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Subject: Your campaign USDA Office of Tribal Relations News has been sent
Date: Friday, February 3, 2023 1:46:37 PM

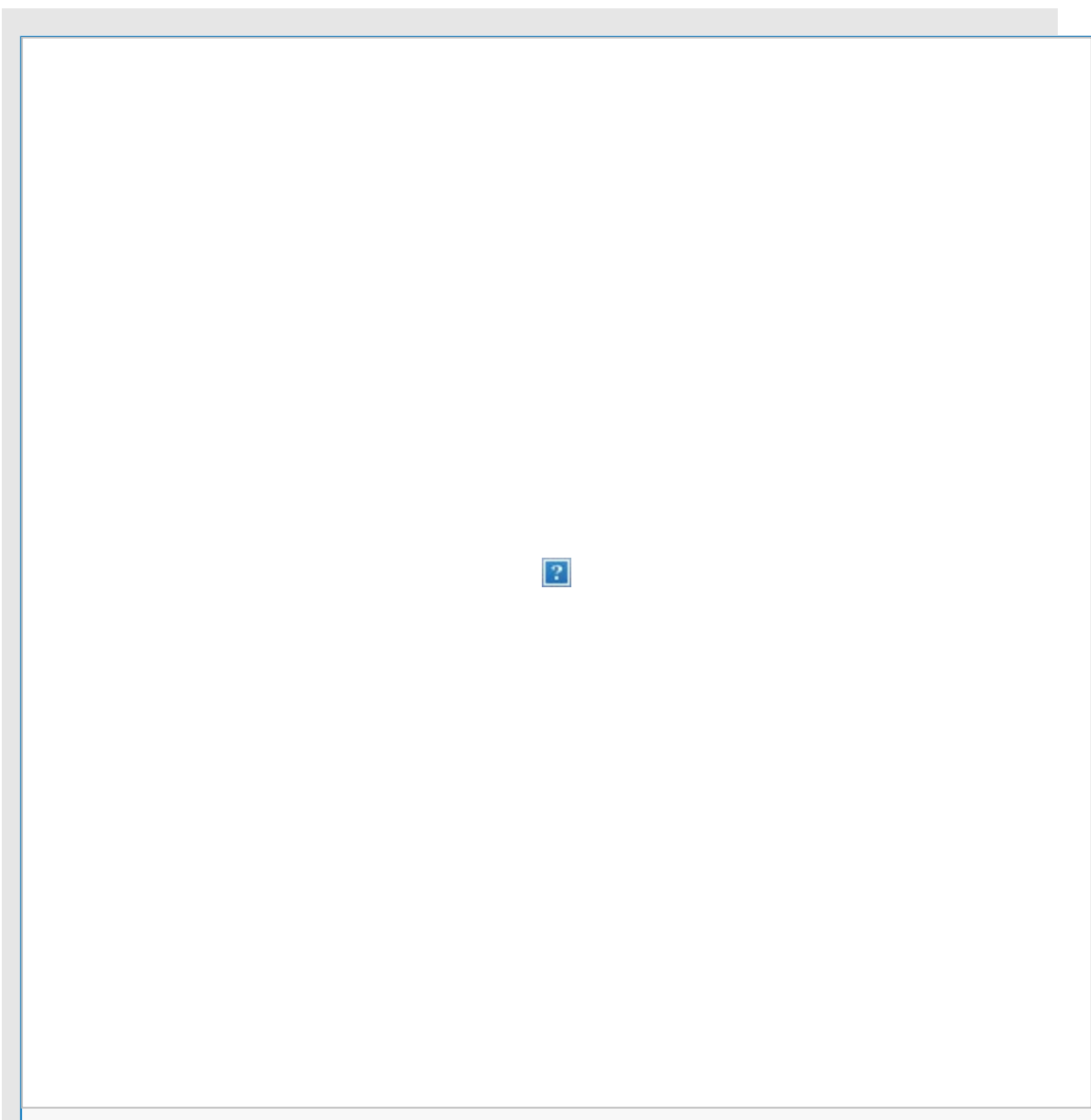


Dear Peter Rhee,

Your campaign '**USDA Office of Tribal Relations News**' was sent on 2/3/2023 around 1:43 PM EST.

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Subject: USDA Office of Tribal Relations News



USDA's Office of Tribal Relations Newsletter

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USDA Forest Service Releases Tribal Relations Action Plan

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has published a Tribal Relations Action Plan that outlines actions the agency will take to advance tribal consultation and strengthen nation-to-nation relationships with federally recognized Tribes.

The Tribal Relations Action Plan provides a framework for advancing existing laws, regulations and policies and is not intended to amend or establish new Forest Service policy or direction. The plan instead provides steps that can be implemented through existing programs and processes based on four focus areas:

- Strengthen Relationships Between Indian Tribes and the USDA Forest Service
- Fulfill Trust and Treaty Obligations
- Enhance Co-Stewardship of the Nation's Forests and Grasslands
- Advance Tribal Relations Within the USDA Forest Service

Read the [full announcement](#).

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Call for Comments on Proposed Rule for Accessible, Culturally Inclusive USDA Food Programs

Today, at the USDA Conversation on Healthy School Meals Roundtable, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced major initiatives at the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will support and enhance the health of America's children through nutritious school meals.

Among these announcements, USDA issued a proposed rule with two proposed changes that will support nutrition equity: equal access to nutritious foods and foods that reflect cultural preferences.

- USDA proposes to add tribally operated schools, schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Education, and schools serving primarily American Indian or Alaska Native children to the list of schools that may serve vegetables to meet the grains requirement in school meals. This proposal is also extended to the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program.
- The proposed rule would also explicitly state in regulation that traditional foods may be served in reimbursable school meals.

See the [proposed rule and submit comments](#).

Tribal Citizen Dr. Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan Appointed to Dietary Guidelines for Americans Advisory Committee

From the beginning of the Biden-Harris administration, Secretary Vilsack has challenged our team to rethink USDA initiatives from an indigenous perspective. One of the most important things we do at USDA is publish the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) with our partners at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These evidence-based nutrition guidelines are informed by recommendations from a committee of nutrition science experts and updated every five years.

For the 2025 DGAs, USDA and HHS sought an advisory committee that would be reflective of the full diversity within the United States, with the understanding that our

backgrounds can affect our nutritional needs.

We are pleased that the recently announced committee moves us closer to this goal. As USDA Director of Tribal Relations, I want to particularly note the historic appointment of the first tribal citizen of which we are aware to serve on a DGA advisory committee, Dr. Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan, a member of the Choctaw tribe.

Read [the full blog](#).

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