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Guide to USDA Programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives

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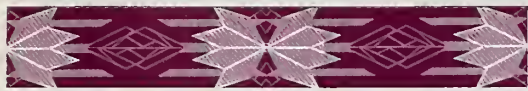
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Preface by Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is completing its first decade of strong partnerships with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and their members. Almost 10 years ago, USDA and the Department of the Interior agreed to a new foundation to improve the delivery of programs and services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. Consistent with this commitment, USDA has reached out to inform American Indians and Alaska Natives about USDA programs and services available to them, to deliver programs more effectively to Indian tribes, and to initiate new programs in response to the needs of Indian tribes.

This *Guide to USDA Programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives* is an updated reference for American Indian and Alaska Native tribal leaders and members, planners, community leaders, producers, and anyone else who works with American Indians on numerous USDA programs. Please use this book often to decide which of our programs will best serve your needs and to improve your access to USDA programs and services.

President Clinton's vision of a strong government-to-government relationship with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments inspired this publication. On April 29, 1994, at a historic meeting with the leaders of federally recognized Indian tribes at the White House, President Clinton issued an Executive Memorandum on Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments, and to follow up, the Clinton Administration, including USDA, has taken the following steps to build a strong partnership with Indian tribes:

■ President Clinton's April 29, 1994, Executive Memorandum outlines principles to clarify the responsibility of the Federal Government to operate within a government-to-government relationship with federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

■ President Clinton established the Working Group on American Indians and Alaska Natives as part of the White House Domestic Policy Council whose purpose is to share and coordinate information on Indian tribes and programs, provide a



forum for resolution of issues among Federal agencies, ensure the implementation of Presidential directives on American Indian policy, and promote initiatives to better serve Indian tribes and their members. USDA's under secretary for rural development is a member of the working group.

■ President Clinton signed an Executive Order to protect American Indian sacred sites on May 24, 1996. The Executive Order supports USDA's ongoing consultation with Indian tribes and their members in order to accommodate the use and protection of Indian sacred sites.

■ President Clinton signed an Executive Order on Tribal Colleges and Universities on October 19, 1996, to ensure that tribal colleges and universities have Federal resources committed to them on an equitable and continuing basis. In the spirit of the Executive Order, USDA works with the 29 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges to provide an annual award to strengthen instruction programs in the food and agricultural sciences and to disburse the interest from an endowment fund to each of these institutions.

■ USDA has increased emphasis on economic development activities and programs in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. USDA's Rural Development mission area, working at the national, State, and local level to provide financial and technical assistance directly to tribal governments, has increased investments in tribal water and waste programs, housing, community facilities, and business projects.

■ USDA is implementing an extensive joint outreach effort with the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) to heighten awareness of USDA services available to American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The IAC is a nonprofit corporation of 61 member Indian tribes devoted to the conservation, development, and use of American Indian agricultural resources for the benefit of American Indian people.

In his address to tribal leaders at the April 29, 1994, meeting at the White House, President Clinton said, "The Great Law of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy contained this advice: 'In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decision on the next seven generations.' We are stewards; we are caretakers. That standard will keep us great." The USDA poster that is reproduced on the cover of this *Guide* is entitled "For We Are the Keepers of the Seven Generations" and interprets this American Indian tradition. Artist Debra-Ann Pine, a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, created the poster for USDA.

As we make decisions today, we should consider the impact of our actions on our children's children to the Seventh Generation. This means we have a sacred and shared stake in improving the lives of our people and opening the gates of opportunity to all of them. I have great hope that the vision and policies of this Administration will continue to benefit all people seven generations from now.



Introduction

On April 29, 1994, at a historic meeting with the leaders of federally recognized Indian tribes at the White House, President Clinton said, “So much of who we are today comes from who you have been for a long time.” President Clinton’s statement applies to American Indian farmers and their beneficial effect on the European settlers in the continental United States, as well as people around the world.

This *Guide to USDA Programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives* describes the wide array of USDA programs and services available to American Indian and Alaska Native communities. As we look toward the future, it is instructive to look to the past as well, and to identify historical highlights of American Indian agriculture and the contributions that American Indian farmers have made to the United States and the world. These highlights provide an important context for American Indian agriculture today and suggest how USDA can work in partnership with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis to learn from, and contribute to, American Indian agriculture.

Indians were the first farmers in North America, and agriculture has been a mainstay of the American Indian culture and economy for thousands of years. In fact, the Indians of Central America and Mexico, or Mesoamerica, were engaged in agriculture 7,000 years before Europeans settled in the present-day United States.

Archaeological evidence indicates American Indians began farming in what later became the continental United States by 5000 B.C. utilizing indigenous agricultural practices as well as practices learned from Mexican and Central American cultures. By A.D. 1000, American Indian farmers had developed a productive and complex agricultural system based on corn, beans, and squash, which have been commonly referred to as the “three sisters.” These American Indian farmers were primarily women; the men hunted and fished.





There has been variety in American Indian agriculture and economy. Before contact with the European civilization, American Indians in the northern United States cultivated the river valleys and flood plains with bone and wooden hoes and digging sticks. American Indian women raised the traditional crops of beans, squash, and many varieties of corn—the most important crop. In the upper Great Lakes, the Ojibwa (Chippewa) and the Assiniboin sowed, harvested, dried, threshed, and stored wild rice. Some northern tribes also tapped sugar maple trees and made sugar. Over time, American Indian farmers in the southern United States cultivated squash and bottle gourds, and then traded agricultural products in market centers. Southern farmers raised a significant amount of their own food as well as a surplus for lean times, and for trade with each other and later with the European settlers.

American Indians used highly developed agricultural methods and practices. The Southwest Indian farmers developed a new type of corn, which provided the subsistence basis for southwestern Indian civilization; cultivated several varieties of squash and beans; grew cotton; developed water-conservation practices; and used several methods of irrigation. From A.D. 800 to 1400 the Hohokam Indians in the Southwest, called the “canal builders,” constructed major systems of irrigation canals that were 150 miles long or more. Although the Plains Indians relied mainly on hunting and gathering, by A.D. 1000 the Indians of the central Plains practiced well-developed agriculture with corn, beans, squash, sunflowers, and tobacco being the important crops.

R. Douglas Hurt, writing on “The Native American Experience” in *American Agriculture: A Brief History*, wrote:

In retrospect, the history of Indian agriculture is the story of supreme achievement. Nearly three millennia before the arrival of white settlers, Native American farmers learned to cultivate plants of local and Mesoamerican origins. They discovered how to select the seeds that would yield maximum harvests in local soil and climatic conditions. By so doing, they made great strides toward farming in harmony with nature.

When Hernando DeSoto’s expedition landed on the coast of Florida in 1539, his food supply was nearly depleted. American Indian agriculture was so bountiful that the Spaniards appropriated a three-month supply of corn from the fields, enabling the expedition to continue. Later, the American Indian farmers showed European settlers which plants to cultivate, particularly corn, beans, pumpkins, and tobacco, and how to make maple sugar and prepare hominy.

American Indian agriculture has had a significant effect on worldwide agriculture and economy. Jack Weatherford, in his book *Indian Givers: How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World*, pointed out that Indians cultivated over 300 food crops, and contributed to the world three-fifths of the crops now in cultivation. The Indian farmers of North and South America gave the world corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, beans, pumpkins, squash, chocolate, vanilla, papayas, persimmons, jicama, pecans, chilies, hickory nuts, peanuts, cassava, sunflower seeds, maple syrup, tapioca, and avocados.

American Indian agricultural crops have spread from American farmers to farmers in other parts of the world. Today farmers grow corn over a larger area of the world than any other cultivated food. The white potato spread from Bolivia and Peru to Ireland across Europe to Russia, and provided more calories and nutrition per acre than any grain. Corn and cassava contributed to the increase in Africa’s population in the last century and throughout this century. Sweet potato and corn were cultivated in areas in Asia where rice did not grow. Farmers grew corn, sweet potatoes, peanuts, tomatoes, and chilies in new areas of China. Today many countries are economically dependent on these American Indian crops.

Clearly, American Indians’ historic agricultural achievements made important contributions to the United States and the world. These accomplishments provide an instructive perspective on USDA’s government-to-government relations with Indian tribes.

USDA programs and services that are available to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and their members are described in the following pages. USDA administers these programs through seven mission areas: Natural Resources and Environment; Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services; Rural Development; Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services; Food Safety; Research, Education, and Economics; and Marketing and Regulatory Programs. The Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Departmental Administration, and other offices support USDA in implementing programs in all these areas.



1. Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Office of Congressional Relations

The Office of Congressional Relations (OCR) serves as the Department's liaison with Members of Congress and their staffs. OCR works closely with Members and staffs of various House and Senate Committees including the House Agriculture Committee and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry to communicate USDA's legislative agenda and budget proposals.

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (OIA) is USDA's liaison with State, local, and tribal governments and national organizations representing these constituents. OIA responds to inquiries and requests from these officials either directly or through the appropriate government agencies. OIA facilitates meetings between these individuals and USDA officials and serves as a clearinghouse for information related to USDA's operations and services.

Native American Programs

President Clinton's Executive Memorandum on Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments (see appendix) and USDA's Policies on American Indians and Alaska Natives (see appendix) govern USDA's interaction with Indian tribes. USDA's policies on American Indians and Alaska Natives provide that the Native American Programs Office has the primary responsibility for coordinating USDA programs serving American Indians and Alaska Natives.





The Director of Native American Programs, located in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, is USDA's primary contact with tribal governments and their members. The Director is responsible for:

- Serving as the principal adviser and representative on all matters related to USDA policies and programs which affect and are available to American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- Meeting with tribal representatives regarding policy, program delivery, and services to Indian tribes; facilitating opportunities for tribal representatives to meet with the Secretary and other USDA officials; and providing appropriate staff assistance.
- Working with the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, the USDA mission areas, and the Office of Communications to develop materials and communicate information about USDA programs and services directly to all federally recognized Indian tribes, intertribal organizations, and the American Indian and Alaska Native media.
- Chairing USDA's Native American Working Group, which reports to the Secretary and provides advice, support, and other assistance to the Director in order to coordinate and guide USDA policies and programs which affect Indian tribes. Departmental Regulation 1020-5, Native American Working Group, establishes the purpose, responsibilities, and operations of the Working Group.
- Participating in meetings, conferences, and events conducted by Indian tribes, national and regional intertribal organizations, USDA and other Federal Government departments.



■ Participating in subgroups of the Working Group on American Indians and Alaska Natives which President Clinton established as part of the White House Domestic Policy Council. The purpose of the working group is to share and coordinate information on Indian tribes and programs, provide a forum for resolution of issues among Federal agencies, ensure the implementation of Presidential directives on American Indian policy, and promote initiatives to better serve Indian tribes and their members. USDA's under secretary for rural development is a member of the working group.

Whom To Contact: Director of Native American Programs, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Room 346-A, 14th Street and Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250. The Director's telephone number is (202) 720-3805 and fax number is (202) 720-6972.

Available Assistance: Information and assistance regarding all matters related to USDA policies, programs, and services which affect American Indians and Alaska Natives and are available to them.

Printed Information Available: Information about USDA programs and services which are available to American Indians and Alaska Natives is provided in this *Guide to USDA Programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives*. The *Agriculture Fact Book 1997* provides a summary of highlights of recent activities and programs in USDA mission areas which serve Indian tribes and their members.

Administering Agency: Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Room 219-A, 14th Street and Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250. The telephone number is (202) 720-6643.



2. Natural Resources and Environment

Several USDA agencies, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), implement an extensive joint outreach effort with the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) to increase awareness of USDA services available to American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The IAC is a nonprofit corporation of 61 member Indian tribes devoted to improving agriculture as a source of economic development for American Indian people. NRCS has designated a full-time American Indian Liaison in order to work more closely with the IAC. NRCS has worked with the IAC to help Indian tribes establish 33 full-time and 73 part-time NRCS offices at tribal headquarters and 15 American Indian Conservation Districts under tribal law, with an additional two Districts in the development phase. NRCS has conducted 20 “Working Effectively with American Indians” workshops; these sessions focus on historical, legal, and cultural issues that are significant for effective program delivery to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The Forest Service has an American Indian and Alaska Native policy and has published a national tribal resource book entitled *Forest Service National Resource Book on American Indian and Alaska Native Relations* to promote cooperative relations with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. The Forest Service works with Indian tribes to coordinate the management of national forest lands and resources with adjacent Indian tribes; to honor American Indian water rights and reserved rights to hunt, fish, gather, and graze on present-day national forests through consultation and agreement with affected Indian tribes; to engage in ongoing consultation with Indian tribes to accommodate traditional, cultural sites on public lands; and to provide research, technology transfer, and technical assistance to Indian tribes.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

American Indians and Alaska Natives are eligible to participate in all Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and may have special status as provided by statute or regulation. The demand for NRCS services by American Indian tribal groups continues to increase as the value of NRCS assistance becomes better understood.

Assistance provided includes, but is not limited to, the following: Conservation planning on cropland, pastureland, and rangeland and assistance to apply rangeland management and improvement practices, irrigation water development structures and management, brush control, erosion control structures, agriculture, forestry, salinity control, land treatment for watershed programs activities, no-till conservation tillage, soil interpretation for various land uses, farmland protection, wildlife habitat improvement, and wetlands restoration.

In addition to cost sharing available through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), as noted in the following pages, NRCS provides cost share assistance for conservation practices under certain programs, such as Public Law 83-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention programs, the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP), and the Conservation Operations Program (COP), and administers on



behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

Three actions have increased American Indian access to NRCS programs and assistance: (1) Authorization of Indian tribes to be legal sponsors of watershed projects; (2) the 1997 USDA Office of the General Counsel review of policy and the resulting determination that USDA can provide the same assistance, through conservation districts, to American Indians and Alaska Natives on their lands as it does to non-Indians; and (3) the establishment, in 1980, of the USDA policy to provide conservation assistance through conservation districts organized under tribal or Federal law.

One new action significantly increased American Indian access to programs and services: Section 2501(g) of the 1990 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act (the 1990 Act) required certain USDA agencies, including NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Rural Development (RD), to establish suboffices at tribal headquarters, if requested by Indian tribes.

NRCS gives technical help in soil and water conservation to individual landowners and operators, organizations, city, county, and State governments, through nearly 3,000 local soil and water conservation districts. It provides technical and financial help for watershed protection and flood prevention, and through other conservation programs. Natural resource information is available to land use officials for planning and maintaining housing, schools, water supply, highways, and recreational facilities.

Primary NRCS programs are described in more detail below:

Soil Survey Program

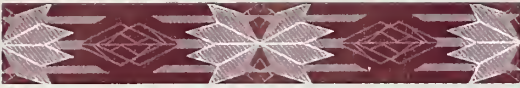
Assistance Available: Published soil surveys of counties or other comparably sized areas are available for use by interested Indian tribes, agencies, organizations, and individuals. Many of the soil surveys include American Indian land both on and off reservations. Soil surveys are in progress on other reservations. They contain basic and detailed information needed for agricultural and natural resource development programs.

How to Apply: An applicant should contact his or her tribal or county NRCS office, local Extension Service, the State Agricultural Experiment Station, the nearest USDA Agricultural Service Center or Conservation District Office, or local Member of Congress.

For More Information: Contact Director of Soils, NRCS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-1820.

Technical Assistance Program

Assistance Available: Through its field offices, local conservation districts, and Tribal Conservation Districts, NRCS helps farm and ranch owners and operators plan and apply more than 100 conservation practices to manage, conserve, improve, and develop soil, water, and related resources. NRCS has expertise in



resource assessment and planning, agronomy, range management, forestry, agricultural engineering, soils, water management, wildlife habitat management, recreation, aquaculture, rural development, resource inventories, and watershed and flood protection.

The Service provides technical assistance to American Indian communities through Tribal Conservation Districts and Tribal Governments handling natural resource conservation programs and other rural development activities.

Technical assistance is coordinated at the national level by the NRCS Conservation Operations Division. Field office personnel provide assistance upon request to individuals, district cooperators, Indian tribes, Tribal Councils, or other community leadership. Through participation in national, State, and local Field Advisory Committees (FAC's), NRCS can help American Indian community leaders access USDA program benefits.

How to Apply: Contact the county or tribal NRCS Office, Tribal Conservation District, Conservation District Office, or the nearest USDA Agricultural Service Center.

For More Information: Contact the Director of Conservation Operations Division, NRCS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-1845.

Resource Conservation and Development Program

Assistance Available: Technical assistance is available to help local people initiate and carry out long-range programs of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D).

Indian tribes have the option of forming RC&Ds based on reservation boundaries and tribal law. RC&D assistance may be used on reservation lands for public water-based recreation and fish and wildlife developments or on private lands owned or operated by American Indians for flood prevention, sedimentation and erosion control, farm irrigation, water quality management, and control and abatement of agriculture-related pollution. The RC&D Project Steering Committee and local leadership plan and carry out associated project measures funded by other non-USDA entities, both Federal and private. Associated measures deal with any project the RC&D and local people need and approve.

How to Apply: Contact the county or tribal NRCS Office, Tribal Conservation District, Conservation District Office, RC&D Coordinator's Office, or the nearest USDA Agricultural Service Center.

For More Information: Contact Director of Resource Conservation and Development Division, NRCS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-2241.

American Indian Liaison

Assistance Available: NRCS has an American Indian Liaison located at National Headquarters. The Liaison's role is to work with Indian tribes and various American Indian groups to improve technical assistance to American Indians and to increase their participation in NRCS and USDA programs.

For More Information or Assistance: Contact the American Indian Liaison, Community Assistance and Rural Development Division, NRCS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-8576.

Watershed Projects

Assistance Available: Watershed projects begin with local initiative and responsibility. Local proposals are reviewed by the State, which may make financial and other assistance available. Federal technical and financial assistance is also available.

State agencies, Indian tribes, and nonprofit local organizations can sponsor a watershed project. Watershed projects help cities, towns, and rural areas stimulate economic growth. Where projects are developed for multiple purposes, both urban and rural areas benefit. Control of flooding, erosion, and siltation reduces risks in farming and lowers the cost of maintaining roads and bridges. It also reduces reservoir sedimentation and prevents costly flood damage in urban communities.

Reservoirs built through watershed projects provide opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming, and other recreation. They supply water for irrigation, municipal use, and industry.

A watershed project has an immediate and positive effect on the economy and rural communities, and it often acts as a catalyst for a wide range of rural development actions.

Watershed works of improvement (flood control dams, diversion channels, land treatment, etc.) provide multiple rural development benefits that can best be optimized when the projects are included in local rural development plans.

How to Apply: Contact the county or tribal NRCS office, or the nearest USDA Agricultural Service Center.

For More Information: Contact the Director of Watershed and Wetlands Division, NRCS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-3527.

Plant Material Centers

Nature and Purpose: The primary purpose of the Plant Material Centers is to develop materials and plant science technology for conservation of resources. An important activity is to select from plants observed to be the best range of adaptability, growth rate, and hardiness and increase their numbers so they can be released to those people who wish to reestablish native plants. The Plant Material Centers also provide "seed" on plants that are of cultural and religious significance to American Indian people, such as sweet grass in the northern plains.

Type of Assistance: The purpose of this program is to select and grow plants which naturally occur in the wild and then provide them to those persons who wish to reestablish native plants.

Local Contacts: Indian tribes or Cultural Committees should contact the NRCS office serving the reservation or the NRCS State Conservationist.

Washington Contact: American Indian Liaison, Community Assistance and Rural Development Division, NRCS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-8576.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Nature and Purpose: Participants who want to implement practices that will improve habitat condition for wildlife may enter into cost-share agreements for a 5- to 10-year period. Since there is a time lag between the installation of a practice and the actual wildlife benefits, participants will receive cost-share assistance as practices are established but must maintain the practice for the practice lifespan which may expand beyond the agreement period

Type of Assistance: The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) will provide participants with the technical expertise to successfully establish realistic wildlife goals for their land, as well as provide financial assistance in the form of cost-share agreements to help establish practices.

Local Contacts: Closest NRCS local office, Tribal Conservation District, or local conservation district.

Conservation of Private Grazing Land

Nature and Purpose: The purpose of the Conservation of Private Grazing Land program is to ensure that technical education and related assistance is provided to those who own private grazing lands. Assistance is available for: better grazing land management, soil protection, more energy efficiency, water conservation, providing wildlife habitat, sustaining forage and grazing plants, using plants to sequester greenhouse grasses and increase organic matter, and using grazing land as a source of biomass energy and raw materials for industrial products.

Type of Assistance: Conservation technical assistance funds.

Local Contacts: Your USDA Service Center, Tribal Conservation District, or your local conservation district.

Wetlands Reserve Program

Nature and Purpose: The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program to restore and protect wetlands on private property. It is an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal agricultural land. Landowners who choose to participate in WRP may sell a conservation easement or enter into a cost-share restoration agreement with USDA to restore and protect wetlands. The landowner voluntarily limits future use of the land, yet retains private ownership. The landowner and NRCS develop a plan for the restoration and maintenance of the wetland. The program

offers landowners three options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements of a minimum 10-year duration.

Eligibility Requirements: Program is available in all States. Eligible acreage would include cropped and grazed wetlands, certain riparian areas, and other restored wetlands.

Local Contacts: To receive more information, contact the local NRCS Office, Tribal Conservation District, or local conservation district office.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Nature of Program: EQIP is a program which helps farmers and ranchers install enduring natural resource conservation and pollution abatement practices. The program provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resources on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The purposes of the program are achieved through implementation of a conservation plan which identifies the structural, vegetative, and land management practices which will be applied on the eligible land. Five- to ten-year contracts are made with eligible producers. The program is carried out primarily in priority areas that may be watersheds, regions of multi-state areas, and for significant statewide natural resource concerns that are outside geographic priority areas.

Eligibility Requirements: Individual/family farmers and ranchers who face serious threats to soil, water, and related natural resources, or who need assistance with complying with Federal and State environmental laws are eligible to apply for EQIP. A participant may be an owner, landlord, operator, or tenant of eligible agricultural lands. Eligible agricultural land may include tribal, allotted, or American Indian trust land. Limited-resource producers, small-scale producers, producers of minority groups, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, Alaska Natives, and Pacific Islanders are encouraged to apply.

How To Apply: Program participation is voluntary. The applicant applies at the local USDA Service Center on Form CCC-1200. Applications may be filed at any time during the year. The participant develops and submits a conservation plan for the farm or ranching unit of concern. The participant's conservation plan serves as the basis for the EQIP contract. Technical assistance, educational assistance, and cost-share or incentive payments may be provided to apply the needed conservation practices and land use adjustments within a time schedule specified by the conservation plan. A contract with a participant may apply one or more land management practices or one or more structural or vegetative practices or both.

Local Contacts: The NRCS or the Farm Service Agency at the local USDA Service Center, Tribal Conservation District, or the local conservation district.

