



★ ★ INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL ★ ★  
**ANNUAL REPORT**







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## Dear Friends, Partners, and Tribal Leaders,

As we reflect on this past year, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) is poised to build upon the powerful momentum gained over the last year. What began in 1987 as a unified effort among federally recognized Tribes to expand opportunity and shape an agricultural future has grown into a national organization rooted in advocacy, service, and self-determination. Today, IAC is honored to serve Tribal Nations and individual Tribal producers across more than 56 million acres of land under Tribal jurisdiction.

In 2024, IAC provided technical assistance to more than 800 producers from 300 different Tribes, expanding critical services in policy development, USDA access, natural resource stewardship, marketing, and youth leadership. We currently have a membership base comprising 79 federally recognized Tribes that guide our work and engagement with Tribal producers. IAC continues to put Tribal Nations and individual Tribal producers at the forefront of building stronger food systems, advancing Tribal agribusiness, and supporting the next generation of Indian producers.

At the heart of our work is a simple but urgent truth: Indian agriculture matters. It feeds families, strengthens economies, and advances true Tribal sovereignty. Whether it's a meat processing facility serving Tribal and non-Tribal ranchers in Oklahoma, a youth-led agricultural initiative in Montana, or a Tribe utilizing key conservation programming to enhance the quality of Tribal lands for use by generations of Indian producers to come, the story is the same—Indian producers are innovating, adapting, and leading.

IAC remains committed to addressing challenges and advocating for meaningful reforms—from improvements to USDA loan programs and streamlining Bureau of Indian Affairs processes to greater investment in Tribal youth and extension programs. Outdated policies, federal agency inefficiencies, and lack of access to capital continue to hinder agricultural progress in Indian Country. IAC is actively working with federal partners, Tribal governments, and individual producers to dismantle those barriers.

As we move closer to our 40th anniversary, we remain grounded in the values that shaped our founding: Tribal leadership, respect for the land, and a shared commitment to sovereignty through agriculture. Every policy we shape, every producer we support, and every program we build is part of a greater vision—one where Indian Country thrives.



With gratitude and respect, thank you for walking alongside us.

Kari Jo Lawrence  
Chief Executive Officer  
Intertribal Agriculture Council



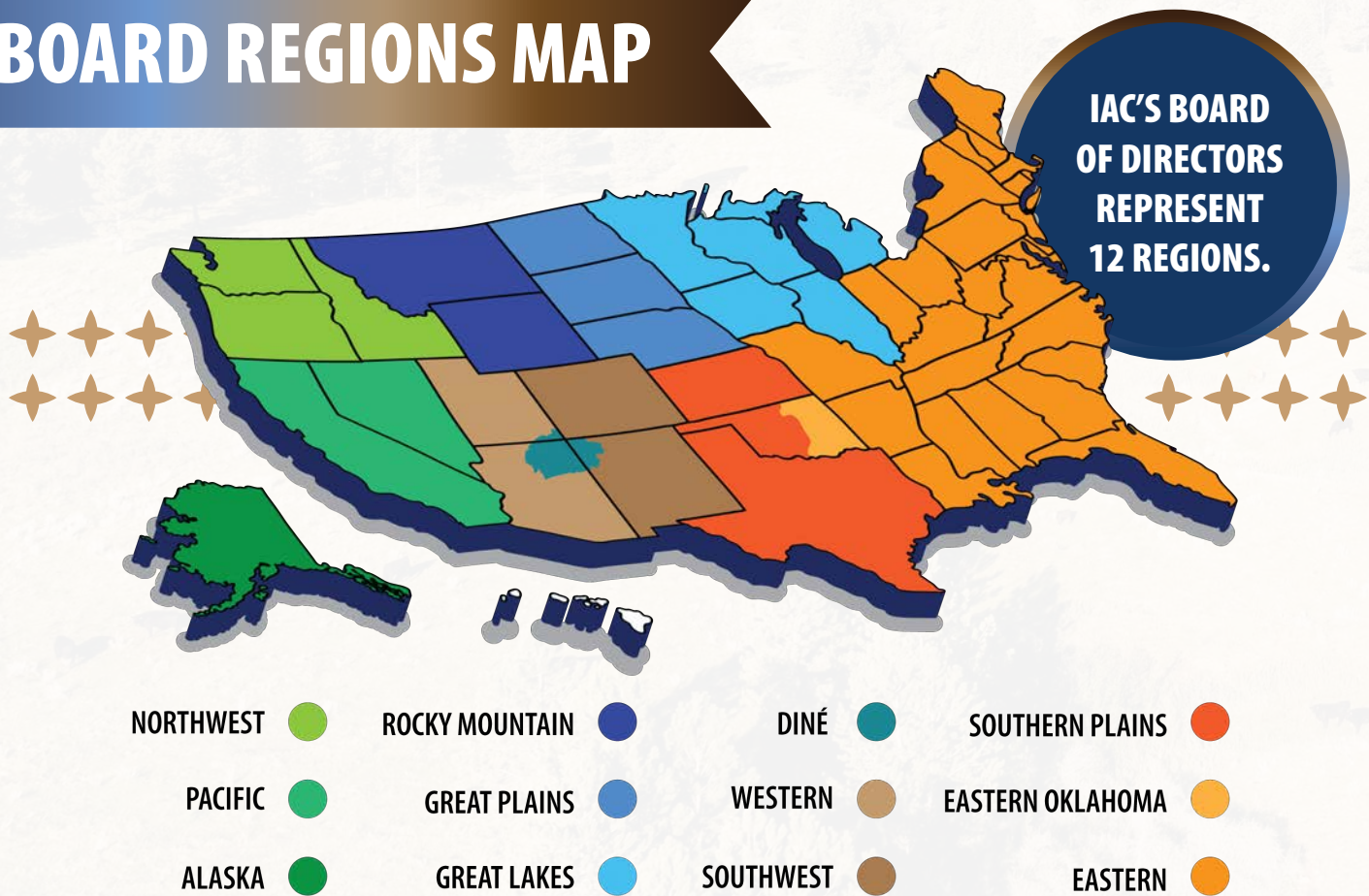
# MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1987, the Intertribal Agriculture Council's (IAC) mission is to **pursue and promote the conservation, development, and use of the agricultural resources of American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes.** Since its founding, the IAC has been guided by its member Tribes—**representing twelve regions**—to advance agricultural priorities across more than 56 million acres of land under Tribal jurisdiction in the United States.

