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Subject: Your campaign USDA Office of Tribal Relations News has been sent
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2023 11:25:39 AM

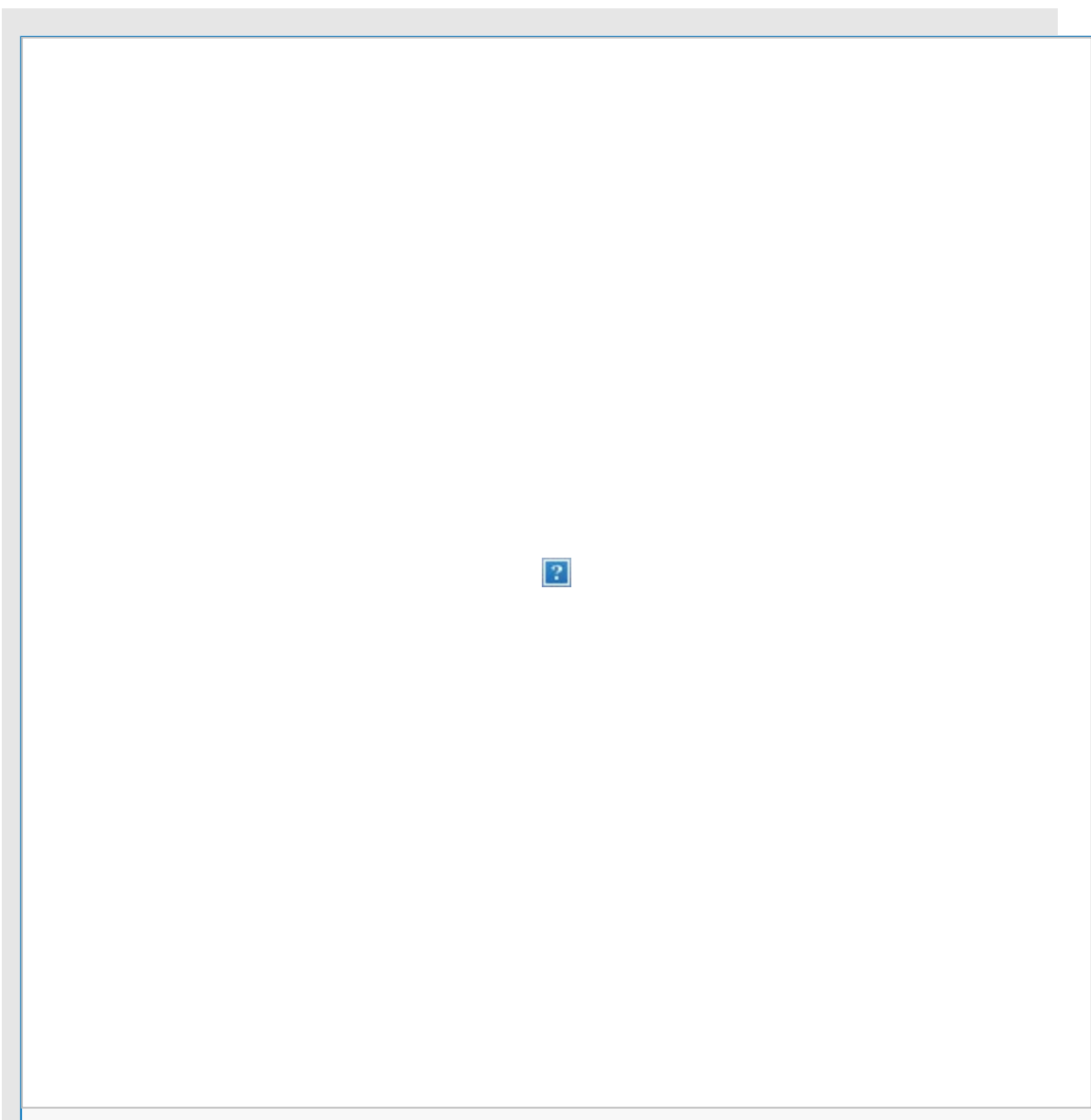


Dear Peter Rhee,

Your campaign '**USDA Office of Tribal Relations News**' was sent on 7/20/2023 around 11:22 AM EDT.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports [in your account](#) to get real-time results and stats.

Subject: USDA Office of Tribal Relations News



USDA's Office of Tribal Relations Newsletter

If you are not subscribed to this newsletter, [sign up at this link](#).

Message from the Acting Director

Hest Sxlxalt (Good day in Salish),

USDA continues to seek opportunities to engage Indian Country on how we can better frame our programs, resources, and policies to meet our trust and treaty responsibility. The new Tribal Advisory Committee will be an important partner for USDA in understanding and elevating tribal interests, and USDA is [currently soliciting nominations for members](#) to serve on this Committee until August 14, 2023. By law, nominations may only be submitted by federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, tribal organizations that are arms and instrumentalities of tribes or democratically elected by their community, or national or regional organizations with expertise in tribal food and agriculture issues. Additional information about this Committee and instructions on how to submit a nomination are available in the [Federal Register](#).

