



INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

APRIL 17TH | 18TH, 2024

DAY 1, 1:00 - 5:00 PM CT

Welcome | 1:00 PM - 1:40 PM CT

Toni Stanger-McLaughlin, CEO, Native American Agriculture Fund

Keynote Speakers:

Kelsey Scott, Chief Strategy Officer, Intertribal Agriculture Council
Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez, NM

✓ Implementing NRCS Conservation Practices on Trust Lands |

1:40 PM - 2:40 PM CT

Guest Speakers:

- Leon LaSalle, Producer, Chippewa Cree Tribe
- Skya Ducheneaux, Executive Director, Akiptan
- Trish Cracraft, Tribal Liaison (MT)
- Roylene Comes at Night, State Conservationist (WA)

Panel Description: Federal trust lands are attached to unique administrative barriers seen nowhere else in the U.S. This panel discusses the unique challenges faced by Native producers working on Trust lands from multiple perspectives.

✓ Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) in USDA Conservation Practices |

1:40 PM - 2:40 PM CT

Guest Speakers:

- Pedro Torres, National Tribal Liaison, USDA NRCS
- Cassius Spears Jr., State Resource Conservationist (RI)
- Chris Borden, Tribal Liaison (WI)
- Jeff Mears, Executive Director, Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

Panel Description: Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) is an experiential science and knowledge base focused on Indigenous ways of knowing and being. The White House has committed to elevating ITEK in federal scientific and policy processes. This panel gathers insights from ITEK practitioners and experts and the Federal government to better understand how ITEK works in tandem with on-the-ground Federal conservation practices.





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APRIL 17TH | 18TH, 2024

DAY 1 CONTINUED...

✓ Implementing NRCS Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFAs) |

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM CT

Guest Speakers:

- Leon LaSalle, Producer, Chippewa Cree Tribe
- Kyle Stiffarm, Producer, Fort Belknap
- Kyle Tackett, Assistant State Conservationist (MT)

Panel Description: Following the 2018 Farm Bill, Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFAs) present unique avenues for Tribes to participate in USDA NRCS programming. AFAs enable Tribes to address distinct priorities in their communities and that programming aligns with Tribal cultural values and the needs of Tribal producers. This panel discusses current successes and challenges facing producers and USDA as they implement these projects together.

✓ Telling Their Story: Communicating the Impact of Conservation in Agriculture |

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM CT

Guest Speakers:

- Nathan Henry, Polling and Messaging, US Nature4Climate
- Whitney Sawney, Communications and Policy Director, Native American Agriculture Fund

Panel Description: Delve into the crucial realm of messaging and communication strategies to convey the impact of conservation in agriculture, specifically focusing on implementing Natural Climate Solutions (NCS). Learn more about the national poll results that reinforce the overwhelming support for expanding climate-friendly solutions. The survey indicates public support of implementation approaches that assist farmers and forest landowners in adopting climate-smart management practices in diverse ecosystems such as forests, grasslands, and coastal wetlands.





INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

APRIL 17TH | 18TH, 2024

DAY 1 CONTINUED...

✓ Climate Smart Agriculture: Growing and Marketing Local Foods |

3:50 PM - 4:50 PM CT

Guest Speakers:

- Roberta Townsend Vennel, Project Director, Kodiak Archipelago Leadership Institute
- Todd Mitchell, Environmental Director, Swinomish Tribe
- Julianna M. Sullivan, Research Scientist, Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation

Panel Description: This panel discusses how Tribes across the U.S. are growing and marketing crops and livestock endemic to their region outside of the established cow/calf and row-crop market. NAAF grantees will present the history and growing strategies for foods that feed communities, drive economies, and promote cooperation with the land.