Available Assistance: Structural and vegetative practices can be funded by cost-sharing up to 75 percent of the total cost of establishing the practice. Incentive

payments can be made for land management practices in an amount and rate that NRCS determines is necessary to encourage a participant to perform the practice that would not otherwise be initiated without government assistance. Other practices may be required to be installed without program payments. The contract period is between 5 to 10 years, depending on the conservation systems that need to be applied. Obligations for assistance are tied to the schedule for applying conservation practices included in the conservation plan used as the basis for the contract. Payments are made when the participant and NRCS certify that a conservation practice is completed in accordance with the contract.

Use Restrictions: Technical assistance is provided for conservation planning to eligible participants. Education and financial assistance is provided for implementation of structural, vegetative, and land management conservation practices. Fifty percent of the funding available nationally for technical, cost-share payments, incentive payments, and education will be targeted at practices relating to livestock production. Cost-share and incentive payments are limited to \$10,000 per person per fiscal year and to \$50,000 for any contract. In relation to contracts on tribal land, Indian trust land, or land allotted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, payments exceeding the above limitation may be made to the tribal venture if an official of the BIA or tribal official certifies that no one person directly or indirectly will receive more than the limitation. Expenditures under a contract entered into during a fiscal year will not be made to the participant until the subsequent fiscal year.

Farmland Protection Program (FPP)

Nature of Program: The FPP allows the Federal Government to establish partnerships with State, tribal, or local government entities to acquire conservation easements or other interests in farmland to limit conversion to non-agricultural uses. The program provides funds to States, Indian tribes, or local government entities to leverage their farmland protection programs. The program is carried out through existing farmland protection programs in the State, tribal, or local government entities.

Eligibility Requirements: Any local or State agency, county or groups of counties, municipality, town or township, soil and water conservation district, or Indian tribe or tribal organization, that has a farmland protection program that purchases conservation easements for the purpose of protecting topsoil by limiting conversion to non-agricultural uses of land, and that has pending offers with willing landowners may apply for funds. Potential participating entities must provide written evidence of their commitment to the long-term conservation of agricultural lands through the use of legal devices, such as right-to-farm laws, agricultural districts, zoning, or land use plans; the use of voluntary approaches to protect farmland from conversion to non-agricultural uses; of their capability to acquire, manage, and enforce easement rights or other interests in land; and show that at least 50 percent of the cost of the total easement acquisition is available. Eligible agricultural lands are lands with prime, unique, or other productive soils that have sufficient agricultural support systems and suffer urban development pressure. Individuals must apply



through their local agency that handles the purchase of development rights programs.

How To Apply: A Notice of Request for Proposals is published in the Federal Register to announce the application window. Any local or State agency, county or groups of counties, municipality, town or township, soil and water conservation district, or Indian tribe or tribal organization may submit a proposal to an appropriate NRCS State Office to request funds. The application information will be available from the NRCS State Offices and the homepages of the Federal Register (<http://www.access.gpo.gov>), USDA NRCS (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>), and the Farmland Information Library (<http://farmlandinfo.org>).

Local Contacts: The NRCS or the Farm Service Agency at the local USDA Service Center, Tribal Conservation District, or local conservation district office.

Available Assistance: Federal funds are obligated through a Cooperative Agreement signed by the USDA and the selected State, Indian tribe, or local entity. Federal funds must be disbursed within 2 years after signing the Agreement. Technical assistance is provided to the landowners in planning, designing, and installing conservation practices.

Authorization: The 1996 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act, Section 388.

Use Restrictions: The Federal share for any easement acquisition shall not exceed 50 percent of the fair market value of the easement. Each cooperating agency is to fund its own administrative costs of acquiring these easements, such as survey or title search, and the costs of managing and enforcing them. Federal funds cannot be used for these administrative costs. Acquisition of an easement or other interests in land is for a minimum duration of 30 years, preferably in perpetuity. A conservation plan is required to ensure responsible land stewardship. A contingent remainder right must be incorporated in the easement deed for the protection of the Federal investment. A failure to abide by the terms of the Cooperative Agreement or of the recorded easement deed may result in the easement rights being vested in the United States and/or for the cooperating entity to reimburse the United States for the Federal share of the easement value.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Nature of Program: The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program is designed to reduce threats to life and property in the wake of natural disasters. It provides technical and cost sharing assistance.

Available Assistance: Assistance includes both removing and establishing vegetative cover; gully control; installing streambank protection devices; removing debris and sediment; and stabilizing levees, channels, and gullies. In subsequent storms, EWP projects protect homes, businesses, highways, and public facilities from fur-

ther damage. Floodplain easements under EWP may be purchased by the Federal Government to help prevent future losses due to natural disasters.

Use Restrictions: The opportunity to participate in this program depends upon whether each individual Indian tribe's constitution permits it to commit to a long-term easement.

Local Contacts: The NRCS office serving the reservation or the appropriate NRCS State Conservationist.

Washington Contact: American Indian Liaison, Community Assistance and Rural Development Division, NRCS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-8576.

The Wetland Conservation Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as Amended (Swampbuster)

Swampbuster has reduced the loss of wetlands resulting from agricultural activities to the lowest levels on record. Swampbuster helps preserve the environmental functions and values of wetlands, including flood control, sediment control, ground water recharge, water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation, and aesthetics.

The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) changed Swampbuster to give producers greater flexibility to comply with wetland conservation requirements and to make wetlands more valuable and functional. The 1996 Act changed the following Swampbuster provisions:

Wetland Determinations

Upon request, NRCS will determine if a producer's or Indian tribe's land has areas subject to Swampbuster. The agency maintains a list of the plants and combinations of soils and plants found in wetlands and uses these technical tools, along with the hydrology of the area, to conduct determinations. These determinations stay in effect as long as the land is used for agricultural purposes (unless a violation occurs) or until the producer or Indian tribe requests a review due to natural events. NRCS certifies previous wetland determinations upon request.

Mitigation (Offsetting Losses)

Landowners have more opportunities to work with USDA, tribal or local conservation districts, or others to choose the best ways to mitigate wetland losses.

■ There are more options for mitigation. These options include the kinds and locations of restoration, enhancement, or creation activities that maintain a wetland's functions and values.

■ Landowners who want to convert or alter wetlands may enhance existing wetlands, restore former wetlands, or create new wetlands to offset functions and values that are lost from conversions or alterations.

Wetland conversions authorized by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be accepted if the conversion activities were properly mitigated.

“Minimal Effect” Determinations

Practices that alter wetlands can now be put on a “fast track” for approval if NRCS determines that a planned activity is on the list of “categorical minimal effects.” Activities on this list have an insignificant impact on the functions and values of the landowner’s wetland and other wetlands in the area.

Abandonment

The 1996 Act revised the concept of abandonment. Now, as long as land is used for agriculture and met prior converted cropland criteria on December 23, 1985, the designation remains in effect. When there is an approved plan, landowners with farmed wetlands and farmed wetland pasture may allow an area to revert to wetland status and convert it back to a farmed wetland or farmed wetland pasture for agricultural purposes without violating Swampbuster. In addition, areas that met prior converted cropland criteria on December 23, 1985, may be certified as prior converted cropland upon request by the landowner.

Authority of the Secretary of Agriculture

The Secretary of Agriculture now has the authority to waive ineligibility status, grant time to restore converted wetlands, and, for individual producers, identify which USDA programs are affected by Swampbuster violations and the amount of sanctions to be assessed.

Maintaining USDA Program Eligibility

To maintain eligibility, participants must certify that they have not produced crops on converted wetlands after December 23, 1985, and did not convert a wetland after November 28, 1990, to make agricultural production possible.

If Swampbuster is violated, USDA farm program benefits may be lost. If participants produce a crop on a converted wetland, they may lose benefits for that year. If participants convert a wetland after November 28, 1990, they risk loss of benefits for the year the conversion took place, and for the years that follow until the wetland’s functions and values are restored.

Local Contacts: The NRCS office serving the reservation or the appropriate NRCS State Conservationist.

Washington Contact: American Indian Liaison, Community Assistance and Rural Development Division, NRCS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-8576.

Tribal Conservation Districts

Nature of Program: A significant component of American Indian and Alaska Native self-government is the opportunity to form Tribal Conservation Districts under tribal law.

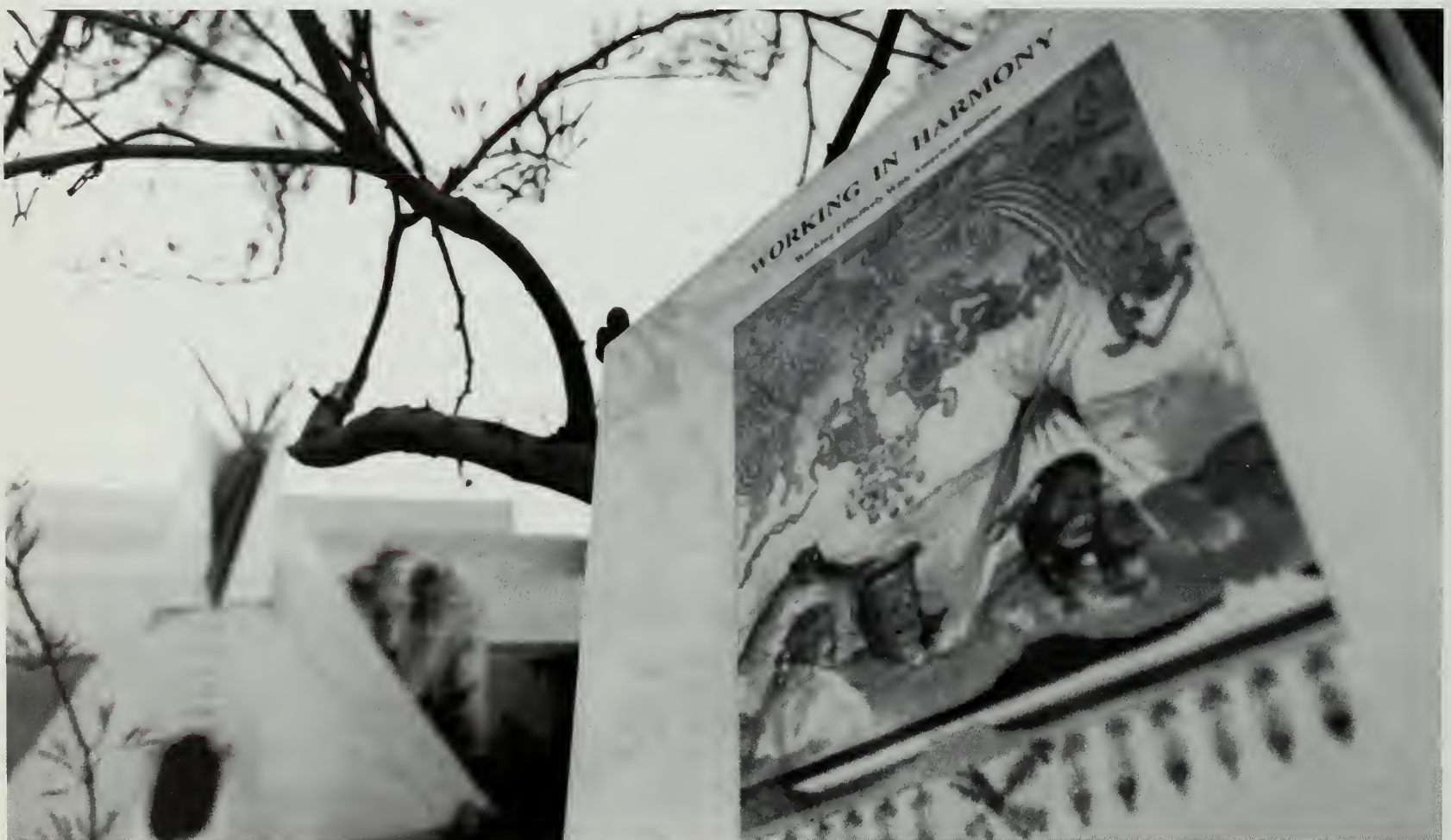


Available Assistance: NRCS will provide all American Indian and Alaska Native Governments with information on conservation district options and processes for their consideration. The ultimate decision regarding which option an American Indian tribe or Alaska Native Corporation chooses rests with the Indian tribe and the Secretary of Agriculture. If a Tribal Conservation District is formed, NRCS will work with the newly formed district and the Indian tribe or Alaska Native Corporation to establish a cooperative working agreement between the Indian tribe, the Tribal Conservation District, and the NRCS State Conservationist(s). The cooperative working agreement provides an opportunity to establish levels of service from NRCS, the tribal government's role, and to resolve other issues between the tribe and NRCS.

A Tribal Conservation District provides guidance to NRCS for prioritizing program assistance. Under the locally led initiative, a Tribal Conservation District may call the USDA local advisory committee meeting, which establishes local conservation priorities for USDA programs.

Local Contacts: The appropriate NRCS State Conservationist.

Washington Contact: American Indian Liaison, Community Assistance and Rural Development Division, NRCS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-8576.



Forest Service

The Forest Service (FS), a leader in the conservation and wise use of the Nation's forests and rangelands, is the steward of 156 national forests comprising 191 million acres in 42 States. It also administers 83 experimental forests and ranges, 19 grasslands, and 15 land utilization projects. The Forest Service works with State forestry organizations to help private landowners, including Indian tribes and landowners, to apply good forest practices. The Forest Service performs research to find better ways to manage and use our Nation's resources and provides technical assistance. The Forest Service works with indigenous people in other parts of the world through its Office of International Programs.

The Forest Service is increasingly working with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and individuals on activities and programs.

First, the Forest Service has established a Tribal Government Policy and Program to strengthen growing relationships with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. The program is located in the State and Private Forestry Deputy Area at the Washington Office. Each region and some research stations have Tribal Government staff (Tribal Liaisons). The guiding policy for this program is located in Forest Service Manual directive 1563. The Washington Office Tribal Government Liaison may be contacted at: (202) 205-0892.

The *Forest Service National Resource Book on American Indian and Alaska Native Relations* promotes cooperative relations with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. The initial publication of 3,000 books was exhausted in 6 weeks and it has been reprinted. Initial distribution was to Forest Service units, and through the units to federally recognized Indian tribes. The Forest Service intends that the FS line officer will provide the book to the Indian tribes in his/her area and discuss it with them. Copies are available from the Forest Service Office of Communication at (202) 205-0819.

A second agency action has been the agency-wide employment of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Currently, the FS work force includes about 1,500 American Indians. This figure equals 5.0 percent of the total FS work force of 30,000 people. This compares favorably with the 1.0 percent availability as reflected in the Bureau of the Census, Civilian Labor Force estimates.

Third, specific programs help the agency improve its relationships or partnerships with American Indians and Alaska Natives. Some examples are:

(a) A recruitment partnership with Haskell Indian Nations University (Lawrence, Kansas) which involves establishing a natural resource curriculum. Transfer agreements have been established with 4-year colleges and universities so that the students beginning at Haskell can receive bachelor of arts or advanced degrees.

(b) A partnership has been established with the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute (Albuquerque, New Mexico), which established a natural resource technical program and student summer employment program in the region.

(c) A Native American Education Liaison Program has been established in the

Office of Civil Rights in the Washington Office. This program assists in the development of research and environmental programs with tribal colleges, extending agency programs to tribal governments and exchanging and sharing technical staffs and skills.

(d) Numerous field practicums, some in cosponsorship with Indian tribes, provide a field natural resource exercise and experience for American Indian and Alaska Native youth. These practicums are: Enhancing tribal relationships, inspiring youth interest in natural resource and environmental management, providing career options, and providing knowledge of the management and care of the national forests and rangelands.

(e) The employment of American Indian and Alaska Native fire crews continues to benefit both the agency, in fire management programs and activities, and individual crew members. This relationship is a long-standing and rewarding one for all involved.

A fourth area of significant relationship with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes has been in the area of forestry technical assistance. With and through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Indian tribes have received assistance in such areas as utilization and marketing of natural resources, watershed programs, forestation and tree improvement, general natural resource planning and development, and pest management.

Primary FS programs

Range Management Program

Assistance Available: Grazing permits are granted, but few permits are available by simply asking. Although an applicant has a slight chance of receiving a permit by applying directly to the Forest Service, the most likely opportunity is through the “permit waiver” process. An applicant must buy either (1) the permitted livestock or (2) the base property of an established permittee who signs a waiver to the Forest Service for the permit. The agency then issues a permit to the eligible and qualified buyer of the permitted livestock or base property. The permit waiver process is established by Federal law and regulation.

How To Apply and for More Information: Contact the nearest national forest or ranger district.

Special Land Use Program

Assistance Available: A special use permit or other appropriate authorization is required to occupy and use National Forest System lands for specific purposes and under specific conditions. Such uses include pastures, fences, roads and trails, buildings, water developments, resorts, and commercial enterprises.

Eligibility: Any person, partnership, group, or other business entity, and any agency of the Federal, State, or local government may be considered for a special use authorization.

How To Apply: Persons proposing use on lands within a national forest or national grassland should contact—in person if possible—the local Forest Service office responsible for the affected lands to identify potential constraints, have the proposal considered in light of land management plans, and so that the Forest Service can schedule application processing. Applications may be made by bid, in response to a prospectus, or by letter and are filed with the district ranger or forest supervisor having jurisdiction over the affected land. The district ranger or forest supervisor may need additional information before approving or denying an application and will inform the applicant in a timely fashion if the application has been approved or denied. No privileges are conveyed until a special use permit is issued.

For More Information: Write or call the Lands Staff, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090. (202) 205-1248.

Timber Sale Program

Assistance Available: National forest timber including logs for lumber and plywood, wood fiber for paper, fuelwood, posts, poles, and Christmas trees is available for sale to interested parties. The local district ranger handles such transactions.

How To Apply: Contact the district ranger or the forest supervisor at the nearest Forest Service location.

For More Information: Write or call: Forest Management, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (202) 205-0893.

Free Use Timber Program

Assistance Available: The Forest Service may grant free use of timber from the national forests to residents of the area where a national forest is located. This timber may be used for nonprofit purposes only.

How To Apply: Contact the district ranger or the forest supervisor at the nearest Forest Service location.

For More Information: Write or call: Forest Management, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (202) 205-0893.

Forest Health Protection

Assistance Available: Provides technical and financial assistance for detecting, evaluating, and controlling outbreaks of forest insects and diseases on tribal lands.

How To Apply: For technical assistance on how to prevent and deal with forest insect and disease outbreaks, contact your nearest Forest Service Forest Health Protection Office.

To apply for financial assistance contact your BIA area office.



Rural Community Fire Protection Program

Assistance Available: Provides cost-sharing (50 percent matching funds) to rural areas and to communities with populations under 10,000 for organizing, training, and equipping rural firefighting forces. Unprotected or poorly protected communities receive priority. Federal excess property is available to rural communities for firefighting; it may need modification or upgrading.

For More Information and How To Apply: Contact a State forester or local State forestry office.

For More Information: Write or call Cooperative Forestry, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (202) 205-1389.

Forestry Incentives Program

Assistance Available: Provides cost-sharing to private nonindustrial forest landowners, including Indian tribes, for tree planting and timber stand improvement. To qualify, a person must:

- (1) be a private forest landowner
- (2) own a tract with no more than 5,000 acres of eligible forest land
- (3) own land that is suitable for forestation and timber stand improvement, and
- (4) own land capable of producing industrial wood crops that meet minimum productivity standards.

How To Apply: Contact your local State forestry or FSA office.

For More Information: Write or call: Cooperative Forestry. USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (202) 205-1389.

Forest Stewardship Program

Assistance Available: Provides technical assistance to private nonindustrial forest landowners including Indian tribes, to prepare landowners' forest stewardship plans to meet landowner objectives and to address actions needed to protect and improve soil, water, range, aesthetics, recreation, timber, and fish and wildlife resources.

How To Apply: Individual landowners and groups needing technical assistance should apply through their State forestry agency.

For More Information: Write or call Cooperative Forestry, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (202) 205-1389.

Stewardship Incentive Program

Assistance Available: Provides cost-sharing to eligible private nonindustrial landowners including Indian tribes, for tree planting and improvement, establishing windbreaks, protecting soil and water, improving fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and forest recreation. To qualify, a person must:

- (1) be a private forest landowner
- (2) own a tract of land with no more than 1,000 acres of eligible forest land (or 5,000 acres with a waiver from the State forester).

How To Apply: Contact your local State forestry agency office or local FSA office.

For More Information: Write or call: Cooperative Forestry, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (202) 205-1389.

Economic Recovery

Assistance Available: Provides technical assistance to rural communities that are economically dependent upon forest resources and faced with acute economic problems associated with Federal or private sector land management decisions and policy to help them diversify their economies. Assistance is directed toward communities located in or near National Forest System Lands.

How To Apply: Contact the Forest Service's regional Rural Community Assistance Coordinator.

For More Information: Write or call: Cooperative Forestry, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (202) 205-1389.

Rural Development

Assistance Available: Addresses the long-term health of rural areas by pursuing ways to stimulate improvements in the economic, social, or environmental well-being of rural residents through technical and financial assistance.

How To Apply: Contact the Forest Service's regional Rural Community Assistance Coordinator.

For More Information: Write or call: Cooperative Forestry, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (202) 205-1389.

Urban and Community Forestry

Assistance Available: Provides technical assistance to urban areas to establish, maintain, improve, expand, and protect urban and community-related forests and related greenspace, assists in sustaining healthy forest ecosystems and supporting viable cities, communities and neighborhoods, and, to increase public awareness of, and participation in, improving the natural, social, and economic environments of the Nation's urban and community areas.

How To Apply: Contact the Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator at your nearest State Forestry Office.

For More Information: Write or call: Cooperative Forestry, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (202) 205-1389.



Forest Conservation and Recycling

Assistance Available: Provides technical assistance, research, and data for technology transfer and marketing that integrates environmental protection with forest-based economic growth through value-added timber processing, new technologies, and recycling.

How To Apply: Contact State and Private Forestry in the Forest Service regional office.

For More Information: Write or call Cooperative Forestry, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (202) 205-1389

Wood in Transportation

Assistance Available: Offers technology transfer and value-added business development assistance for improved transportation and infrastructure and markets for wood. The program strengthens rural economies and increases the value of forests, particularly those with underutilized species.

How To Apply: Contact State and Private Forestry in the Forest Service regional office.

For More Information: Write or call Cooperative Forestry, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (202) 205-1389

Job Corps Program

Assistance Available: Job Corps is America's oldest, largest, and most comprehensive residential training program for at-risk youth ages 16 to 24. It produces responsible, employable, and productive citizens by providing basic education and vocational education and by assisting in job placement. All programs are self-paced to best meet the needs of each student.

For More Information: Write or call Senior, Youth, Volunteer Programs, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (703) 235-8834.

