Maria has grown into a leader and contributor of youth programming at IAC.

Maria, like many youth in our programs, has absorbed so much knowledge in her time at IAC's events and in her higher education pursuits. During an IAC site visit this June, Maria provided a tour of the gardens she has been preparing by hand. She was proud to show us the garden plan she drew up, saying "Look! I used what I learned at the Summit last year to plan the garden." Maria then asked about varieties of corn, beans, and squash that can be grown together. IAC staff was happy to provide that nugget of knowledge along with a healthy dose of encouragement to keep up the great work.



The three sisters garden



Photo 1. Planting trees in the schoolyard



FSA YOUTH LOAN HELPS FUND 4H PROJECT

WESTERN REGION

The costs associated with participating in a 4H project can be significant with purchasing an animal, the cost of feed, vaccinations, vet costs and purchasing the necessary equipment and supplies to show the animal. With the assistance of the Intertribal Agriculture Council and her parent's consent, Nina Montana applied for a Farm Service Agency (FSA) youth loan to help with the expenses in raising her first show animal. Nina purchased a three month old, Yorkshire Gilt which she named "Adimi".

In addition to raising an animal, Nina will be responsible for fulfilling her loan obligations and at the same time establishing an excellent credit history. She will also be learning about the business side of agriculture with book keeping, record keeping and the basic principles of animal science, gaining knowledge of breeding, feeding and management practices. The loan is helping Nina start and operate an income producing project.

When asked what she most looks forward to in raising her pig, Nina said, "I look forward to seeing how she'll do at the carcass contest." Nina realizes the time and commitment it takes in reaching her goals as her older sister Melina has also raised swine as a 4H project. The culmination of her project will be this September when she'll participate at the local county fair. Nina Montana, 16, is an enrolled member of the Hualapai Tribe, located in northwest Arizona. She and her four sisters are members of the Buck & Doe 4H Club on the Hualapai Indian Reservation.

WESTERN REGION

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Nina & "Adimi"

INSPIRING PATHWAYS

WESTERN REGION

Erin Eustace, an enrolled Hopi Tribal Member from Polacca, Arizona attended the 2017 Native Youth in Food and Agricul-

ture Leadership National Summit in Arkansas. Her experience at the Summit very much inspired and created a change in

her in a positive way. Erin began taking over the care of the family orchards, garden and livestock. She was so inspired that she wanted to host a Youth Ag Summit on Hopi. The IAC Western Region TA Specialist was at the time seeking a host Tribe for the 2018 Western Native Youth in Food and Ag Summit and through networking, was contacted by Erin's mother, Valerie Nuvayestewa about bringing a "mini" summit to Hopi and from that point on the wheels were set in motion. Erin held a lead role in planning the Western Regional Youth Summit with strong support of her mother, which turned out to be a success.



Erin presenting at the WNYFSS, Path to Hopi Terrace Gardens



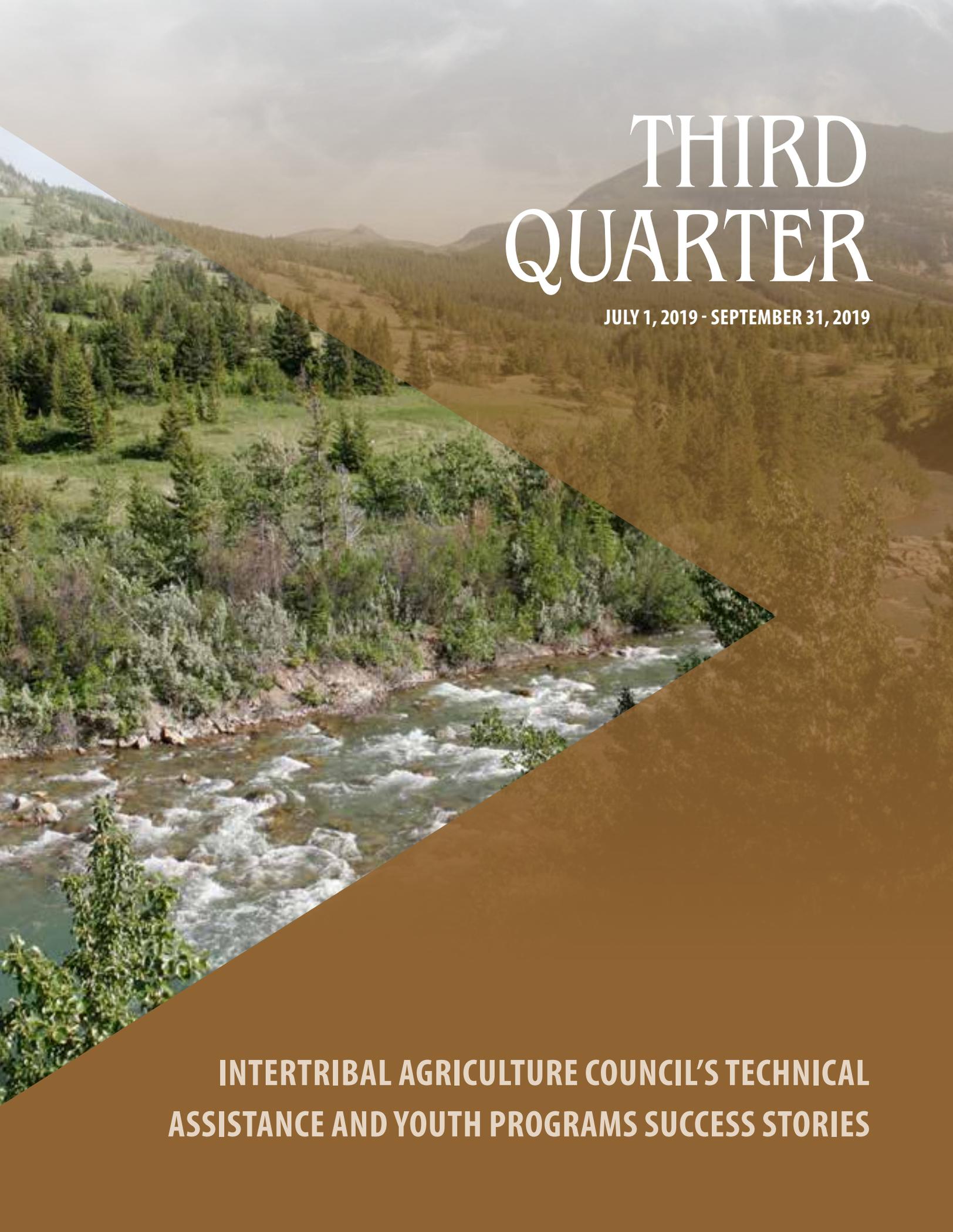
Erin sharing her Conservation Plan & her mother Valerie

Currently Erin is working with the Southwest Conservation Corp./ Hopi Division. Erin moved up through the ranks within the Southwest Conservation Corp. and is now leading and supervising her own crew. Her responsibilities include providing agriculture assistance throughout the villages and communities on the Hopi Reservation. She has also assisted with the Hopi Natwani for Youth Farming Curriculum. A curriculum designed to be used as a tool to teach Hopi youth of their roles in Hopi farming, preserving Hopi farming traditions and restoring the local food system and distribution.

