

From: [Constant Contact](#)
To: [SM.OC.DCWA2.OCFeedback](#)
Subject: Your campaign USDA Office of Tribal Relations News has been sent
Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024 12:27:06 PM

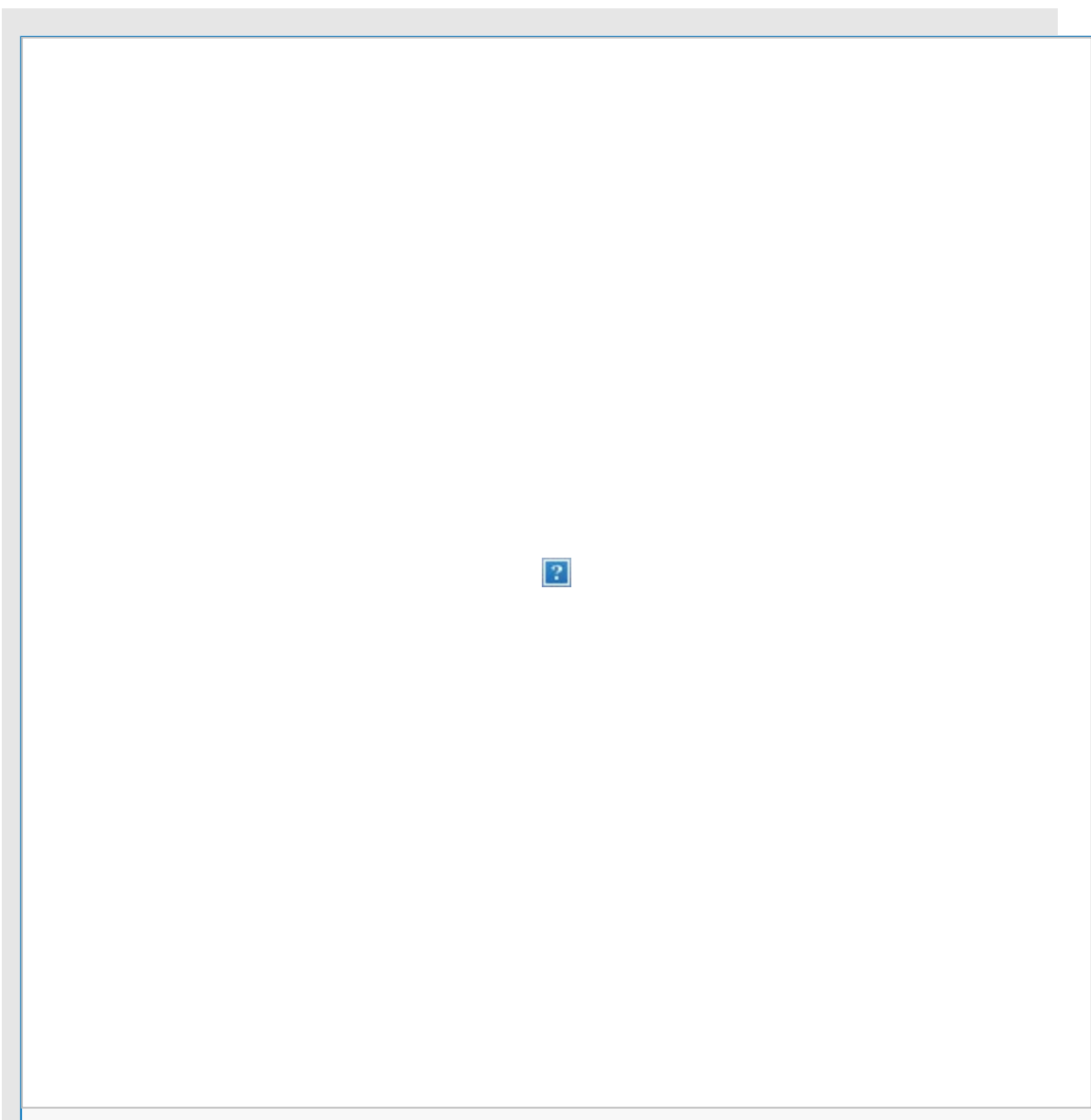


Dear Peter Rhee,

Your campaign '**USDA Office of Tribal Relations News**' was sent on 9/5/2024 around 12:22 PM 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