Central to the IAC mission is increasing agricultural productivity, advocating for Indian Country priorities, and providing on-the-ground technical assistance to Tribes and Tribal producers.



# BOARD REGIONS MAP



# 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Harlan Beaulieu**  
Board President  
**Great Lakes Region**  
*Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians*



**Arlo Crutcher**  
Board Member  
**Northwest Region**  
*Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone*



**Joe Frank**  
Board Vice President  
**Eastern Region**  
*Seminole Tribe of Florida*



**Charlene Miller**  
Board Member  
**Great Plains Region**  
*Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe*



**Tonya Turnpaugh**  
Board Secretary  
**Southern Plains Region**  
*Citizen Potawatomi Nation*



**Jaymee Moore**  
Board Member  
**Western Region**  
*Colorado River Indian Tribe*



**Theo Garcia**  
Board Treasurer  
**Alaska Region**  
*Knik Tribe*



**Trent Kisse**  
Board Member  
**Eastern Oklahoma Region**  
*Muscogee Creek Nation*



**Meagen Baldy**  
Board Member  
**Pacific Region**  
*Hoop Valley Tribe*



**Mel Tafoya**  
Board Member  
**Southwest Region**  
*Pueblo of Santa Clara*



**Craig Iron Pipe**  
Board Member  
**Rocky Mountain Region**  
*Blackfeet Tribe*



**Zachary Ilbery**  
Youth At-Large  
**Youth Delegate**  
*Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma*



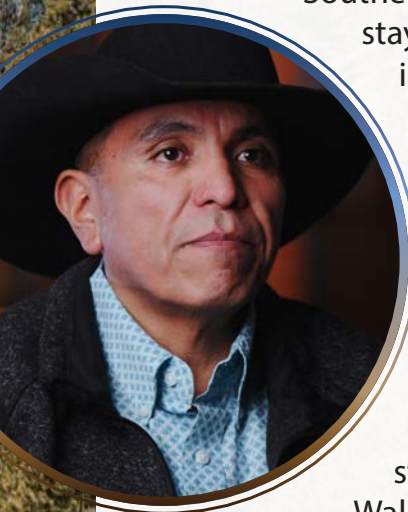
**Ray Castillo**  
Board Member  
**Diné Region**  
*Navajo Nation*

Find our most up-to-date board members list at:  
**INDIANAG.ORG/BOARD-MEMBERS**



## MEMBERSHIP: Meet Marvin Pinnecoose

When Marvin Pinnecoose talks about agriculture, he's talking about more than crops or cattle—he's talking about culture, tradition, pride, and family. As treasurer for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in southwest Colorado, he sees agriculture as a way to stay grounded and self-sufficient in a world built on convenience. "We live in an instant gratification kind of world," he says. "Agriculture forces you to slow down, to get your hands in the dirt. There's gratitude in that."



But he's also quick to acknowledge the challenges. "You can put in a whole year of work and lose everything in one rainstorm," he says. Yet for those who push through, "it's a very important path."

Across Indian Country, Tribes are exercising their sovereignty by strengthening food systems. The pandemic revealed just how vulnerable communities were. "We need to be able to utilize our own stocks—buffalo, cattle, goats, sheep—without having to get in line at Walmart 50 miles away," Marvin says.

That's why Marvin believes membership in organizations like the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) is critical. "We need a unified voice," he says. "Tribes can't be on the back burner anymore." His first IAC conference was eye-opening, with only three of the 24 Tribes in his region participating. "Three Tribes shouldn't speak for 24," he says. After returning home, he drafted a letter inviting neighboring Tribes to get involved.