Erin hopes that other youth will find inspiration to become involved in their own communities in creating sustainable agriculture and taking care of the environment.







THIRD QUARTER

JULY 1, 2019 - SEPTEMBER 31, 2019

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



CONNECTING GENERATIONS & FOOD SYSTEMS

IAC EASTERN REGION

Spirits were high as youth arrived on Aroostook Band of Micmac territory to attend the Fourth Eastern Native American Youth Food Sovereignty Summit on August 1, 2019. They numbered 22 and had just arrived from their reservations and cities to learn about indigenous food systems, leadership, and opportunities available to them. Elected Micmac leadership greeted them to their lands and shared some history of the Tribe. After brief introductions it was time for icebreakers. Within ten minutes laughter and screeches filled the air as a game of spike ball broke out and new friendships were already underway.



Youth identify bees in Micmacs' pollinator habitat

The next two days brought the youth to Micmac Farms to explore several concepts, including pollinator habitat with a local NRCS expert. Their nets swished through the flowering meadow and they proudly identified the bees they caught. A few youth even overcame their fear of bees having found a new appreciation for their beauty and diversity. Others took a liking to brown ash basket weaving and followed the direction of elders who shared their craft. As they carefully aligned the splints they learned that the Emerald Ash Borer threatens the future of basket making, and how Tribes are taking steps to ensure that the trees are there for the next generation.

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In the aquaponics building, youth gathered around the tanks to watch the trout swirl seamlessly past one another. Micmacs are not traditionally agriculturalists, instead relying on fishing for sustenance. Unfortunately, relatively recent consumption advisories have impacted the traditional diet. The new aquaponics system provides control over the quality of the water, and in fact the discharge water leaves even cleaner than it arrived. Cleaner water means cleaner fish that can be consumed more frequently, thus providing a traditional, healthy food to the Micmac Tribe and surrounding area. The youth even got to taste the fish for themselves at a traditional dinner complete with story telling from an elder.

This year's Eastern Youth Summit embodied the holistic nature of indigenous food systems, stretching beyond fields and pastures into forests and waterways, between generations young and old, and across governments and organizations. It took partnership amongst Aroostook Band of Micmacs, Intertribal Agriculture Council, The Boys and Girls Club, Farm Service Agency, and Natural Resources Conservation Service to illustrate the challenges and opportunities in Indian agriculture to the next generation. And based on the Summit feedback surveys, the undertaking was successful.



Maria Sockabasin, 20, holding her brown ash basket

NATIVE FARM TO SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

IAC EASTERN REGION

Indian Township School sits along the shores of Long Lake in Northern Maine in the small, tight-knit community of the Passamaquoddy Indian Township Reservation. The school enrollment fluctuates depending on the hunting and fishing seasons, between 125 and 145 students in Pre-K to 8th grade. Their Farm-to-School program started three years ago when the School Librarian, Donna Meader-York, approached the Special Education Teacher in Junior High, Brian Giles, to revive the defunct greenhouse on the school grounds and expand the small garden. Teaming up together, Donna and Brian flexed their resourcefulness muscle and reached out to several organizations, including the National Farm to School Network (NFSN).



The three sisters garden

Brian attended the very next NFSN Conference where he was especially inspired by a presentation from Intertribal Agriculture Council's Youth Programs Coordinator, Kelsey Ducheneaux. Brian saw clearly the connection between the issues faced in Native American communities, including Indian Township, and the opportunity to address those issues by empowering the youth to grow and cook their traditional foods. "I realized we're all fighting the same fight and I felt even more invigorated to help overcome those difficulties," said Brian, and his commitment soon paid off. Indian Township School received the Seed Change in Native Communities Mini-Grant and got to work bringing the greenhouse back into working order and building raised beds to increase the garden. They also started Passamaquoddy O.G.'s (Original Gardeners) club to bring a cool factor to the youth participating. Today the Indian Township School features a functional



Photo 1. Planting trees in the schoolyard

greenhouse, raised-bed garden, a wild rice pond, and a fruit and nut orchard planted by the students through partnership with ReTreeUS. The school has partnered with the food pantry, offering space in the greenhouse to start seedlings that grow to provide food for dozens of families throughout the harvest season. Students in the afterschool program help to plant the seedlings in the spring and return in the fall to gather and prepare the harvest in cooking classes. They also embark on foraging field trips for chokecherries and return to the school to preserve them into traditional dried leather. In their time spent together, the staff help youth focus on the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of health.

When the school opens the doors for community feasts, produce from the garden is served alongside harvested berries, moose and venison for all to enjoy. Families file past the signage in the cafeteria featuring Passamaquoddy and English to share a traditional meal together. These community feasts are just one aspect of their success though – Brian and Donna also created a more secure and culturally-relevant food system, set an example of partnership to achieve their goals, and most importantly, empowered the next generation.





PLANTING WORKSHOPS

GREAT LAKES REGION

As Tribal communities and individuals in the Great Lakes Region and elsewhere work to enter into and expand agricultural production, access to equipment, knowledge, and access to land and even appropriate seeds pose major challenges. These challenges range from entry into basic gardening to scaling into small-scale commercial production to more substantial commercial operations. IAC Great Lakes Region staff have worked to assist aspiring and existing producers overcome these barriers over the past several years, including through direct planting workshops using approaches suitable to small-to-mid-scale commercial operations.

While an assortment of equipment has been demonstrated, the primary equipment has been a BSC walk-behind, two-wheel tractor that can plant up to one acre in a half-day. These fields can then be maintained with basic lawn-mowers and weed eaters that are relatively available. This approach also employs a modified no-till method that is excellent for instructing on soil health, and NRCS has toured these fields with surprise at the effectiveness in quack and reed canary grasses. One acre is not enough to feed a community, but the demonstrations have encouraged multiple communities to purchase this type of equipment that requires only basic instruction for safe and effective use.

GREAT LAKES REGION

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INTERTRIBAL FOOD SUMMIT SUCCESS

GREAT LAKES REGION

The Great Lakes Intertribal Food Summit at the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians drew over 700 people for 5 days of education and networking on key issues and opportunities within the Great Lakes Region, although participants came from across the country and Canada. At



712 registrations, the event was double the size of past summits, although promotions were decreased due to a high level of interest early in the months preceding the event.