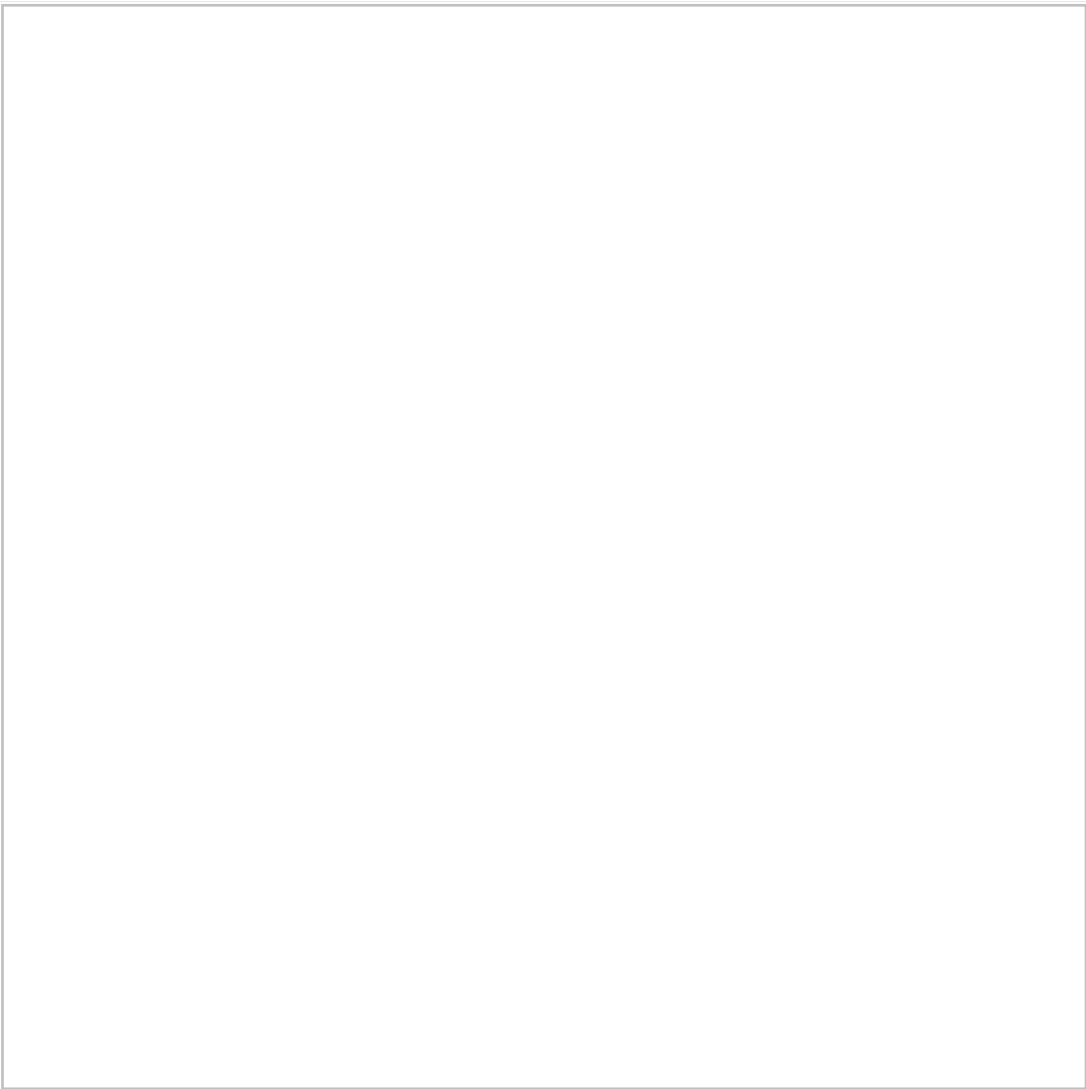
Greetings!