Membership, he emphasizes, is about more than sending delegates. It's about asking: *What issues will define the next generation?* Marvin's advice is simple: show up, participate, and lead. "You don't have to be an elected leader to lead," he says.

For him, IAC is the foundation of a larger fight. "This is the foundation for the front fight we're going to have to have as Native America," he says. "To keep what little we have left. What holds us together is our culture, our tradition, our pride, and our family. If we cling to that—we're unstoppable."



## 2024 LIST OF MEMBER TRIBES

### ALASKA REGION

- Cheesh'na Tribal Council
- Knik Tribe
- Mentasta Traditional Council
- Native Village of Atka
- Native Village of Tyonek

### EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGION

- Cherokee Nation
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Osage Nation

### EASTERN REGION

- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Rappahannock Tribe
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Tunica Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

### GREAT LAKES REGION

- Fond du Lac Band
- of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Lac Vieux Desert Band
- of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
- The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

### SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

- Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Comanche Nation
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

### DINÉ REGION

- Navajo Nation

### WESTERN REGION

- Hualapai Indian Tribe

### NORTHWEST REGION

- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Colville Confederated Tribes
- Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians
- Kalispel
- Klamath Tribes
- Nez Perce
- Spokane
- The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

### PACIFIC REGION

- Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Pauma Band of Mission Indians
- Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
- Tule River Indian Tribe of California
- South Fork Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada
- Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

- Blackfeet Nation
- Fort Belknap Indian Community
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Rocky Boy Chippewa Cree Tribe

### SOUTHWEST REGION

- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Pueblo of Sandia
- Pueblo of Santa Clara
- Santo Domingo Pueblo
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- The Pueblo of Acoma

### GREAT PLAINS REGION

- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
- Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate





## ◆◆ AMERICAN INDIAN FOODS ◆◆ 2024 Canada Trade Mission

Canada was selected to conduct one of five global destinations for the Agricultural Trade Missions (ATM) around the world, and the Intertribal Agriculture Council's (IAC) American Indian Foods (AIF) program had the opportunity to travel to Vancouver, British Columbia. From June 17 to 22, 2024, nearly 20 Tribal leaders and U.S. food and agriculture businesses took part in the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Agriculture Trade Mission. Native producers included:

**CAMINS2DREAM • CATSPRING YAUPON • HERBAL LODGE • IOWAY BEE FARM**

**LAKOTA POPCORN • MORNING LIGHT KOMBUCHA • NAVAJO MIKE'S**

**ONE FARM POULTRY • RED LAKE NATION • YAKAMA NATION FARMS • YOPUN TEA, LLC**

Latashia Redhouse, IAC AIF Director and member of the Navajo Nation, shared how the trip aligned with her passion for empowering Native business owners and supporting their growth:

"Our journey to Vancouver is a celebration of agriculture and the rich Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Indian Country. Through stewardship of the land and a deep commitment to preserving our food systems, Tribal producers are building a future where both our culture and agriculture thrive for generations to come."

Led by USDA Undersecretary Alexis Taylor, the trade mission featured educational seminars, retail and warehouse tours, and government-to-government meetings to strengthen trade



relations in Western Canada and spotlight Native agribusinesses using the *Made/Produced by American Indians* trademark—created in 1991 to protect authenticity and promote Native products.

With many agribusiness owners managing their own sales, distribution, and marketing, producers like Abianne Falla of CatSpring Yaupon recognize the importance of a global presence. "It has been amazing to work with AIF—I think we're at a unique intersection," Falla said. "We want to work with other brands and be in more restaurants. We want to see Yaupon on more menus [and] as more of an ingredient in ready-to-drink functional beverages, granola bars, [and] energy bars."

For American Indian and Alaska Native producers exploring new market opportunities through initiatives like the ATM to Canada, the trademark strengthens their visibility in global markets. Reflecting on the experience, Redhouse shared, "I am grateful to the First Nations People of Vancouver, British Columbia, for welcoming IAC to their lands for this significant milestone in Indian Country and the coordination efforts by USDA to offer such a substantial itinerary that offered extensive understanding of the market."

## ◆◆ INTRODUCING ◆◆ ABIANNE FALLA OF CATSPRING YAUPON

For CatSpring Yaupon, regenerative agriculture prioritizes the well-being of both the land and people, especially its workers, who often move from one crisis to the next. IAC's Rege[N]ation Pledge recognizes the benefits of resilient agricultural practices and, for Abianne, supports the demand for a growing business.

"IAC does an incredible job of putting resources on the desks of farmers [...] of inviting us in," she explained. "That is such a gift because we're so busy. We are often staying afloat or trying to grow. And, so, to be out there learning what resources are available, or what we qualify for, or what we should be considering could be another full-time job."





## POLICY: Meet Porter Holder



Meeting in the stone halls of the USDA building, not far from the Capitol, the USDA Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) met for their inaugural event last May. TAC was formed from a provision in the 2018 Farm Bill and provides advice and guidance on Tribal and Indian affairs to the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress.

