

INCA Youth Corps proves successful endeavor for all

By Heidi Brewer and Tasha Gibby



In an effort to introduce youth to the field of natural resources, the [Indian Nations Conservation Alliance](#) (INCA) has initiated a pilot youth corps program. The overall goals of the program are to get boots on the ground doing locally important conservation work with the input of cultural leaders and elders, give youth work experience and life skills, and increase awareness and participation in Tribal Conservation Districts. The criteria for corps members are at-risk youth, 18-28 years old, who require intervention and mentoring to achieve economic self-sufficiency. The first area participating in the pilot program is the [Chippewa Cree Tribe](#) located on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation in Montana.

“We wanted to focus on a higher than normal age range and work with students that get left behind,” said Delane Atcity, INCA’s Executive Director. “The A and B students can get scholarships and have a strong support system, but we still have other students. We want to treat them fair, give them a good wage, and provide a lot of mentoring.”

INCA hired Randall Black Eagle as the District Coordinator for the Chippewa Cree Tribal Conservation District. With guidance from the [Montana Conservation Corps](#), Black Eagle met with local high schools

and [Stone Child College](#) to begin finding likely candidates for the Rocky Boy Youth Corps pilot program. Stone Child College also worked with the program to make college credits available to the members. Six crew members were hired; a team leader and five crew members. The crew began their work by meeting in a classroom to take first aid training, finish their INCA personnel paperwork and discuss what conservation meant to them at that point. Official crew shirts were purchased so each member would be dressed alike, providing a sense of professionalism and belonging.

Black Eagle met with elders and cultural leaders in the community to inform them of the youth corps project and to reserve work concerning the cultural element of the youth corps program. Forty percent of the program work is meant to help the Tribes' cultural leaders and elders with ceremonial activities. Black Eagle worked with three elders in the community on various cultural activities as well as the yearly Sundance Lodge which is the biggest cultural event in the community.

"The crew helped elders clean the ceremonial grounds this year," said Atcitty. "Afterward, three elders sat with the crew and discussed what natural resource management was like when they were young. They also talked about picking herbs for medicinal purposes or berries for cultural recipes."

Black Eagle met with the Chippewa Cree Tribal Business Committee to inform them of the intention to create a youth corps. With input from the Chippewa Cree Natural Resources Department and the Chippewa Cree Forestry Department, the youth corps assisted in collecting data on 38 range units under management of the Natural Resources Department to create conservation plans for those units. The data and plans will also go a long way toward completing the Agricultural Resource Management Plan or long range plan for all agricultural resource uses on the Reservation in partnership with the [Bureau for Indian Affairs](#). The youth corps crew has completed GPS points on three range units and located four spring developments. The range units are challenging due to the size and rough terrain of each unit. The mapping of the range units is estimated as a three-year project consisting of five major areas; fencing, livestock and wildlife management, agriculture and noxious weeds, spring development and water sources. Crew members will get training in ArcGIS mapping, GPS, working with Federal agencies and partnering, and doing rangeland assessments.

"Randall is instrumental to getting this program going locally," said Atcitty. "They bought GPS/GIS equipment for the crew to do the work and Randall's education has helped the crew map the infrastructure on those range units."

The youth corps crew at Rocky Boy began working on June 22 and this year's program ended Aug. 7. The crew members will have a job application packet with their transcripts, work experience, a letter of reference, and certification of completion when their time in the program is over.

In validation of the crew's hard work this summer, other Federal agencies that have heard of the youth corps program are already asking for their help on other projects.

INCA refocused the [National Association of Conservation Districts \(NACD\)](#) funding provided to the Chippewa Cree Tribal Conservation District in 2019 to develop the youth corps pilot program.

"This project is an innovative use of NACD's technical assistance grants, putting conservation on the ground with tribal communities," describes Michael Crowder, NACD president-elect and founding

co-chairman of NACD's Tribal Outreach and Partnership Resource Policy Group. "It demonstrates how conservation work can benefit tribal lands as well as community members."