Senior Community Service Employment Program

Assistance Available: The threefold purpose of this program is:

- (1) to provide part-time employment and supplement the income of an elderly, low-income person;
- (2) to provide training that enhances such a person's opportunity for transition into the regular labor market; and
- (3) to provide senior citizens an opportunity to participate in community service work.

Participants must be at least 55 years old and meet the low-income eligibility guidelines established by the Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor.

How To Apply: Contact the local FS or Employment Service office.

For More Information: Write or call Senior, Youth, Volunteer Programs, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (703) 235-8834.

Youth Conservation Corps

Assistance Available: A summer employment program for young men and women to further develop the natural resources of the United States. Projects are located on lands administered by the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior's National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service. Applicants must be 15-18 years old, must be permanent residents of the United States, its territories or possessions, must have no history of serious criminal or other antisocial behavior, must be physically qualified to participate fully in various work and training projects of the program, or be able to obtain a work permit if one is required under the laws of the State in which they will be working.

How to Apply: Applications may be obtained from local Forest Service and National Park Service offices, and from National Wildlife Refuge and National Fish Hatchery headquarters or offices.

For More Information: Write or call Senior, Youth, Volunteer Programs, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090. (703) 235-8834.



3. Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The Farm Service Agency administers farm commodity and conservation programs for farmers and makes farm loans. FSA programs are directed primarily at agricultural producers or, in the case of loans, at those with farming experience.

Commodities

Nature of Program: The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) replaced deficiency payments for wheat, feed grains, cotton and rice with 7-year production flexibility contracts covering the 1996 to 2002 crop years. Payments are fixed in advance and gradually decline over the 7 years. Farmers can plant any mix of crops, except for fruits and vegetables, or idle contract acres, and still receive annual payments, but they must comply with conservation plans and wetland provisions to be eligible for payments.

Eligibility Requirements: The 1996 Act required USDA to hold a one-time signup which was held from May through July 1996. Producers eligible to receive payments under production flexibility contracts are those enrolled in the 7-year program, except for producers with Conservation Reserve Program contracts expiring after the signup, who may enroll when the Conservation Reserve Program contract expires.

Spending Levels: To the extent practicable, total spending levels for each fiscal year are as follows:

FY 1997	\$6.4 billion
FY 1998	\$5.8 billion
FY 1999	\$5.603 billion
FY 2000	\$5.130 billion
FY 2001	\$4.130 billion
FY 2002	\$4.008 billion

Commodity Loan Programs

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) finances commodity loan programs for wheat, rice, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, oilseeds, tobacco, peanuts, upland and extra-long-staple cotton, and sugar. Loan rates are designed to keep crops competitive in the marketplace. A producer must have entered into a production flexibility contract to be eligible for nonrecourse marketing assistance loans for wheat, feed grains, rice, and upland cotton. Any production of a contract commodity from a farm enrolled in a production flexibility contract is eligible to be pledged as collateral for a loan.

Nonrecourse loans are also available for oilseeds, tobacco, peanuts, extra-long-staple cotton, regardless of whether the producer has entered into a production flexibility contract. Loans are also available to processors and refiners of sugar beets and sugar cane.



FSA Outreach Programs

The FSA Outreach Program coordinates outreach efforts for all FSA programs. This office reports directly to the FSA Administrator and includes a full-time national Native American Liaison.

Several USDA agencies, including FSA, implement an extensive joint outreach effort with the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) to heighten awareness of USDA services available to American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The IAC is a nonprofit corporation of 61 member Indian tribes devoted to improving agriculture as a source of economic development for Indian people. Under the outreach agreement, the IAC conducts USDA informational meetings with tribal governments and hires American Indian outreach workers to facilitate these meetings after receiving training from USDA. FSA also contracted with the IAC to conduct a public affairs campaign in the American Indian media to inform Indian tribes about FSA county committee elections.

FSA has entered into cooperative agreements with the Fond du Lac Community College in Minnesota and the Stone Child Community College in Montana to hire outreach workers who provide information and assistance regarding FSA's farm loan programs to American Indians in those States. These institutions are Land-Grant Tribal Colleges.

Washington Contact: Mike Hill, FSA National Native American Liaison, Suite 508, Portals Building, 1250 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20024; telephone: (202) 260-5918.

Emergency Assistance

In the aftermath of a natural disaster, FSA makes available a variety of emergency assistance programs to farmers in counties that have been designated or declared disaster areas. The agency can offer cost-share assistance to producers who do not have enough feed to maintain their eligible livestock because of a loss of a substantial amount of their normal feed production. Emergency loans are available to eligible farmers who suffer qualifying losses as a result of a natural disaster. And, to help rehabilitate farmland damaged by a natural disaster, FSA can often share the cost of some emergency conservation practices.

Farm Loans

Nature of Programs: FSA's loan programs help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit. These could be beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit or farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters, or who have limited resources with which to establish and maintain profitable farming operations.

Some farmers meet their credit needs through loan guarantees. With this loan, a local agricultural lender makes and services the loan, and FSA guarantees it against loss up to a maximum of 90 percent in most cases. In some circumstances, a 95-percent guarantee is available.

FSA also makes direct loans, which are serviced by an FSA official. FSA provides credit counseling and supervision to its direct borrowers by making a thorough assessment of the farming operation.

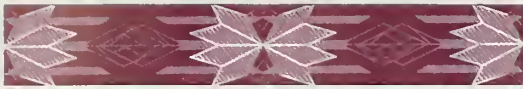
Eligibility Requirements for All FSA Loans:

A loan applicant must:

- Have sufficient education, training, or experience in managing and operating a farm or ranch to indicate the managerial ability needed to succeed in farming;
- Be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien);
- Have the legal capacity to incur the obligations of the loan;
- Be unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms;
- Be the owner-operator or operator of a family farm after the loan is closed. For an Operating or Emergency Loan, the producer must be the operator of the farm. For an Ownership Loan, the producer needs to both own and operate the farm; and
- Have not had a previous Direct or Guaranteed Loan which resulted in a loss to the Agency, and not be delinquent on any Federal debt.

Contact the county FSA office for more details on requirements for loan eligibility.





Types of Loans Available

Farm Ownership Loans

Eligible applicants may obtain a direct loan or loans up to \$200,000, or a guaranteed loan or loans up to \$300,000. The maximum Farm Ownership loan indebtedness is \$300,000. The maximum repayment term is 40 years for both direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans.

Purpose: In general, loan funds may be used to purchase farm real estate, to enlarge an existing farm, to construct new farm buildings or improve structures, and to improve the environmental soundness of the farm.

Farm Operating Loans

Eligible applicants may obtain a direct loan for up to a maximum of \$200,000, or up to \$400,000 for a guaranteed loan only or a combination of direct and guaranteed loans. The repayment term may vary but typically will not exceed 7 years for intermediate-term purposes. Annual operating loans are generally repaid within 12 months or when the commodities produced are sold.

Purpose of Loan: These loans are used for normal operating expenses, family living expenses, machinery and equipment, real estate repairs and improvements, and the refinancing of debt.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Persons

Nature of Program: FSA can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year.

A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities.

Purposes of Program: The purposes of this program are to:

- Target direct and guaranteed farm ownership and farm operating loan assistance to socially disadvantaged persons;
- Discover and remove obstacles that prevent the full participation of those persons in FSA's farm loan programs; and
- Provide advice to qualified applicants to help them develop sound farm management practices, analyze problems, and plan the best use of available resources essential for success in farming or ranching.

Loan Uses: Farm ownership loan funds for socially disadvantaged persons may be used to purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, purchase easements or rights of way needed in the farm's operation, erect or improve buildings such as a dwelling or

barn, promote soil and water conservation and development, and pay closing costs.

Farm operating loan funds may be used to purchase livestock, poultry, farm and home equipment, feed, seed, fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, hail and other crop insurance, food, clothing, medical care, and hired labor. Funds also may be used to install or improve water systems for home use, livestock or irrigation, and other improvements.

In addition to being members of a socially disadvantaged group, applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance.

Indian Land Acquisition Loans

Purpose of Program: Indian Land Acquisition Loans enable Indian tribes to purchase privately held lands that lie within their reservations. Loan funds may be used to pay expenses incidental to the purchase of the land, but not for land development.

Eligibility Requirements: Any Indian tribe recognized by the Secretary of the Interior, or a tribal corporation established in accordance with the Indian Reorganization Act.

Loan Uses: Loan funds may be used to buy lands or acquire interest in lands within an Indian reservation or an Alaska Native community incorporated in conformity with the Indian Reorganization Act. Loan funds may not be used for buildings, land development, equipment, or operating expenses.

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loans

Each year Congress targets a percentage of farm ownership and farm operating loan funds to beginning farmers. Beginning farmers must have been in the business less than 10 years and meet other requirements concerning land ownership and management ability.

Farm Ownership Downpayment Loans: Eligible beginning farmer applicants may obtain a direct loan for up to 30 percent of the purchase price of a family-size farm, or the farm's appraised value, whichever is less. Applicants must provide at least a 10-percent downpayment on the purchase. The interest rate on the 30-percent portion is fixed at 4 percent, and it must be repaid in 10 years or less. The remaining balance, not to exceed 60 percent, may be guaranteed by FSA. The purchase price or appraised value of the farm, whichever is lower, cannot exceed \$250,000.

Purpose of Loan: To assist beginning farmers and ranchers who are entering agriculture to purchase a farm or ranch. This program also provides a way for retiring farmers to transfer their land to a future generation of farmers and ranchers.

Emergency Loss Loans

These loans are available only as direct loans from FSA. They assist farmers who have suffered physical or production losses in areas declared by the President or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture or the FSA Administrator. For produc-

tion loss loans, applicants must demonstrate a 30-percent loss in a single farming or ranching enterprise and may receive loans up to a maximum of 80 percent of total production losses.

Purpose of Loan: Emergency Loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property, or to pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year. Emergency Loss loans are used for both operating and real estate, and repayment terms depend upon the loan purpose and type of collateral securing the loan. The loan limit is up to 80 percent of actual loss, with a maximum total indebtedness per borrower of \$500,000.

Livestock Programs

Nature of Program: Emergency Haying and Grazing Assistance may be made available in areas in which national disaster has substantially reduced the yield of pasture and forage crops. Requests for assistance may be initiated by an FSA County Committee, or by a State Governor. The State Committee then makes a recommendation to the agency. Determinations are made on a county-by-county basis. If approved, harvesting of hay and/or livestock grazing is allowed on cropland that has been removed from production of annual program crops, such as wheat and feed grains.

Other FSA Disaster Assistance Programs

FSA administers other disaster assistance programs that are not available at this time. The following programs are suspended under current statutes:

Emergency Feed Program (Feed Cost-Sharing Program)

This program allowed the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to share the costs, with eligible livestock owners at an established rate, of purchases of livestock feed normally produced on the farm.

Emergency Feed Assistance Program.

This provided for the sale by CCC of CCC-owned grain, at reduced rates, to livestock producers who suffered a substantial loss of livestock feed normally grown on the farm.

Crash Feed Grain Donation Program.

This program made feed available to livestock that were commingled, stranded, and unidentified as to owners, or owned by producers temporarily unable to arrange for feed or pasture.

Emergency Conservation Program

Nature and Purpose: Funds are available to rehabilitate farmland and rangeland damage caused by natural disasters such as erosion, floods, hurricanes, and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

Type of Assistance: Emergency funds for cost-sharing with farmers.

Eligibility Requirements: Designation of county or region as eligible under drought or other natural disaster is made at the Washington, D.C. level.

Restrictions: Depending on the nature of the damage, USDA may or may not be needed to help with the solution.

How to Apply: Application for assistance should be made to the NRCS office or sub-office serving the reservation. Eligibility is determined by the county committee based on the type and extent of damage.

Local Contacts: Local USDA Service Center, Tribal Conservation District, or local conservation district office.

Conservation Reserve Program

Nature of Program: The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) protects our most fragile farmland by encouraging farmers to stop growing crops on highly erodible and other environmentally sensitive acreage. In return for planting a protective cover of grass or trees on vulnerable property, the participant receives a rental payment each year of a multiyear contract. Cost-share payments are also available to help establish permanent areas of grass, legumes, trees, windbreaks, or plants that improve water quality and give shelter and food to wildlife.

Eligibility Requirements: To be eligible to be placed in CRP, land must be:

- (1) Cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity 2 of the 5 most recent crop years (including field margins) which is also physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity; or
- (2) Marginal pasture land that is either:
 - a. Certain acreage enrolled in the Water Bank Program, or
 - b. Suitable for use as a riparian buffer to be planted to trees.

In addition to basic eligibility requirements, the cropland must also meet at least one of the following conditions. Land must be:

- (1) Considered highly erodible land according to the conservation compliance provision or, if a portion of a field, have a weighted average Erosion Index of 8 or higher,
- (2) Considered a cropped wetland,
- (3) Subject to scour erosion,
- (4) Located in a national or State CRP conservation priority area, or
- (5) Cropland associated with noncropped wetlands.



How To Apply: Producers submit bids stating an annual rental payment they would accept to convert eligible cropland to permanent vegetative cover. This bid is submitted to the county FSA office during an announced signup period. USDA notifies persons whose bids are accepted after the close of the signup period. The participant, in return for annual payments, agrees to implement a conservation plan approved by the local conservation district for converting this land to a less intensive use.

FSA works with NRCS and other agencies to deliver other conservation programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which helps farmers and ranchers improve their property to protect the environment and conserve soil and water resources.

Flood Risk Reduction Program

Nature of Program: This provision of the 1996 Act authorizes voluntary contracts that provide one lump sum payment to producers who farm land with high flood potential.

Available Assistance: The payment will equal 95 percent of the 7-year Production Flexibility Program payments, and other payments to offset estimated Federal outlays on frequently flooded land. In return, the producer agrees to comply with applicable wetlands and highly erodible land requirements and to forego commodity loans, crop insurance, conservation program payments, and disaster payments.

Local Contacts: The USDA Service Center serving the reservation or the appropriate NRCS State Conservationist.

Washington Contact: American Indian Liaison, Community Assistance and Rural Development Division, NRCS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-8576.

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program provides assistance to producers for crops that cannot be insured. It provides a "safety net" for farmers who grow such crops, limiting their losses from natural disasters and helping to manage their overall business risk. NAP protection is free of charge.

Eligible Crops: Eligible crops include agricultural commodities that are:

- Grown for food,
- Planted and grown for livestock consumption, including but not limited to grain and seeded and native foreign crops,
- Grown for fiber, except for trees,
- Specialty crops, such as aquaculture, floriculture, ornamental nursery, Christmas

trees, turf or sod, industrial crops, and seed crops used to produce other eligible NAP crops.

Eligibility Requirements: Interested producers must make certain required crop information available to FSA by the NAP program deadlines. Certain farm records must be maintained throughout the year. To ensure that producers will be able to take advantage of NAP assistance, should it become available, operators must meet all program requirements.

Availability: NAP assistance becomes available when natural disaster causes production losses:

- Greater than 35 percent over a widespread area,
- Greater than 50 percent for an individual producer of a crop within the area.

FSA may define an eligible area as:

- A county,
- At least 320,000 acres, or
- Acreage on which the value of all crops grown is \$80 million or more.

The FSA county committee monitors local weather and crop conditions to determine when to request crop assistance. The committee assesses crop losses and makes recommendations to the FSA State Executive Director, who determines whether to offer assistance.

Producers' reports of crop acreage, crop damage, and actual production are used by the committee in deciding whether to recommend NAP assistance to farmers in the area.

Compensation limits: NAP compensates for eligible crop losses exceeding 50 percent of the expected yield, based on the average market price of the commodity. Payments are made at a rate comparable to the compensation offered by the catastrophic level of crop insurance, usually 60 percent.

NAP payments to any single producer cannot exceed \$100,000 for any given crop year. The payment rate is reduced for any crop that is unharvested or prevented from being planted, to reflect the difference in costs incurred.

Where To Go for More Information

FSA publishes commodity fact sheets that summarize the terms of the present year's program for various commodities. Other fact sheets are available on loan programs and conservation. These publications are free, and can be obtained by contacting the county FSA office, listed in telephone directories under "U.S. Department of Agriculture," or by writing the Farm Service Agency, Public Affairs Staff, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0506 or by calling (202) 720-5237.



Since FSA's farm programs are administered through local offices, contact your local FSA office or Service Center for program applications, and loan requirements, and to apply for FSA programs.

Information on FSA can also be found on the FSA home page at www.fsa.usda.gov

Foreign Agricultural Service

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is a USDA agency that represents the diverse interests of U.S. farmers and the food and agricultural sector abroad. It also collects, analyzes, and disseminates information about global supply and demand, trade trends, and emerging market opportunities. FAS seeks improved market access for U.S. products and implements programs designed to build new markets and to maintain the competitive position of U.S. products in the global marketplace. FAS also carries out food aid and market-related technical assistance programs, and operates a variety of congressionally mandated import and export programs. FAS helps USDA and other Federal agencies, U.S. universities, and others enhance the global competitiveness of U.S. agriculture and helps increase income and food availability in developing nations by mobilizing expertise for agriculturally led economic growth.

American Indian Trade Development Council

Since 1992, FAS has worked with the American Indian Trade Development Council (AITDC) to market American Indian products in the international marketplace, primarily in Asia. With FAS support, AITDC participated in the 1996 China Fisheries and Seafood Expo in Qingdao, China, exhibiting reservation-produced salmon and seafood. FAS is cosponsoring the Intertribal Agriculture Council's outreach efforts to American Indians and Alaska Natives in coordination with other USDA agencies.

Trade Leads and Buyer Alert

FAS has a number of ongoing programs that can benefit American Indian and Alaska Native tribes or individuals. Through its Trade Leads service, U.S. exporters learn about foreign inquiries to purchase U.S. food, farm, seafood and forest products. Last year, FAS published over 5,000 trade leads. Using the Buyer Alert service, U.S. exporters can announce their products to interested foreign buyers. The Buyer Alert is distributed to over 14,000 buyers.

Foreign Buyers List and U.S. Supplier List

FAS also can provide exporters with a Foreign Buyers List that contains the names of 20,000 buyers of U.S. food products. The list is made available to U.S. exporters by country or commodity. The U.S. Supplier List includes suppliers of U.S. food products. The list is made available to FAS overseas offices that distribute them to foreign buyers seeking U.S. food products.

Food and Agricultural Trade Shows

FAS sponsors and endorses a variety of food and agricultural trade shows that provide good avenues to enter the best potential markets for U.S. products. These shows include about 25 food shows in mature and emerging markets. FAS works with show organizers to secure a high level of services, and provides a range of marketing and public relations services, and guidance for new-to-market and new-to-exporting companies. Participation in all shows is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Market Access Program

The Market Access Program (MAP) uses funds from USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to help U.S. producers, exporters, private companies, and other trade organizations finance promotional activities for U.S. agricultural products. The MAP encourages development, maintenance, and expansion of commercial export markets for agricultural commodities, and includes consumer promotions, market research, technical assistance, and trade servicing activities.

Trade Assistance and Promotion Office

The Trade Assistance and Promotion Office (TAPO) serves as the first point of contact for persons needing assistance in exporting U.S. consumer-ready foods and agricultural products. Staff members provide basic export counseling and direct callers to the appropriate USDA office to answer specific technical questions regarding exports. Additionally, the staff can provide assistance in obtaining market research reports for various overseas markets. For assistance, contact:

Trade Assistance and Promotion Office
U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service
AG Box 1052
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: (202) 720-7420
Fax: (202) 690-4374
Hearing impaired (TDD): (202) 690-4837

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) created the Risk Management Agency (RMA). The 1996 Act also revised a requirement that producers obtain at least the catastrophic level of crop insurance to be eligible for most USDA farm programs, to allow producers to maintain their eligibility for these farm programs as long as they waived their right to any other emergency crop loss assistance.

RMA improves the economic stability of agriculture by providing producers a sound system of crop insurance. Federal crop insurance covers losses due to unavoidable causes such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, wind, frost, insects, and disease. Currently 62 major crops are insurable. Crop insurance is available exclusively from crop insurance agents. Insurance protection must be purchased



prior to sales closing dates that vary by crop and region.

In addition to administering the crop insurance program for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, RMA is responsible for coordinating an educational outreach program to help producers manage the financial risks inherent in the production and marketing of agricultural commodities. This cooperative effort involves the resources of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and numerous private sector organizations.

RMA also participates with other USDA agencies in an outreach program with the Intertribal Agriculture Council to increase awareness of USDA services available to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Trusts Administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian land is frequently held in trust by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or a tribal governing body and leased to operators. Indian land held in trust is processed in the same manner as land held in an irrevocable trust. The name of the trust is the named insured. Often BIA trusts are referred to as allotments, identified by an allotment number (e.g., BIA Allotment Number 0006, which is the name of the trust and consequently the named insured). A separate policy is required for each allotment with different individual owners. Linkage for certain USDA farm program benefits for individual American Indians and Alaska Natives who own parcels of an allotment are established by that trust.

If the trust agreement provides that operators of leased land purchase crop insurance, a power of attorney will be executed by the BIA granting the operator the authority to purchase crop insurance on behalf of the trust.

If the BIA trust does not have an Employer's Identification Number (EIN), a nine-digit number may be established as follows: the first two digits identify the State, the next three the county, and the last four the allotment number.

How To Apply: An agreement should be prepared for the American Indian or Alaska Native lessor by the insurance representative, signed by the lessee, and attached to the lessee's application. This agreement may be executed in connection with an existing contract or application, and must be filed at the service office when an acreage report is filed.

For More Information: Administrator, Risk Management Agency, USDA, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 690-2803.



4. Rural Development

Rural America abounds with promise. USDA Rural Development is helping to fulfill the promise and overcome the problems of the Nation's rural heartland. Rural Development was created in 1994 when rural economic and community development programs that had been splintered among various USDA agencies were forged into a new mission area. With this action, the Farmers Home Administration, Rural Development Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, and Agricultural Cooperative Service passed into history.

Rural Development programs are now administered by three Services at the national level and Rural Development Offices at the State level. The three national level Services are the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), the Rural Housing Service (RHS), and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Rural Development's mission: to create self-sustaining, long-term economic development in areas of pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general distress, and to demonstrate how distressed communities can achieve self-sufficiency through innovative and comprehensive strategic plans developed and implemented by alliances among private, public, and nonprofit entities.

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service provides financial and technical assistance to promote business and cooperative opportunities in rural areas. By leveraging with private funding sources, RBS helps rural communities to create jobs by funding new business start-ups, business expansions, and other business ventures. The Rural Housing Service provides financing for new or improved low and moderate income housing in rural communities. RHS also administers a funding program for community facilities such as fire stations, libraries, hospitals, industrial parks, day care centers, and health clinics. The Rural Utilities Service provides loans and grants for electric service, telecommunications, and water-wastewater. RUS assists rural communities in meeting their infrastructure needs in order to develop the local economy and create jobs.