Among the 30+ workshops was a session on “Strategies and Programs to Advance Community Food Systems” that brought together high ranking staff from FSA, NRCS, RD, RMA, APHIS, and NASS along with presentations on Tribal success stories and community food assessments and the University of Arkansas’s IFAI.

One challenge is that Pokagon doesn’t currently have any production agriculture, so a couple workshops focused on success from other Tribes and then featured an equipment demo and planting. The summit also included both a concurrent youth summit and activities for younger youth, including the Tribe’s headstart program. Notably, all meals were prepared onsite from a team of 70+ Native chefs who used a large amount of American Indian-produced items. Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive & a snowstorm didn’t even put too much of a damper on the event.





EXPERIENCE GAINED

NAVAJO REGION

NAVAJO- NM/AZ/UT
REGION

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Southwest Youth Summit Photo



Ice breaker activity

After an extensive search, the Navajo Region once again has a Technical Assistant Specialist hired and has hit the ground running, building contacts and developing programming that will benefit people in the local area in the very near future! One of those meetings included a very influential young lady named Sunshine Tso, a member of the Navajo Nation from Bloomfield, New Mexico who recently participated in the 2019 SW Youth Summit.

Sunshine 19, is currently attending New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico where she is currently pursuing a degree in Agriculture Business and Economics. Thanks to the great work from the prior Navajo Region TA Network, she was introduced to IAC programming at 13 years of age and hasn't changed her mind since. She attended her first youth conference at the 2013 Membership Meeting and has participated in numerous IAC events throughout the years including a Youth Summit in the Pacific Region, 2017 Youth Ag Summit and being selected to intern for the Southwest Region TA over the summer of 2017.

Most recently, Sunshine has participated in the 2019 Southwest Youth Summit in Ruidoso, NM. She mentions the difficulty in traveling to the conference being in such a unique location, but her attendance was well worth the miles giving credit to this summit for offering more open discussions and topics related to food sovereignty plus traditional stories from the local Tribes. She states "It prepares me, especially for my major in agriculture and a future in native agriculture with regards to philosophy and making cultural connections." There is no doubt, many valuable experiences gained.





PREVENTION PAYS OFF

NORTHWEST REGION

2019 marks the 8th year IAC and USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services provided an equine vaccination clinic on the Umatilla Reservation of Oregon. Sixty three (63) horses were vaccinated with Prestige V + WNV, wormed and 38 horses coggins tested. Northwest IAC provides funding to purchase the vaccine and wormer which is ordered by the USDA Veterinary Services Veterinarian after a head count from the Tribal members is completed, around three weeks prior to the date scheduled for the clinic. The Umatilla Tribes Range Program provides the funding for the coggins testing on the horses, the coggins testing is cost free from the Tribes as an incentive to the horse owners to vaccinate their horses. In 2010 the Extension Agent at the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon encouraged IAC to contact APHIS Vet Services and request a vaccination clinic to be scheduled for the Umatilla Reservation. There is transportation of horses between the two reservations which is ongoing and established throughout the history of the two Tribes, with the Tribal members taking part in traditional parades, namings, and other cultural events.

Equine Infectious anemia (EIA) is a retroviral disease of equids that may be characterized by acute and/or chronic recurring clinical signs including fever, anemia, edema and cachexia and some animals. Many horses have very mild or inapparent signs on the first exposure, and carry the virus subclinically. The owners of these animals are unlikely to realize that they are infected unless serological testing is done. All infected horses, including those that are asymptomatic, become carriers are infectious for life. Infected animals must either be destroyed or remain permanently isolated from other equids to prevent transmission.

In 1982 a program was formed on the Warm Springs Reservation to combat an outbreak of EIA on reservation, approximately 3500 horses were rounded up and tested 2-4 times. With this history, the vaccination clinic at Umatilla is a preventative measure to keep both Tribes horses healthy and disease free.

NORTHWEST OREGON REGION

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"I am grateful for this service and coordination. Thank you, Katherine. We are proud of having such support of our equine community from your organizational resources. Bobbie"



CHEM FALLOW VS. GRAZING

NORTHWEST REGION

BIA in Umatilla County between the years 1995-2011 received over 25 million in conservation subsidies, disaster subsidies, and commodity subsidies, ranking third largest in Umatilla County, with Umatilla County being the largest recipient of subsidy programs in the State of Oregon. The Umatilla Tribes Farm Enterprise is farming over 6,000 acres in cereal grain production, inclusive of Tribally owned, indi-



Volunteer wheat April 24, 2019



Chem Fallow May 23, 2019

vidual Tribal member owned and Tribal member undivided interest allotments.

The Umatilla Tribe has been reaping the benefits of No-till farming, a type of soil conservation farming, prepares the land for farming without putting a plow to the soil. There are countless benefits to the land, the Tribes and the environment from adopting a no-till system. Most beneficial is leaving the soil mostly undisturbed and leaving high levels of crop residues behind. Soil erosion is almost eliminated through no-till farming. It is estimated no till farming is responsible for about a 43 percent reduction in soil erosion which occurred in the United States between 1982 and 2003.

The previous year's stubble, referred to as the crop residue, is baled into 4x8x8 bales and sold to straw brokers in the region. In the following spring the "volunteer wheat" comes in at times looking as good as if it had been planted the fall before. As you can see from the photos, it seems a shame to chem fallow all that forage, however it would take some time and effort through the leasing staff, Tribal soil conservationists and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to help landowners and livestock producers to utilize this forage. However, it can happen if the conservation plan has flash grazing (2-3 weeks intense) written into part of the lease, along with grazing rates at a fair market value. So if a Tribes Farm Enterprise were to do a test plot and amend one of their conservation plans to graze the volunteer wheat in the spring with a fair market value on the forage, a Tribal landowner or a Tribe would then be able to make a profit on their land every year, versus every other year with just the income from a crop.





LONG GAME PAYS OFF



PACIFIC REGION

In late 2015, IAC Pacific Region met with the Farm Manager at Chemehuevi Tribal Farms to discuss issues pertaining to an aging irrigation engine (among other production related concerns) that were impacting the capacity of the entire farming operation. The Chemehuevi Tribe's mixed vegetable operation has been expanding incrementally towards 80 acres, with a focus on bringing healthier options to the community. The Farm Manager envisioned increasing the capacity of the farm, but the aging pumping infrastructure hindered the ability to scale up.