This committee plays a crucial role in ensuring that the voices of Indian Country are heard at the highest levels of government.

"There's only so much that we can ever consider to be a permanent fix. We need to always be monitoring," said Kelsey Scott, IAC Chief Strategy Officer and a committee member on TAC. "So, having an advisory body that is specifically expected to be able to communicate about on-the-ground impact and utilization of programs or barriers to programs will be really meaningful to continuing to advance our efforts as an organization."

TAC is charged with helping to inform solutions-oriented recommendations that advance USDA programs to better support Tribal producers and Tribes in stewarding their lands.

According to Porter Holder, a rancher from Oklahoma and a plaintiff in the Keepseagle vs Vilsack case, "It's a very powerful committee that Native farmers and ranchers out there need to know about— they are an express lane to get changes done at USDA."

Throughout 2024, TAC held four public meetings and 34 subcommittee meetings to seek input from federal partners, stakeholders, agricultural producers and others. Two of the four public meetings were held virtually, and two were in-person, one in Washington, D.C. and one in Las Vegas, coinciding with the IAC Annual Conference.



## Tribal Advisory Committee in Washington D.C.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) was established by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to ensure that Tribal perspectives are considered in policies, programs, and initiatives that affect Tribal agriculture. Created to strengthen government-to-government relationships and fulfill federal trust responsibilities, the TAC provides guidance directly to the Secretary of Agriculture on issues critical to Indian Country. The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) works alongside the TAC to ensure that the voices and experiences of Tribal producers inform national agricultural policy.

To ensure that Tribal producers are directly represented in federal decision-making processes, IAC is proud to share that Board Member Trenton Kisse, Chief Strategy Officer Kelsey Scott, and Business Development Specialist Meagen Baldy serve on the committee. The TAC convened its final 2024 meeting at IAC's Annual Conference in Las Vegas. This collaboration helps advance policies that empower Tribal agriculture and support the long-term sustainability of Tribal food systems.





## FEATURE STORY

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK

## ★★ Absentee Shawnee Tribal Farm ★★

When the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma set out to re-establish their cattle herd, they were investing in more than livestock. They set out to create a farm that could provide food to Tribal members and create a sustainable farm.

Tribal Agriculture Department staff members Andy Warrior and Craig Blanchard collaborated with IAC Technical Assistance Specialists Jeff Caskey and Quinton Inman to develop a year-over-year plan for the farm's first ten years. The plan began with twenty head of cattle and a goal of being fully operational and profitable within five years.

Initially, they processed five head for beef, reinvested the profits, and expanded the herd. Craig showed a particular interest in understanding and implementing best practices. "He was serious about getting the farm right," said Quinton. "Anytime we gave him a contact or an idea, he followed up." Jeff and Quinton helped connect Craig with the Oregon State University Extension program and other experts for soil health, conservation, and long-term land management.

Craig also reduced overhead costs for hay, allowing the herd to grow. "We're producing better quality hay each year," he said. By year three, the cattle operation was already hitting year-five goals.

Food sovereignty was always part of the business plan. Jeff connected the Tribe with a three-year Administration for Native Americans grant opportunity that could fund this work over three years. He even provided a letter of support to help strengthen their application. With the award, the Agriculture Department began seed and plant distributions for Tribal members. "It's about more than food. It's about connection," Jeff said.

Today, the Absentee Shawnee farm is thriving, engaging the community with tours, field days, and events—showing how planning and partnerships advance food sovereignty.



## GREAT LAKES INTERTRIBAL FOOD COALITION: ★★ TRIBAL ELDER FOOD BOX PROGRAM ★★

While providing technical assistance in the Great Lakes region, Technical Assistance Specialist Joey Tallier supported the innovative Tribal Elder Food Box program. Offered by the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition, the program serves Tribal members aged 55 and older from Wisconsin's 11 federally recognized Tribes, emphasizing culturally relevant foods sourced from Tribal and local producers.

In February 2024, Joey identified a critical issue affecting applications from 10 of the 11 Tribes to USDA's Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program. Their applications were missing priority points due to a federal tool, the Distressed County Index, that did not reflect the reality of economic distress for Tribal communities located in wealthier counties. Joey raised awareness of the issue, which was then brought to the attention of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and subsequently elevated to USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) leadership through a coordinated effort by the IAC policy team.





## FEATURE STORY

# MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING CAPACITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## ♦♦ Kiowa Bison Harvest ♦♦



As spring arrived in Oklahoma, members of the Kiowa Tribe gathered in community to honor the presence and teachings of Elder Chester Horse at a traditional buffalo harvest.

"You have to live just like this meeting right here - in the old ways," said James Kennedy, a Kiowa Tribal member who participated in the event.

The event focused on education and skill-building, helping Tribal members gain knowledge needed to support culturally grounded food systems. As part of USDA's Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA), IAC provided advisory support, offering technical assistance (TA) to help the Tribe advance their local food initiatives.