The Office of Tribal Relations spent August in Indian country, visiting with partners in the Great Plains and the upper Midwest. Acting Director Betsy Rakola connected with the Shakopee Mdewankanton Sioux Tribe's organic farm and Tribal-supported agriculture project Wozupi. We also visited innovative cooperative agreement partner the Indigenous Food Lab and met the Indigenous Land Tenure Foundation. The visit wrapped up with a cross-agency training sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), with a two-day intensive session on the foundations of Federal Indian law and opportunities for co-stewardship agreements.

This summer also marked major milestones for Forest Service accomplishments for Indian Country. In June, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Chippewa National Forest announced that a Decision Memo was signed by U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester Tony Dixon designating the selected parcels for transfer on the Chippewa National Forest. A total of approximately 11,778 national forest acres were being transferred under the Leech Lake Transfer Act. More information is available at: [Chippewa National Forest - News & Events \(usda.gov\)](#). In August, the Forest Service signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding with the eight Tribes of the Great Sioux Nation, opening a path to co-stewardship of the Black Hills National Forest.

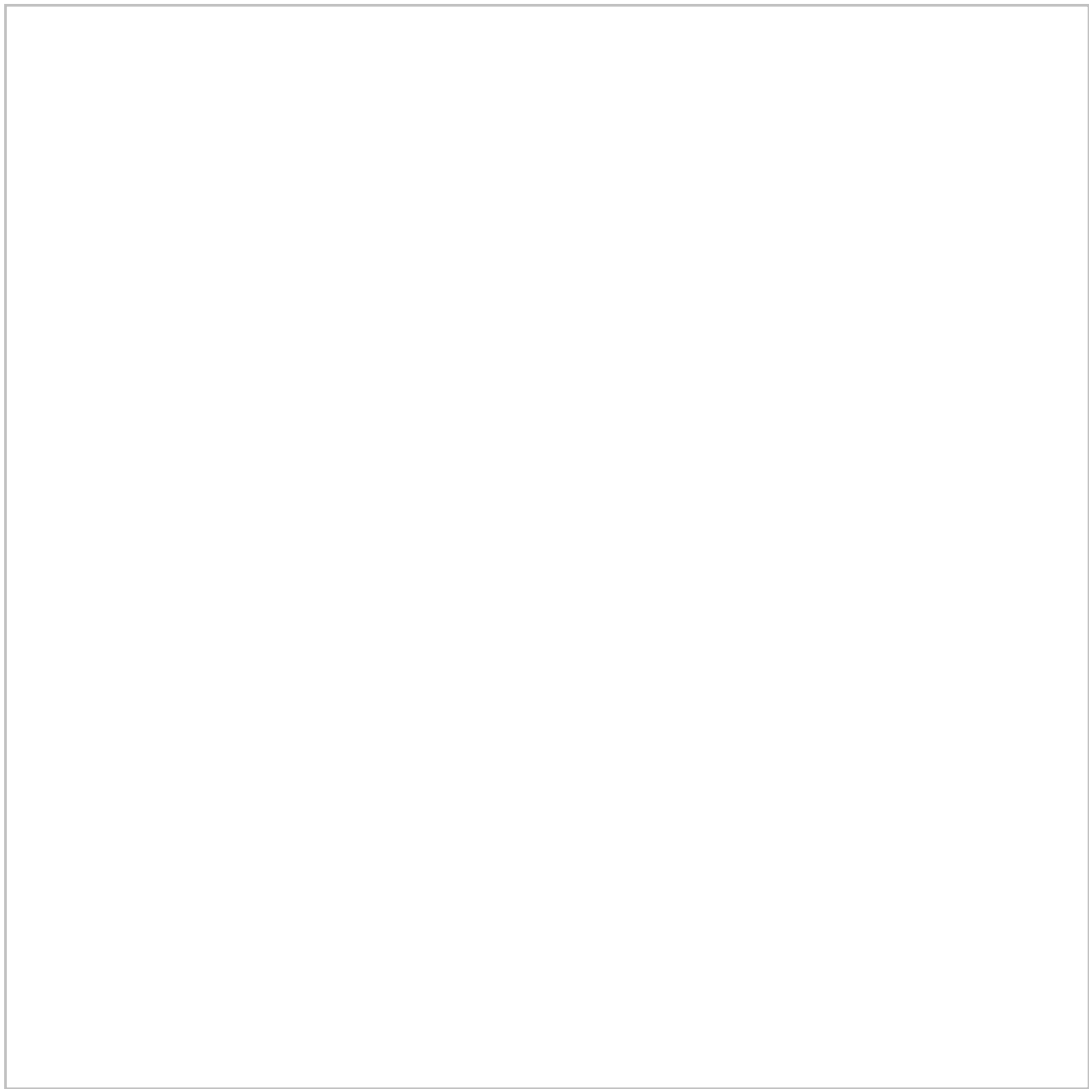
Best regards,

Betsy Rakola
Acting Director, Office of Tribal Relations



Acting Director Betsy Rakola with Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Vice Chairwoman
Natasha Coursolle at the Wozupi Tribal gardens in Minnesota.

A mural at the Indigenous Food Lab in St. Paul, Minnesota.



USDA OTR staff with leaders of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation in Little Canada, Minnesota.

Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) Contacts

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[Ryhal Rowland](#), Tribal Liaison, Rocky Mountain

Consultations, Listening Sessions, Webinars, and Other Notices

Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting

On Thursday, September 5, 2024, USDA will host the third meeting of the Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC). This virtual meeting will include a public comment session. The final 2024 meeting of the TAC will be held in December 2024 in coordination with the Intertribal Agriculture Council's annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. More information on the September meeting is available through the Federal Register announcement [here](#).

Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting

September 5, 2024

12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

FDPIR Supply Chain Disruptions Consultation

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or FDPIR, provides food to approximately 53,000 income-eligible households on tribal reservations and Native American households in approved areas near reservations. Currently, the FDPIR is experiencing food delivery delays, which are impacting inventory levels at participating locations. In the FDPIR program especially, USDA recognizes this is a significant disruption that has left locations without acceptable inventories of necessary food items. The USDA is taking a number of steps to address the delays in the short term and developing a longer term and permanent plan to ensure a steady and reliable supply. Please visit the USDA website for information on the \$11 million in direct financial assistance released to participating Tribes in August 2024, as well as three other solutions to provide short-term relief: [FDPIR and CSFP Supply Chain Disruptions | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

USDA is also hosting a Tribal consultation and listening session on this issue, in response to requests from Tribal leaders. Invitations were issued on August 19, 2024, and a framing paper is now available at <https://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations/tribal-consultations>. The consultation will take place virtually and in person on Tuesday September 12, 2024, in Washington, D.C. Registration is required for all participants using the link below. Please forward all questions and proxy letters to tribal.relations@usda.gov

