



**Council for Native American Farming and Ranching (CNAFR)
Recommendation Tracker – Updated June 2018**

ONGOING

#	Recommendation	Date of Rec.
4	NASS should be directed to include subsistence farmers and ranchers in the next Census of Agriculture.	02/2013
6	The Council recommends the Secretary encourage all USDA programs to adopt a “Micro Project” philosophy.	05/2014
7	The Council recommends that the Secretary foster the engagement of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) in the delivery of credit to Native Americans.	05/2014
8	The Council recommends that the Secretary foster improvement of the lending environment in Indian Country.	05/2014
9	The Council recommends that the Secretary establish an Inter-Agency Task Force on lending in Indian Country.	05/2014
12	The Secretary should foster better outreach to lender associations.	
10	The Secretary should develop a National Native American Radio Broadcasting Tribal outreach strategy.	05/2014
11	The Secretary should develop training opportunities for USDA & Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) staff to facilitate collaboration & encourage increased access to capital throughout Indian Country.	05/2014
13	The Secretary should seek an increase in FRTEP funding.	05/2014
14	The Secretary should support a repositioning of FRTEP to allow for additional funding while eliminating competition.	05/2014
18	The Council recommends that the Secretary have the Forest Service clarify that rights to use Tribal lands may satisfy the base property requirement to obtain a grazing permit.	05/2014
19	The Secretary should have the Forest Service review the impact of the current system of preferences for grazing permits on the ability of Native American ranchers to participate in the system.	05/2014
20	Forest Service should develop guidance on the best practices for handling grazing in Indian Country.	05/2014
21	Forest Service should create a partnership with Tribes in order to hear from Tribes during the review and revision of the grazing directives.	05/2014
25	The Secretary should utilize the authorities delegated under the Federal Advisory Committee Act to indefinitely extend or reauthorize the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching.	03/2015
29	USDA extend support to tribal model food and/or agriculture code projects undertaken in land-grant institutions around the United States.	09/2015

PENDING FOR DELIBERATION

#	Recommendation	Date of Rec.
31	The Council recommends the Secretary of Agriculture seek to appoint a Native youth, who is currently enrolled in college or technical school or has less than 10 years' experience in farming/ranching, to provide the Council with a younger generation's perspective on the future of agriculture and ranching in Indian Country.	09/2016
32	The Council recommends the Secretary of Agriculture explore the use of Facebook and other social media to enhance USDA outreach targeted for Native youth and young adults on USDA resources. The Council requests an update from the USDA Office of Communication within 6 months on the effectiveness of using these mediums.	09/2016
35	The Council recommends the Secretary of Agriculture establish a more transparent Forest Service grazing permit process by fulfilling requirements set forth in 7 CFR 15d, "Nondiscrimination in Programs or Activities Conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture."	09/2016
36	The Council recommends the Secretary of Agriculture have the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service establish an effective, uniform, and binding policy recognizing trust lands as base property for grazing and livestock use permit purposes.	09/2016
37	The Council recommends the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture attend at least one (1) Council for Native American Farming and Ranching meeting per calendar year.	09/2016
40	Accordingly, the Council recommends the Secretary explore all possible synergies between USDA and the Center for Indian Country Development.	09/2016
41	The Council recommends the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) determine at the application stage what the final contract amount at the completion of the project will be, that all the cost components and their scheduling be well defined, and that customers be allowed advanced payment as major milestones are completed.	09/2016
42	The Council recommends that the requirement of an applicant to maintain "control of the land" for NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) eligibility be amended to recognize the unique features of Native trust lands.	09/2016
43	The Council recommends USDA maintain its level of funding support for Native American farming and ranching, even though cy pres funds from <i>Keepseagle v. Perdue</i> case are distributed for assistance and advocacy services to non-profit organizations.	09/2016
44	The Council recommends the Office of General Counsel retain at least one (1) full time employee on staff who can advise USDA agencies on intersections of USDA policies and potential effects on tribal interests and populations.	09/2016
45	The Council recommends the Secretary direct USDA agencies to provide mandatory, program-specific training to field staff through webinars, teleconferences, or video conferencing to ensure consistent messaging of program goals and requirements.	09/2016