"There's more and more interest in getting folks back to knowing how to process their own food and growing their own vegetables," said Jeff Caskey, an IAC Technical Assistance (TA) Specialist. "We're having a push back towards the older ways of food and our food systems."

Building on momentum from the event, the Kiowa are applying new skills and knowledge on the reservation to strengthen food systems and build a more secure food future. In March, the Tribe rematriated ten buffalo to the reservation, where they will manage the herd and hold buffalo field harvests as a community.



IAC TA specialists provide advisory support through MPPTA, including grant guidance, business planning, and operational advice for Tribal and rural meat-processing projects.

## 2024 POULTRY FLY-IN

From October 8-10, 2024, IAC hosted 65 attendees in Fayetteville, AR, for the 2024 MPPTA Fly-In. Representing 19 states, 26 participants were sponsored to attend the event. It was a collaborative effort among multiple organizations, supporting the growth of domestic processing capacity for Tribal communities.

The fly-in brought together producers from across the country, including Tribal leaders and individual Tribal producers such as Keith Cunningham from 1 Farm Poultry, whose products are certified under the *Made/Produced by American Indians* trademark.





## YOUTH PROGRAM: Meet Eva Wedell



"I've had a lot of opportunities to involve my culture and the traditions I've been taught," said Eva Wedell, who interned with IAC this past summer supporting her home community's medicine garden.

Wedell was among four interns assisting Tribal agriculture programs across the country. Interns partnered with IAC to support business grants, community gardens, and water conservation, both in their home communities and across the nation.

IAC was able to support these interns financially while they attended postsecondary school and provided professional growth opportunities across the broad field of agriculture.

"This truly leads them to jobs," said Elaini Vargas, IAC's Youth Programs Director. "It becomes a pathway to working in this world."

Vargas knows this pathway well. She started her journey with IAC as an intern and now oversees a growing youth program. Reflecting on this past cohort of interns, she sees so many pathways opening for them ahead.

Wedell's dream next step is to work in prairie restoration with her degree in conservation biology through Oglala Lakota College. Her internship opportunity was one more step toward achieving her goals and supporting agriculture in her region.

Reflecting on her internship experience, Wedell said, "The awesome part of it is that this constant learning is going on."

Vargas and all the staff at IAC are excited to see where Wedell's path leads in the years ahead.



## YOUTH SUMMITS

In 2024, the IAC Youth Program team hosted three regional youth summits to support and inspire Tribal youth interested in agriculture with an emphasis on leadership and professional development. The regional summits were held in the Rocky Mountain, Alaska, and Great Plains regions.

At each summit, youth connected with Tribal leaders, local farmers, past IAC interns, and government officials who shared their experiences and advice. Participants explored topics such as food sovereignty, seed saving, land and water conservation, youth loan programs, and various career paths in the agricultural sector. These gatherings demonstrated the many ways in which Tribal youth can be involved in agriculture, whether they are stewarding the land, organizing in their communities, or advocating through policy.

• • [indianag.org/youth](https://indianag.org/youth) • •





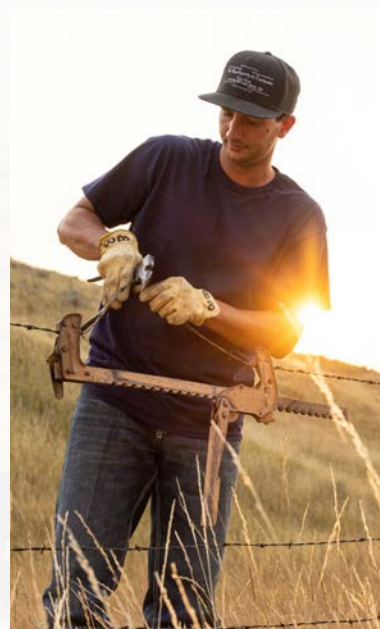
## FEATURE STORY

# REGENERATIVE ECONOMIES

## ◆◆ FEATURING ROSE RANCH ◆◆

How financially sustainable is regenerative agriculture for Tribal producers? This is the question the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), and Tribal producers across Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, and South Dakota seek to answer.

Inherent to many Tribal producers, regenerative agriculture is a holistic approach to revitalizing land and ecological systems. It focuses on improving the soil's ability to regenerate over time by involving the whole farm ecosystem, including humans and wildlife. Common regenerative practices include efficient nutrient management, rotational grazing, cover crops, reduced tillage, and more.



While the benefits of regenerative practices to the environment are substantial, never before have the financial impacts for Tribal producers been measured until this project between IAC and EDF. Regenerative Agriculture Projects are crucial for producers, lenders, and other industry stakeholders to recognize the full value and impact of these practices on long-term profitability to support fully incorporating them into operations.

Since 2022, Thad Rose (Cheyenne River Sioux) and 12 other Native producers have been involved in quantifying the financial impacts of regenerative agriculture practices on grazing lands throughout Indian Country. Thad and his family are young producers who raise beef cattle on 3,000 acres on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation.