In addition to the three Services, the Office of Community Development in Rural Development administers the Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) program, a Presidential initiative of the Clinton Administration designed to provide economically depressed rural areas and communities with real opportunities for growth and revitalization. Also, the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization (AARC) Corporation encourages new research and assists with the commercialization of new, nonfood uses of agricultural commodities. AARC's goal is to create jobs, enhance economic development of rural communities, and diversify markets for raw agricultural and forestry products and animal by-products.

In addition to information provided in this guide about its programs, Rural Development has a Website: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

Interested individuals should contact their State or local Rural Development offices for information about applying for any of the RHS, RBS, and RUS programs. A list of State offices follows:



Rural Development - State Offices

Alabama

Horace Horn
Sterling Center, Suite 601
4121 Carmichael Road
Montgomery, AL 36106-3683
(205) 279-3400

Alaska

Ernest Brannon
800 West Evergreen, Suite 201
Palmer, AK 99645
(907) 745-2176

Arizona

Alan Stephens
3003 North Central Avenue, Suite 900
Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 280-8700

Arkansas

John C. Edwards
700 West Capitol
P.O. Box 2778
Little Rock, AR 72203
(501) 324-6281

California

Michael Reyna
194 West Main Street, Suite F
Woodland, CA 95695-2915
(916) 668-2000

Colorado

Ruth Rodriguez
655 Parfet Street, Room E-100
Lakewood, CO 80215
(303) 236-2801

Delaware - Maryland

John Walls
4611 South Dupont Highway
P.O. Box 400
Camden, DE 19934-9998
(302) 697-4300

Florida

Ronald G. Whitfield (Acting)
4440 NW 25th Place
P.O. Box 147010
Gainesville, FL 32614-7010
(904) 338-3400

Georgia

Laura Jean Meadows
Stephens Federal Building
355 East Hancock Avenue
Athens, GA 30610
(706) 546-2162

Hawaii

Francis Blanco
Federal Building, Room 311
154 Waiianuenue Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 933-3000

Idaho

Loren Nelson
3232 Elder Street
Boise, ID 83705
(208) 334-1301

Illinois

Wallace Furrow
Illini Plaza, Suite 103
1817 South Neil Street
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 398-5235

Indiana

John Thompson
5975 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46278
(317) 290-3100

Iowa

Ellen Huntoon
Federal Building, Room 873
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 284-4663

Kansas

Bill Kirk
1201 SW Summit Executive Court
P.O. Box 4653
Topeka, KS 66604
(913) 271-2700

Kentucky

Tom Fern
771 Corporate Plaza
Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40503
(606) 224-7300

Louisiana

Austin Cormier
3727 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302
(318) 473-7920

Maine

Seth Bradstreet
444 Stillwater Avenue, Suite 2
P.O. Box 405
Bangor, ME 04402-0405
(207) 990-9106

Massachusetts/Rhode Island/

Connecticut

William Bradley
451 West Street
Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 253-4300

Michigan

Donald Hare
3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 337-6635

Minnesota

Gary DeCramer
410 AgriBank Boulevard
375 Jackson Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
(612) 602-7835

Mississippi

George E. Irvin
Federal Building, Room 831
100 West Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39269
(601) 965-4316

Missouri

William Shay
601 Business Loop 70 West
Parkade Center, Suite 235
Columbia, MO 65203
(314) 876-0976

Montana

Anthony Preite
900 Technology Boulevard, Suite B
P.O. Box 850
Bozeman, MT 59771
(406) 585-2580

Nebraska

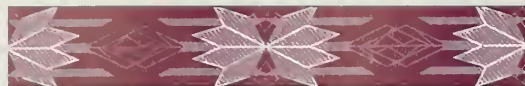
James A. Otto
Federal Building, Room 308
100 Centennial Mall N
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 437-5551

Nevada

Sarah Mersereau
1390 South Curry Street
Carson City, NV 89703-5405
(702) 887-1222

New Jersey

Ernest Grunow
Tarnsfield Plaza, Suite 22
1016 Woodlane Road
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060
(609) 265-3600



New Mexico

Steven Anaya
Federal Building, Room 3414
517 Gold Avenue SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 766-2462

New York

James Bays
The Galleries of Syracuse
441 South Salina Street, Suite 357
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 477-6400

North Carolina

James Kearney
4405 Bland Road, Suite 260
Raleigh, NC 27609
(919) 873-2000

North Dakota

Charles Mertens
Federal Building, Room 208
3rd & Rosser, P.O. Box 1737
Bismarck, ND 58502
(701) 250-4781

Ohio

Linda Page
Federal Building, Room 507
200 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 469-5606

Oklahoma

Charles Rainbolt
USDA Agricultural Center
Stillwater, OK 74074
(405) 742-1000

Oregon

Scott Duff
101 SW Main Street, Suite 1410
Portland, OR 97204-2333
(503) 414-3300

Pennsylvania

Cheryl Cook
1 Credit Union Place, Suite 330
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996
(717) 782-4476

Puerto Rico

Ileana Echegoyen
New San Juan Office Building,
Room 501
159 Carlos East Chardon Street
Hato Rey, PR 00918-5481
(809) 766-5095

South Carolina

Bernie Wright
Strom Thurmond Federal Building
1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 765-5163

South Dakota

Dallas Tonsager
Federal Building, Room 308
200 4th Street SW
Huron, SD 57350
(605) 352-1100

Tennessee

David Seivers
3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300
Nashville, TN 37203-1071
(615) 783-1308

Texas

Steven A. Carriker (Acting)
Federal Building, Suite 102
101 South Main
Temple, TX 76501
(817) 774-1301

Utah

James Harvey
Federal Building, Room 5438
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138
(801) 524-4063

Vermont / New Hampshire

Roberta Harold
City Center, 3rd Floor
89 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 828-6001

Virginia

Lloyd A. Jones
Culpeper Building, Suite 238
1606 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, VA 23229
(804) 287-1550

Washington

Mary McBride
Federal Building, Room 319
301 Yakima Street
P.O. Box 2427
Wenatchee, WA 98807
(509) 664-0240

West Virginia

Robert Lewis
75 High Street
P.O. Box 678
Morgantown, WV 26505
(304) 291-4791

Wisconsin

Bryce Luchterland
4949 Kirschling Court
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 345-7600

Wyoming

Derrel L. Carruth
Federal Building, Room 1005
P.O. Box 820
Casper, WY 82602
(307) 261-5271

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Business and Industry Direct Loans

Nature and Purpose: The Business and Industry (B&I) Direct Loan Program provides loans to public entities and private parties who cannot obtain credit from other sources. Loans to private parties can be made for improving, developing, or financing business and industry, creating jobs, and improving the economic and environmental climate in rural communities (including pollution abatement).

Eligibility Requirements: Eligible applicants include any legally organized entity, including cooperatives, corporations, partnerships, trusts and other profit or non-profit entities, Indian tribes or federally recognized tribal groups, municipalities, counties, any other political subdivision of a State, and individuals. Loans are available to those who cannot obtain credit elsewhere and for public bodies.

Use Restrictions: This type of assistance is available in rural areas (this includes all areas other than cities of more than 50,000 people and their immediately adjacent urban or urbanizing areas).

Special Conditions and Terms:

- Applications are funded based on a priority scoring system.
- All applications are considered and evaluated on a point system.
- Maximum individual loan is \$10 million.
- Approval process is approximately 60 to 120 days.

Project Examples: Business or industrial acquisition, construction, enlargement, conversion, repair and improvement, purchase and development of land, easements, buildings facilities, leases, equipment, machinery, supplies, and materials.

Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans

Nature and Purpose: The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program helps create jobs and stimulates rural economies by providing financial backing for rural businesses. This program guarantees up to 80 percent of a loan made by a commercial lender. The primary purpose is to create and maintain employment and improve the economic climate in rural communities. This is achieved by expanding the lending capability of private lenders in rural areas, helping them make and service quality loans that provide lasting community benefits.

Eligibility Requirements: Assistance under the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program is available to virtually any legally organized entity, including a cooperative, corporation, partnership, trust or other profit or nonprofit entity, Indian tribe or federally recognized tribal group, municipality, county, or other political subdivision of a State. Applicants need not have been denied credit elsewhere to apply for this program.

Authorized Lenders: B&I loan guarantees can be extended to loans made by commercial or other authorized lenders in rural areas (this includes all areas other than





cities of more than 50,000 people and their immediately adjacent urban or urbanizing areas). Generally, authorized lenders include Federal or State chartered banks, credit unions, insurance companies, savings and loan associations, Farm Credit Banks or other Farm Credit System institutions with direct lending authority, a mortgage company that is part of a bank holding company, and the National Rural Utilities Finance Corporation. Other loan sources include eligible Rural Utilities Service electric and telecommunications borrowers and other lenders approved by RBS who have met the designated criteria.

Use Restrictions: This type of assistance is available in rural areas (this includes all areas other than cities of more than 50,000 people and their immediately adjacent urban or urbanizing areas).

Special Conditions and Terms:

- Both preapplications and applications are considered in the order received.
- All applications are considered and evaluated on a point system.
- Maximum aggregate loan is \$25 million.
- Approval process is approximately 60 to 120 days.

Project Examples: Loan proceeds may be used for working capital, machinery and equipment, buildings and real estate, and certain types of debt refinancing.

Intermediary Relending Program

Nature and Purpose: The purpose of the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) is to finance business facilities and community development projects in rural areas. This is achieved through loans made by the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) to intermediaries. Intermediaries relend funds to ultimate recipients for business facilities or community development. Intermediaries establish revolving loan funds so collections from loans made to ultimate recipients in excess of necessary operating expenses and debt payments will be used for more loans to ultimate recipients.

Eligibility Requirements: Eligible intermediaries include public bodies, nonprofit corporations, Indian tribes, and cooperatives. Intermediaries must have legal authority to carry out the proposed loan purposes and to incur and repay the debt, have a record of successfully assisting rural business and industry, normally including experience in making and servicing commercial loans, and provide adequate assurance of repayment.

Ultimate recipients may be private or public organizations or individuals.

At least 51 percent of the owners or members of both intermediaries and ultimate recipients must be United States citizens or admitted for permanent residency. Both intermediaries and ultimate recipients must be unable to obtain the proposed loan elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms.

Use Restrictions: All of the IRP loan funds received by an intermediary must be relended to ultimate recipients. Interest income and fees may be used for adminis-

trative costs, technical assistance to borrowers, or debt retirement. All collections from the operation of the IRP revolving loan fund that are not used for the above authorized expenses must be made available for relending to eligible ultimate recipients. Loans from intermediaries to ultimate recipients must be for the establishment of new businesses, the expansion of existing businesses, creation of employment opportunities, saving of existing jobs, or community development projects.

Rural Business Enterprise Grants

Nature and Purpose: Rural Business Enterprise Grants help public bodies, non-profit corporations, and federally recognized Indian tribal groups finance and facilitate development of small and emerging private business enterprises located in rural areas (this includes all areas other than cities of more than 50,000 people and their immediately adjacent urban or urbanizing areas).

Eligibility Requirements: Eligibility is limited to public bodies, private nonprofit corporations, and federally recognized Indian tribal groups. Public bodies include incorporated towns and villages, boroughs, townships, counties, States, authorities, districts, Indian tribes on Federal and State reservations, and other federally recognized Indian tribal groups in rural areas.

Use Restrictions: Funds may be used to facilitate the development of small and emerging private business enterprises. Costs that may be paid from grant funds include the acquisition and development of land and the construction of buildings, plants, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, and utility and service extensions; refinancing; fees for professional services; technical assistance and training associated with technical assistance; startup operating costs and working capital; providing financial assistance to a third party; production of television programs to provide information to rural residents; and creation, expansion, and operation of rural distance learning networks. Grants may also be made to establish or fund revolving loan programs.

Grants cannot be used for:

- Production of agricultural products through growing, cultivating, or harvesting either directly or through horizontally integrated livestock operations, except for commercial nurseries or timber operations.
- Comprehensive area-wide planning.
- Loans by grantees when the rates, terms, and charges for those loans are not reasonable.
- Development of a proposal that may result in the transfer of jobs or business activity from one area to another. This provision does not prohibit establishment of a new branch or subsidiary.
- Development of a proposal which may result in an increase of goods, materials, commodities, services, or facilities in an area when there is not sufficient demand.

Special Conditions and Terms:

- States receive yearly allocations. State offices will rank and review applications. When allocations are exhausted, applications will be forwarded to the National Office where they will compete for funding from the National Office reserve.
- Applications are reviewed using a point system.
- Additional points may be awarded on grounds of such factors as geographic distribution of funds, criteria resulting in substantial employment improvement, mitigation of economic distress by creation/retention of jobs, or emergency situations.
- Applicants for grants to help develop private business enterprises must file a written notice of intent with the State single point of contact consistent with Intergovernmental Review requirements. (Federally recognized Indian tribes are exempt from this requirement.)
- Applicants for grants to establish a revolving loan program must include detail on the applicant's experience operating a revolving loan program, proposed projects, applicant's financial ability to administer a revolving fund, the need for a revolving fund, and other funds proposed to leverage funds made available under this program.
- All community projects funded by RBS are subject to an environmental assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Rural Business Opportunity Grants

Nature and Purpose: Rural Business Opportunity Grant funds provide for technical assistance, training, and planning activities that improve economic conditions in rural areas. RBS is designing the program to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs.

Eligibility Requirements: Nonprofit corporations and public bodies are eligible. Applicants must be located in rural areas (this includes all areas other than cities of more than 50,000 people and their immediately adjacent urban and urbanizing areas).

Use Restrictions: Grant funds can be used to identify and analyze business opportunities, to provide technical assistance to rural entrepreneurs and managers, to establish business support centers for community economic development planning, and they may also be used to establish centers for training with technology and trade that provide assistance to rural businesses in using interactive communication technologies to develop export markets.

Other RBS Programs/Initiatives

Cooperative Services: The RBS Cooperative Services program helps rural residents form new cooperative businesses and improve the operations of existing cooperatives (user-owned businesses). To accomplish this, Cooperative Services provides technical assistance to cooperatives, conducts cooperative-related research, and produces educational materials that promote public understanding of cooperatives.

Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants: Rural Economic Development loans and grants are available to any Rural Utilities Service electric or telecommunications borrower to assist in developing rural areas from an economic standpoint, to create new job opportunities, and to help retain existing employment. Loans at zero interest are made primarily to finance business startup ventures and business expansion projects.

Rural Venture Capital Demonstration Program: The Rural Venture Capital Demonstration Program designates up to 10 community development venture capital organizations to demonstrate the usefulness of guarantees to attract increased investment in private business enterprises in rural areas. Such organizations must establish a rural business private investment pool to make equity investments in rural private business enterprises.

Rural Housing Service

Single Family Housing Program

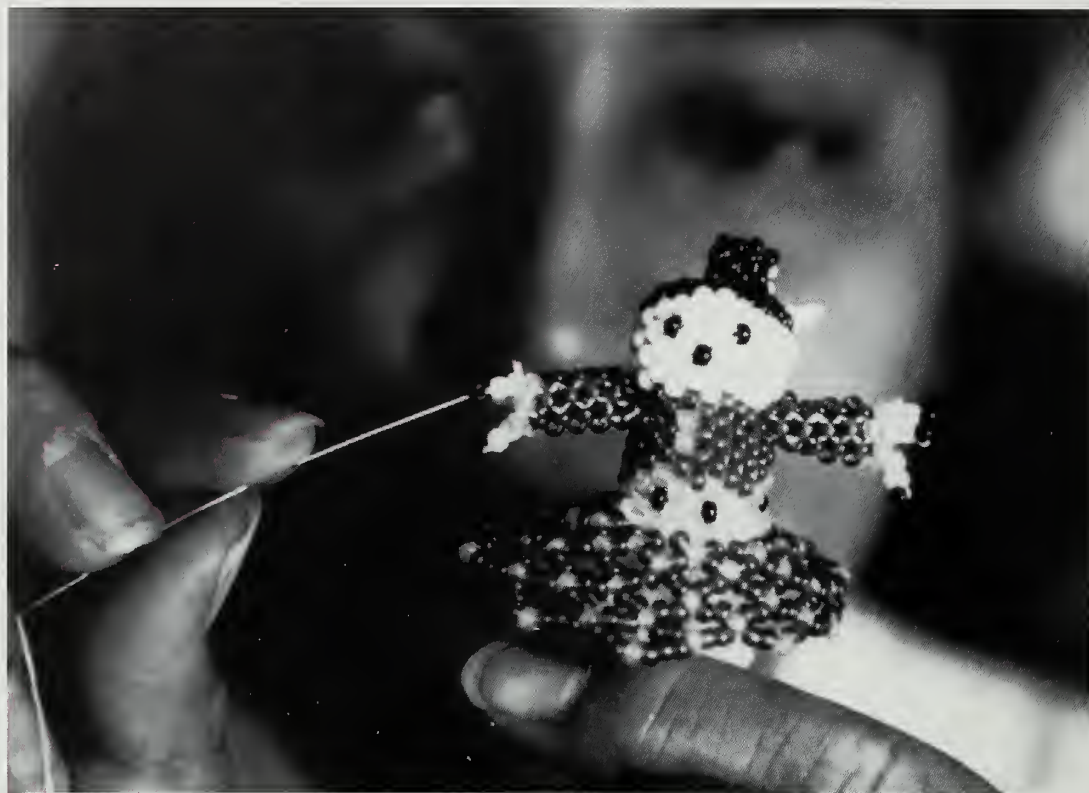
Nature and Purpose: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) offers two types of homeownership loans: guaranteed and direct. The purpose is to provide homeownership opportunities to low and moderate income rural families and individuals through financing—with no down payment and at favorable rates and terms—either through a direct loan with RHS or with a loan from a private financial institution which is guaranteed by RHS. These loans are for the purchase, construction, rehabilitation, or relocation of a home.

Eligibility Requirements: Individual citizens or eligible noncitizens who meet the applicable income limits and other eligibility requirements for the specific type of assistance requested.

Applications: Organizations are encouraged to consult with the Rural Development local, State or national office for information.

Special Conditions and Terms:

- Dwellings must be personally occupied.
- Prequalification is recommended.
- Loans may not exceed limits established by Section 203(b) of the National Housing Act (12 USC 1709).



Self-Help Housing

Nature and Purpose: Self-Help Housing loans help groups of six to ten low-income families build their own homes by providing materials and the skilled labor they cannot furnish themselves. The families must agree to work together until all homes are finished.

Multi-Family Housing Guaranteed Loans

Nature and Purpose: The program has been designed to increase the supply of affordable multi-family housing through partnerships between Rural Housing Service (RHS) and major lending sources, as well as State and local housing finance agencies and bond insurers. The program provides effective new forms of Federal credit enhancement for the development of affordable multi-family housing by lenders.

Eligibility Requirements: The applicant in this program is the lender that will use the guarantee as a credit enhancement and, therefore, be more likely to make the loan. The lender must be approved by RHS, HUD, or be a State Housing Finance Agency. The projects must be located in rural areas as defined by the agency. Occupants must be very-low-income, low-income, moderate-income, elderly, hand-icapped, or a disabled person. Income may not exceed 115 percent of the median income.

Special Conditions and Terms:

- RHS will review all applications for compliance with program requirements and issue the Conditional Commitment of Guarantee. Once the conditions are met, the final Contract of Guarantee will be issued.

- The loans must be made to entities or individuals who meet the underwriting requirements of the lender and will provide the housing to eligible occupants. The lender will provide the loan underwriting and servicing in exchange for the guarantee.

Rural Rental Housing

Nature and Purpose: Apartment living is often an alternative for people who cannot afford the purchase price and maintenance costs of their own individual houses. Rural Rental Housing loans are made to finance building construction and site development of multi-family units for people with low, very low, and moderate incomes. Some units are reserved for people aged 62 and over. Loans can be made in this program to construct housing that will be operated in cooperative form, but loan funds may not be used to finance individual units within the project.

Eligibility Requirements: Rural Rental Housing loans can be made to individuals, trusts, associations, partnerships, limited partnerships, State or local public agencies, consumer cooperatives, or profit and nonprofit corporations. Nonprofit corporations may be organized on a multi-county basis.

Special Conditions and Terms:

- The maximum repayment period is 50 years. Applicants are required to provide initial operating capital equal to at least 2 percent of the cost of the project. Loans to nonprofit organizations and State or local public agencies can be up to 100 percent of the appraised value or development cost, whichever is less. Loans to all other applicants are limited to not more than 95 percent of the appraised value or development cost, whichever is less.

Use Restrictions: Loans can be made in this program to construct housing that will be operated in cooperative form, but loan funds may not be used to finance individual units within the project.

Project Examples: Construction of rental housing including congregate and group homes.

Housing Preservation Grant Program

Nature and Purpose: These grants help low-income homeowners repair and rehabilitate their homes. Rental property owners can use them to repair and rehabilitate their units if they agree to make such units available to low-income families.

Eligibility Requirements: Grants may be made to individuals, public bodies, Indian tribes, or public or private nonprofit corporations serving rural areas.

Applications: Notice of funding availability is announced in the Federal Register stating the opening and closing dates for preapplications.

Use Restrictions: Grantees may use up to 20 percent of the Housing Preservation Grant for program administration.



Project Examples: Replacement of the heating system and electrical wiring; repair of structural supports and foundations; replacement of the roof; replacement of severely deteriorated siding, porches, or stoops; alterations of the unit's interior or exterior to provide greater accessibility for any handicapped person.

Community Facilities Loans and Grants

Nature and Purpose: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) can make and guarantee loans and grants to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 50,000 in population. RHS can guarantee loans made and serviced by lenders such as banks, savings and loans, mortgage companies which are part of bank holding companies, banks of the Farm Credit System, or insurance companies regulated by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. RHS can also make direct loans to applicants who are unable to obtain commercial credit.

Eligibility Requirements: Loans, guarantees and grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as to nonprofit corporations and tribal governments. In addition, applicants must have the legal authority to borrow and repay loans, to pledge security for loans, and to construct, operate, and maintain the facilities. They must also be financially sound and able to organize and manage the facility effectively. Repayment of the loan must be based on tax assessments, revenues, fees, or other sources of money sufficient for operation and maintenance, reserves, and debt retirement.

Special Conditions and Terms:

- Maximum term of 40 years or the useful life of the facility.
- For direct loans, rates are set periodically, usually quarterly, and are based on current market yields for municipal obligations.
- For guaranteed loans, rates are negotiated between lender and borrower.
- Preapplication required (contact State Office).
- Projects must be for public use.

How To Apply: Organizations may apply at any time but are encouraged to consult with the Rural Development local, State, or national office for information.