IAC Pacific Region offered some general guidance and was later asked to meet with the Tribal Council in 2016, to discuss resources available and strategies to consider regarding the expansion of their agriculture operations. Among the resources shared, was information on the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). NRCS has national and state level air quality programs that farmers and ranchers can take advantage of to replace aging equipment with more efficient newer and often more powerful models. NRCS had assisted the Tribe in the past, but not with irrigation related needs.

The Tribe decided to apply for a contract and was awarded assistance under EQIP's California Air Quality Initiative. In order to receive the incentive payment for replacing the outdated engine, the program requires that the old equipment be destroyed and the new equipment installed to agency specifications. In order to do this, the Tribe had to front the cost (either in its entirety or partially if 50% upfront cost assistance was requested). Locating the resources to take care of the upfront costs involved coordination with the BIA, the

supplier, various Tribal departments, and NRCS-CA. IAC Pacific Region worked between all entities to contribute to a successful resolution. Meetings occurred in 2017 and coordination continued into 2018 to unpack program deliverables and leverage resources to complete this project. In early 2019, the pump was replaced and water delivery capacity has increased from 1700 gpm at 2300 rpms, to 2500 gpm at 1200 rpms (at 45% power). Although the process involved a good deal of wait time and logistics, the Tribe's goals were

met though a team of partners who saw it through.

PACIFIC REGION
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New Irrigation Pump at Chemehuevi Tribal Farms



Old Pump that was replaced through the NRCS California EQIP Air Quality Initiative

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

PACIFIC REGION

Over the last three years, IAC Pacific Region has worked with the Agricultural Sustainability Institute (ASI) at University of



Team of UC Davis students with ASI and IAC Representation



UC Davis student team presenting on their findings

California, Davis to build student-led projects that contribute to active agriculture/natural resource based initiatives within Tribal communities. Past projects involve working with a team of Native youth to build a Native youth resource hub website and wiki, designing a native plant management plan and holding community work days and educational programming, and most recently, co-designing a Native student mentor program framework and tool kit that will be administered as part of emerging IAC professional development pipeline

programming in the near future.

Over the last 6 months, IAC Pacific Region met with UC Davis 4th year students in the Agriculture and Food Systems major, along with a cohort of Native students and young professionals, to build higher education components of a mentor program tool kit that covers four foundational areas of support to students interested in agriculture and natural resources degree and career pathways. The areas include: Cultural and Emotional Support, College Preparation, Navigating College/University, and The Professional World. Each area will encompass continued exposure to opportunities in agriculture and natural resources.

IAC identified a need to build support mechanisms for students who partake in youth in food and agriculture leadership development programming at our regional and national summits who wish to remain engaged. Following an innovative and responsive course of development, IAC continues to consult directly with the youth the organization seeks to support in the development of our youth programming. Organizationally, IAC seeks to positively impact the fields of agriculture and natural resources through robust and transformative programming that enables emerging leaders in the Native agriculture movement to be exposed to experiences that cultivate competitive candidates for careers in the Tribal, federal, state, and private sectors.

The IAC student mentor program will address the enthusiastic “what’s next?” that many youth ask upon attending their first Native Youth Food Sovereignty Summit. Partnering with leading universities to gain cutting edge insights into our program designs enables our young people access to resources that will positively impact their future goals associated with being the change in Native agriculture.





CREATIVE FINANCING

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Rueben and Anthony Roman, members of the Northern Arapaho Tribe, have been trying to obtain financing to expand their cow herd to fill their range units. Last year, IAC Rocky Mountain Region helped them apply for the Micro Loan with the Farm Service Agency and they were both unsuccessful. We began to explore other financing options such as community development funds. Anthony was successful with a Montana based CDFI for operating funds but they would not finance any additional cattle.

This year, assistance was offered to submit an application to Akiptan, a new Native CDFI that offers Indian Country financing options that are built to be responsive to the unique

needs of Tribal producers. Both producers were approved. They each bought 20 pair and a bull to add to their operation and the financing allowed Anthony to fill his respective grazing unit and Rueben submitted an application for grazing privileges.

Last year Rueben and Anthony also applied for irrigation projects with NRCS using the EQIP program for gated pipe on their irrigated lands and they are awaiting approval. Without creative financing available from CDFI's and assistance from the IAC, the Roman brothers would not have had access to credit they desperately needed.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

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NATIONAL APPROACH...

SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

Dr. Schnelle, Specialty Horticulturalist and Professor, from Oklahoma State University once held a bi-annual American Indian Horticulture Conference that ceased in 2016. As a broader partnership between IAC Southern Plains Region, several Tribes, and American Plant this conference will resume as an annual event in correspondence with the IAC Southern Plains Regional Summit. Speakers that are key players in the field of horticulture, Tribal programs and operators, and industry leaders in the field will gather this fall to discuss the latest technology and opportunities in commercial horticulture. Youth programs will be included as introductory talks, hands-on activities, and internship placements.

The scope of this upcoming conference will be broad in terms of horticultural production but will specifically address

a lack of technical capacity in Tribal horticulture programs and facilitate the development of training programs at the national level. A committee is currently being formed to develop curriculum, assist with standardized feasibility studies, and identify resources and program opportunities in the field of horticulture. A related project at Pawnee Tribal Headquarters will serve as a pre-conference training opportunity with additional tours to be provided of various tribal horticulture programs. Discussion topics will include: Hemp Production, Integrated Pest Management, Systematic Automation of processes; Nursery Stock Production; Community Gardens, EQIP and Hightunnel Production . . . and many more topics. We are shooting for an October event.

SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

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Speaker Discussing Opportunities for American Indian Youth in Agriculture: Employment with Tribes.

IF YOU BUILD IT...

SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

Pawnee Nation has dedicated 70 acres for specialty crop production including the site of two 30ft x 90 ft commercial greenhouses for hydroponic tomato and lettuce production. There are three wells with capacity between 105 and 250 gallons per minute with commercial electrical power, gas,

and maintained ingress/egress.

Over the last three years IAC has been working with Pawnee in the form of outreach events, presentations at Pawnee Tribal College and long meetings with leadership at the Pawnee Nation and Pawnee Development Corporation to increase knowledge base in agricultural programs and to help develop a working knowledge of various agricultural systems including the value of long-term planning. This winter IAC assisted Pawnee with a feasibility assessment which was used to apply for a series of grants, last week Pawnee was awarded \$800,000 for a ICDBG through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The grant covers the installation, operating, and development cost for two Nexus Vail commercial greenhouses. Additional grants (still waiting for announcements) will compliment this project by adding resources for a training program that will also be used for recruitment in the development of a broader Agricultural Department.