Crowder continues, "The partnerships with INCA and other tribal organizations are a key focus of NACD and the Tribal Resource Policy Group. We are inspired by the accomplishments taking place with the Chippewa Cree Tribe."

The youth corps pilot program at Rocky Boy would not have been possible without the funding, which builds a bridge between Tribes, the [Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) and NACD.

In fact, INCA has been working well and closely with NRCS for some time. Atcitty said NRCS Chief Lohr went out of his way to meet and talk with INCA. He also gives kudos to the work done by Ronald Harris, NRCS Branch Chief for Outreach and Advocacy, and Barry Hamilton, NRCS National Tribal Relations Liaison Officer.

"It is INCA's hope the youth will be a part of Tribal Conservation Districts in the future. INCA hopes to use the Rocky Boy Youth Corps project as a model for youth corps crews to assist Tribes across the nation," said Atcitty.

INCA will be supporting several more youth corps projects across the country. Potential locations include Pine Ridge in South Dakota, Jemez Pueblo in New Mexico, and Duck Valley in Idaho and Nevada. INCA is having meetings with Tribes in other states now. In the future, there may be a national youth corps conference to provide more professional training to the crew members as well as employment contacts at natural resource agencies.

According to Atcitty, many of the Tribal producers that conservation entities work with are already well established in their operations and don't have much incentive to help get a Tribal Conservation District started and fostered until it is fully operational. "There hasn't been a lot of transition and estate planning, so the youth that might be interested are being left out at the moment," he said. "With this youth corps program, we want to start them young, help them find mentors to pursue their goals in natural resources. Then, we have local resource conservationists that understand their tribal lands and culture."

"I really do believe that these kids are special, and the story would not have come to fruition without them. The people who took a chance to believe in them should also be acknowledged, like Delane Atcitty, Heidi Brewer, Mike Mithlo, the youth corps team leader, Bobby Murie, and Gilbert Tyner. When nobody wanted to give us a ride to work, Terra Otto at the Havre car rental gave us a beautiful 2019 Chevy Suburban. It really was the eleventh hour with no hope, and she helped us more than she will ever know." says Black Eagle.

He continues, "The pressure of not living up to the expectations of others falls solely on my shoulders, and the success of this crew will be entirely because of your own work so then there is nothing to lose and only everything to gain."

"If you're not invited to the table, bring your own table and invite who you need. You need to make your own opportunities." Delane Atcitty, INCA Executive Director



“Conservation to me is the care and protection of the earth. We are connected to everything, take one thing away and this earth will change.” Joshua Nepoose, Rocky Boy Youth Corps member



“If we surrendered to earth’s intelligence we could rise up

rooted, like trees.” Rainer Maria Rilke from Shonda Mithlo, Rocky Boy Youth Corps member



“Conservation is conserving the land for the future generations. Mother nature provides everything we need to survive. Water is the main lifeline; we need clean water for all life.” Michael Mithlo, Rocky Boy Youth Corps team leader

make a big difference if we all work together and keep a positive mind set because we need to have a healthy community so our kids and their kids can have a happy life; to give them and others hope when they are having a tough time in life.” Tylane Tyner, Rocky Boy Youth Corps member

“What I think about conservation is that everybody in our community will and can



If you would like to learn more about the INCA Conservation Youth Corps Program please contact : www.inca-tcd.org

USDA Provides Additional COVID-19 Assistance to Farmers and Ranchers

Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) will begin September 21st and run through December 11, 2020.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will use funds being made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and CARES Act to support row crops, livestock, specialty crops, dairy, aquaculture and many additional commodities. USDA has incorporated improvements in CFAP 2 based from stakeholder engagement and public feedback to better meet the needs of impacted farmers and ranchers.

Producers can apply for CFAP 2 at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. This program provides financial assistance that gives producers the ability to absorb increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Producers will be compensated for ongoing market disruptions and assisted with the associated marketing costs.