Use Restrictions: Loan funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services. This can include costs to acquire land needed for a facility, pay necessary professional fees, and purchase equipment required for its operation.

Project Examples: Health Care (clinics, ambulatory care centers, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and nursing homes), Telecommunications (medical and educational telecommunication links), Public Safety (communication centers, police and fire stations, fire trucks, rescue vehicles, and jail), Public Services (adult and child care centers, city halls, courthouses, airports, garages, off-street parking facilities, sidewalks, street improvements, college classrooms and dormitories, libraries, museums, schools, fairgrounds, and animal shelters).

Rural Housing Native American Pilot Loan (RHNAP)

Nature and Purpose: The Rural Housing Native American Pilot (RHNAP) loan program is a program jointly developed by the Rural Housing Service (RHS) and Fannie Mae. The program is a part of the section 502 Guaranteed Rural Housing (GRH) loan program. It has been modified to make the program viable on restricted American Indian and Alaska Native tribal lands. The purpose of the program is to assist individual members of Indian or Alaska Native tribes to obtain adequate but modest, decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings and related facilities for their own use on Indian reservation lands or restricted lands that are held in trust for Indian tribes.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants: Individual members of any federally recognized Indian or Alaska Native tribes that have been approved by Fannie Mae and RHS to participate in the pilot are eligible to participate. The income of the applicant cannot exceed 115 percent of the area's median income, adjusted for family size.

Indian Tribes: Indian tribes must be approved by Fannie Mae and RHS to participate in the pilot before applicants are eligible for loans guaranteed by RHS. Fannie Mae and RHS must review the laws of the Indian tribe to determine whether there are adequate protections for mortgage lending. The Indian tribe must enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Fannie Mae and RHS to ensure among other things, that lenders can enforce the mortgage related documents, and can foreclose and evict in tribal court.

Lenders: Lenders must be approved by RHS to participate in the GRH program and have Fannie Mae approval.

Eligible Properties: One-family, owner-occupied, principal residences that qualify as modest rural housing under the section 502, GRH program are eligible. Homes must be located on Indian reservation lands or other restricted lands that are held in trust for Indian tribes, including fee simple lands that are subject to "tribal" restrictions against alienation. The Indian trust lands or restricted lands of the Indian tribe must be approved by Fannie Mae and RHS to participate in the pilot. Individual allotments and unrestricted fee simple lands are not eligible.

There are currently 16 Indian tribes in 11 States participating in the RHNAP program. They are: Gila River Indian Community and Navajo Nation in Arizona; Pueblo of San Juan and Pueblo of Pajoaque in New Mexico; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council and Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation in Montana; Lac Courte Oreilles Governing Board and Oneida Tribal Council in Wisconsin; Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Michigan; Seminole Tribe in Florida; Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council in South Dakota; Omaha Tribal Council in Nebraska; Oneida Indian Nation in New York; Fort Mojave Tribal Council in California; and Pala Band of Mission Indians in California.



Applications: Interested applicants can contact the Rural Development office in States where eligible Indian tribes exist to obtain information on the GRH program. Applicants must apply for a GRH loan through a lender approved by Rural Development and Fannie Mae.

Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

Water and Waste Disposal Direct and Guaranteed Loans/Grants

Nature and Purpose:

Direct loans may be made to develop water and wastewater systems, including solid waste disposal and storm drainage, in rural areas and to cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or less. Funds are available to public entities, such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, and Indian tribes. In addition, funds may be made available to corporations operated on a not-for-profit basis. Priority will be given to public entities, in areas with less than 5,500 people, to restore a deteriorating water supply, or to improve, enlarge, or modify a water facility or an inadequate waste facility. Also, preference will be given to requests which involve the merging of small facilities and those serving low-income communities. Applicants must be unable to obtain funds from other sources at reasonable rates and terms. The maximum term for all loans is 40 years; however, no repayment period will exceed State statutes or the useful life of the facility. Interest rates may be obtained from Rural Development field offices.

Guaranteed loans may be made for the same purpose as direct loans. They are made and serviced by lenders such as banks and savings and loan associations. Normally, guarantees will not exceed 80 percent on any loss of interest and principal on the loan.

The purpose of water and waste disposal grants is to reduce water and waste disposal costs to a reasonable level for users of the system. Grants may be made, in some instances, up to 75 percent of eligible project costs. Eligible applicants are the same as for loans.

Use of Proceeds: Direct and guaranteed loans may be made to develop water and wastewater systems including solid waste disposal and storm drainage, in rural areas and to cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or less. Grants are made to reduce water and waste disposal costs to a reasonable level for users of the system.

Eligibility: Funds are available to public entities, such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, and Indian tribes. In addition, funds may be made available to corporations operated on a not-for-profit basis.

Special Conditions and Terms:

- Maximum term is 40 years or the useful life of the facility.
- Average loan: \$550,000.
- Average grant: \$500,000.
- Environmental Impact Assessment required.
- Rates are set periodically, usually quarterly, and are based on current market yields for municipal obligations.

Project Examples: Construction of water lines, pumping stations, wells, storage tanks, and sewage treatment facilities.

Applications: Information about the water and waste disposal programs and advice on how to assemble information to determine engineering feasibility, economic soundness, cost estimates, organization, financing, and management matters, may be obtained from Rural Development field offices. These offices are usually listed in local telephone directories under the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Solid Waste Management Grants

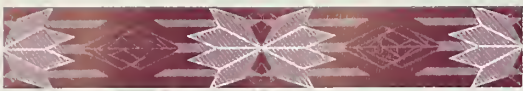
Nature and Purpose: This program makes grants to public and private nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to associations located in rural areas and to cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or less to reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources, and improve planning and management of solid waste facilities. Assistance may be provided to enhance operator skills in operations and maintenance, identify threats to water resources, and reduce the solid waste stream.

Use of Proceeds: To finance projects designed to reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources and improve planning and operations of solid waste facilities.

Special Conditions and Terms:

- Priority given to those projects to be completed within 12 months.
- Applicants must prove capability to provide technical assistance and training.
- Applicant may request a review of rejected applications.





Project Examples: Training programs for solid waste management.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program (DLT)

Nature and Purpose: Provides funding for distance learning and telemedicine projects to encourage and improve the use of telecommunications and computer networks to provide educational and medical linkages for rural areas.

Eligibility: The following applicants are eligible to receive a grant or loan under the DLT program: 1) Indian tribes, consortiums or partnerships, and other incorporated organizations that operate educational or medical facilities in rural areas; and 2) rural schools, libraries, hospitals, health care clinics, and related organizations that operate rural educational or health care facilities.

Deadline: Applications for loans are accepted year-round and are reviewed as received. Applications for financial assistance will be accepted year-round, but awarded once each fiscal year.

Special Conditions and Terms:

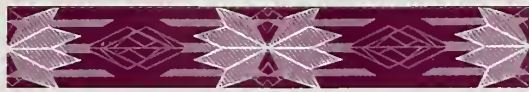
- Grant maximum is set by the RUS Administrator for the fiscal year.
- Grant minimum is \$50,000.
- Funds may not be used for salaries, administrative expenses, wages, or benefits to medical or educational personnel or applicant.
- Applicant must prepare telecommunications plan, if funds for transmission facilities are included in proposed project.

Project Examples: Interactive video network between rural high schools and urban centers of higher learning; interactive video and telecommunications networks to provide rural medical centers with access to urban specialists.

Other RUS Programs and Initiatives

Technical Assistance and Training Grants: The purpose of this program is to make grants to nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to associations located in rural areas and to cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or less. Assistance may be provided to identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal problems, to improve the operation and maintenance of existing water and waste disposal facilities, and to assist associations in preparing applications for water and waste disposal facilities.

Rural Water Circuit Rider Technical Assistance: This program provides on-site technical assistance to help assure cost-effective operation of rural water systems. RUS has assisted rural water systems, via contracting, with day-to-day operational financial and management problems. The assistance is provided at no charge and may be requested by officials of rural water systems or by Rural Development personnel. It complements supervisory assistance provided by Rural Development personnel.



5. Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

Food and Consumer Service

USDA's Food and Consumer Service (FCS) provides three types of programs that benefit American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, or that are of special interest to American Indians.

1. Programs that are specifically designed to benefit American Indians or Indian tribes as organized Indian groups.
 - FCS administers the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations for American Indian households living on or near certain reservations recognized by the Federal or State government.
2. Programs that specifically include American Indians or Indian tribes among designated beneficiaries.
 - FCS provides three programs that specifically mention Indian tribes, including the Food Stamp Program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Special provisions of the law (or regulation in the case of CSFP) permit Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) to administer the program where appropriate. All low-income households, including American Indian households, may be eligible for food stamps, while low-income households with pregnant and postpartum women and their infants and young children may also be eligible for WIC or CSFP.
3. Programs which, while not specifically naming American Indians or Indian tribes as beneficiaries, may nevertheless be of special interest to American Indians or Indian tribes.
 - FCS provides several Child Nutrition Programs from which American Indians can benefit. These include the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Special Milk Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.
 - FCS administers the Food Distribution Program, which provides commodities to needy people in charitable institutions and contributes to the Nutrition Programs for the Elderly Program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (The program has a special Indian Tribal component.)
 - The Food Distribution Program also donates food to needy persons in declared areas through disaster relief agencies.



Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Nature and Purpose: FCS donates food to help meet the nutritional needs of low-income households on Indian reservations and American Indian households near these reservations. The program also helps to expand markets for food that American farmers produce. USDA commodities are distributed to eligible households on a monthly basis, usually from warehouse facilities located on reservations. Participating agencies are either eligible ITOs or agencies of State government. The distributing agents order food items from a list of approved USDA commodities, taking into account local American Indian household food preferences.

Participants also receive information about nutrition, food storage, sanitary food preparation methods, and suggestions for recipes using donated food from nutritionists, county extension agents, home economists, and other sources.

Eligibility Requirements:

Participating Agency Eligibility: Participating food distribution agencies at the State level or ITOs may apply to administer the program. Once the request is approved, the participating agency submits a State plan of operations.

Participant Eligibility: All households residing on an Indian reservation or American Indian households residing in designated service areas who meet income and resource eligibility criteria are eligible. The income standards used to determine FDPIR eligibility are based on Food Stamp Program net monthly income limits, plus the food stamp standard deduction.

Local Contacts: Currently, 215 Indian tribes operate FDPIR. The program is administered locally by 92 ITOs and 6 State distributing agencies. General information on FDPIR and a list of the agencies that operate FDPIR can be obtained from the Household Programs Branch, Food Distribution Division, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, Room 502, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302. Telephone (703) 305-2662.

Printed Information Available: Printed information includes the regulations, 7 CFR Part 253, "Administration of the Food Distribution Program for Households on Indian Reservations"; 7 CFR Part 254, "Administration of the Food Distribution Program for Indian Households in Oklahoma"; and FCS Handbook 501, "The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations."

Authorizing Legislation: Section 4(b) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and Section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, as amended.

Administering Agency: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

Available Assistance: The FDPIR food package contains a wide variety of commodities that are issued to households according to guide rates based on household size.



Households also receive information about nutrition and health, and suggestions for making the most nutritious use of the commodity foods. A recipe book, "Quick and Easy Commodity Recipes for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations," has been available since 1990.

Technical assistance to ITOs and State agencies administering the program is available from FCS Regional Offices. Administrative costs are provided by FCS at no more than 75 percent of approved administrative costs unless exceptions are granted.

Use Restrictions: Food is made available without charge to qualified households. Donated foods are not to be sold, exchanged, or otherwise disposed of without prior, specific approval of the Department. Funds provided must be expended to assist in meeting operating expenses incurred in administering food distribution programs. These funds may not be used to purchase real property (land and buildings).

Appropriations for FY 1997 by USDA: \$66.1 million provided under the Food Stamp Program account.

Washington Contacts: Les Johnson, Director, Food Distribution Division, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, Room 503, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Related Programs: Food Stamp Program.

Food Stamp Program

Nature and Purpose: The present Food Stamp Program (Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended) helps low-income households buy more food for a more nutritious diet. It is a cooperative Federal-State effort to provide an allotment of food coupons to eligible households in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the outlying Territories of the Virgin Islands and Guam.

Eligibility Requirements:

Agency Eligibility: State agencies request the program from FCS. All States currently participate. The State agency is responsible for conducting the Food Stamp Program in each State. The State agency is also responsible for conducting the Food Stamp Program on Indian reservations unless the Secretary of Agriculture determines that a State is failing to properly administer the program. If such failure on the part of the State is determined, and if the Secretary also determines that an ITO is capable of operating an efficient and effective program, then the ITO may be allowed to administer the program.

Beneficiary Eligibility: Eligibility is based on household income, household size, and level of resources. In addition to financial criteria, the household must meet several nonfinancial standards that include citizenship or legal alien status, work registration, etc.

How To Apply: Households apply through their local food stamp certification office. This office provides an application for the Food Stamp Program to any person upon request, and must accept an identifiable application on the same day that contact is first made. The certification office must determine eligibility within 30 days and, if approved, the household receives an allotment retroactive to the date of application. Expedited service is available for households determined to be destitute.

Whom To Contact: On the national level, contact the Deputy Administrator, Food Stamp Program, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302. Refer to the list at the end of this chapter for regional contacts.

Printed Information Available: Printed information may be obtained from the Director, Office of Public Information, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Authorizing Legislation: The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2011-2036

Available Assistance: Direct payments of food coupons for specified use, at no charge to beneficiaries. Participating households can use the food coupons to purchase the following items at participating retailers:

- Most food and food products for home consumption,
- Seeds and plants for use in gardens to produce food for the household's use,
- Meal services for the homeless, the elderly, and the physically and mentally handicapped at specific sites and participating restaurants, and
- Meals for narcotics addicts or alcoholics in State-certified treatment and rehabilitation programs, and residents of shelters for battered women and children.

Food stamps in Alaska may be used by certain eligible households to purchase some kinds of equipment such as fish hooks and harpoons for procuring food by hunting and fishing.

Use Restrictions: Coupons may be used by beneficiaries only to purchase food items in authorized food stores. However, except in the cases listed above, meals or hot food may not be purchased; nonfood items, including alcoholic beverages, household materials, or tobacco, may not be purchased with food stamps.

Appropriations for FY 1997: \$26.3 billion.



Washington Contacts: Deputy Administrator, Food Stamp Program, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Local Contacts: See list below for regional contacts.

Related Programs: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Needy Family Food Distribution Program, Child Nutrition Programs, WIC, Public and Non-Public Assistance Programs, and Supplemental Security Income Program.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Nature and Purpose: The program provides specific supplemental food, nutrition education, and health care referrals to low-income pregnant, postpartum and breast-feeding women, infants, and children up to age 5, who are determined by a competent professional authority to be at nutritional risk.

Eligibility Requirements:

Agency Eligibility: WIC is administered by State health departments. In addition, ITOs, bands, groups, or their authorized representatives recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, or the appropriate area office of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, may also serve as WIC State agencies. Thirty-three Indian State agencies are currently operating WIC Programs. Additionally, other States are serving American Indians and Alaska Natives as part of their own administration of the program.

Beneficiary Eligibility: There are three eligibility criteria for categorically eligible persons:

First, competent professionals such as physicians, registered nurses, nutritionists, dietitians, or other health officials must determine applicants to be at nutritional risk and therefore in need of the supplemental foods. ("Nutritional risk" is a term used to indicate low birth weight, obesity, anemia, or other risk such as an inadequate dietary pattern.)

Second, applicants must meet specified income standards. State income criteria for the WIC Program cannot be less than 100 percent, or greater than 185 percent of the Office of Management and Budget's income poverty guidelines. Each WIC State agency can establish the income criteria to be used by its local agencies within this range, in order to coordinate WIC income guidelines with State or local income limits for free or reduced-price health care. States which do not so coordinate must use 185 percent for WIC.

Third, if the State has residency requirements, applicants must live in a project area determined by the State to be "approved" or belong to a special population group, such as migrant farm workers or Native Americans. There is not, however, a length of residency requirement.

How To Apply:

(a) WIC State agencies must submit a State Plan of Program Operation and Administration, and enter into a written agreement with USDA for administration of the program. WIC State agencies enter into written agreements with local agencies for program operations. Local agencies include health or welfare agencies that can provide both health services, either directly or indirectly, and administrative services. Health service includes routine pediatric and obstetric care, as well as immunization services.

(b) Individual applicants must apply to receive program benefits at operating local agency clinic sites. Applicants are notified of their eligibility or ineligibility within 20 days of the date of the first request for program benefits. Those at special nutritional risk are notified within 10 days.

Whom To Contact: On the national level, contact the Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division, Food and Consumer Service, Special Nutrition Programs, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 540, Alexandria, VA 22302; telephone (703) 305-2730. Refer to the list at the end of this chapter for regional offices or contact the State health department.

Printed Information Available: Numerous publications are available which provide general program information and discuss such topics as nutrition education, supplemental foods, breastfeeding, and retailer education. Materials should be requested at the National Office, listed above under "Whom To Contact."

Video Available: FCS developed a video on prevention of fetal alcohol syndrome specifically for American Indian and Alaska Native WIC participants. The video, called "Sacred Trust—Protect Your Baby Against Fetal Alcohol Syndrome," won the Council on International Non-Theatrical Events and Cinema in Industry award. The video is available at the National Office, listed above under "Whom To Contact."

Authorizing Legislation: Section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 1786.)

Administering Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service.

Available Assistance: See above.

Use Restrictions: None.

Appropriations for FY 1997: \$3.7 billion.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Nature and Purpose: The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) works to improve the health of pregnant women, new mothers, infants, children, and elderly people. It provides USDA food and funds to States to supplement the diets of low-income infants; children up to the age of 6; pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women; and persons 60 years of age or older.

CSFP serves a population similar to that served by USDA's WIC Program, but CSFP provides food rather than the food vouchers that WIC participants receive. CSFP operates in some areas where WIC is not available. Eligible people cannot participate in both programs at the same time.

Eligibility Requirements: State agencies set the eligibility standards for participants and distribute the food to public and nonprofit private local agencies. Women, infants, and children must be eligible for benefits under another Federal, State, or local food, health, or welfare program for low-income people.

Elderly people must have an annual gross income at or below 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (currently \$13,793 for a family of two).

States may establish a residency requirement, but cannot establish a minimum duration of residency. States may also set a requirement that participants be at nutritional risk. That assessment can be based on a variety of measures, including height and weight measurements and blood tests. Examples of nutritional risk conditions include anemia and inappropriate weight for height.

Local Contacts: CSFP operates in 19 States (including the District of Columbia) through programs run by 68 local agencies and two ITOs. A list of State and local agencies that operate CSFP can be obtained from the Household Programs Branch, Food Distribution Division, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, Room 502, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302, telephone (703) 305-2662.

Printed Information Available: CFSP regulations at 7 CFR Part 247, "Commodity Supplemental Food Program."

Authorizing Legislation: Section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, as amended.

Administering Agency: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

Available Assistance: Food packages geared to different categories of participants; nutrition education; and referrals to health care and to other welfare and health care programs, such as food stamps, Medicaid, and Medicare.

Use Restrictions: Food is made available for distribution without charge to qualified participants. Donated foods are not to be sold, exchanged, or otherwise disposed of without prior, specific approval of the Department. Funds provided must be expended to assist in meeting operating expenses incurred in administering CSFP.

Appropriations for FY 1997 by USDA: \$76 million.

Washington Contacts: Les Johnson, Director, Food Distribution Division. Food and Consumer Service, USDA, Room 503, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Related Programs: USDA's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

National School Lunch Program

Nature and Purpose: The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) makes nutritious low-cost lunches available to children in schools of high school grade or under. USDA provides participating schools with basic cash and commodity assistance for each lunch served in accordance with prescribed nutritional standards. Additional cash assistance is provided for each of those lunches served free or at a reduced price to needy children. Cash assistance is also available for meal supplements served in after-school care programs operated by certain schools.

Eligibility Requirements:

Agency Eligibility: State agencies request the program from FCS. The State agency is responsible for conducting the program. State agencies administer the program in schools through school food authorities, that is, the governing body of participating schools at the local level. Schools eligible to participate include schools of high school grade or under and residential child care institutions which operate under public or nonprofit private ownership.

Beneficiary Eligibility: Participating schools receive USDA basic cash and commodity assistance for each lunch served under the program. This assistance is used to lower the price for each meal served to non-needy schoolchildren. Participating schools also receive additional cash assistance for each meal served free or at a reduced price to children from low-income families that meet specified income standards.

How To Apply: At the beginning of each school year all children are given an application form in schools which have the NSLP. During the school year, families interested in free or reduced-price lunches for their children must contact their child's school to request an application for free and reduced-price meals. The application must be completed and returned to the school in order for school officials to make an eligibility determination. Families may apply for free or reduced-price lunches at any time during the school year. At local option, schools may directly contact food stamp or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program offices to certify children who are members of food stamp (and, in some circumstances, TANF) households. Such children become eligible for free meals without further application.

Whom To Contact: A list of regional offices is provided at the end of this section. On the national level, contact the Child Nutrition Division, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.



Printed Information Available: Publications concerning the program may be obtained from the Child Nutrition Division (address listed above) or regional offices listed below.

Authorizing Legislation: The National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1751, *et seq.*)

Administering Agency: USDA's Food and Consumer Service.

Available Assistance: Low-cost lunches and supplements are made available to non-needy children and free or reduced-price lunches and supplements are made available to needy children. Lunches are designed to provide, over a school week, one-third of the recommended dietary allowance as published by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, and one-third of the calories needed by growing children. They must also comply with the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Menu planners may use several types of meal planning alternatives to meet these nutrition goals. Meal supplements are available to children enrolled in after-school-hours care programs in schools that operate school lunch programs under the NSLP and were participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program as of May 15, 1989. The supplement pattern includes any two of the items required for school lunches.

Team Nutrition is the nutrition education component of the program available to schools. It is a multifaceted educational program delivered in schools, through the media, at home, and in the community to motivate and empower children to make food choices for a healthy diet. This effort brings science-based nutrition messages to children in fun and interesting ways in a language they understand, while strengthening social support for children's healthful food choices among parents, educators, and food service professionals.

Use Restrictions: Per meal Federal reimbursement and commodity assistance are available for NSLP lunches served to schoolchildren in participating schools. Lunches served to adults may not be claimed for reimbursement. Lunches served to schoolchildren which do not meet the requirements of program regulations (7 CFR Parts 210 and 245) may not be claimed for reimbursement. Donated commodities are made available for use in connection with the service of NSLP lunches. Per meal Federal reimbursement is also available for supplements served to eligible children.

Appropriation for FY 1997: \$5.2 million, plus \$700 million for commodity purchases.

Washington Contact: Director, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1006, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Local Contacts: For information on participating State agencies contact the appropriate regional office listed at the end of this section.

Related Programs: School Breakfast Program and Special Milk Program.