An additional 422 acres is under reclamation in conjunction with USDA-NRCS for bison production. NRCS has performed an ecological assessment on this land and has been working with existing staff to develop conservation plans, EQIP applications, and long-term acquisition of existing lease lands. There is some 200 acres that comes due for lease in 2018 and 720 acres at Chilocco that Pawnee will be developing for pasture renovation.

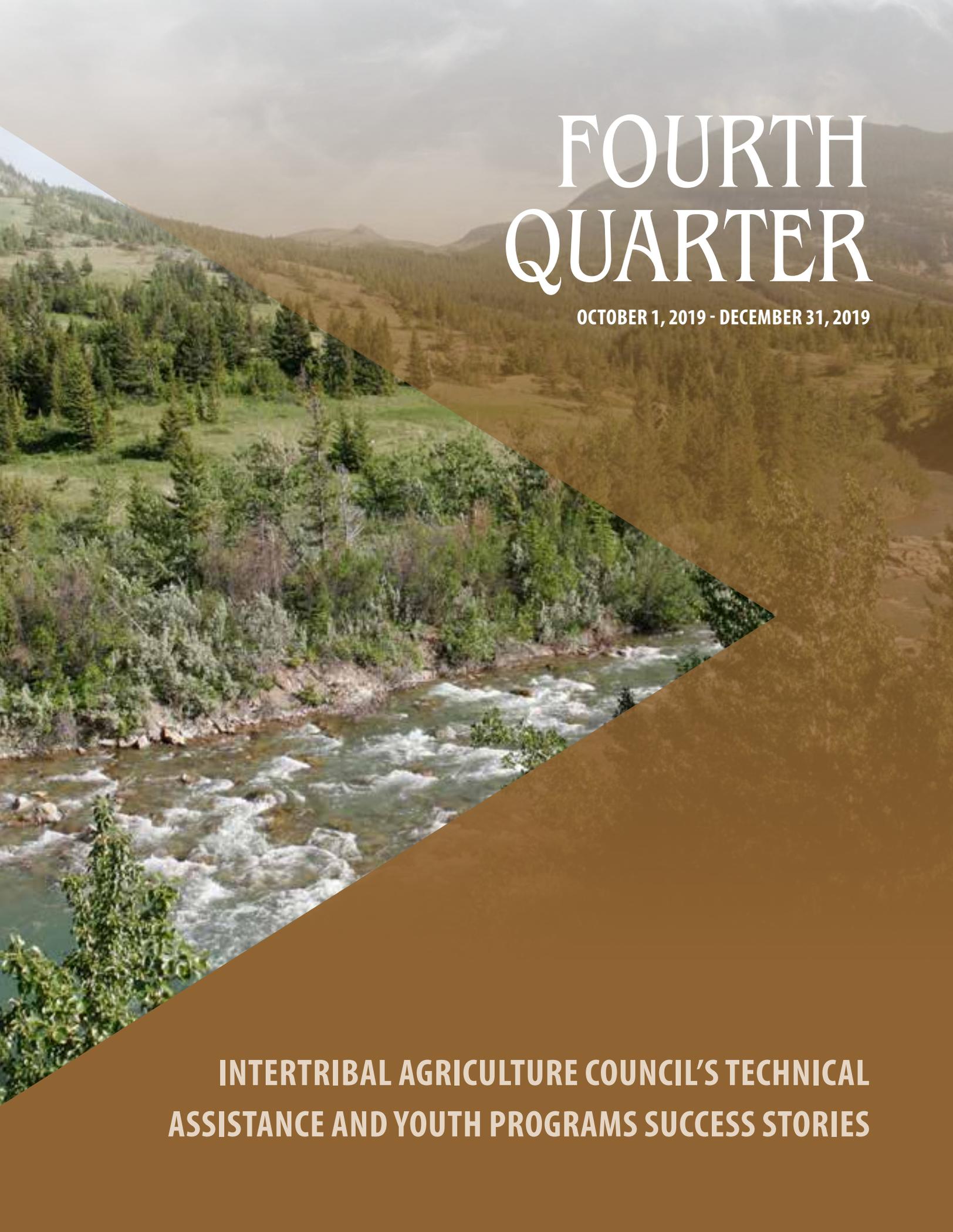


Tribal Commercial Horticulture Operation



Deb Echohawk: Using a Precision Seeder for Ancestral Corn Planting





FOURTH QUARTER

OCTOBER 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

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



INDIGENOUS FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE
IFAI

LUMBEE SOIL HEALTH

IAC EASTERN REGION

An on-farm soil health workshop for transitioning Lumbee Tribal farmers was made possible by partnership between IAC, NCRS, Indian Land Tenure Foundation and 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 University of North Carolina-Pembroke is an ally for these transitioning farmers. As the Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator he's 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. Ed reached out to IAC to coordinate the workshop in partnership with Indian Land Tenure Foundation, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. 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, Ed, two NRCS staff, and the Eastern Region Technical Assistance Specialist 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 Indian Land Tenure Foundation 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 the 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.

Mr. Locklear, the host, thanked everyone for touring his farm and requested follow up with IAC in regards to IAC's Community Development Financial Institution, Akiptan. The follow-up meeting proved fruitful for Mr. Locklear and he intends to submit an application for an on-site USDA certified kitchen so he can sell washed greens to UNC-Pembroke and other institutions.



EASTERN REGION

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FARM BILL REGULATION PARTNERS WITH IAC

EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGION

EASTERN - OK REGION

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The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans to youth from the ages 10-20 interested in agriculture to begin to operate income producing projects that teach them agriculture related skills. In 2015, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) developed an equity fund to assist youth who are successful youth loan applicants. The application process begins with an evaluation by the Regional Technical Assistance Specialist and will then recommend and forward their recommendation to the Master Review Committee.

ed with the 2014 Farm Bill. Ethan has been linked up with experienced loan writers in our Montana office and the family is eager to submit the application. A lesson from Ethan's experience is to have tenacity and be brave in actualizing your goals and vision. The family has worked with NRCS

Recently- IAC development specialist Zachary Ilberry had referred a family with Angus project to the attention of Electa Hare-RedCorn, EOK TA. The family is Muscogee Creek and the youth Ethan has worked with his Del City 4H advisor a project angus



to take to State Fair market. Up to this point, the family has relied on their community to cobble together the parts of an ag operation whether that looked like borrowing a trailer or gathering contacts to ensure a successful county sale. Innovative person that he is- Ethan used his welding skills to also earn a Blue Ribbon at the Oklahoma State Fair. Ethan has long term goals of being a successful Oklahoma rancher and we are invested in supporting his growth and resource network as a burgeoning rancher. The week Electa met Ethan, his mother, and 10 year old brother- Ethan was showing his animals in the Creek County Fair. Drawing Ethan's younger brother into the coffee shop farm service loan conversation- she learned the younger brother has interest in robots and mathematics. Knowing we all have a place in our food system, Electa introduced the AgBusiness Plan tool available for free from the University of Minnesota to the family as they build out the youth's application and steps toward his dream. Placing a call to the local Farm Service Agency- there was an initial misunderstanding about the updated CFR's pertaining to the definition of "rural" populations as amend-



A borrowed trailer ensures a successful county sale.

in Okfuskee County on identifying fencing needs for their family allotment as well as are working toward conservation planning with wild plant identification.