CFAP 2 payments will be made for three categories of commodities – Price Trigger Commodities, Flat-rate Crops and Sales Commodities.

Price Trigger Commodities

Price trigger commodities are major commodities that meet a minimum 5-percent price decline over a specified period of time. Eligible price trigger crops include barley, corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, upland cotton, and all classes of wheat. Payments will be based on 2020 planted acres of the crop, excluding prevented planting and experimental acres. Payments for price trigger crops will be the greater of: 1) the eligible acres multiplied by a payment rate of \$15 per acre; or 2) the eligible acres multiplied by a nationwide crop marketing percentage, multiplied by a crop-specific payment rate, and then by the producer's weighted 2020 Actual Production History (APH) approved yield. If the APH is not available, 85 percent of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) benchmark yield for that crop will be used.

For broilers and eggs, payments will be based on 75 percent of the producers' 2019 production.

Dairy (cow's milk) payments will be based on actual milk production from April 1 to Aug. 31, 2020. The milk production for Sept. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020, will be estimated by FSA.

Eligible beef cattle, hogs and pigs, and lambs and sheep payments will be based on the maximum owned inventory of eligible livestock, excluding breeding stock, on a date selected by the producer, between Apr. 16, 2020, and Aug. 31, 2020.

Flat-rate Crops

Crops that either do not meet the 5-percent price decline trigger or do not have data available to calculate a price change will have payments calculated based on eligible 2020 acres multiplied by \$15 per acre. These crops include alfalfa, extra long staple (ELS) cotton, oats, peanuts, rice, hemp, millet, mustard, safflower, sesame, triticale, rapeseed, and several others.

Sales Commodities

Sales commodities include specialty crops; aquaculture; nursery crops and floriculture; other commodities not included in the price trigger and flat-rate categories, including tobacco; goat milk; mink (including pelts); mohair; wool; and other livestock (excluding breeding stock) not included under the price trigger category that were grown for food, fiber, fur, or feathers. Payment calculations will use a sales-based approach, where producers are paid based on five payment gradations associated with their 2019 sales.

Additional commodities are eligible in CFAP 2 that weren't eligible in the first iteration of the program. If your agricultural operation has been impacted by the pandemic since April 2020, we encourage you to apply for CFAP 2. A complete list of eligible commodities, payment rates and calculations can be found on farmers.gov/cfap.

Eligibility

There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits when members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation. In addition, this special payment limitation provision has been expanded to include trusts and estates for both CFAP 1 and 2.

Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent or more of their income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. Producers must also be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions.

Applying for Assistance

Producers can apply for assistance beginning Sept. 21, 2020. Applications will be accepted through Dec. 11, 2020.

Additional information and application forms can be found at farmers.gov/cfap. Documentation to support the producer’s application and certification may be requested. All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from farmers.gov/cfap/apply. For existing FSA customers, including those who participated in CFAP 1, many documents are likely already on file. Producers should check with FSA county office to see if any of the forms need to be updated.

Customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages with the team at the FSA county office.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in the office, by phone and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

USDA to Invest up to \$360 Million in Partner-Driven Conservation

Application Regional Conservation Partnership Program period has opened for the

WASHINGTON, August 6, 2020 – USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) today invited potential conservation partners to submit project applications for federal funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). NRCS will award up to \$360 million dollars to locally driven, public-private partnerships that improve the nation’s water

quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability.

“RCPP brings an expanded approach to investing in natural resource conservation that empowers local communities to work with multiple partners and agricultural producers to design solutions that work best for them,” said NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr.

Partners may request between \$250,000 and \$10 million in RCPP funding through this funding announcement. Partners are expected to offer value-added contributions to amplify the impact of RCPP funding in an amount equal or greater to the NRCS investment.

Eligible lead partners are encouraged to apply. Funding is open to private industry, non-government organizations, Indian tribes, state and local governments, water districts and universities, among others. The full list of eligible entities is available in the RCPP funding announcement.

First authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, RCPP has combined nearly \$1 billion in NRCS investments with close to \$2 billion in non-NRCS dollars to implement conservation practices across the nation. There are 336 active RCPP projects that have engaged more than 2,000 partners. Successful RCPP projects provide innovative conservation solutions, leverage partner contributions and offer impactful and measurable outcomes.

NRCS requested public comment on the [RCPP Critical Conservation Areas](#) and their associated priority resource concerns as part of a review allowed by the Farm Bill once every five years. This funding announcement introduces CCA changes that resulted from the review:

- The California Bay-Delta and Columbia River Basin CCAs have been combined into the Western Waters CCA, which also encompasses the Klamath River Basin and the Puget Sound Basin.
- A new CCA—Northeast Forests and Waters—has been added to the roster. This CCA's priority resource concerns include water quality and wildlife habitat. The boundaries of the CCA encompass Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

USDA is now accepting proposals for RCPP through the [RCPP portal](#). Proposals are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 4, 2020. For more information, view the [Application for Program Funding on grants.gov](#).

A webinar with general program information for RCPP applicants is scheduled for 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Aug 27, 2020. Visit the [RCPP website](#) for information on how to participate.

First Nations' Native Agriculture & Food Systems College Scholarships

First Nations Development Institute is now accepting applications for its First Nations Native Agriculture and Food Systems Scholarship Program that aims to encourage more Native American college students to enter these fields so that they can better assist their communities in advancing Native food sovereignty and improving overall health.

First Nations will award 20 to 25 scholarships of \$1,000 to \$1,500 each for the **2020-2021 academic school year** to Native college students majoring in agriculture and agriculture-related fields, including agribusiness management, agri-science technologies, agronomy, animal husbandry, aquaponics, environmental studies, fisheries and wildlife, food production and safety, food-related policy and legislation, food science and technology, horticulture, irrigation science, and sustainable agriculture or food systems.

Complete information and a link to the online application can be found at

<https://www.firstnations.org/grantmaking-scholarship>.

All applications must be completed and submitted by 5 pm (Mountain Daylight) on Thursday, October 15, 2020.



Tolani Lake ranchers turn to grass farming

At the heart of a healthy livestock operation



Members of the Tolani Lake Livestock and Water Users Association gather for a workshop in late August to learn how to evaluate range conditions in order to provide a more successful livestock operations. (Photos/Tolani Lake Livestock and Water Users Association)

Originally Published: September 22, 2020 8 a.m.

Updated as of Tuesday, September 22, 2020 8:01 AM

TOLANI LAKE, Ariz. — A dozen members of the Tolani Lake Livestock and Water Users Association are starting to think of themselves more as grass farmers than cattle ranchers.

Ranchers recognize that the heart of a successful livestock operation is the health of their range, especially under persistent challenges of drought and a warming climate.

Over a hot weekend in late-August, the Tolani Lake Livestock and Water Users Association hosted back-to-back workshops in Tolani Lake, Arizona, to share with local ranchers about cattle nutrition and evaluating range conditions.

On the first day of the workshop, ranchers learned how to evaluate range condition by measuring ground cover and available forage. The second day covered the basics of cattle nutrition including tips for supplementing the nutrients typically missing in this Tolani Lake area of the Navajo Nation.

The workshops are part of an ongoing series supported by First Nations Development Institute, a national NGO working for healthy Native American communities. First Nations partnered with the association in 2017, and provided its most recent \$20,000 grant to support the current workshop series on range health best practices and cattle nutrition plus grass-fed beef certification for local ranches, and an educational tour of the University of Arizona Food Products Lab to learn essentials of producing quality beef for market.

Over the past decade, the Association has worked on water development and has been developing a water system that supplements an increasingly scarce surface water supply across the region. They are expanding the system as they go – the system currently pumps well water from Leupp, Arizona to serve 14 area ranches through roughly 40 miles of waterline.

The Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) has been an essential partner on the water side of their work.

Felix Nez, NRCS District Conservationist, out of Holbrook has worked closely with regional producers and chapters to develop needed conservation plans that allow producers to access

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding and technical resources to design and build these projects.

The mission of NRCS is to help producers conserve natural resources as they improve their operations, so the water system is a perfect fit. Ranchers use water as a management tool to move their herds, turning sources on and off to distribute grazing where forage is available and away from areas that need rest.

With the help of strategic partners Tolani Lake ranchers are making the best of the challenges that many ranchers are facing across Navajo Nation. Turning their eyes first to the water and then the grass is the way this group of ranchers is adapting to current challenges and a changing future.

USDA Updates Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis Import Regulations

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is updating its import regulations to establish a system for classifying the brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis (TB) status levels for foreign regions. APHIS is also outlining the requirements for animals from each status level to enter the United States. These changes will help protect the U.S. herd against introduction of bovine TB and brucellosis via imported animals, while facilitating safe trade of unaffected animals.

The United States has made great strides in eradicating these two diseases, and cases are becoming increasingly rare. However, in recent years, most new TB cases identified in the United States have been in imported animals. The updated regulations will enhance efforts to keep disease from entering the country by giving us a format to review and classify the status of foreign regions for TB and brucellosis, and allowing us to ensure only healthy animals enter our country.

The new regulations include numerous updates to address issues raised during the public comment period, including clarifying definitions and requirements. In addition, they remove age limits for testing imported animals and expand the bovine TB testing requirements for sexually-intact animals imported for breeding or feeding.

The new regulations are effective 30 days after [Federal Register publication](#). However, APHIS recognizes that there are many regions that enjoy particular status under the current regulations. These regions will continue to be able to trade with the United States under the terms of the status they currently hold until APHIS is able to review and adjust their status using the new approach spelled out in this final rule.

Welcome to our new INCA team members!

Leander Thomas

I am happy to be joining the INCA team as an APHIS Outreach Coordinator. I am from Steamboat, Arizona on the Navajo Nation, but currently living in Las Vegas, New Mexico. I have B.S. in Animal Science from Oklahoma Panhandle State University and am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Agricultural Extension Education at New Mexico State University. I bring with me 11 years of experience as a high school agriculture educator.



Viola Archuleta has 30+ years of office management experience, as well as an Associate Degree in Applied Science of General Studies from the University of New Mexico – Taos Branch. She has worked in the federal government, tribal government, and private sector and has been involved and has had membership to various civic organizations, served on the Taos Pueblo Gaming Commission and numerous tribal organizations. An enrolled member of Taos Pueblo. Viola is grateful to assist INCA, as Executive Secretary, with office support in fulfilling its conservation mission with tribes throughout Indian country.



Augusta “Gusti” Terkildsen is Oglala Lakota from Wambli, SD. She graduated from Dartmouth College in 2019 with a degree in Environmental Sciences/Studies and Native American Studies. Her research work consists of incorporating Lakota Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Human being interconnectedness to dissect stagnant colonial/western sciences, environment and climate change, as well as reintroduce Land kinship studies in Environmental Jurisprudence. Gusti is trained in multiple areas of natural field sciences and uses the Land as an educational extension when

working with youth. Gusti also has extensive experience in working with Indigenous Youth and teaching natural sciences through creative and decolonial pedagogy. Gusti is a current INCA employee and a graduate student at the University of Michigan School of Environment and Sustainability pursuing her Masters in Conservation Ecology.

Native Agriculture & Food Systems Initiative

A Program of First Nations Development Institute



Native Farmers and Ranchers Build Capacity Thanks to First Nations Keepseagle Equipment Grants

LONGMONT, Colorado (September 24, 2020) – First Nations Development Institute ([First Nations](#)) has awarded 15 Native organizations the **Keepseagle Equipment Grant** under the organization’s **Native Agriculture & Food Systems Initiative**. The grant is designed to expand community access to shared equipment for Native farmers, ranchers, and producers who are increasing capacity, revenue and other positive farm outputs that will benefit Native farms and ranch operations.

