Native Farm Bill Coalition

Relaunching for the 2023 Farm Bill
Agenda

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NFBC Overview

How we started and what we are doing now.
2018 Farm Bill

Regaining Our Future: An Assessment of Risks and Opportunities for Native Communities in the 2018 Farm Bill

- Commissioned by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Release at NCAI Mid Year Conference in June 2017
- Compendium of information on the Farm Bill, Indian Country’s involvement, the asks of Tribes, Tribal organizations, and a review or potential opportunities in the 2018 reauthorization
2018 NFBC Membership

200+ coalition members

Added another 15+ members since start of 2022 including Tribes, Native organizations, and Intertribal alliances

(Seneca Nation is a member!)
2018 Coalition Successes

63 Tribal-specific provisions in 2018 Farm Bill.
63 Tribal-Specific Provisions

- Tribal Parity Provisions
- Access to Funding Provisions
- Training & Infrastructure Provisions
- Technical Assistance & Outreach Provisions
- Traditional & Native Produced Foods Provisions
Title I- Commodities

Inclusion in Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance

- Adds tribes and tribal organization to definition of an eligible producer for the program.
- Required 75 percent reimbursement of the losses for beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers under the Tree Assistance Program.
Requires USDA to work with tribal producers and provide alternative funding arrangements for two essential conservation programs: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

This change is important as it requires the Secretary to provide tribal producers full access to EQIP and CSP programs while working within effective and traditional tribal agriculture structures and systems of cooperation.
Regional Conservation Partnership Program – expressly includes tribes who own or operate eligible land as eligible producers for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program – Allows the Secretary to enter into cost-share agreements with tribes, and other partners.
Conservation Reserve Easements – Allows the Secretary to enter into one or more agreements with tribes to carry out the maintenance required for a conservation easement.
Title II- Conservation

Furthering Tribal Access to Conservation Programs – Cont’d

- Funding of Conservation Reserve Program – Transition Incentives Program – Increases funding to $50 million, including up to $5 million for outreach and technical assistance, for the transfer of lands from existing CRP contract holders to new and beginning or socially disadvantaged producers.
Title III- Trade

Increased Opportunities and Access to Overseas Markets

- Increases opportunities for tribes and tribal producers to participate in international U.S. trade delegations
Micro-Grants for Food Security—Provides money to states to award grants of up to $5,000 to individuals and up to $10,000 to eligible entities, including tribes and tribal organizations, for small-scale gardening, herding, and livestock operations directed to food insecure communities.

The Gus Schumacher Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives—Tribal agencies can use other federal resources and funds (including IHS funding) to meet the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive program matching requirement.

Authorizes micro-loans for local foods in food insecure areas and makes tribes eligible

638 Demonstration Project - Establishes a Tribal Self-Governance Demonstration Project for management of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.
Title V- Credit

Improving Access to Credit for Tribal Producers

- Requires a GAO Study on access to the Farm Credit System in Indian Country
- GAO is starting this study and has begun reaching out to interview people
Establishment of Technical Assistance Program—Creates a permanent tribal technical service and assistance office across all USDA Rural Development funding authorities

Provides refinancing authority for Rural Development programs currently within the Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA) designation

Tribal priority, inclusion, and access to two broadband programs to build infrastructure and economic development opportunities in Indian Country – increase broadband program to $325 million (from $25 mil.)
Title VII- Research

Inclusion and Parity for Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs)

- Adds 1994 TCUs as eligible for the McIntire-Stennis Forestry program capacity funding
- Reauthorization of support for TCUs, updating 1994 tribal colleges list
- Creates a Native American student scholarship fund for tribal students who attend land grant universities and colleges
- TCU inclusion in the Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR) and the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP)
Title VIII- Forestry

Self-Governance and Parity for Healthy Forestry Management

- 638 Demonstration Project - Establishes a Tribal Self-Governance Demonstration Project for management of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands adjacent to Indian lands under the Tribal Forest Protection Act
- Good Neighbor Authority - Makes tribal governments eligible to exercise Good Neighbor Authority for forestry management agreements with states and USDA
Title X- Horticulture

Legalization of Industrial Hemp

- Legalizes hemp farming and authorizes new state and tribal plans to self-regulate, develop, and expand hemp production; also provides technical assistance to tribes and requires that states permit a tribe to transport across a state hemp that is lawfully produced under this Act
Title XI- Crop Insurance

Underserved Producers

- Includes tribal producers in definition of underserved producers for review and report of whether crop insurance is providing adequate coverage.
Title XII- Miscellaneous

Upholding the Trust Responsibility

- Maintains the Office of Tribal Relations within the Office of the Secretary to report directly to the Secretary of Agriculture
- Provides additional tribal government and producers eligibility and permanent baseline funding for the combined Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach (FOTO) program for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers
- Codifies the existence and access to federal agency resources and technical assistance for Tribal Promise Zones. Not included: competitive enhancement provisions
Establishes a new 11-member Tribal Advisory Committee through the Office of Tribal Relations to provide advice to the Secretary on Tribal-related issues and policies.
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Looking Ahead to 2023

Upcoming roundtables and listening sessions.
ROUND TABLES

April 12
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK
Targeting Collegiate Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

May TBD
Walker River Paiute Tribe
Schurz, NE
Tribal Producers, Consumers, Elected Leadership and Subject Matter Employees

June to July
From Alaska to Washington, DC
Roundtable extravaganza traveling from Alaska by way of the Great Plains and Midwest to Washington, DC
2023 Farm Bill Policy Priorities

**Increasing Parity**
Adding "Tribes" wherever state or local governments are mentioned.

**Expanding TA Access**
Fully funding the FRTEP, increasing the number of agents.

**Expanding Self-Governance**
Increasing the number of 638 self-determination programs.

**By Natives, for Natives**
Ensuring that policies & programs are introduced with our input.
2022 Events

Join the Coalition's Newsletter
Click "Join Us" on the NFBC website.

Attend Virtual Listening Sessions
Monthly listening sessions will focus on each Title of the Farm Bill.

Attend In-Person Roundtables
Meet us at a roundtable event near you!
Regaining our Future II Report coming in spring 2022.
How to Stay Involved

Ensure that your community is heard.
"To advance the policy priorities of Native American producers in the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill through a strong, united voice."
Keep in Touch

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