School Breakfast Program

Nature and Purpose: The School Breakfast Program (SBP) makes nutritious low-cost breakfasts available to children in schools of high school grade or under. USDA provides participating schools with basic cash assistance for breakfasts served to non-needy children who meet prescribed nutritional standards. A higher level of cash assistance is provided for each breakfast that meets prescribed nutritional standards and is served free or at a reduced price to needy children.

Eligibility Requirements:

Agency Eligibility: State agencies request the program from USDA, FCS. The State agency is responsible for conducting the program in schools through school food authorities, i.e., the governing body of participating schools at the local level. Schools eligible to participate include those of high school grade or under and residential child care institutions that operate under public or nonprofit private ownership.

Beneficiary Eligibility: Participating schools receive USDA basic cash assistance for each breakfast served under the program. This assistance is used to lower the price of breakfast paid by non-needy schoolchildren. Participating schools receive a higher level of cash assistance for each breakfast served free or at a reduced price to children from low-income families that meet specified income standards.

How To Apply: At the beginning of each school year, all schoolchildren in schools which have the SBP are given an application form. During the school year, families interested in free or reduced-price breakfasts for their children should contact their child's school to request an application for free or reduced-price meals. The application must be completed and returned to the school in order for school officials to make an eligibility determination. Families may apply for free or reduced-price breakfasts at any time during the school year. At local option, schools may directly contact food stamp or TANF offices to certify children who are members of food stamp (and, in some circumstances, TANF) households. Such children become eligible for free meals without further application.

Whom To Contact: A list of regional offices appears at the end of this chapter. On the national level, contact the Child Nutrition Division, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Printed Information Available: Publications concerning the program may be obtained from the Child Nutrition Division, at the address listed in the preceding paragraph or at the regional offices listed below.

Authorizing Legislation: Section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended. (42 U.S.C.1773)

Administering Agency: USDA's Food and Consumer Service.



Available Assistance: Low-cost breakfasts are made available to non-needy children, and free or reduced-price breakfasts are made available to needy children. Breakfasts are designed to provide, over a school week, one-fourth of the recommended dietary allowances as published by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, and one-fourth of the calories needed by growing children. They must also comply with the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Menu planners may choose from four meal planning alternatives to meet these nutrition goals.

Use Restrictions: Per meal Federal reimbursement is available for SBP breakfasts served to schoolchildren in participating schools. Breakfasts served to adults may not be claimed for reimbursement. Breakfasts served to schoolchildren who do not meet the requirements of program regulations (7 CFR Parts 220 and 245) may not be claimed for reimbursements.

Appropriations: FY 1997: \$1.2 billion.

Regional Offices: See list at the end of this section.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

Nature and Purpose: The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides cash and commodities to licensed or approved day care centers for children or for functionally impaired and elderly adults, and to sponsor organizations of family day care homes for children, so that nutritious meals may be served to enrollees. Child care centers, sponsors of family day care homes for children, outside-school-hours care centers for children, and certain adult care centers can receive this aid if they are public or private nonprofit and nonresidential. In addition, private for-profit child care centers and homes receiving compensation under Title XX of the Social Security Act for at least 25 percent of their enrolled participants or licensed capacity may participate, as can for-profit adult day care centers receiving compensation under Titles XIX and XX for at least 25 percent of their enrollees. The goal of the program is to provide well-balanced meals to improve the diets of enrollees. It also gives participants the opportunity to eat and enjoy a variety of nutritious foods.

Eligibility Requirements:

Agency Eligibility: State agencies desiring to take part in the program enter into a written agreement with FCS (acting on behalf of the Department) for the administration of the program in that State in accordance with provisions of the CACFP regulations (7 CFR Part 226).

Institution Eligibility: All private centers and sponsoring organizations (except for-profit Title XIX or Title XX organizations) must have tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or must have applied to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for it at the time they apply for the CACFP. Family day care homes

are not required to be tax-exempt, but their sponsoring organizations are. Local IRS offices can provide information on how to obtain tax-exempt status.

How To Apply: Interested institutions can obtain applications from the State agency and submit all information required for approval. The institutions are required to sign a program agreement or renew the previous agreement and accept final responsibility for the financial and administrative management of an effective food service. In addition, each State agency and institution must comply with all requirements in the CACFP regulations (7 CFR Part 226), the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Agriculture Department's nondiscrimination regulations (7 CFR Part 15) as now existing or later amended.

Whom To Contact: Persons desiring information concerning the program may write to the appropriate State agency or regional office of the FCS.

Printed Information Available: USDA offers numerous publications, guides, posters, charts, and handbooks which provide specific and general program information to help in planning and preparing nutritious meals. Contact the appropriate State agency or regional office.

Authorizing Legislation: The CACFP is authorized by Section 17 of the National School Lunch Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 1766)

Administering Agency: In most States, the responsibility for administering the program is with the State, by the State department of education or an alternate agency designated by the State. In Virginia, FCS' Mid-Atlantic Regional Office operates the program directly. Refer to the list of regional offices.

Available Assistance: Federal funding is made available to assist States to make program payments to participating centers and sponsoring organizations.

Use Restrictions: The program is available to children 12 years of age and younger; persons with mental or physical disabilities as defined by the State, who are enrolled in an institution or a child care facility serving a majority of persons 18 years of age and under; and children of migrant workers up to the age of 16. The program is also available to centers providing care to persons over 60 years of age or individuals determined by State and local agencies to be "functionally impaired" who are not residents of an institution. Eligibility requirements vary for different kinds of institutions. To find out these requirements, refer to the State agency or regional offices.

Appropriation for FY 1997: \$1.6 billion.

Washington Contact: Director, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Consumer Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1006, Alexandria, VA 22302.



Local Contacts: See list of regional offices at the end of this section.

Related Programs: Other Child Nutrition Programs; Food Distribution Program; Food Stamp Program; and Women, Infants, and Children Program.

Special Milk Program

Nature and Purpose: The Special Milk Program (SMP) encourages consumption of fluid milk by children by reimbursing participating schools and institutions for part of the cost of each half pint served under the program.

Eligibility Requirements:

Agency Eligibility: State agencies request the program from USDA, FCS. The State agency is responsible for conducting the program. State agencies administer the program in schools through school food authorities, i.e., the governing body of participating schools at the local level and in child care institutions. This program is limited to schools and certain other public or private nonprofit institutions that do not participate in another meal service program authorized under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, or the National School Lunch Act, as amended, except that schools with such meal services may participate in the Special Milk Program for children attending split-session kindergarten programs who do not have access to the meal service.

Beneficiary Eligibility: Participating schools and institutions receive a fixed rate of Federal cash assistance for each half pint of milk served under the program. This assistance is used to make low-cost milk available to all schoolchildren regardless of family income. Participating schools may elect to offer milk free to children from low-income families that meet specified income standards. In this case, schools and institutions receive the actual cost of each pint of milk served free to children from low-income families meeting the specified income standard.

How To Apply: When local officials elect to provide free milk to eligible children at the beginning of each school year, all schoolchildren are given an application form in schools and institutions participating in the SMP. During the school year, families interested in free milk for their children should contact each child's school or institution to request an application for free milk. The application must be completed and returned to the school or institution in order for the officials to make an eligibility determination. Families may apply for free milk at any time during the school year. At local option, schools may directly contact food stamp or TANF offices to certify children who are members of food stamp (and, in some circumstances, TANF) households. Such children become eligible for free meals without further application.

Whom To Contact: A list of regional offices appears at the end of this chapter. On the national level, contact the Child Nutrition Division, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Printed Information Available: Publications concerning the program may be obtained from the Child Nutrition Division, same address as listed above, or use the appropriate regional office.

Authorizing Legislation: Section 3 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 1772)

Administering Agency: USDA's Food and Consumer Service.

Available Assistance: Schools and institutions may elect (a) to offer low-cost milk to all schoolchildren, or (b) to offer low-cost milk to non-needy children and free milk to eligible needy children. Participating schools and institutions receive a fixed rate of Federal cash assistance for each half pint of milk served under the program to a paying child. For each free milk served to eligible children, schools and institutions receive reimbursements equal to the average cost of free milk served, up to the maximum reimbursement rate. In order to receive USDA reimbursement, schools and institutions must provide a half pint of pasteurized fluid milk meeting State and local standards for such milk.

Use Restrictions: USDA reimbursement is available for each half pint of milk served to children in participating schools and institutions. Milk served to adults may not be claimed for reimbursement. Milk served to children must meet the requirements for the service of such milk as established in 7 CFR Parts 215 and 245.

Appropriations: FY 1997: \$19.2 million.

Regional Offices: See list below.

Summer Food Service Program

Nature and Purpose: The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides cash assistance to sponsoring organizations to help provide meals comparable to those served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to children from areas in which poor economic conditions exist when area schools are closed for vacation. Eligible sponsors include public and private nonprofit school food authorities; summer camps, and colleges or universities in the National Youth Sports Program; local, county, municipal, or State governmental units; and private nonprofit organizations that meet specific criteria as defined in SFSP regulations (7 CFR Part 225).

Sponsors may operate one or more food service programs at "open area-eligible" sites in areas where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals based on school or census tract data; at "enrolled area-eligible" sites where at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are individually determined to be eligible for such meals; at "homeless feeding sites"; or at camps. Regular sites may serve up to two reimbursable meals each day: lunch and snack, or lunch and breakfast; while camps and sites serving children of migrant



workers can serve up to three meals: breakfast, lunch or supper, and snack. Sponsors may choose to prepare meals on-site or at a central kitchen, or they may contract to purchase prepared unitized meals from a school food authority or commercial food service management company.

Eligibility Requirements:

Agency Eligibility: State agencies desiring to take part in the program enter into a written agreement with FCS (acting on behalf of the Department) for the administration of the program in that State in accordance with provisions of the SFSP regulations (7 CFR Part 225). The written agreement contains several specific provisions, one of which is an assurance that both the State agency and the sponsor comply with the Department's nondiscrimination regulations (7 CFR Part 15) as now existing or later amended, and any instructions issued by FCS pursuant to those regulations.

Beneficiary Eligibility: Eligibility in the SFSP is based on "areas" in which poor economic conditions exist. Within the structure of "areas," the sponsor must document that the local area from which the site draws its attendance has at least 50 percent of the children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs based on school or census tract data. Or, for sponsors of an enrollment program, the sponsor must collect family size and income information from children enrolled in the program at the site. This information must document that, at a minimum, 50 percent of the children enrolled at each specific site are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Sponsors of camps are reimbursed only for those meals served to enrollees in camps whose eligibility for free or reduced-price meals are documented, while at "enrolled" sites, sponsors are reimbursed for meals served to all enrolled attendees. Sites feeding primarily homeless children are eligible without regard to "area" or "individual child" considerations.

How To Apply: All applicant sponsors must submit a complete application for program participation to the administering agency by June 15. However, the State agency may establish an earlier deadline date for program application submission. The applicant sponsor must meet the "area" of eligibility and the "sponsor" eligibility requirements in accordance with the current SFSP regulations. In addition, within 30 days of receiving a complete and correct application, the State agency must notify the applicant of its approval or disapproval.

Whom To Contact: Persons desiring information concerning the program may write the appropriate State agency or regional office of the FCS as indicated below.

Printed Information Available: Numerous publications and handbooks are available which provide specific and general program information to help in planning and preparing nutritious meals. Contact the appropriate State agencies or regional offices.

Authorizing Legislation: The SFSP is authorized by Section 13 of the National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C.1761).

Administering Agency: In most States, the responsibility for administering the program is within the State by the State department of education. Where States do not administer the program, FCS regional offices operate it directly. Refer to the list of regional offices indicated below.

Available Assistance: Federal funding is made available to children (as defined by the SFSP regulation) 18 years of age and younger. Persons over 18 who have mental or physical disabilities and participate in a public or nonprofit private school program designed especially for them are also eligible to participate.

Appropriations: For FY 1997, \$250 million.

Washington Contact: Director, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Consumer Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1006, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Local Contacts: Refer to list of regional offices below.

Related Programs: Other Child Nutrition Programs; Food Distribution Program; Food Stamp Program; and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program.

Nutrition Program for the Elderly (Title VI)

Nature and Purpose: This program serves elderly American Indians and Alaska Natives who participate in the nutrition and social services program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), by providing nutritious meals for elderly American Indians. These meals are provided in community centers for the elderly and consist of well-balanced hot or cold meals at least once a day, 5 or more days a week. Meals are delivered to elderly homebound individuals.

Eligibility Requirements: There must be at least 50 people in a specific Indian tribe aged 60 or over. When this requirement has been met, the Indian tribe must apply for a grant approved by HHS. After a grant has been approved by HHS, each qualified Indian tribe can set its own age limits for eligibility (usually between 50 and 60 years of age).

While each provider of nutrition services suggests an appropriate monetary contribution based on local economic conditions, each person decides what he/she can contribute toward the cost of the meal. Contributions are strictly voluntary and the meals are free of charge to eligible persons if they cannot make any contributions.

How To Apply: Interested tribal organizations must first submit an application to HHS. Once it is approved, the eligible tribal organization may request USDA assistance in the form of cash or commodities, from the appropriate FCS regional office. Currently, 150 Indian Tribal agencies are participating in this program.



Whom To Contact: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC, and all State agencies on aging.

Printed Information Available: FCS Brochure 223, "The Nutrition Program for the Elderly."

Authorizing Legislation: Section 601 of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended.

Administering Agency: Administration on Aging, HHS.

Available Assistance: Food commodities or cash reimbursements for meals. Nutrition services in community centers, meals at least 5 days each week, transportation to and from the meal sites, and delivered meals for the homebound. Social and referral services.

Use Restrictions: USDA funds must be used for meals supplied by the program, and the commodities cannot be exchanged, sold, or transferred.

Appropriations for FY 1997 by USDA: \$140 million.

Washington Contacts: Administration on Aging, HHS, Washington, DC.

Cooperating Agency: Food Distribution Division, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Local Contacts: Refer to the Administration on Aging, HHS.

Related Programs: USDA Food Distribution Programs (The Emergency Food Assistance Program, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, and Commodity Supplemental Food Program), Food Stamp Program.

FCS Regional Offices

Regional Administrator, Northeast Regional Office

Food and Consumer Service, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222-1068, Phone: (617) 565-6395 Fax: (617) 565-6472. Covers: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Regional Administrator, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

Food and Consumer Service, Mercer Corporate Park, 300 Corporate Boulevard, Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1518, Phone: (609) 259-5091 Fax: (609) 259-5147. Covers: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Virginia, Virgin Islands, West Virginia.

Regional Administrator, Southeast Regional Office

Food and Consumer Service, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 112, Atlanta, GA 30303-

3415, Phone: (404) 562-1812 Fax: (404) 527-4502. Covers: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee.

Regional Administrator, Midwest Regional Office

Food and Consumer Service, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., 20th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604-3507, Phone: (312) 353-1044 Fax: (312) 353-0171. Covers: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin.

Regional Administrator, Mountain Plains Regional Office

1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 903, Denver, CO 80204-3585. Phone: (303) 844-0312 Fax: (303) 844-6203. Covers: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming.

Regional Administrator, Southwest Regional Office

Food and Consumer Service, 1100 Commerce Street, Room 5-C-30, Dallas, TX 75242-0222. Phone: (214) 290-9802 Fax: (214) 767-6249. Covers: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.

Regional Administrator, Western Regional Office

Food and Consumer Service, 550 Kearney Street, Room 400, San Francisco, CA 94108-2518. Phone: (415) 705-1311 Fax: (415) 705-1364 Covers: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Guam.





6. Food Safety

Food Safety and Inspection Service

The mission of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is to provide assurance that meat and poultry, and egg, meat, and poultry products are safe, wholesome, and informatively and honestly labeled. FSIS provides programs which, while not specifically naming American Indians or Indian tribes as beneficiaries, may nevertheless be of special interest to American Indians or Indian tribes. These two programs are the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Program and the Meat and Poultry Hotline.

Federal Radiological Emergency Response Program

Nature and Purpose: FSIS is the lead USDA agency for the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Program, since one of the key issues in a nuclear emergency is food safety. This program includes incidents at commercial nuclear power plants, nuclear weapons accidents, transportation accidents involving nuclear materials, and related sabotage and terrorism.

Available Assistance: FSIS can provide training programs for Indian tribes to familiarize them with the emergency response capabilities of USDA and the other Federal agencies that could, in the event of an emergency, be made available to Indian tribes if requested.

Printed Information Available: Printed information includes a brochure, "Radiological Emergency Information for Farmers, Food Processors, and Distributors."

Washington Contact: George E. Bickerton, USDA/FSIS/Office of Field Operations, Director, Emergency Programs Staff, Room 218, West End Court, Washington, DC 20250-3700; (202) 418-8910.

Meat and Poultry Hotline

Nature and Purpose: The toll-free Meat and Poultry Hotline is part of an extensive food safety education program conducted by FSIS as part of its mission to ensure the safety of meat and poultry products from farm to table.

Available Assistance: The hotline provides accurate and up-to-date information to consumers on safe food handling and the prevention of foodborne illness. A team of home economists, registered dietitians, and food technologists answer callers' questions.

Washington Contact: The Meat and Poultry Hotline number is (800) 535-4555.



7. Research, Education, and Economics

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) unites the research, higher education, and extension education and outreach resources of USDA with land-grant institutions in each State, territory and the District of Columbia; over 130 colleges of agriculture; 59 agricultural experiment stations with over 9,500 scientists conducting research; 57 cooperative extension services with over 9,600 local extension agents working in 3,150 counties; 63 schools of forestry; 16 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University; 27 colleges of veterinary medicine; 42 schools and colleges of family and consumer sciences; 190 Hispanic-Serving Institutions and 29 designated Land-Grant Tribal Colleges.

The 29 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges are:

Bay Mills Community College (Michigan),
Blackfeet Community College (Montana),
Cankdeska Cikana Community College (North Dakota),
Cheyenne River Community College (South Dakota),
College of the Menominee Nation (Wisconsin),
Crownpoint Institute of Technology (New Mexico),
D-Q University (California),
Dine Community College (Arizona),
Dull Knife Memorial College (Montana),
Fond du Lac Community College (Minnesota),
Fort Belknap College (Montana),
Fort Berthold Community College (North Dakota),
Fort Peck Community College (Montana),
Haskell Indian Nations University (Kansas),
Institute of American Indian Arts (New Mexico),
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College (Wisconsin),
Leech Lake Tribal College (Minnesota),
Little Big Horn College (Montana),
Nebraska Indian Community College (Nebraska),
Northwest Indian College (Washington),
Oglala Lakota College (South Dakota),
Salish Kootenai College (Montana),
Sinte Gleska University (South Dakota),
Sisseton Wahpeton Community College (South Dakota),
Sitting Bull College (North Dakota),
Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute (New Mexico),
Stone Child Community College (Montana),
Turtle Mountain Community College (North Dakota),
and United Tribes Technical College (North Dakota).

The CSREES mission is to achieve significant and equitable improvements in domestic and global economic, environmental, and social conditions by advancing creative and integrated research, education, and extension programs in food, agricultural, and related sciences in partnership with both the public and private sectors.

CSREES has programs in Plant and Animal Production, Protection, and Processing; Natural Resources and Environment; Rural, Economic, and Social Development; Families, 4-H, and Nutrition; Partnerships; Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management; Science and Education Resources Development; and Communications, Technology, and Distance Education.

Extension Indian Reservation Program

Nature and Purpose: The Extension Indian Reservation Program (EIRP) focuses on agriculture and agriculture-related youth programs. It emphasizes training and employment of local people in positions such as program aides, master gardeners, and volunteers. Local advisory committees are involved in determining programs and priorities. Projects address livestock production, alternative crops, vegetable gardening, improved diet and nutrition, and a broad spectrum of 4-H and youth activities. Although EIRP is administered by CSREES, the Indian Extension Agents are employees of, and administratively responsible to, the Cooperative Extension Service of the State where the reservation is located. The Navajo Reservation agents are administered by the University of Arizona in cooperation with Utah State University and New Mexico State University. Agents often live on the reservations, sharing daily experiences with their neighbors. Agents meet annually to discuss their successes and share program ideas and to investigate additional sources of program support.

Eligibility Requirements: The 1862 land-grant institutions in States where Indian reservations or tribal jurisdictions are located are eligible to apply for the EIRP.

Printed Information Available: Printed information includes *Extension Indian Reservation Program Reservation Extension Projects FY 1997*.

Authorizing Legislation: The program is authorized by Section 1677 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, Public Law 101-624, as amended, and the funding is provided under the Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d).

Administering Agency: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

Available Assistance: Agents are involved in a wide range of programs, from introducing new crops to establishing nutrition classes, school lunch programs, county fairs, and farmers markets. They provide educational programs from the State land-grant universities and from their own knowledge and experience, to help their neighbors achieve better living conditions.

Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1997: Current funding is \$1.7 million per year.

Washington Contact: For further information, contact Fred Swader, EIRP Coordinator, at (202) 205-5853 or fswader@reeusda.gov.

Extension Programs

Nature and Purpose: The Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions program provide competitive grants to address a wide range of agricultural issues, including crop and animal production, farm business management, marketing techniques, decision-making skills, and environmental considerations. This program can also be used to enhance community resource and economic development; family development and resource management; 4-H and youth development; leadership and volunteer development; natural resources and environment; and nutrition, diet, and health.

Eligibility Requirements: Extension programs at the 29 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges are available through a competitive application process, to be conducted through cooperative agreements with the 1862 Land-Grant University in their State. Matching funds are not required.

Authorizing Legislation: The Extension work at the 29 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges program is authorized under section 3(b)(3) of the Smith-Lever Act as added by section 534(b) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-382).

Administering Agency: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

Available Assistance: Myriad problems can be addressed through the broad range of Extension programs authorized under the Smith-Lever Act, including the following:

- (1) Agriculture: crop and animal production practices as well as farm business management, marketing techniques, decisionmaking skills and environmental considerations,
- (2) Community Resource and Economic Development: helping communities create strategies to strengthen existing employers, attract new enterprises, and encourage local entrepreneurship,
- (3) Family Development and Resource Management: helping individuals and families develop the competencies to become healthy, productive, financially secure, and environmentally responsible members of society,
- (4) 4-H and Youth Development: programs designed to engage youth in healthy learning experiences, including self-esteem and problem-solving skills,
- (5) Leadership and Volunteer Development: programs designed to empower participants to improve their self-esteem and life skills and to strengthen the communities in which they live and work,



(6) Natural Resources and Environmental Management: programs encompassing soil, water, air and plant management, fish and wildlife management, aquaculture, conservation, and forestry; sustainable use and management of rangelands, wetlands, and wildlands; land-use planning; and use of information systems, and

(7) Nutrition, Diet, and Health: reducing chronic disease, promoting healthy lifestyles, and making informed decisions about food, nutrition, and food safety.

Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1997: Current funding is \$2 million per year.

Washington Contact: For further information, contact Joan F. Gill at (202) 720-6487 or jgill@reeusda.gov.

Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund

Nature and Purpose: The Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund distributes interest earned by an endowment established for the 29 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges to those colleges on a formula basis to enhance education in agricultural sciences and related areas for American Indians.

Eligibility Requirements: The 29 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges listed above.

Authorizing Legislation: The Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund is authorized under section 533 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-382).

Administering Agency: The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

Available Assistance: The fund can be used to build educational capacity at the 29 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges in the areas of curriculum design and materials development, faculty development and preparation for teaching, instruction delivery systems, experiential learning, equipment and instrumentations for teaching, and student recruitment and retention.

Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1997: \$4.6 million for FY 1997. This amount represents the second installment of the \$23 million authorized for the Fund (\$4.6 million for each fiscal year 1996 through 2000).

Washington Contact: For further information, contact Al Young at (202) 720-7356 or ayoung@reeusda.gov.

Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program

Nature and Purpose: The Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program is designed to strengthen higher education instruction in the food and agricultural sciences at the 29 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges.

Eligibility Requirements: The 29 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges listed above.

Authorizing Legislation: The Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program is authorized under section 534(a) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-382).

Administering Agency: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

Available Assistance: Funding is distributed through a formula grants program in the areas of curricula design and materials development, faculty development and preparation for teaching, instruction delivery systems, experiential learning, equipment and instrumentations for teaching, and student recruitment and retention.

Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1997: Current funding provides \$50,000 to each Land-Grant Tribal College. Total appropriation is \$1,450,000.

Washington Contact: For further information, contact Al Young at (202) 720-7356 or ayoung@reeusda.gov. For general information contact the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-0900. Telephone: (202) 720-3029; Fax: (202) 690-0289; Internet: csrees@reeusda.gov or World Wide Web: <http://www.reeusda.gov>

Local Contacts: For general information, contact your local county extension office (offices are listed under local government in the telephone directory) or a land-grant university.

Children, Youth, and Families at Risk Initiative

Nature and Purpose: The Children, Youth, and Families at Risk Initiative provides funding, research-based educational materials, and technical support to American Indians and Alaska Natives and other underserved populations for a broad spectrum of prevention-oriented education programs that strengthen individuals and families with children, prenatal to late teens. The goal of this national initiative is to empower the whole family to enable those at risk to develop necessary life skills and become strong, productive adults.

Eligibility Requirements: State and Territory Cooperative Extension Services for community-based projects.

Printed Information Available: Fact sheet entitled, "Children, Youth, and Families at Risk National Initiative."

Authorizing Legislation: National initiatives are a special-focus commitment made by CSREES and the Cooperative Extension System to address significant and complex issues. Funding is provided under section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act.



Administering Agency: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

Available Assistance: Competitive grants to fund research-based strategic planning for local programs; volunteer training and recruitment; Internet communication networks; community organizational collaborations; and the expanded resources of the nationwide land-grant university system.

Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1997: \$9.554 million.

Washington Contact: Sharon Wright, CSREES, telephone (202) 720-5075, swright@reeusda.gov

Agricultural Research Service

The Agricultural Research Service is the main in-house research arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and one of the four agencies that make up the Research, Education, and Economics mission area of USDA.

The Agricultural Research Service is committed to providing access to agricultural information and developing new knowledge and technology needed to solve technical agricultural problems of broad scope and high national priority. This is done to ensure adequate availability of high-quality, safe food, and other agricultural products to meet the nutritional needs of all consumers, including American Indians and Alaska Natives; to sustain a viable and competitive food and agricultural economy; and to maintain a high-quality environment and natural resource base.

ARS research targets specific problems threatening the Nation's food and fiber supplies, contributes to rural revitalization, and increases knowledge of human nutrition. ARS research also lays the foundation for future commercial development beneficial to all consumers.

The Agricultural Research Service operates research facilities strategically located in major farm and rangeland ecosystems throughout the United States. This enables ARS to bring research expertise to bear on agricultural production and utilization problems of national scope from many different geographic vantages.

National Agricultural Library

As the primary resource for agricultural information in the United States, the National Agricultural Library (NAL) is committed to making important information broadly available to research scientists and administrators, educators, agricultural practitioners, and consumers. This mission is accomplished through various means including national networks of information resources involving the land-grant institutions.

NAL has the most extensive collection of agricultural information in the Nation and produces a representative database, AGRICOLA, of its holdings. Reference

services, including services from a number of specialized information centers at NAL, are also provided, as well as many publications of the various units of the Library which accelerate access to information. For example, NAL's Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC) helps users to locate information on food and nutrition topics, including nutrition education, food service, and food borne illness. Through FNIC, NAL provides expanded technical assistance and lending service to persons working in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and other nutrition education programs administered by the Food and Consumer Service (FCS). FCS provides funding for these expanded services for FDPIR, WIC, and other FCS program staff.

Universal access to NAL's products and services is available through the Library's World Wide Web site at: <http://nal.usda.gov>. This site provides information on all the available NAL services as well as sources to contact for additional information. For example, the FNIC web site (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic>) is available through the NAL home page and FNIC users can find nutrition information, FNIC publications, and searchable FNIC databases. Persons working with the FDPIR, WIC, and other FCS programs can also contact FNIC for help in finding answers to food and nutrition questions, literature searches, and lists of materials available for loan.

NAL provides free, direct lending of materials and photocopies of articles to staff of the FCS programs listed above. Materials, such as books and audiovisuals, may be borrowed for up to 30 days. Also, twice each year FNIC sends a packet of materials, including new FNIC publications, to State and regional nutrition education contacts of the FDPIR and WIC programs. NAL has provided a bibliography, "Native Americans: A Resource Guide 1992-97," which appears at the end of this Guide.

Contact the National Agricultural Library, Information Desk, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-5719, (301) 504-5575. FAX (301) 504-6927. TDD/TTY (301) 504-6856. E-Mail agref@nal.usda.gov Internet: <http://www.nal.usda.gov>

Economic Research Service

The mission of USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) is to provide economic information and analysis for public and private decisions on agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural America. ERS was established in 1961 by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1446 under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627).

ERS produces information and analysis for use by the general public and to help executive and legislative branches develop, administer, and evaluate agricultural and rural policies and programs. ERS publications cover a wide variety of topics, including policies that affect farmers and the population of rural America. In addition to studies on rural America as a whole, ERS has focused on American Indian and Alaska Native demography, the state of American Indian farming, and the history of American Indian contributions to American agriculture.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

The mission of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to serve the United States, its agriculture, and its rural communities by providing meaningful, accurate, and objective statistical information and services. NASS's program of current official estimates and the Census of Agriculture is complemented by its statistical research and service program. NASS also performs important reimbursable survey work for other Federal, State, and private organizations, and provides technical assistance for agricultural statistics programs in developing countries.

NASS State Statistical Offices regularly survey thousands of operators of farms, ranches, and agribusinesses who provide information on a confidential basis. These scientifically designed surveys provide the basis for developing estimates of production, supply, price, and other aspects of the agricultural economy. Official USDA national, State, and county estimates and reports are issued relating to acreage, types, and production of farm crops; number of livestock on farms and of livestock products; stocks of agricultural commodities; value and utilization of farm products; farm labor; prices received and paid by farmers; agricultural chemical use; and other subjects as needed. State offices forward the estimates to NASS headquarters where they are combined and released at scheduled times to the media and public through the Agricultural Statistics Board. Annually, NASS publishes over 400 national reports which cover more than 120 crop and 45 livestock items, and which are complemented by additional State reports. These basic and unbiased data are necessary to maintain an orderly association between the consumption, supply, marketing, and input sectors of agriculture.

Improving the Count of American Indian Farm and Ranch Operators in the 1997 Census of Agriculture

The Census of Agriculture is taken every 5 years and provides comprehensive data on the agricultural economy including: data on the number of farms, land use, production expenses, farm product values, value of land and buildings, farm size and characteristics of farm operators, market value of agricultural production sold, acreage of major crops, inventory of livestock and poultry, and farm irrigation practices. Effective October 1, 1996, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) received program responsibility for the census of agriculture, previously conducted by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

The next agricultural census will be conducted beginning in January 1998 for the calendar year 1997 and will provide national, State, and county data as well as selected data for Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.


NASS has done considerable list building to increase census coverage of American Indian farmers and ranchers that operate land off reservations. Beginning with the 1997 Census of Agriculture, NASS will implement special procedures to account for American Indian farm and ranch operators on tribal lands. In addition to collecting total agricultural production information data from the reservation headquarters, NASS will also collect data on the number of individual farm operations that are on the reservation. This new count of American Indian

farms will be published by State and for the U.S. in a new data table in *Volume 1, Geographic Data Series*, for the 1997 Census of Agriculture, to be released in the spring of 1999.

Previously, the census of agriculture included data showing only the number of American Indians operating farms and ranches located off the reservations. Each reservation was normally counted as a single-farm operation. Thus, the count of American Indian operators has traditionally been seriously understated. The new procedures for the 1997 Census of Agriculture will be the beginning of efforts to provide more complete agricultural statistics on American Indian farms and ranches so that for the 2002 Census of Agriculture, all American Indians engaged in agriculture will be fully accounted for in the census.

For more information contact the NASS Customer Service Center:

NASS-USDA
1-800-727-9540
fax: (202) 690-2090
Room 5805-South Bldg.
Washington, DC 20250
e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov
NASS Home Page: <http://www.usda.gov/nas>



8. Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is charged with protecting America's agricultural resources by keeping foreign pests and diseases out of the country, minimizing damage caused by wildlife, and protecting certain animals from inhumane treatment.

APHIS officials work cooperatively with tribal governments, other Federal agencies and departments, and State and local organizations to enlist their interest in and support of efforts that are mutually beneficial to all parties involved.

Program specialists maintain networking systems to consult with tribal leaders relative to tribal concerns and needs. Managers and program coordinators within the agency consider the impact of agency decisions on tribal trust resources and consult with tribal governments to ensure that tribal rights, issues, and concerns are considered during the development of projects, programs, and policies.

Native American Working Group

In response to President Clinton's April 29, 1994, Executive Memorandum on Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments, APHIS established the APHIS Native American Working Group, which has representatives from all APHIS program areas. The group advises the agency's top management about ways to enhance program delivery and accessibility to Indian tribes, intertribal committees, and related organizations, such as the Intertribal Agriculture Council. The group also facilitates the coordination of active partnerships with tribal governments by providing assistance and advice to the agency's units.

The APHIS Native American Working Group functions under the direction of the APHIS Administrator. The Administrator retains authority for establishing agency policy relating to all APHIS activities and programs of interest to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

APHIS Program Areas

APHIS promotes the health of animal and plant resources; protects agricultural and natural resources, property, and human health and safety; promotes animal welfare; protects and enhances ecosystems; and enhances America's share in world agricultural trade. Fair and safe agricultural trade standards and practices are ensured through APHIS' cooperation with customers and stakeholders. APHIS also develops biologically sound pest and disease exclusion programs and promotes international standards and globally recognized certification systems ensuring an abundance of agricultural commodities for U.S. consumers. APHIS maintains a highly motivated and capable team of diverse individuals who share leadership within an agency community that cares about the professional and personal lives of others. Through shared leadership, APHIS anticipates and responds to issues involving animal and plant health, wildlife damage, global economics, environmental protection, and animal care and welfare.

Generally, APHIS tries to establish either Memoranda of Understanding with Indian tribes or cooperative agreements. APHIS then provides a wide variety of

services for protection of resources and human health and safety. As part of this effort, APHIS has also helped sponsor and support workshops and meetings with tribal leaders and individuals on a regular basis and maintains frequent contacts through the efforts of employees.

APHIS joined other USDA agencies to fund an outreach program to Indian tribes, managed by the Intertribal Agriculture Council. In conjunction with this outreach effort, APHIS appointed State liaisons to be the contact point regarding issues with Indian tribes, other USDA agencies, and other APHIS program employees.

Animal and Plant Health

Through inspection of baggage and cargo and interception of illegal agricultural commodities, APHIS inspectors provide technical assistance to State and local governments in plant and animal pest and disease control programs. APHIS veterinarians administer national programs to protect U.S. livestock and poultry resources and to provide technical assistance and vital support services to State and local cooperators to eradicate and control livestock and poultry pests and diseases. APHIS scientists also conduct surveillance and detection programs to further safeguard the Nation's agricultural resources. In support of all field programs, APHIS specialists and technicians conduct methods development and research activities.

Wildlife Damage

APHIS provides programs to help alleviate or minimize wildlife-caused damage to agricultural and natural resources nationwide. Program goals include reducing wildlife damage, protecting threatened or endangered wildlife from predation, and working to minimize the threats wild animals pose to human health and safety. APHIS' wildlife services personnel remove wild animals that prey on livestock, discourage birds from living near U.S. airports, and investigate ways science can help manage wildlife damage problems, such as through vaccination against disease and immunocontraception for population reduction.

Global Economics

APHIS works closely with other countries to facilitate agricultural trade. To accomplish this, APHIS incorporates international standards and marketing concerns in its domestic agricultural programs. To reduce the threat of pests and diseases from overseas, APHIS scientists seek international cooperation and coordination to develop animal and plant pest and disease eradication programs abroad and to find new solutions to pest and disease problems. APHIS also serves stakeholders by providing assistance in preclearance of commodities in foreign countries before the items begin their journey to the United States.

Environmental Protection

APHIS employees ensure that agency programs comply with applicable environmental laws, regulate and license veterinary biological products, and issue permits for certain genetically engineered plants. All employees are encouraged to exercise environmental responsibility and develop and implement systems based on environmentally sound decisionmaking. APHIS scientists analyze the potential effects of



introducing genetically engineered plants that may be plant pests into the environment and issue permits to regulate the release and movement of these plants. The aquaculture industry benefits from APHIS programs that regulate fish vaccines, prevent the introduction of aquatic pests and weeds, and reduce losses from fish-eating birds. APHIS promotes programs using biological control methods to limit damage to crops by plant pests and diseases while lessening the public's dependence on pesticides.

Animal Care and Welfare

- APHIS enforces Federal regulations regarding animal care and welfare and investigates violations of all agency regulations, including animal welfare legislation. APHIS also administers animal protection legislation, including the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act.

APHIS Change Agenda

APHIS employees have identified themselves as "change agents." They are continually striving to make changes to more effectively serve farmers, ranchers, and other Americans nationwide. They care about providing quality service and support to our stakeholders and cooperators. To meet new needs in the global marketplace, they develop and manage information as an agency resource to address agency needs. The goal is to improve program delivery, on an equal basis, for all segments of the population, through the development and communication of scientific, technical, and administrative information.

Valuing People

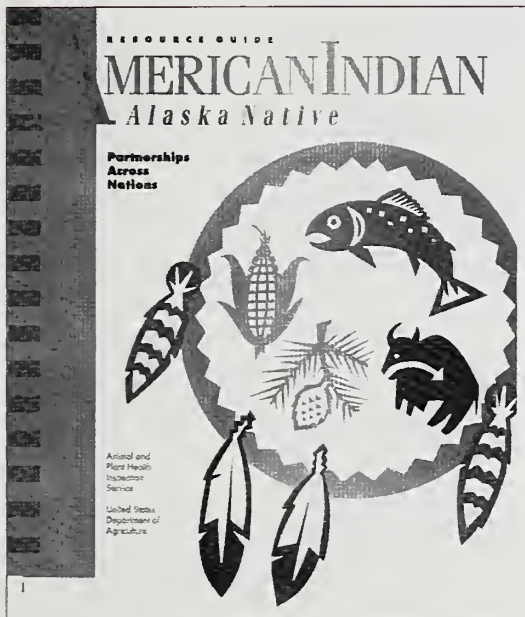
APHIS values diversity in its workforce. APHIS promotes and facilitates continual learning as a business strategy needed to exceed customers' expectations and survive and thrive in an environment of accelerated change. Continual learning and empowerment give APHIS employees the tools to understand, refine, and better participate in customer service practices and build partnerships nationwide with stakeholders and on a government-to-government basis with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. The importance the agency places on this subject is reflected in "Relationships With Native Americans and Tribal Governments," APHIS directive 1040.1, dated September 8, 1995, a document that explains to all employees the agency's policy concerning American Indians.

Getting in Touch With APHIS

To receive additional information, see the list of APHIS Native American Working Group State Representatives below or write to: USDA, APHIS, Civil Rights Enforcement and Compliance, 4700 River Road, Unit 92, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234. Or contact an APHIS office near you. You can e-mail APHIS using this address: lmoore@aphis.usda.gov

Printed Information Available

APHIS has developed a materials package for each Indian tribe within the United States which explains the services available and instructions for obtaining them.



Materials were also developed for each APHIS field manager to provide information about working with Indian tribes, tribal contacts, and coordinating efforts across APHIS program areas and also across USDA agency lines. The information package is entitled "Partnerships Across Nations: Resource Guide for American Indians and Alaska Natives."

Enabling Legislation

The following list covers most of the major laws authorizing APHIS to operate in the animal and plant health arena.

Animal Care

Animal Welfare Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. §§ 2131 *et seq.*)
 Horse Protection Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. §§ 1821–1831)
 Marine Mammal Protection Act
 Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966

Wildlife Services (Known until July 1997 as Animal Damage Control)

Animal Damage Control Act of March 2, 1931, as amended (7 U.S.C. 426-426c; 46 Stat. 1468)
 Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-202, December 22, 1987, Stat.1329-1331 [7 U.S.C. 426c])
 Lacey Act (18 U.S.D. 42) [in regard to importation or shipment of injurious mammals, birds, and fish]

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Federal Plant Pest Act (7 U.S.C. 159aa-150jj)
 Plant Quarantine Act (7 U.S.C. 151-164a, 167)
 Organic Act of 1944, Sec. 102 (u U.S.C. 47a, 148, 148a-e)
 Federal Seed Act, Title III (7 U.S.C. 1581)
 Federal Noxious Weed Act (7 U.S.C. 2801-2813)
 Golden Nematode Act (7 U.S.C. 150-150g)
 Mexican Border Act (7 U.S.C. 149)
 Endangered Species Act (plants) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1542)
 Honeybee Act (7 U.S.C. 281-282)
 Terminal Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 166)
 Grasshopper control (7 U.S.C. 148f)

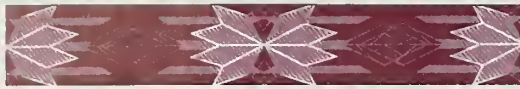
Veterinary Services

Animal quarantine laws (21 U.S.C. 101-105, 111-114a(1), 115-135)
 Tariff Act of 1930, sec. 306 (19 U.S.C. 1306)
 Food and Drug Act of 1906 (in regard to use of veterinary drugs)
 Virus-Serum-Toxin Act of 1913 (in regard to interstate shipment of viruses, serum, and toxins for treatment of domestic livestock)

**APHIS Native American Working Group State Representatives** September 12, 1997

State	Name	Program	Title	Address	Phone	FAX
Alabama	Frank Boyd	Wildlife Services	State Director	USDA, APHIS WS Work Rm. #118 Auburn University, Alabama 36849	(334) 844-5670	
Alaska	Gary Brickler	VS	AVIC	Washington State Area Office Dr. Gary L. Brickler USDA, APHIS, VS 2604 12th Court SW, Ste. B Olympia, WA 98502-5715	(360) 753-9430	(360) 753-9585
Arizona	Steve Fairzaizl	WS		4625 South Wendle Drive #206 Tempe, Arizona 85282	(602) 870-2081	(602) 870-2951
	Bret Combs	VS	AVIC		(602) 379-3391	(602) 379-3413
Arkansas	Jane Droke	PPQ	Support Staff	USDA, APHIS, PPQ 1200 Cherry Brook, Suite 100 Little Rock, AK 72211	(501) 324-5258	(501) 225-5823
California	Robert Gibbens	AC	Reg Dir	USDA, APHIS, AC 9580 Micron Ave, Suite J Sacramento, CA 95827-2623	(916) 857-6205	(916) 857-6212
	Mike Smith		VMO			
Colorado	Mike Yearly	WS	District Sup	USDA, APHIS, WS 12345 W Alameda Pkwy, Suite 210 Lakewood, CO 80228	(303) 969-5775	(303) 969-5798
Connecticut	Laura Henze	WS	State Director	USDA, APHIS, WS 463 West St. Amherst, Mass. 01002	(413) 253-2403	(413) 253-7577
Delaware	Collen Kitzmiller	PPQ	State Plant Health Director	USDA, APHIS, PPQ 300 S. New St. Ste. 1107 Dover, Delaware 19904	(302) 678-5868	(302) 734-7814
Florida	Bernice Constantin	WS	State Director	USDA, APHIS, WS 2820 E. University Ave. Gainesville, FL 32641	(352) 377-5556	(352) 377-5559
Georgia	Doug Hall	WS			(706) 546-2020	(706) 546-2004
Hawaii	Betty Lyons	AC	VMO	USDA, APHIS, AC 9580 Micron Ave, Suite J Sacramento, CA 95827-2623	(703) 643-0115	(916) 857-6212
Idaho	George Graves	WS	Assistant State Dir	USDA, APHIS, WS 1828 Airport Way Boise, ID 83705	(208) 334-1440	(208) 334-9069
Illinois	Ken Kruse	PPQ	State Plant Health Director	USDA, APHIS, PPQ 2400 Devon Ave. Ste. 265 Des Planis, IL 60018	(847) 299-0024	(847) 299-6046
Indiana	Frank Wilson	VS	VMO	221 Ann Ave Pendleton, IN 46064	(317) 290-3300	(317) 290-3311
Iowa	Kevin Petersburg	VS	AVIC	Iowa State Area Office	(515) 284-4140	(515) 284-4156
				USDA, APHIS, VS 210 Walnut St. Rm. 891 Des Moines, IA 50309	(515) 323-2107	
Kansas	Joel Bard	PPQ		1947 NW Topeka Blvd Topeka, KS 66608	(913) 235-0212	(913) 235-1464