Along with First Nations’ [Keepseagle Fast-Track Grants to Support Native Farmers & Ranchers Program](#), this equipment grant program is an outgrowth of the *Keepseagle vs. Vilsack* case that spanned more than 18 years in federal litigation.

Grantees will use grant funds for shared equipment that will improve the productivity and efficiency of Native American farmers and ranchers.

The 15 selected grantees that each received a \$10,000 grant are:

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Odanah, Wisconsin

Ben Farms, Shiprock, New Mexico

California Indian Museum & Cultural Center, Santa Rosa, California

Covenant Pathways, Vanderwagen, New Mexico

Forest County Potawatomi Community, Crandon, Wisconsin

Ganado Farm Board, Ganado, Arizona

Mah hi vist Language Center, El Reno, Oklahoma

Makoce Agriculture Development, Rapid City, South Dakota

Oneida Nation, Oneida, Wisconsin

Oyate Networking Project, Inc., Kyle, South Dakota

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Red Lake, Minnesota

Rosebud Ranch and Farming Enterprise, Rosebud, South Dakota

Stockbridge Munsee Community, Bowler, Wisconsin

Tolani Lake Livestock and Water Users Association, Winslow, Arizona

White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Reservation, Ndee Bikiyaa, The People's Farm, Fort Apache, Arizona

About First Nations Development Institute

For 40 years, using a three-pronged strategy of educating grassroots practitioners, advocating for systemic change, and capitalizing Indian communities, First Nations has been working to restore Native American control and culturally-compatible stewardship of the assets they own – be they land, human potential, cultural heritage or natural resources – and to establish new assets for ensuring the long-term vitality of Native American communities. First Nations serves Native American communities throughout the United States. For more information, visit www.firstnations.org.

PROGRAM CONTACT:

Rebecca Tortes, Program Officer

rtortes@firstnations.org or (951) 265-7822

NIFA's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

Monday, October 5, 2020

Denis Ebodaghe, National Program Leader, NIFA



Many opportunities exist in farming and ranching in America, yet beginning farmers and ranchers have unique needs for education, training, technical assistance, and outreach.

For those within their first 10 years of operation, it's vital to have capital access, land access, and access to knowledge and information to assist with achieving profitability and sustainability.

The USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) [Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program](#) (BFRDP) provides competitive grants to organizations and institutions for education, mentoring, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers or ranchers. Each year, project proposals are solicited through an official Request for Applications posted on [NIFA's website](#) as soon as it's available.

NIFA's BFRDP funds three types of projects:

- Standard Projects: to new and established local and regional training, education, outreach and technical assistance initiatives that address the unique local and regional needs of beginning farmers and ranchers
- Educational Team Projects: to help develop seamless beginning farmer and rancher education programs by conducting evaluation, coordination, and enhancement activities for Standard Projects and other non-funded beginning farmer programs
- Curriculum and Training Clearinghouse: to make educational curricula and training materials available to beginning farmers and ranchers and organizations who directly serve them

NIFA has awarded a total of \$16,783,829 in BFRDP grants for FY20. Some recent examples include:

- In Her Shoes, Inc. received a three-year grant of \$295,761 for The Increasing Agribusiness Viability Among Women and Minorities project. Their work will provide education, training and mentorship opportunities to 20 new and beginning women and minority, particularly black farmers, each year in Georgia.
- Rosebud Economic Development Corporation received a three-year, \$599,326 grant to provide training and technical assistance to native American tribes in establishing new farm operations in South Dakota.
- Agriculture and Land Based Training Association received a three-year, \$600,000 grant to assist Latino Immigrant farmworkers transition to organic farming by assisting to secure land and navigating transition to successful independent farming in California. Ensuring there will be a new generation of beginning farmers and ranchers — regardless of age or production choice — is vital to the successful continuation of agricultural production in the U.S.