Family Support and an awareness of resources and current Farm Bill Regulation with the partnership of Intertribal Agriculture's experience and support is changing the game for Oklahoma youth.

USDA FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT AWARDED

IAC EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGION

Miami Public Schools and the Modoc Nation of Oklahoma have been awarded a USDA Farm to School Grant as of July 2019. IAC staff interviewed Modoc Bison Ranch and community development staff of the Modoc Nation in late September. The Modoc Tribe are originally from homelands in Oregon and are eager to build a historical and cultural awareness of nutritious foods for their school community. This Tribal nation farm operation has their own herd of bison- which they acquired through the National Park Service. The USDA award is an implementation grant. The Eastern OK region has taken strides in value-added agricultural production and are invested in educating their youth where their food comes from and how it makes its way to the table. Program grants are designed to increase the amount of healthy, local foods served in schools and create economic opportunities for nearby farmers. The bison products are currently sold through the Modoc Nation Administrative office and offers bison products such as jerky, summer sausage, bison steaks, roast, and bison liver at a fair and competitive price point.

“We are excited about the opportunity that presents itself here,” said Miami Public Schools Superintendent Jeremy Hogan. “We’re still in the infancy stages trying to figure out how it’s all going to work and how to best implement it.” IAC TA spoke with Annette Clark, Director of Education and Culture for the Modoc Nation after she had returned from a Farm to School meeting in Louisiana. Annette was excited to share that the Public Schools and the Modoc Nation will sponsor a taste of Bison sample in collaboration with the National Bison Day, held on November 2, 2019. Chief Bill Follis expressed that tribal nations in Oklahoma contribute significantly to the school communities and local economies. This partnership is an example of a community working collaboratively to share Indian agriculture successes with youth and cafeteria staff. When the cafeteria staff feels empowered with helpful knowledge and resources- the meal just tastes that much better for the kids. Intertribal Agriculture Council supports Modoc Nation in their Farm to School efforts. We know your community is proud, as highlighted in the Modoc Record-Times newspaper. Submitted by Electa Hare-Red-Corn, EOK Technical Assistant





STARTING A YOUTH FOOD, CULTURE, AND AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

GREAT LAKES REGION

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GREAT LAKES REGION

Building upon partnerships formed at the beginning of 2019 when Intertribal Agriculture Council's Great Lakes staff approached the local school district's Title XI and JOM (Johnson O'Malley) parent leadership committees to host a Community Feast that engaged middle and high school youth to learn about culinary arts in the process of preparing the meal, an ongoing Food, Culture, and Agriculture Program was initiated in summer 2019. The program has been centered on a Native Agricultural Demonstration Plot at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. Youth and their families assisted in planting the plot in June and then met every two weeks for continuing maintenance of the plot and educational sessions, including hand-pollination, soil science, and culminating with harvesting. Students will be preparing another community meal in November 2019 featuring crops grown in the plot. They will also be meeting in October for another workshop on identifying trees and developing plans for a maple, black walnut, and box elder sugarbush operation for spring 2020. Plans are also underway for turning this program into a formalized course offering school credit.



AGRICULTURAL AND SEED TRAINING COHORT



GREAT LAKES REGION



Great Lakes staff for the Intertribal Agriculture Council have organized major annual and semi-annual food summits since 2012, as well as additional workshops throughout the year. However, maintaining continuity in emerging networks while providing the detailed level of ongoing technical assistance required by the large number of new agricultural producers in the region has been a challenge, especially given the region's geographical extent. In partnership with the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance's Indigenous Seed Keepers Network, a new approach in organizing a cohort that participates in monthly online trainings complimented by in-person trainings was implemented for the first time in 2019. Participants learned about various topics relevant to that time of the growing season in the online trainings and then were able to practice skills through field workshops in April, June, August, and September. April workshops were part of the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Summit that included an assortment of learning opportunities in a comprehensive seed-farm-to-table format. Multiple planting workshops were held in June, and a detailed plant breeding workshop was hosted in August at the University of Wisconsin's West Madison Research Farm where expert plant breeders shared their research projects. A two-day workshop at Shakopee's Wozupi Tribal Gardens and Dream of Wild Health concluded the season's hands-on workshops in September. This approach was time consuming to prepare and administer, but it allowed greater reach in a format that strengthens networks with a focus on creating more educators who can help mentor within their respective communities.



BRINGING INSTINCTIVE MIGRATORY GRAZING TO TRIBAL RANGELANDS

WESTERN - AZ / UT REGION

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WESTERN REGION

On July 15, 2019, the Intertribal Agriculture Council sponsored a five-day Instinctive Migratory Grazing (IMG) / Low Stress Cattle Handling School at the South Tovar Ranch, on the Hopi Indian Nation, with Bob Kinford, from Van Horn, Texas as the instructor. There were 8 participants, 6 Hopi & 2 Navajo. Robinson Honani (Hopi), from the host ranch, provided 66 head of cattle to utilize for the school. Each day began early with participants horseback riding out to pastures where the cattle were located. They received hands on instruction on low stress approaches on cattle from the IMG Instructor, and given many opportunities to practice with the livestock.



The Instinctive Migratory Grazing (IMG) method takes stress off the cattle so that they'll travel together and start grazing as one herd. The end result is herd density which increases soil fertility with faster regrowth of grass and forage.

An important part of the school was observing how the changes made in cattle behavior affects the range conditions such as:

- Decreases overgrazing and under grazing of individual plants
- Breaking of soil caps which improved soil hydrology (spot checks on urine spots showed double the saturation in areas where the soil cap had been broken)
- Added diversity to cattle's diet as they began eating a wider range of plants
- Stress was reduced in the cattle which will ultimately result in heavier weaning weights in calves (or higher average daily gain in yearling cattle)
- Cattle grazed as one herd and were easier to manage than when they were scattered across the pasture
- Cattle became calm and began to stay together on the second day of handling
- In the future, recognizing the signs of plant succession and regression
- Recognizing the potential of leasing pasture(s) to implement bale feeding programs to improve the severity of degraded land
- Participants of the school have been using the IMG method on their own herd with success

The full extent of the IMG School on the South Tovar Ranch won't be seen until they receive rain, the goal of having the small herd of cattle grazing together as a herd was a success.





CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM GROWING IN INDIAN COUNTRY

GREAT PLAINS REGION

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GREAT PLAINS REGION

USDA's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) was created to offer enhancements for producers implementing conservation practices on their land. Reaching up to 70 million acres of productive land that has been enrolled making CSP the largest conservation program in the United States. There are approximately 55 million acres that are Federally Recognized as reservation lands that are Tribal trust lands or individually owned. Native American's have long known the value of the lands they come from and many producers have been implementing conservation practices in their operations for years. To maximize utilization of this successful program in Indian Country IAC publicized an informational announcement before the annual CSP signup deadline.

From this publication IAC's Great Plains technical assistant was contacted by multiple producers some within an hour after the announcement was posted. Each individual conversation, producer's gave details of their lands, the conversation methods they use now, and where they see that more can be implemented. IAC's technical assistant was able to affirm how the stewardship program can help cultivate their conservation management along with provide the added financial benefit that can be used to strengthen one's financial position. Each producer was given at minimum a CSP informational fact sheet and NRCS's CSP application. Some individuals requested face to face meetings where the TA was able to fill out with the producer NRCS's conservation planning workbook. The TA discussed other programs under NRCS that could also be beneficial to them.

From the multiple number of producers that contacted IAC, 6 producers in SD and ND in 4 separate counties where given hands on help filling out the needed paperwork, with all submitting an application to their local county offices before the May 10th deadline. If all were able to get a contract on the majority of their acres it would put roughly 40,000 Indian owned acres into the stewardship program.





NATIVE AMERICAN WOMAN OVERCOMES A DISABILITY

NORTHWEST- WA REGION

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NORTHWEST REGION

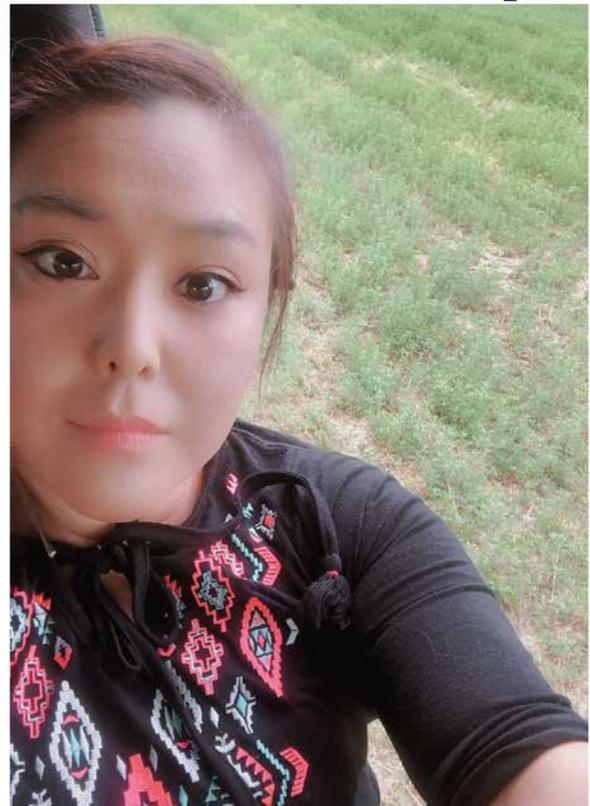
This is a story about perseverance, tenacity and hard work. Shawna Kalama is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. When Shawna was a teenager, she was involved in a horrible car accident that left her paralyzed from the waist down. This tragedy, for some, would seem unsurmountable, but not for Shawna.

In 2013 Shawna decided that she was interested in the ranching business. Her family lives on an 80-acre parcel that her dad raises oat hay on. She contacted the Intertribal Agricultural Council (IAC) for assistance. With some guidance and a very helpful Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan officer, Shawna completed her first FSA Micro-Loan. Shawna purchased 20 pair of beef cattle and utilized the second growth of the oat pasture to winter her cattle on. Shawna's cattle herd grew to 30 pair in 2016. In December of that year, Shawna received the producer of the year award at the annual IAC membership meeting.

After seeing that she could easily make her payments and that she really wanted to continue to be a rancher, Shawna decided that she would like to obtain a second FSA Micro-Loan. Once again, she sought out the guidance of the IAC and obtained the Micro-Loan. Shawna utilized the loan to lease 80 acres of pasture. Shawna kept 40 acres in pasture and developed the other 40 acres into alfalfa hay. Shawna identified that there was a great need to produce small bales of hay for people with cattle and horses in her area. Her father had an old bailer and swather that hadn't been used for years, with some repairs, they were ready for use. That first year, Shawna sold her hay for a very high price and made a large profit and continues to do so.

Shawna recently has decided that she wants to expand her hay acreage to 160 acres. She is in the process in looking for more ground to lease. Once she finds the ground, she and IAC will begin the process of seeking an FSA Operating Loan. Shawna has been a great inspiration for all that have

ever met her. Her desire to be self-sufficient despite her disability, truly is awe inspiring.

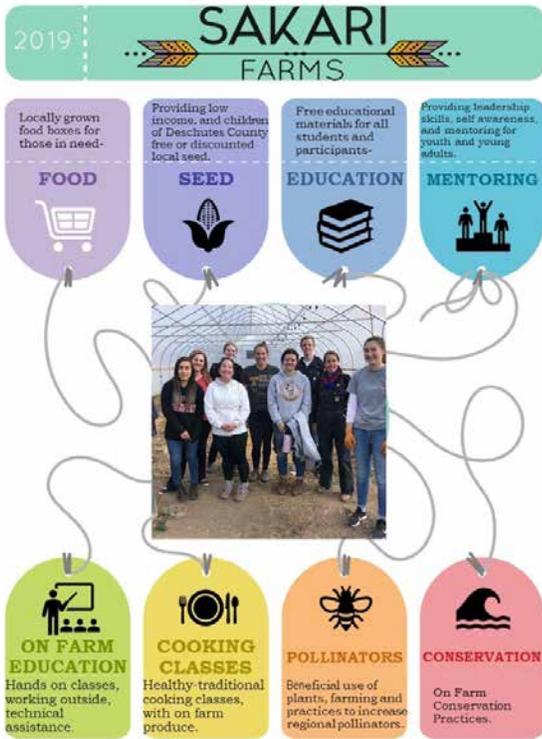


BUDDING ALASKAN, FLOWERS!