"To me, regenerative agriculture is following practices that add back to the land and improve it," states Thad. He has implemented bale grazing, low stocking rates, livestock-sensitive crossing fencing, and soil and forage sampling with the goal of operating sustainably while improving the land for the next generation. Through this effort, Thad will be able to identify which practices contribute to the financial health of his operation.

With the identification of associated costs and financial sustainability of regenerative practices, Tribal producers are enabled to make decisions that improve their operation's land stewardship and overall success. Empowering Tribal producers, like Thad, with land-based agricultural resources is vital to the economic and social welfare of their operations in addition to their Tribal communities.



## ABOUT ROSE RANCH: 2024 SNAPSHOT

Location: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation, Eagle Butte, South Dakota  
Owner: Thad Rose    Years of Experience: 5

### LIVESTOCK:

- 125 spring-calving cows
- Grazing 3,000 acres of native grasses
- Calves weaned and sold through local auction
- Select heifer calves retained for replacement

### FORAGES & GRAZING SYSTEMS:

- Managed grazing across six native grass pastures, averaging 500 acres each
- Native grasses supplemented by purchased hay
- Adaptive grazing and bale grazing
- Soil and forage sampling, low stocking rate, livestock-sensitive cross fencing

### CONSERVATION GOALS:

- Improve soil health and fertility
- Support biodiversity and water retention
- Operate profitably and sustainably







## NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDING LAND

As producers across Indian Country faced drought, shifting climate conditions, soil and water challenges, and rising interest in regenerative practices, the need for regionally tailored support grew rapidly. In response, IAC worked with over 35 Tribes this year, strengthening partnerships, increasing youth engagement, and offering more hands-on learning through field days—creating new momentum for land stewardship.

At peak season, IAC teams traveled nationwide, hosting up to three field days per week from the Alaska tundra to the Southeastern forests. Each event reflected local priorities—soil health in grazing systems, drought mitigation, regenerative grazing, food forest development, and the program’s first agroforestry-focused field day at the Southeastern Agroforestry Expo.

The program also advanced multi-year conservation initiatives, completing the second year of USDA CRP Monitoring Assessment and Evaluation (MAE) work on Tribal lands. These efforts strengthened long-term partnerships with Tribal Nations by supporting culturally aligned land-stewardship goals and expanding opportunities for Tribal producers to enroll eligible grasslands and working-lands acres in conservation. The work also helped build local capacity for ongoing climate resilience by integrating grazing infrastructure improvements, native vegetation restoration, and technical assistance tailored to Tribal priorities.



## NATURAL RESOURCES IMPACT



In 2024, IAC’s Natural Resources and Technical Assistance program teams traveled nationwide, hosting field-day events tailored to Indian agriculture. Partnering closely with experts from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), these events offered hands-on workshops on soil health, forage management, and sustainable conservation practices to help Tribal producers achieve long-term agricultural success. Additionally, IAC monitored and assessed nearly 100,000 acres of Tribal land to help producers implement practices that strengthen and protect natural resources.



Highlights included a visit to the Otoe-Missouria Tribe’s 7C Land & Cattle Co., a 900+ acre ranch raising over 600 Black Angus cross cattle. In Wisconsin, IAC and NRCS teamed up with the Tribal Conservation Advisory Council to host sessions on soil health, cover crops, and beneficial insects. At Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Wind River, workshops focused on soil health and forage testing, while field days with the Southern Ute, Shoshone, and Shoshone-Paiute communities highlighted regenerative practices.

Participants at Isleta Pueblo’s Cotton Blossom Gardens got hands-on experience with planting, installing drip irrigation, field cleanup, and soil health demonstrations. Additional field days in Copper River, Colville, Tule River, Owens Valley, and Kalispel covered conservation, wildlife management, noxious weed control, and educational opportunities for Tribal youth.



**Overall, 2024 marked a year of growth, collaboration, and deepening trust between IAC and the producers it serves.**



## NATIVE FARM BILL COALITION HIGHLIGHT

### ♦♦ MEET BUCK JONES ♦♦



Since time immemorial, the Tribes of Oregon and Washington have historically harvested salmon, lamprey, eels, sturgeon and other traditional foods from the rivers of their homeland. The rivers' health is intrinsically tied to the health of Native people, which is why the Tribes in the Columbia River Basin advocated for fishing rights during the "salmon wars" since the arrival of hydroelectric dams. Many of today's elders who fought to protect their fishing rights went to federal prison for exercising their inherent treaty rights. During this time, Tribes unified across the region to challenge the legality of the dams and advocate for the restoration of salmon populations. The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation collaborated with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe, forming the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) to amplify their voices and strengthen their ability to protect their ancestral rights.

CRITFC manages fishery resources to protect treaty rights and provides technical services for the Yakama Nation. Salmon Marketing Specialist Buck Jones is Cayuse and a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. He has worked for CRITFC for over 20 years. He shared, "This is a battle together forming under that unified voice. That was the creation of CRITFC, to uphold those treaty rights which formed the supreme law of the land."