FDPIR Supply Chain Disruptions Consultation

September 12, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

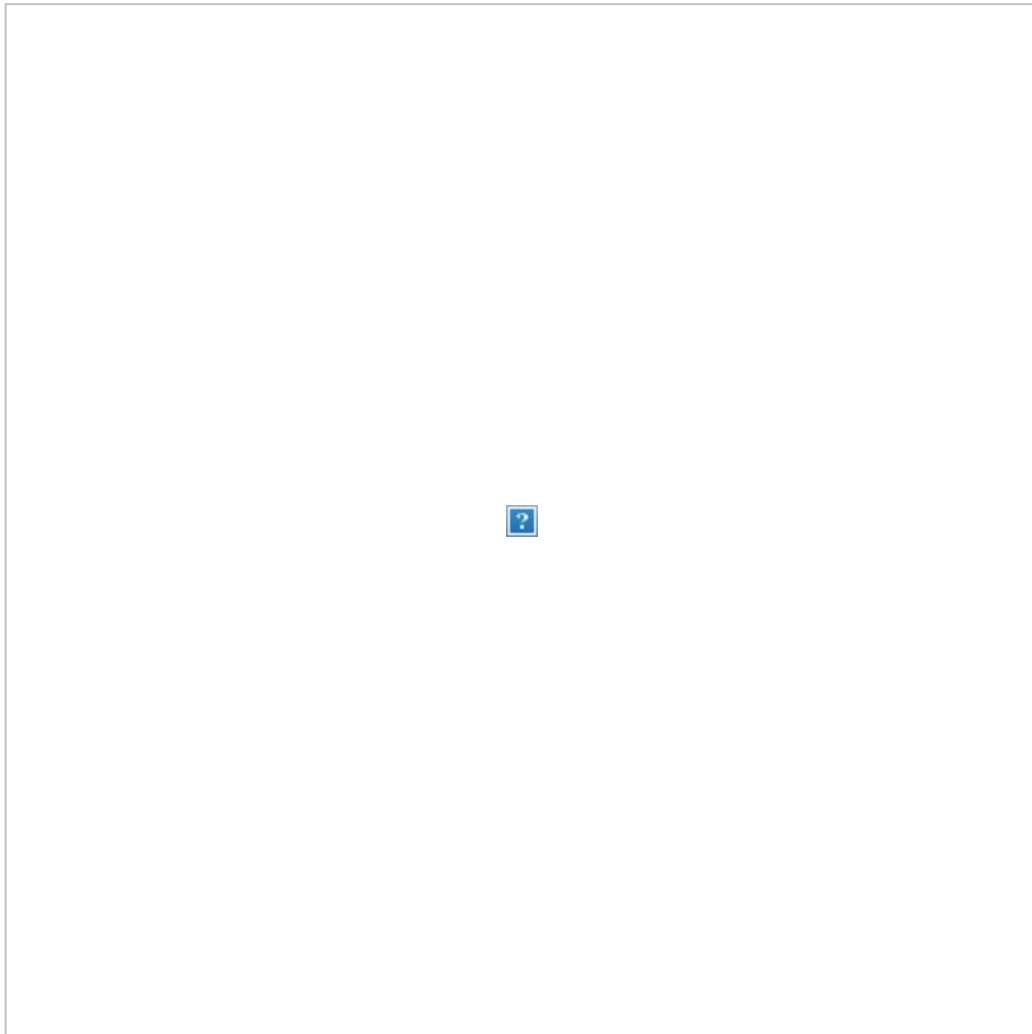
[Register Here](#)

Advisory Committee Opportunity: Growing Climate Solutions Act Advisory Council

In August 2024, USDA announced its intent to establish the Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program Advisory Council (informally known as the Growing Climate Solutions Act Advisory Council) and is seeking nominations for Council membership. The new Council is authorized by the Growing Climate Solutions Act (GCSA). The purpose of the Advisory Council is to support the program in making it easier for farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners, including beginning, underserved,

limited resource and veteran farmers, to participate in voluntary environmental credit markets offering credits that represent real, additional, lasting, unique, and independently verified emissions reductions or removals.

Nomination packages must be postmarked on or before October 15, 2024. Nomination packages can be submitted electronically by email to GCSA@usda.gov, or mailed to: Sasha Strohm, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 0249, Washington, DC 20250, Attn: GCSA Advisory Council. Electronic submissions are preferred. [Read the full press release.](#)



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's 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 to learn more. You may send your 3 ft. x 5 ft. tribal flag

to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Attention: Tribal Flags/Office of Tribal Relations
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Room 501-A Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250

White House and USDA Initiatives

White House Initiatives and Executive Orders

- [Historic Executive Order to Usher in the Next Era of Tribal Self-Determination](#), Reforming Federal Funding to Better Embrace our Trust Responsibility and Tribal Self-Determination (Dec 6, 2023)
- [Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#)
- Executive Order on Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies
- [White House Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#)
- [White House Memorandum on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge \(ITEK\) and Federal Decision Making](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Tribal Treaty Rights and Reserved Rights](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Indigenous Sacred Sites](#)
- [Memorandum of Agreement on Native Languages \(Inter-Agency\)](#)

USDA Initiatives

- [USDA Food Sovereignty Initiative](#)
 - [USDA Tribal Self Determination Initiative](#)
 - [USDA-Department of Interior \(DOI\) Joint Secretarial Order on Tribal Homelands](#)
 - [USDA-DOI Tribal Treaty Database](#)
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Grant/Loan/Program Opportunities