I would also like to thank those of you for attended the USDA consultation concerning the [Rural Business Development Grant proposed rule](#) recognizes a shift in response to past consultation. The consultation and listening session were hosted on July 12 as an opportunity to engage tribal leaders to ensure we are on the right path to recognizing tribal government entities as eligible beneficiaries in our programs like the Rural Business Development Grant. Tribes are encouraged to submit written consultation comments on the [consultation questions](#) by August 14, 2023, at aian@usda.gov. Submit public comments to the [Federal Register](#) by July 24, 2023.

USDA is also responding to tribal consultation through a new ground bison purchase pilot. This pilot seeks to address barriers identified by tribal bison herd managers in federal procurement of ground bison meat by better reflecting the seasonality and scale of tribal operations, while also allowing meat to be sold that is either federally or state inspected. The pilot will focus exclusively on HUBZones in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota to service the USDA tribal feeding program in those states. The Small Business Administration considers all tribal lands to be HUBZones. Interested vendors must have a SAM number and be a USDA recognized vendor. USDA recently issued [a pre-solicitation announcement](#) with contact information to learn more on how to become a recognized vendor.

Finally, I would like to thank our General Counsel Janie Hipp for her service to USDA and wish her the best on her next chapter. Many of you have worked with Janie before and know how trailblazing she has been for Indian Country. She continued this as the first Indigenous woman to serve as the General Counsel at USDA in 2021 and served as a key advisor to the Secretary through the many initiatives USDA has stood up this administration. Her contributions have been incalculable, and she will be missed.

On behalf of the OTR Team:

[Heather Dawn Thompson](#), Director (On Detail), 202-205-2249

[Deb Dumontier](#), 202-235-4950, Acting Director (*Tribal Self-Determination Initiative*)

[Lawrence Shorty](#), 202-870-8035, USDA Tribal Colleges Program Director

[Josiah Griffin](#), 202-205-2249 (*Economic Development, Farming/Ranching, and Supply Chain*)

[Jeff Harris](#), 202-768-0812 (*Food, Research, Consultation, Youth, Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative*)

[Taylor Schad](#), 202-875-9236 (*Forest Service and Natural Resources*)

[Lisa Yellow Luger](#), 202-845-5646 (*Tribal Liaison – Tribal Colleges Program*)

[Jim Wabindato](#), 202-805-2208, *Special Policy Advisor, Tribal Ag Lands*

Lemlmts (Thank you),

Deb DuMontier
Acting Director, USDA Office of Tribal Relations

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## White House & USDA Initiatives

### White House Initiatives/Executive Orders

- [Executive Order on Equity and Barriers](#)
- [White House Memo on Tribal Consultation](#)
- [White House Memo on \(ITEK\) Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge](#)
- [Treaty Rights MOU](#)
- [Sacred Sites MOU](#)
- [Native Languages MOA](#)

### USDA Initiatives

- [USDA Food Sovereignty Initiative](#)
- [USDA Tribal Self Determination Initiative](#)
- [USDA-DOI Joint Secretarial Order on Tribal Homelands](#)
- [USDA-DOI Tribal Treaty Database](#)

### COVID-19 News for Producers

**USDA COVID Response Page.** USDA maintains a COVID-19 response page at [www.usda.gov/coronavirus](http://www.usda.gov/coronavirus), which has news updates, answers to frequently asked questions, and other important information.

### Employment/Board Opportunities

**[Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Nominations for Farmers and Ranchers to Serve on Local County Committees](#)** – Nominations Due: August 1, 2023

### Consultation, Listening Session, Webinar, and Other Notices

For the most up to date information for these tribal consultations, visit: visit [OTR's Tribal Consultation page](#).

**[Urban Producers, Public Invited to Attend August Meeting of Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#)**

**Meeting Date:** August 1, 2023

**Meeting Time:** 3– 6 p.m. ET

### USDA Hall of Tribal Nations

#### USDA Requests your Tribal Flag for the Hall of Tribal Nations

In recognition of the diplomatic nation-to-nation relationship, between tribes and the federal government, USDA is proud to host a Hall of Tribal Nations, akin to our sister agency the Department of Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs. Agriculture Secretary Vilsack shared a [video dedicating this new space](#) during the November 2021 White House Tribal Nations Conference. USDA invites more tribal nations to contribute flags to this growing collection. Please contact [Tribal.Relations@usda.gov](mailto:Tribal.Relations@usda.gov) to learn more or send your 3ft. x 5ft. tribal flag to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Attention: Tribal Flags/Office of Tribal Relations  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Room 200A J.L. Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250

### **Regulation Review/Public Comment/Public Notification**

#### **[USDA Seeks Fiscal Year 2024 Suggestions for Plant Protection Projects](#) –**

Application Deadline: September 6, 2023

### **Grant/Loan/Program Opportunities**

#### **[Calendar Year 2022 Disaster Water Grants](#) – Application Deadline: Rolling Until Funds Exhausted**

The CY 2022 Disaster Water Grants Program is designed to assist communities by awarding grant funds to qualified entities for expenses related to water infrastructure systems in designated areas that were impacted by events that occurred during CY 2022 and were recognized through Presidentially Declared Disasters. In addition to damage repairs, these grants are also intended to develop system capacity and resiliency in order to reduce or eliminate long-term risks from future events. Water infrastructure systems include drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, and stormwater projects serving eligible communities. Adequate documentation must be provided to demonstrate impacts to the water infrastructure systems.