Under the direction of its member Tribes, CRITFC employs lawyers, policy analysts, and fisheries enforcement officers who work tirelessly to ensure that Tribal treaty rights are

protected. Reflecting on his past two decades of work with fisheries, Buck said, "The impacts upstream really hurt you downstream as well." The Commission collaborates with state and federal agencies to ensure fair harvest sharing between Tribal and non-Tribal fisheries.

In recent years, CRITFC's work leveraged policy to defend Tribal sovereignty. "We also really upheld our sovereignty," Buck said. "We ended up getting our own policy for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Enforcement to uphold our laws, our Tribal laws."

The mechanism of CRITFC is unique and prioritizes agricultural issues and restoration efforts from a Tribal lens. Buck emphasized that unity across Indian country elevates the shared goals of Tribes, saying, "To be at the table with IAC [Intertribal Agriculture Council] and developing partnerships with IFAI [Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative] and now with the creation of the Native Farm Bill Coalition is just so important ... Being an advocate for Tribes, I'm at a lot of the tables trying to just be an advocate." The Tribes of the Columbia River Basin leverage their collective power to advocate for change, address complex issues, and implement solutions to protect ancestral lands and treaty rights.

"This Farm Bill is important to our Tribes and so is advocating. In 2018, we did join the Coalition, and I thought this is a really great opportunity to get CRITFC to our vision."

Looking ahead, Buck hopes the Farm Bill will include increased self-determination policy for seafood and salmon production, saying, "Those are agriculture too, you know ... Tribes have their own ability to train their own inspectors on their Tribally-run facilities, and we can get the training from the USDA." As a member of the Native Farm Bill Coalition, CRITFC wants to dismantle barriers to accessing resources for Tribes and Tribal producers.



**Advancing the policy priorities of Native American producers in the upcoming Farm Bill through a strong, united voice.**

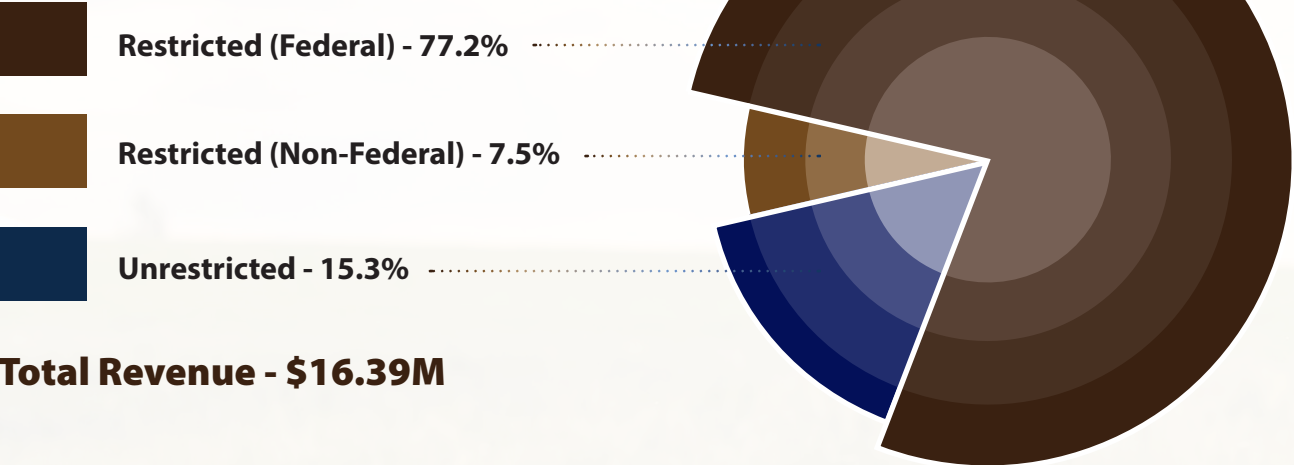
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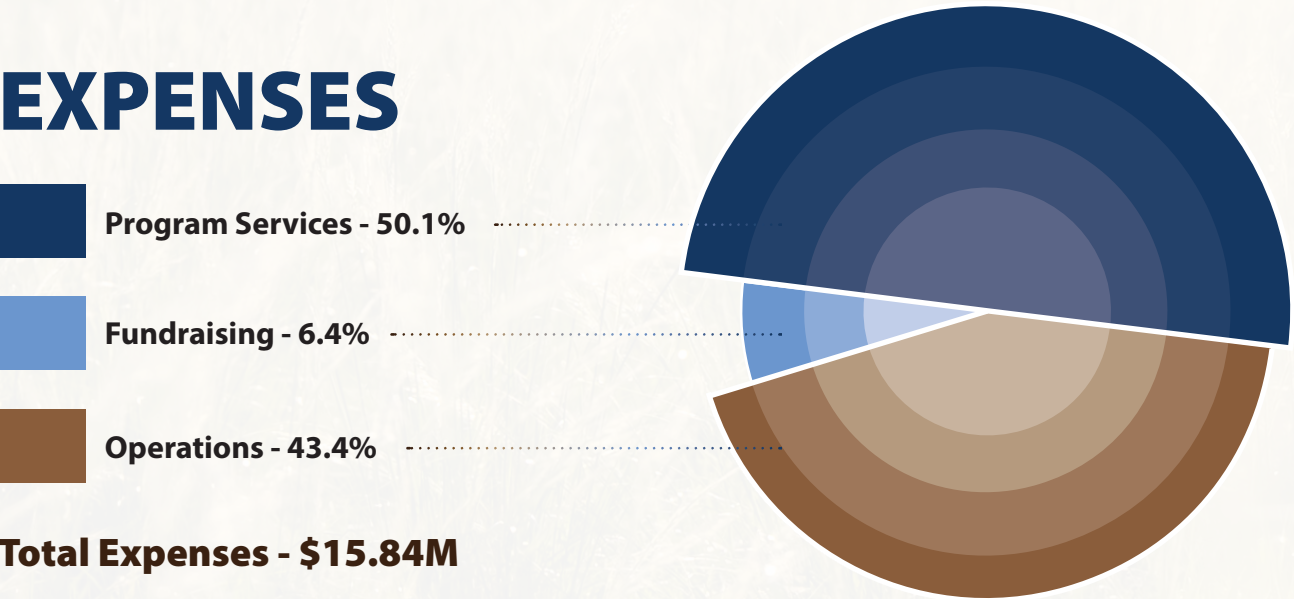