[USDA Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act Forest Landowner Support: Tribal Access to Emerging Private Markets for Climate Mitigation and Forest Resilience \(Closing date: Sep 30, 2024\)](#)

[Model Intercomparison and Improvement for Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Emission Estimation from Agriculture \(Closing date: Oct. 4, 2024\)](#)

[Vermont NRCS FY24 Conservation Solutions Through Strategic Partnerships Announcement for Funding \(Closing date: Oct 12, 2024\)](#)

[National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program Fiscal Year 2025 \(Closing date: Oct. 18, 2024\)](#)

[Nanocellulose Research and Development for Sustainable Materials \(Closing date: Oct. 25, 2024\)](#)

[Specialty Crop Research Initiative \(Closing date: Nov. 08, 2024\)](#)

[Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program 2025 Northeast and Midwest \(Closing date: Nov. 15, 2024\)](#)

[Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program 2025 West \(Closing date: Nov. 15, 2024\)](#)

[The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development \(EWD\) \(Closing date: Dec. 05, 2024\)](#)

[Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands](#)

News

USDA Issues Financial Assistance to More than 43,000 Farmers, Ranchers, and Forest Landowners through the Inflation Reduction Act's Discrimination Financial Assistance Program

On July 31, 2024, USDA announced it had issued payments to eligible applicants under the Inflation Reduction Act's Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP), which aims to provide financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination prior to January 2021. The Discrimination Financial Assistance Program was established by Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act. Through the Act, Congress allocated \$2.2 billion for the program and directed USDA to provide financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending programs prior to January 2021. [Read the full press release.](#)

APHIS Seeks Tribal Comments on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by September 30

The HPAI Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) examines potential environmental impacts on soil, air, and water quality; vegetation health; human health (including effects on health and safety, the economy, equity and environmental justice, cultural and historic resources, children's health, and Tribes); and wildlife health, including migratory birds, eagles, and threatened and endangered species. The Draft HPAI EIS also considers the impacts of HPAI outbreak response activities on climate change, the impacts of climate change on HPAI outbreak response activities, and the cumulative impacts from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future related actions. [Comments must be submitted by September 30, 2024.](#)

Investing in Water Conservation in Tribal Communities and Acequias

As part of an announcement to support irrigation districts and address drought, USDA also announced a Tribal set-aside within the program, targeting up to \$40 million in funding for additional awards within Indian Country. USDA will work with the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Tribes, and Tribal producers to reduce water consumption and maintain land in agricultural production – supporting the production of water-saving commodities. USDA is partnering with BIA to use available data and ensure meaningful engagement with Tribes to establish selection criteria that reflect the specific needs and water management systems within Indian Country. Additional information for further engagement and selections will be provided in the weeks ahead. [Read the full press release.](#)

[USDA Releases Updated Guideline to Strengthen Substantiation of Animal-Raising and Environment-Related Claims on Meat and Poultry Labels](#)
[FACT SHEET: Celebrating Two Years of the Inflation Reduction Act](#)
[USDA Appoints New Members to the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and](#)

[Ranchers](#)

[USDA Announces Intent to Establish Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program Advisory Council, Seeks Nominations](#)

[WHAT THEY ARE SAYING: Biden-Harris Administration Invests Up to \\$400 Million to Address Drought, Conserve Water through Production of Water-Saving Commodities](#)
[Biden-Harris Administration Partners with Rural Utility to Bring Affordable Clean Energy to Rural Americans as Part of Investing in America Agenda](#)

[USDA Updates Farm Loan Programs to Increase Financial Freedom, Resilience and Profitability for Agricultural Producers](#)

[USDA Announces Additional RAPP Funding to Expand, Diversify Export Markets](#)

[Biden-Harris Administration Invests in Rural Communities to Lower Energy Costs and Create Jobs in 39 States and Guam as part of Investing in America Agenda](#)

USDA Features on Indian Country

[Tallgrass to the forest: The Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands](#)

[Wildfire risk reduction restores water—Co-stewardship is the key](#)

[Climate change tips and tools for forest landowners](#)

[The Sho-Pai Wood Bank Crew is Just Getting Warmed Up](#)



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

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