#### **[FY23 Cochran Fellowship](#) – Application Deadline: July 31, 2023**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), Fellowship Programs, announces this funding opportunity to support the Cochran Fellowship Program (CFP) by issuing new awards. This opportunity is available to Minority Serving Institutions (refer to Section C). This program is intended to support improved understanding of the principles of urban agriculture among program participants.

The objective of this program is to educate Fellows on best practices within urban agriculture, including community building to increase global food security. The goal of this program is to increase these countries' capacity for agricultural research, extension, and participation in international trade.

#### **[Organic Market Development Grants](#) – Application Deadline: August 8, 2023**

This program will support the development of new and expanded organic markets by providing additional resources for businesses transitioning to organic or initiating new organic production and processing capacity.

#### **[Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer I](#) –**

Application Deadline: September 19, 2023

The USDA SBIR/STTR programs focus on transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial potential and/or societal benefit. Unlike fundamental research, the USDA SBIR/STTR programs support small businesses in the creation of innovative, disruptive technologies and enable the application of research advancements from conception into the market. The STTR program aims to foster technology transfer through formal cooperative R&D between small businesses and nonprofit research institutions.

#### **[Powering Affordable Clean Energy](#) – Application Deadline: September 29, 2023**

The Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) program is part of the Inflation Reduction Act. With \$1 billion in funding, PACE helps make clean, affordable, and reliable energy accessible to the people of rural America. Under PACE, USDA Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will forgive up to 60 percent of loans for renewable energy projects that use wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, or biomass, as well as for renewable energy storage projects.

**[Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program \(HBIIIP\)](#)** – Application Deadline: September 30, 2023

The purpose of HBIIIP is to increase significantly the sales and use of higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel by expanding the infrastructure for renewable fuels derived from U.S. agricultural products. The program is also intended to encourage a more comprehensive approach to market higher blends by sharing the costs related to building out biofuel-related infrastructure.

**[Agriculture and Food Research Initiative \(AFRI\) Competitive Grants Program Foundational and Applied Science Program](#)** – Application Deadline: December 29, 2023

The AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program supports grants in six AFRI priority areas to advance knowledge in both fundamental and applied sciences important to agriculture. The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities. Research-only, extension-only, and integrated research, education and/or extension projects are solicited in this Request for Applications (RFA). See Foundational and Applied Science RFA for specific detail.

## News

### USDA Indian Country Blogs

Learn more about USDA's work in Indian Country through [USDA blogs](#) and OTR's [Video and Radio page](#).

### Latest News

[USDA Solicits Nominations to the Tribal Advisory Committee](#)

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces Intended Investment of Approximately \\$300 Million in 50 Projects Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access for Underserved Producers](#)

[USDA Launches Historic Partnership with Bipartisan State Attorneys General to Help Reduce Anticompetitive Barriers Across Food, Agriculture Supply Chains](#)

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Investments to Improve Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

[Don't Flunk Food Safety This School Year](#)

[USDA Launches Feds Feed Families 2023 to Combat Hunger and Improve Access to Healthy Food](#)

### Farming and Food Sovereignty

[Financial Assistance Application Process Opens for USDA Farm Loan Borrowers Who Have Faced Discrimination](#)

[Urban Producers, Public Invited to Attend August Meeting of Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#)

[Corn planted acreage up 6% from 2022](#)

[USDA Announces July 2023 Lending Rates for Agricultural Producers](#)

[Pre-Solicitation Announcement for Section 32 Purchase of Fresh Grapefruit](#)

[Pre-Solicitation Announcement for the Purchase of Dried Fruit \(Section 32\)](#)

[USDA Food and Nutrition Service Resumes Publication of State SNAP Error Rates for FY](#)

[2022](#)

**Business & Community Development**

[Webinar: Concentration and Competition in U.S. Agribusiness](#)

[Biden-Harris Administration Partners with Agricultural Producers to Promote Competition, Strengthen Food Supply Chain and Rural Economics](#)

[USDA Expands Risk Management Options with Greater Enterprise Unit Possibilities](#)

**Conservation & Forestry**

[USDA Forest Service Forms Northwest Forest Plan Federal Advisory Committee](#)

[USDA Forest Service invests \\$188M to keep forests working, conserve private forestland through President Biden's Investing in America Agenda](#)

[USDA Announces Historic Investment in Wildlife Conservation, Expands Partnership to Include Additional Programs](#)



Department of Agriculture | 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250

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