# FINANCIALS

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



Between 2023 and 2024, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) maintained steady revenue and expenses, while strategically diversifying funding sources. Federal funding decreased from over 90% in 2023 to 77% in 2024, complemented by increased philanthropic support through grants, donations, and sponsorships. This diversification strengthens financial stability and ensures resources are directed toward advancing IAC’s mission and supporting producers across Indian Country. For detailed financial statements, visit: [indianag.org/financial-reports](https://indianag.org/financial-reports)

# THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

The success of our work is grounded in collaboration. The progress we achieve is made possible alongside dedicated partners and supporters with a commitment to advancing Tribal agriculture.

- 3Gs for Gaia

Advancing Eco Agriculture

Agricultural Land Equity Task Force,

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Akiptan

Alcorn State University

American Indian Public Health Resource

Center at North Dakota State University

(AIPHRC)

American Indian/Alaska Native Employees

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Annie’s Project

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Trust

Service, Division of Environmental Services

and cultural Resources Management

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Trust

Services - Pathways Program

California Association of RCDs

Cedar Tree Foundation

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CKP Insurance

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#NoRegretsInitiative

Ho Minti Society

Indian Gaming Association (IGA)

Indian Land Tenure Foundation

Indian Nations Conservation Alliance

Indian Resources Development - New

Mexico State

Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative

InterTribal Buffalo Council

Intertribal Timber Council

Lora and Martin Kelley Family Foundation

Marsh McLennan Agency

Mendocino County Resource Conservation

District

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- Montana State University, College of

Education

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National Association of Conservation

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National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

National Indian Carbon Coalition

Native Agriculture Financial Services

Native American Agriculture Fund

Native Land Insurance Services, Inc.

Native Seeds/SEARCH

Navajo Agricultural Products Industry

Nevada Farm Bureau Federation

Nevada Section of the Society for Range

Management

New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Newman’s Own Foundation

Oregon Community Foundation

Patagonia

Plank Stewardship Initiative

Prairie Edge Casino Resort

Qualterra Ag

Quivira Coalition

Resources Legacy Fund

Rural Coalition

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research

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SPROUT

Straus Family Creamery

Sustainable Agriculture Research and

Education Program

Sweet Grass Consulting

Tahoma Peak Solutions

Tanka Fund

The Collins Foundation

The Elevate Prize Foundation

The National Center for American Indian

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The Roundhouse Foundation

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Thirteen Moons, FDLTCC

Tortuga Charitable Trust

UltraSource LLC

United States Forest Service (USFS)

University of Minnesota Extension

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

USDA Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS)

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection
- Service (APHIS)

USDA Economic Research Service (ERS)

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

USDA Farm Service Agency California

USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS)

USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS)

USDA National Agricultural Statistics

Service (NASS)

USDA National Appeals Division (NAD)

USDA National Institute of Food and

Agriculture (NIFA)

USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Service - California

USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Service - Montana

USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Service - Nevada

USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Service - North Dakota

USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Service (NRCS)

USDA Northwest Transition to Organic

Partnership Program/Oregon Tilth

USDA Office of Tribal Relations (OTR)

USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA)

USDA Risk Management Agency Education

Division

USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service

(RBS)

USDA Rural Development (RD)

USDA Rural Development Arizona

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USDA Rural Housing Service (RHS)

USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative

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USDA West/Southwest Transition to

Organic Partnership Program / California

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USET - United South & Eastern Tribe

UVE

Village Earth

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Wildhorse Foundation

Winrock International

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WSDA Regional Markets Program

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# ◦ 2024 ◦ ANNUAL REPORT



**INDIANAG.ORG**