The BFRDP program supports multiple themes outlined in the [USDA Science Blueprint](#) and moves us closer to meeting the goals outlined in [USDA's Agriculture Innovation Agenda](#).

NIFA's National Program Leader for Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program is [Denis Ebodaghe](#), who oversees partnership and collaborative efforts with NIFA's land-grant university partners and other stakeholders, formulating and guiding broad scale efforts to assist small farmers and ranchers in improving their profitability and the economic viability of their enterprises.

Bulletin Board/Announcements

National Farm to School Network Movement Meeting

Join National Farm to School Network for a virtual Movement Meeting on **Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 1-3pm ET**, featuring food justice activist Karen Washington, for deep conversation and action-oriented reflection on racial justice in the farm to school movement and wider food system. Connect with fellow farm to school and food justice advocates from across the country, dig into conversations about what it means to shift power, and help shape the next steps of progress towards our vision of a just food system for all. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this free event; no prior knowledge of farm to school needed.

Register information found at:

<http://www.farmentoschool.org/>

United Southern and Eastern Tribes

Office of Environmental Resource Management

Presents

Virtual Technical Assistance in Developing the Pandemic Chapter of the Emergency Response Plan

Through a series of seminars, USET will assist Tribal Nations in developing a Pandemic Template for their Emergency Response Plan that meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Incident Action Checklist for Pandemics.

Date and Topic:

11/16/20 Pandemic Incident Guidelines for Utilities

11/18/20 PREPARE Checklist for the Tribal Nation Utilities Pandemic Response 11/30/20

RESPOND Checklist for the Tribal Nation Utilities Pandemic Response 12/2/20 RECOVER

Checklist for the Tribal Nation Utilities Pandemic Response

12/7/20 FEMA compliant form's tie in for the Tribal Nation Utilities Incident Action Plan to secure federal reimbursement if incident deemed a disaster

12/9/20 Tabletop Exercise – Using the newly generated Incident Action Plan for Tribal Nation Utilities

Summary / Questions & Answers

*Each webinar will take place **1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Eastern / 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Central** REGISTER FOR THE SEMINAR SERIES @ <https://www.uset.org/>*



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is initiating a webinar series to build the capacity of tribal government, indigenous peoples, federal and other interested environmental justice practitioners.

The first webinar on **EPA’s Tribal & Indigenous EJ Policy, EJ Financial Assistance Programs, and Tribal & Indigenous Experiences Using the EJ Financial Programs** is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, **November 10**, 2:30 PM ET, and is now open for registration. Specifically, the webinar will discuss:

1. [EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#)
2. EPA environmental justice financial assistance programs:
 1. [EJ Small Grants Program](#)
 2. [EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements Program](#)
 3. [EJ State \(Tribal and US Territories\) EJ Cooperative Agreements Program](#)
3. Grantee experiences:
 1. [Kawerak, Inc.](#) and Zender Environmental Health and Research Group – [Backhaul Alaska](#), removing hazardous waste from rural Alaska through partnership with tribes, tribal communities, agencies, and industry stakeholders.
 2. Tewa Women United - [Española Healing Foods Oasis](#), community transformation of a barren slope in downtown Española into an edible food garden utilizing traditional dry-land farming techniques and permaculture principles.

REGISTER here! :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/environmental-justice-tribes-indigenous-peoples-ej-policy-ej-grants-tickets-124114711443>.

Following the webinar, the slides and webinar recording will be posted under the “Implementation of the Policy” at:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples>

INCA would like to thank all our partners, sponsors, and supporters for another successful year working with you for the Native American producers and tribal conservation districts. We extend our thoughts and prayers to the families affected by the COVID pandemic and look forward to a brighter tomorrow.



Pictured: Tipi constructed by INCA Youth Corps for Rocky Boy elder