NORTHWEST REGION

Spring Alaska Olson is the owner and operator of Sakari Farms LLC (Sakari Botanicals) located in Bend Oregon. Sakari Farms is a Tribal Food Production Farm focusing on revitalizing traditional pre-colonial native foods. Spring is a proud

daughter of Chief Helmer Joseph Olson of the Valdez Native American Tribe Inupiaq Eskimo (Kingikumuit). Spring works in collaboration with First Nations Development Institute, Indigenous Seed Keepers Network, National Association of State Farm Agents and other Oregon Agricultural Boards. Shes also serves as an Indigenous Agriculturist providing Tribal Education and Technical Assistance nationwide, encouraging native youth and adults to grow and utilize healthy tribal foods.



Sakari Farms and Sakari Botanicals specialize in establishing and maintaining the Central Oregon Seed Exchange, growing Native American regional plants, creating value added products such as; Sweet Grass Tea, Elderberry Tea, Smoked Culinary Salts, Specialty Jams, Mole and Hot Sauce and many other Medicinal Healing Products. Spring has been a participant in the Intertribal Agricultural Council American Indian Foods Program funded by the USDA-FAS since 2014. The program has featured her products in Japan and Korea. Spring was a 2019 NASDA Foundation Women's Food to Farm grant winner for \$5000. In 2018 she received a Farm Service Agency Micro-Loan to purchase a tractor, irrigation system and drying racks. After receiving her FSA Micro-Loan, Spring decided that adding a much-needed greenhouse to extend the growing season of her plants was necessary. The new CDFI-AKIPTAN that's affiliated with the Intertribal Agricultural Council gave her a loan to purchase the loan.

Sakari Farms and Sakari Botanicals have been expanding both in production and sales at a very rapid pace. Spring currently has 19 tribal accounts that includes museums, tribal food stores and cultural centers.

Spring states, "IAC has been a great resource in helping guide me through USDA programs that have benefited my business". She is looking forward to her future and is very excited about her current progress.





PUEBLO OF ACOMA CATTLE RANCHER

SOUTHWEST REGION

Gilbert Louis Jr. is a second generation cattle rancher from the Pueblo of Acoma. He has been ranching over 30 years and serves as a mentor for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher program. Gilbert began attending USDA/IAC/NMSU workshops and seminars to invest in solutions and financial resources to improve his cattle operation. This led to applying for a FSA loan to purchase a stock trailer, 18' flatbed trailer, squeeze chute, calf table, a scale and a Registered Black Angus bull.

As a Keepseagle settlement recipient, Gilbert was able to purchase an additional Registered Black Angus bull and several Black Angus heifers. After the operation grew, an opportunity to sell their high quality prime beef to Labatt Food Service came to fruition. Gilbert has been selling and processing direct grade choice and prime beef to Labatt Food Service for six years now.

As a result of NRCS programming workshops, Gilbert applied for EQIP and CSP to improve the land while improving his cattle operation. He installed fencing that allowed for grazing rotation, converted old windmills to solar powered windmills, installed water lines and storage tanks to improve conservation practices.

Gilbert was also involved with a tree thinning project that helped to improve the land and benefited wildlife habitat. He has been actively involved with the Intertribal Agriculture Council for many years and took the opportunity to travel to Chihuahua, Mexico to learn about instinctive migratory grazing that helped him recognize the importance of holistic and regenerative grazing plans on his

own ranch.

Gilbert and his family all contribute to the success of their cattle operation and seek all opportunities that will conserve natural resources for the future while improving their ranching operation. "I like to thank NRCS, FSA and thanks to the Intertribal Agriculture Council for making #8 Ranch a big success!" "We have come a long way, lots of blood, sweat and tears, but we never gave up."

The Louis' Ranch continues to expand with the help of partnerships, family dedication to the ranch and best conservation practices.

SOUTHWEST REGION

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Registered Black Angus Cattle

KEWA FARMERS NRCS SOIL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP



SOUTHWEST REGION

On March 21, 2019 IAC Southwest Region and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) collaborated with Tribes/Pueblos in New Mexico to host workshops that educate farmers on soil management. This one day training helped farmers understand types and needs of the soil that

they grow crops and produce on. Opportunities such as these increase access and use of USDA programs and services by Indian producers and Tribes/Pueblos.



NRCS Soil Assessment Workshop at Kewa Pueblo

The workshop provided an introduction and presentation from NRCS State Natural Resources Staff and IAC Southwest Region Technical Assistance Specialist. In the morning session, technical information on Soil Health was provided to producers from Kewa Pueblo (formerly, Santo Domingo Pueblo). A demonstration of the Rainfall Simulator was used to demonstrate soil health. Participants asked questions and participated in discussions.

In the afternoon, a visit to the field was scheduled for hands-on education for the soil assessment segment of the workshop. The participants showed an interest and commitment to improving their lands and their operations. The participants were local community members who have farms and grow crops primarily for sustenance for their families and community members. Many of the farmers grow alfalfa, corn, squash, pumpkins and melons. Collaborations such as these are beneficial to Native farmers so that they have the opportunity to learn new innovations usable in their fields and enable them to continue their education in the natural resources field of study.



NRCS Classroom Session at Kewa Pueblo

The Soil Assessment Workshops are a series of NRCS partnerships that will continue throughout the year. Another workshop was held at the Pueblo of Cochiti and IAC Southwest Region Technical Assistance Specialist continues to reach out to Tribes/Pueblos in New Mexico to organize educational opportunities that are region specific and meets the needs of the producers. Future collaboration with Tribes/Pueblos, USDA resources and partnerships are being formed in the Southwest region to pursue educational opportunities.



YOUNG MOTHER CARRYING ON THE RANCHING LIFESTYLE

GREAT PLAINS REGION

GREAT PLAINS REGION

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Entry of Dupris Ranch - Jamie Dupris

Jamie Dupris of Eagle Butte, SD came to IAC requesting technical assistance with a FSA beginner farmer/rancher loan to start her own beef cow herd. With few financing options available near the producer and her lack of credit experience, Farm Service Agency's loan program was essentially the only viable funding source to help her get a start.

The Great Plains TA was able to sit down with the producer go through management practices and financial analysis to put together a comprehensive plan to support her loan application. TA also attended each meeting Jamie had with FSA to offer support and if need be clarification of any issues.

"With help from IAC's technical assistant I had support throughout the whole process which gave me confidence. Without them I don't think I would have sent in an application" Jamie Dupris (Producer)

Jamie's loan application was approved starting the fall of 2019, she will be able to purchase the first of her own bred cows. With every meeting Jamie had with IAC she took her 12 month old daughter with her. Jamie is juggle raising 4



View from Dupris Ranch - Jamie Dupris

children along with aspirations of her own cattle herd, it may be difficult but she is up for the task. Jamie grew up on draughts near the Mourea River and plans to raise her children there as well. Jamie along with her brothers plan to take over the family ranch and preserve it for the next generations.





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