✓ Tribal Innovation in Conservation |

3:50 PM - 4:50 PM CT

Moderator

- Mary Belle Zook, Communications Director, Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative

Guest Speakers:

- Macy Vansickle, Planner, Choctaw Nation Conservation District
- Karli Moore, PhD Candidate, Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources, Stanford University
- Meagan Baldy, Food Safety Specialist, Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative and USDA Tribal Advisory Council Member
- Pedro Torres, National Tribal Liaison, USDA NRCS

Panel Description: Opportunities exist to employ innovative approaches to conservation across Indian Country. Hear about how Tribes use technology to better serve Tribal citizens and increase conservation program access and how current and future policies can support Tribal innovation in conservation.





INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

APRIL 17TH | 18TH, 2024

DAY 2, 1:00 - 5:00 PM CT

Main Stage Panel | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CT

Acquiring and Utilizing Capital to Fund Conservation on Native Lands

Moderator

Toni Stanger-McLaughlin, Chief Executive Officer, Native American Agriculture Fund

Guest Speakers:

- Janie Simms Hipp, CEO/President, Native Agriculture Financial Services
- Gary Matteson, Senior Vice President of Beginning Farmer Programs and Outreach, Farm Credit Council
- Skya Ducheneaux, Executive Director, Akiptan

Panel Description: Capital is necessary to make agricultural production profitable while enhancing conservation practices. Hear from some of the top minds in Native agriculture as they discuss how Native producers can better acquire capital and apply it towards effective conservation practices.





INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

APRIL 17TH | 18TH, 2024

DAY 2 CONTINUED...

✓ Using Data to Inform Decision Making for Producers and Decision-Makers |

2:05 PM - 3:05 PM CT

Guest Speakers:

- Leon LaSalle, Producer, Fort Belknap
- Aude Chesnais, Executive Director, Village Earth
- Erin Parker, Executive Director, Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative

Panel Description: Discover how data is collected, processed, and utilized to help producers and other decision-makers make the most informed decisions they can about the land, their businesses and their communities.

✓ Regenerating Our Lands: Perspectives from the Intertribal Agriculture Council |

2:05 PM - 3:05 PM CT

Moderator

Kelsey Scott, Chief Strategy Officer, Intertribal Agriculture Council

Guest Speakers:

- Tikaan Galbreath, Technical Assistance Network Director
- Emily Luscombe, Natural Resource Director
- Latashia Redhouse, American Indian Foods Director
- Elaini Vargas, Youth Program Director
- Padgley Gonzales, Regenerative Economies Program Specialist

Panel Description: Intertribal Agriculture Council's (IAC) Stakeholder Services teams regularly lead comprehensive and Tribal producer-led conservation initiatives across Indian Country. Our panel will share insights, experiences, and success stories showcasing how the IAC's five Stakeholder Services departments play a vital role in promoting regenerative food systems, kinship with our land and natural systems, and conservation planning efforts that uplift Traditional Ecological Knowledge through diversified resource pursuits.





INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

APRIL 17TH | 18TH, 2024

DAY 2 CONTINUED...

✓ Beyond the Classroom: How Extension Partnerships Yield On-the-ground Conservation Results |

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM CT

Moderator

Dr. Joe Hiller, Trustee, Native American Agriculture Fund

Guest Speakers:

- Joe Dunn, Director of Agriculture Division, Sitting Bull College
- Vanessa Hamilton, Extension Coordinator and Workforce Development, Nebraska Indian Community College
- Trent Teegerstrom, Associator Director for Tribal Extension Programs, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- Courtney Chavis, Sovereign Equity Fund Executive Director

Panel Description: Learn about the successes and challenges in Extension work with Native producers, as well as a dynamic new partnership between the Sovereign Equity Fund and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture which is expanding how extension programming is carried out in Native communities and the impacts thus far.

✓ Youth and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers: Conservation for the Next Generation |

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM CT

Moderator

Cindy Farlee, Program Officer, Native American Agriculture Fund

Guest Speakers:

- Jerica Widow, Program Director Cheyenne River Youth Project
- Elaini Vargas, Youth Programs Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council

Panel Description: Panelists will discuss how their organizations promote agriculture and conservation for youth and beginning farmers and ranchers, including how youth view risk and early adoption of technologies.