State	Name	Program	Title	Address	Phone	FAX
Kentucky	Vacant	PPQ				
Louisiana	Dwight LeBlanc	WS		P.O. Box 589 Fort Allen, LA	(504) 389-0229	(504) 389-0228
Maine	Ed Butler	WS			(207) 622-8263	(207) 622-5760
Maryland	Roger West	PPQ			(410) 224-3452	(410) 224-1142
Massachusetts	Laura Henze	WS		(413) 253-2403	(413) 253-7577	
Michigan	Roseanne Fabry	VS	Records Clerk	Michigan Area Office USDA, APHIS, VS 2450 Delhi Commerce Drive Suite #4 Holt, Michigan 48842	(517) 694-7410	(517) 694-0933
Minnesota	John Piehl	VS	VMO	Minnesota Area Office Bill Paul USDA, APHIS, VS 717 NE 4th Street Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744	(612) 290-3691 (320) 259-0491 = H	(612) 228-0654
Mississippi	Susan Bailey	VS	AHT	2635 Highway 29N Laurel, Mississippi 39440	(601) 965-4307 (601) 729-4006 = H	(601) 965-5535
Missouri	Royce Wilson	VS	VMO	Rt 2 Box 298 A Adrian, MO 64720	(816) 297-2633 = H	(324) 636-4384
Montana	James Brice	PPQ			(406) 657-6282	(406) 657-6293
Nebraska	Billy Smith	PPQ			(402) 434-2345	(402) 434-2330
Nevada	James D. Kail	PPQ	State Plant Health Director	USDA, APHIS, PPQ	(702) 738-9601	(702) 738-9604
New Hampshire	Vacant	PPQ				
New Jersey	Vacant	PPQ				
New Mexico	Tolani Francisco	VS	VMO	New Mexico State Area Office USDA, APHIS, VS 6200 Jefferson Street, NE Albuquerque, NM 87109	(505) 271-2623	(505) 761-3176
New York	Mike Wright	PPQ	State Plant Health Director	New York State Area Office USDA, APHIS, VS 1 Winners Cir. Ste. 203 Albany, NY 12205	(518) 438-3896	(518) 438-7675
North Carolina	Terry Clark	VS	VMO	North Carolina Area Office USDA, APHIS, VS 2 West Edenton St. P.O. Box 27048 Raleigh, NC 27611	(919) 856-4170	(919) 856-4446
North Dakota	Eldon Halverson	VS	VMO	North Dakota Area Office USDA, APHIS, VS P.O. Box 639 Denmark, ND 58502	(701) 250-4211	(701) 250-4471
Ohio	John Burch	PPQ	Super. PPQ Officer	USDA, APHIS, PPQ 12927 Stone Creek Drive, NW Pickerington, OH 43147		
Oklahoma	Nancy Ellifrit	AC			(817) 885-6923	



State	Name	Program	Title	Address	Phone	FAX
Oregon	David Silberman	VS	VMO	Dr David Silberman 3722 SE Dora Court Troutdale, OR 97060	(503) 399-5871 (503) 665-6403 = H	(503) 399-5607
	Shannon Starratt	WS			(503) 231-6184	(503) 231-2291
Pennsylvania	Gary Clement	PPQ		Pennsylvania State Area Office USDA, APHIS, VS 1 Credit Union Pl. Ste. 310 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110	(717) 782-3419	(717) 782-2254
Rhode Island	Laura Henze	WS			(413) 253-2403	(413) 253-7577
South Carolina	Carlos Martinez	PPQ	Record Tech	9600 TwoNotch Rd Suite 10 Columbia SC 29229	(803) 423-5351	(803) 423-5612
	Evelyn Scott	VS			(803) 788-1919	(803) 788-2102
South Dakota	Lynn Ann Tesar	VS	AVIC	South Dakota Area Office USDA, APHIS, VS P.O. Box 640 Pierre, SD 57501	(605) 224-6186	(605) 224-8451
Tennessee	Colleen Erbel	VS	VMO	Dr. Colleen Erbel 8409 San Marcos Dr Knoxville, TN 37938	(423) 922-3273 = H (615) 781-5310	None
Texas	George Nash	PPQ			(512) 916-5243	(512) 916-5243
Utah	R D Hobbs	VS	AVIC	USDA, APHIS, VS 176 North 2200 West Airport Park, Suite #190 Salt Lake City, Utah 84116	(801) 524-5010	(801) 524-6898
Vermont	Vacant	PPQ				
Virginia	Martin Lowney	WS		P.O.Box 130 Moseley, Virginia 23120	(804) 739-7739	(804) 739-7738
Washington	Gary Brickler	VS	AVIC	Washington State Area Office Dr. Gary L. Brickler USDA, APHIS, VS 2604 12th Court SW, Ste. B Olympia, WA 98502-5715	(360) 753-9430	(360) 753-9585
West Virginia	Joe Messineo	PPQ		Rt. 1 Box 142 Ripley, WV 25271	(304) 372-8590	(304) 372-8592
Wisconsin	John Maestrelli	WS		750 Windsor St. Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590	(608) 837-2727	(608) 837-6754
Wyoming	Rick Phillips	WS			(307) 261-9871	(307) 261-5996
ANAWG-Chair	Rick Wadleigh	WS		12345 W. Alameda Pkwy. Ste. 204 Lakewood, CO 80228	(303) 969-6565 Ext. 232	(303) 969-6578
ANAWG-VChr	Vacant					

Agricultural Marketing Service

The Agricultural Marketing Service provides market news reports; develops quality grade standards for agricultural commodities; provides voluntary grading services for livestock, meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, cotton, and tobacco; administers marketing regulatory programs, marketing agreements and orders, and research and promotion programs; administers national organic standards activities; administers USDA's laboratory accreditation program; administers Federal-State marketing improvement programs, wholesale facilities research programs, and food purchases for USDA food assistance programs; and is the coordinator for USDA's pesticide data program and pesticide recordkeeping program activities.

Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration

The Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture. One of GIPSA's programs, the Packers and Stockyards Programs, ensures open and competitive markets for livestock, meat, and poultry. The other, the Federal Grain Inspection Service, facilitates the marketing of U.S. grain and related agricultural products by providing the market with Federal quality standards and a uniform system for applying them.



9. Departmental Administration

Departmental Administration (DA) is USDA's central administrative management organization. It is responsible for leadership and oversight of cross-cutting administrative management activities in all of USDA's mission areas and staff offices. In support of USDA's goal to expand economic and trade opportunities for agricultural producers and other rural residents, DA's operations and activities involve timely, accurate, and high-quality delivery of products and services related to civil rights, small and disadvantaged business utilization, outreach programs, human resources management, procurement and property management, and safe and healthy work environments. The following offices are under Departmental Administration:

Office of Civil Rights

The Office of Civil Rights (CR) is charged with facilitating the fair and equitable treatment of USDA customers and employees. CR provides leadership and guidance to agencies in civil rights, while using its oversight responsibility to ensure compliance and accountability.



CR established a set of goals that will allow it to fulfill its mission over the next 5 years. These CR goals establish its priorities and direction. CR's goals are to:

- Fully implement the recommendations in the Civil Rights Action Team report described below,
- Ensure compliance with civil rights in employment and program services,
- Establish an infrastructure within the Office of Civil Rights and the agencies to efficiently and effectively perform civil rights functions,
- Integrate automated systems that can be accessed by all CR employees and agency civil rights personnel, which lead to the streamlining of processes,
- Establish outreach programs to meet underserved customers' needs and expectations and to communicate information regularly through various means to educate, assist, and support all employees and customers, and
- Ensure accountability in civil rights.

The expectations of the Office of Civil Rights are to monitor USDA customers' needs and adapt to any changes in their needs over time. CR's performance in carrying out its mission will be evaluated by its customers, both internal and external.

Primary Contacts:

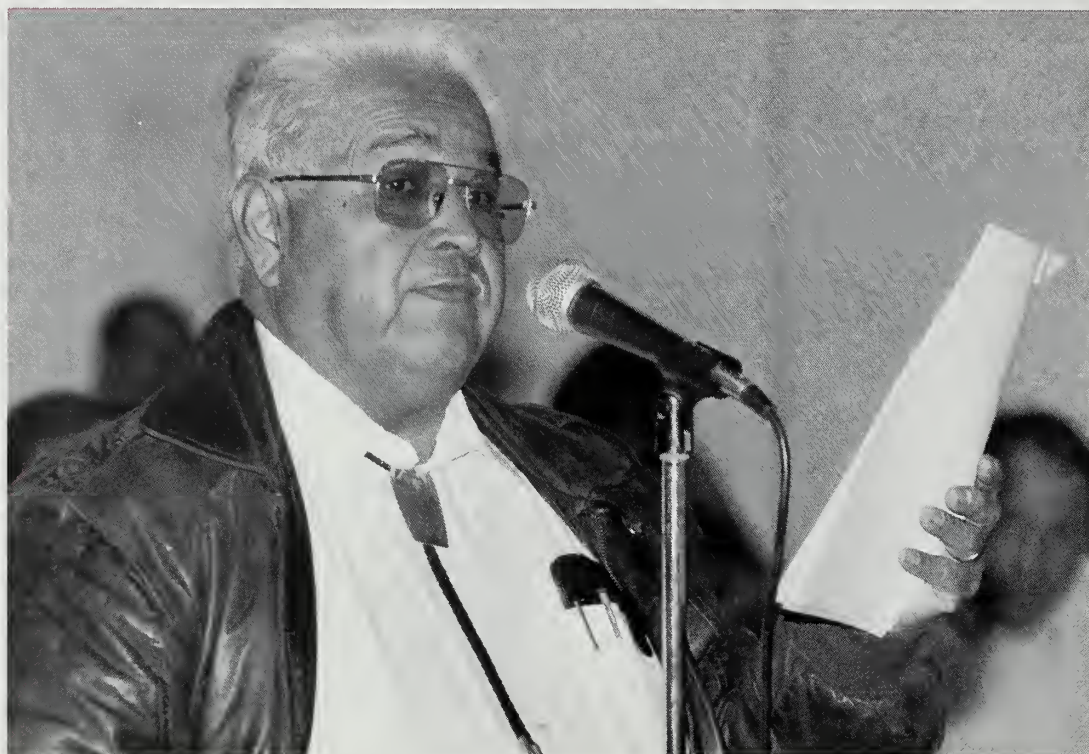
Lloyd E. Wright, Director, Office of Civil Rights, (202) 720-5212
Susan Reilly, Deputy Director, Office of Civil Rights (202) 720-3130
Jeremy Wu, Deputy Director, Office of Civil Rights (202) 720-5681

Civil Rights Implementation Teams

In response to a demonstration by black farmers outside the White House in Washington, DC, and documented cases of discrimination in program delivery and employment practices, Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman appointed a team of USDA leaders to take a hard look at the issues and make strong recommendations for change. The Civil Rights Action Team (CRAT) was charged with developing a set of recommendations to address institutional and underlying problems and ways to implement actions to ensure accountability and follow-through at USDA.

In addition to auditing past reports, the team sponsored 12 listening sessions in January 1997, in 11 locations across the country to hear from customers—especially socially disadvantaged and minority farmers—and from USDA employees. Three sessions (Tulsa, OK; Window Rock, AZ; Rapid City, SD) were targeted toward American Indians. However, due to inclement weather in South Dakota, the session in Rapid City was canceled out of concern for the safety of all participants.

The listening panels were composed of either Secretary Glickman or Deputy Secretary Richard E. Rominger (with one exception), CRAT members, Members of Congress, and members of the State Food and Agriculture Council. Customer ses-



sions were tailored to address the civil rights concerns of specific cultural groups.

The CRAT members reassembled in Washington, DC, and developed a report, *Civil Rights at the United States Department of Agriculture, A Report by the Civil Rights Action Team*, containing their findings and conclusions. Most importantly, it contains recommended actions that are being taken to remedy many of the long-standing problems plaguing the Department and weakening its credibility among customers and employees.

Assistant Secretary for Administration Pearlle S. Reed created 34 Civil Rights Implementation Teams (CRIT) to develop strategies for implementing the 92 recommendations developed by the CRAT. A publication, *Implementation of the Civil Rights Action Team Report at USDA—An Interim Progress Report*, has been compiled to document the status of the 92 recommendations.

Among the more prominent actions being taken in response to specific recommendations relating to American Indians and Alaska Natives in the CRAT report are the following:

- The Department will establish USDA Service Centers on tribal lands.
- USDA and the U.S. Department of the Interior have committed to work cooperatively with tribal governments to develop a strategic outreach plan utilizing USDA's Food and Agriculture Council (FAC) to identify and address the needs of American Indian agriculture and conservation.
- USDA is committed to improving the equity of funding of the 29 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges, and supporting the enactment of legislation to make these institutions eligible for Smith-Lever Act 3(d) Extension Service Funds.

Primary Contact:

Kathy Gugulis, Civil Rights Implementation Team (CRIT) Leader, (202) 720-3291

Special Emphasis Programs

In May 1990, the Office of Special Emphasis Programs (SEP) was developed to advise the Director of Civil Rights of unique concerns and problems related to equal opportunity for American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asian Pacific Americans, Blacks, Hispanics, People with Disabilities, and Women.

The American Indian Program is the Department's intermediary to the American Indian and Alaska Native communities on employment and civil rights issues. The functions of the office are to:

- Serve as the Department's principal advisor on employment and civil rights issues relative to American Indians and Alaska Natives,
- Work with the Office of Personnel to provide employment-related outreach to American Indian and Alaska Native organizations and educational institutions,
- Analyze departmental policies and issues affecting the employment and civil rights of American Indians and Alaska Natives,
- Coordinate USDA's participation in conferences on employment and civil rights that are sponsored by and for American Indians and Alaska Natives,
- Provide training to USDA employees to facilitate the efficiency of their work with American Indians and Alaska Natives, and
- Coordinate USDA's annual celebration of National American Indian Heritage Month.

Primary Contact:

American Indian Program Manager, Special Emphasis Programs, Office of Civil Rights, (202) 720-0352

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)

The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) was established June 26, 1979 pursuant to Public Law 95-507. OSDBU serves as USDA's lead agency in providing an integrated-focus for implementing and executing programs to assist small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses in supporting USDA's missions. OSDBU develops policies, standards, and programs consistent with Federal guidelines for developing, managing, analyzing, evaluating, and improving Departmental, agency, and staff office Affirmative Procurement Programs. OSDBU also provides guidance to assist agencies and staff offices in developing and implementing activities that ensure outreach efforts involve all tar-

geted groups, and to ensure that the participation of small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses in the Department's contracting and program activities is increased.

OSDBU provides Department-wide leadership in implementation and execution of programs under Sections 8 and 15 of the Small Business Act, as amended, as well as Executive Order 12432, to promote the growth and competitiveness of small, minority, and women-owned businesses through equitable participation in the Department's procurement and program opportunities. These programs are called the Procurement Preference Programs, and include:

■ **The Small Business Set-Aside Program**, under which the Department permits competition on certain solicitations only among small businesses;

■ **The Section 8(a) Program**, under which the Department enters into contracts with the Small Business Administration for supplies and services, and the SBA subcontracts noncompetitively for these requirements with approved socially and economically disadvantaged firms;





■ **The Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program**, under which the Department takes affirmative action to contract on a competitive basis with minority businesses;

■ **The Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) Program**, under which the Department takes affirmative action to ensure that businesses owned and controlled by women are offered an opportunity to compete on contracts awarded by the Department;

■ **The Subcontracting Program**, under which P.L. 95-507 requires prime contractors (large businesses) with contracts over \$500,000 for supplies and services and \$1,000,000 for construction to establish subcontracting plans that provide maximum utilization of small and disadvantaged businesses; and

■ **The Small Business Competitiveness Program**, under which the Department monitors the ability of small businesses to compete in 4 designated industry groups and to increase small business procurements in 10 industry categories traditionally lacking small business participation.

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By Carol A. Singer and Ellen Kay Miller, D.C. Reference Center,
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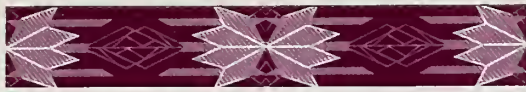
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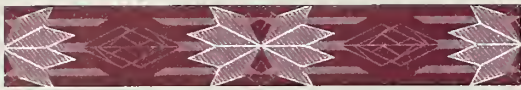
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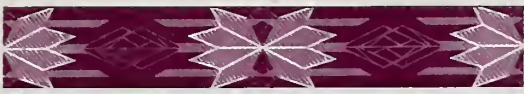
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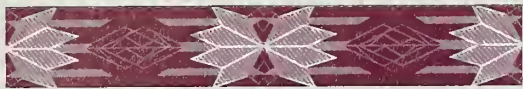
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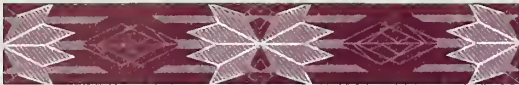
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Appendix

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 29, 1994

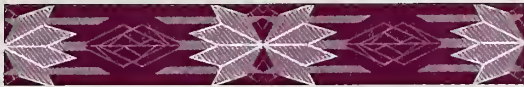
MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments

The United States Government has a unique legal relationship with Native American tribal governments as set forth in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, and court decisions. As executive departments and agencies undertake activities affecting Native American tribal rights or trust resources, such activities should be implemented in a knowledgeable, sensitive manner respectful of tribal sovereignty. Today, as part of an historic meeting, I am outlining principles that executive departments and agencies, including every component bureau and office, are to follow in their interactions with Native American tribal governments. The purpose of these principles is to clarify our responsibility to ensure that the Federal Government operates within a government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Native American tribes. I am strongly committed to building a more effective day-to-day working relationship reflecting respect for the rights of self-government due the sovereign tribal governments.

In order to ensure that the rights of sovereign tribal governments are fully respected, executive branch activities shall be guided by the following:

- (a) The head of each executive department and agency shall be responsible for ensuring that the department or agency operates within a government-to-government relationship with federally recognized tribal governments.
- (b) Each executive department and agency shall consult, to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with tribal governments prior to taking actions that affect federally recognized tribal governments. All such consultations are to be open and candid so that all interested parties may evaluate for themselves the potential impact of relevant proposals.
- (c) Each executive department and agency shall assess the impact of Federal Government plans, projects, programs, and activities on tribal trust resources and assure that tribal government rights and concerns are considered during the development of such plans, projects, programs, and activities.
- (d) Each executive department and agency shall take appropriate steps to remove any procedural impediments to working directly and effectively with tribal governments on activities that affect the trust property and/or governmental rights of the tribes.



(e) Each executive department and agency shall work cooperatively with other Federal departments and agencies to enlist their interest and support in cooperative efforts, where appropriate, to accomplish the goals of this memorandum.

(f) Each executive department and agency shall apply the requirements of Executive Orders Nos. 12875 (“Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership”) and 12866 (“Regulatory Planning and Review”) to design solutions and tailor Federal programs, in appropriate circumstances, to address specific or unique needs of tribal communities.

The head of each executive department and agency shall ensure that the department or agency’s bureaus and components are fully aware of this memorandum, through publication or other means, and that they are in compliance with its requirements.

This memorandum is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right to administrative or judicial review, or any other right or benefit or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION

NUMBER: 1340-6

SUBJECT: POLICIES ON AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

DATE: October 16, 1992

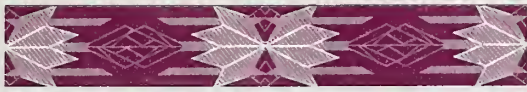
OPI: OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND ENTERPRISE or OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to outline the policies of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in its interactions with Indians, Alaska Natives, tribal governments, and Alaska Native Corporations (ANC). USDA policies are based on and are coextensive with Federal treaties and law. These policies pertain to Federally recognized Tribes and ANCs, as appropriate, and provide guidance to USDA personnel for actions affecting Indians and Alaska Natives. These policies do not involve USDA interactions with State-recognized Tribes, Indians, or Alaska Natives who are not members of Tribes with respect to matters provided for by statute or regulation.

2. DEFINITIONS

- a. **Indian tribe (or tribe).** Any Indian tribe, band, nation, Pueblo, or other organized group or community which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.
- b. **Alaska Native Corporation.** Any Alaska Native village or regional corporation established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Pub. L. No. 93-638 (ANCSA).
- c. **Indian.** A member of an Indian tribe.
- d. **Alaska Native.** As defined by section 3(b) of ANCSA, a citizen of the United States who is a person of one-fourth degree or more Alaska Indian (including Tsimshian Indians not enrolled in the Metlakatla Indian Community), Eskimo, or Aleut blood, or a combination thereof. The term includes any Native as so defined either or both of whose adoptive parents



are not Natives. It also includes, in the absence of proof of a minimum of blood quantum, any citizen of the United States who is regarded as an Alaska Native by the Native village or Native group of which he claims to be a member or whose father or mother is (or, if deceased, was) regarded as Native by any village or group.

- e. **Tribal government.** The governing body of an Indian tribe that has been officially recognized as such by the Federal Government.

3. BACKGROUND

The United States Government has a unique legal and political relationship with Indians and their tribal governments as defined through treaties, statutes, court decisions, and the United States Constitution. The United States Government has obligations under treaties and statutes to protect and maintain the lands, resources, and traditional use areas of Indians. Tribal governments have powers similar to those of State governments. In Alaska, the relationship with ANCs is defined by ANCSA, as amended.

4. POLICIES

- a. USDA is the lead agency of the Federal Government for providing effective and efficient coordination of Federal agricultural and rural development programs. USDA recognizes that Indians possess the right to govern themselves and manage their resources. Therefore, USDA supports and seeks to further the principles of self-governance as delineated in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975.
- b. Consistent with applicable law, USDA officials will consult with tribal governments and ANCs regarding the influence of USDA activities on water, land, forest, air, and other natural resources of tribal governments and ANCs.
- c. USDA recognizes that tribal governments and ANCs manage land for such agricultural activities as farming, grazing, hunting, fishing, subsistence agriculture, and gathering of plants, animals, and plant products. USDA further recognizes that such resources may hold a unique meaning in the spiritual as well as everyday lifeways of many Indians and Alaska Natives. Consistent with applicable law, USDA officials will solicit input from tribal governments and ANCs on USDA policies and issues affecting tribes and will seek to reconcile Indian and Alaska Native needs with the principles of good resource management and multiple use.
- d. USDA agencies will observe the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Pub. L. No. 95-341.

- e. USDA officials will work with the tribal governments, tribal high schools, colleges and universities to encourage the development of agribusiness skills, awareness, and, where needed, curricula. USDA will share information through the exchange of technical staffs and skills.
- f. USDA officials will work with other Federal and State agencies with responsibilities to tribal governments and ANCs and will encourage early communication and cooperation among all such organizations.
- g. Consistent with applicable law or regulation, USDA managers will facilitate tribal and ANC participation in USDA program planning and activities.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

The Secretary of Agriculture is responsible for ensuring that this policy is followed. The Secretary has delegated authority to certain USDA agencies for carrying out these policies. The Office of Public Affairs, Native American Programs Office, has primary responsibility for coordinating USDA agencies' programs serving Indians and Alaska Natives. The Office of Advocacy and Enterprise has primary responsibility for coordinating USDA's equal employment, civil rights, and employment-related outreach to Indians and Alaska Natives.

6. INQUIRIES

Questions or comments pertaining to this regulation may be directed to the Office of Public Affairs, Native American Programs Office, Room 112-A, Washington, D.C., 20250-1300. Telephone 202-720-3805.

Further information on USDA programs will be available in the "Guide to USDA Programs for Native Americans."