#	Recommendation	Date of Rec.
46	The Council recommends the Secretary of Agriculture – through the Office of General Council, Office of Budget & Policy Analysis, and the Office of Tribal Relations – establish a multi-year financial commitment to the Indian Agriculture Technical Assistance Network by January 20, 2017. This multi-year agreement should be annual funds obligated for one year and outlaid over five (5) years in accordance with the Anti-Deficiency Act and other relevant federal appropriations and budgetary laws and regulations.	01/2017
47	The Council recommends the Secretary continue to advocate for funding for the Office of Tribal Relations, commensurate with the President’s Budget for fiscal year 2017.	01/2017
48	The Council recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture authorize the continuation of the Council beyond September 2018, and that the Council be made a permanent statutory advisory committee.	10/2017
49	The Council recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture support American Indian/Alaska Native students to gain better access to USDA programming and careers.	10/2017
50	The Council recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture join with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Interior through a Memorandum of Understanding or inter-agency taskforce to explore and foster the kind of collaborative partnership that will allow for and provide base funding for additional FFA chapters in these rural and remote Native American communities.	10/2017
51	The Council recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture partner with all appropriate entities, including Congress, to support the expansion of 4-H clubs throughout Indian Country by increasing the Federally-Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP) appropriations to \$10 Million in mandatory appropriations, not discretionary funds, and maintaining FRTEP as a non-competitive program.	10/2017
52	The Council recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture continue to support the Addendum to the settlement agreement that was approved by the District Court on April 20, 2016, and affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on May 16, 2017, in the case now known as <i>Keepseagle v. Perdue</i> .	10/2017
53	The Council recommends that Secretary Perdue attend the next CNAFR meeting.	12/2017
55	The Council recommends amending recommendation 48 to recommend that the Secretary of Agriculture authorize the continuation of the Council beyond July 2018 as a continuing <i>discretionary</i> advisory committee (and not a permanent statutory advisory committee).	12/2017
56	The Council recommends that the Secretary and key USDA staff involved with the Farm Bill debate should meet in person with the Executive Committee of the Native Farm Bill Coalition.	12/2017
57	The Council recommends that the National Forest Service add an applicant-designated race or Tribal affiliation tag to its grazing permit collection criteria.	06/2018
58	The Council recommends that the Secretary support the current language in the Senate version of the Farm Bill regarding the USDA Tribal Advisory Committee. However, the Council recommends four-year staggered terms, open to reappointments. The Council also recommends that, regarding the seven positions chosen by the Secretary, that the process of selection be similar to that of the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching. The Council prefers this statutory option; however, if that were not to occur, the Council fully supports the creation of a new Native American advisory FACA committee.	06/2018

#	Recommendation	Date of Rec.
59	The Council recommends that the full list of Council for Native American Farming and Ranching recommendations be presented to the new USDA Native American advisory committee. Previous Council member(s), as well as the Office of Tribal Relations, can be available to provide background and context regarding these recommendations.	06/2018

CLOSED or COMPLETED

#	Recommendation	Date of Rec.
1	The Secretary should increase the number of CNAFR meetings per year.	02/2013
2	The Secretary should increase funding to provide for the increase in CNAFR meetings.	02/2013
3	The Secretary should direct appropriate agencies to recalculate the formulas used to set priority for WHIP funds to include special recognition for projects related to species relied upon for subsistence.	02/2013
5	The Council recommends keeping Janie Hipp involved with the Council either through continuous membership on the Council or on a consulting basis.	02/2013
15	The Secretary should improve internship access to Pathways & other programs for Tribal students.	05/2014
16	The Secretary should explore American Indian/Alaska Native hiring preference for both Pathways/Internships Programs as well as overall USDA hiring.	05/2014
17	The Secretary should explore Inter-Departmental hiring using Indian preference.	05/2014
23	The Council identifies the “Waters of the United States” proposed regulation changes from the EPA as a policy that would hinder agriculture production in Indian Country. The CNAFR tribal representatives oppose the regulation as it has been proposed.	12/2014
24	The Council recommends that the 1994 Program, also known as the 1994 Tribal Land Grant Colleges and Universities Program, be placed within the now permanent Office of Tribal Relations.	12/2014
28	The Secretary should instruct the USDA Ombudsperson to rework the methodology being used to develop statistics describing Tribal use of FSA Farm Loan Programs.	09/2015
33	The Council recommends the Secretary of Agriculture request the Secretary of Interior to ensure an executive level delegate from the Bureau of Indian Affairs consistently participates in each Council for Native American Farming and Ranching meeting.	09/2016
39	The Council recommends that the Secretary direct the Farm Service Agency to publish a plain language, comprehensive borrower guide and send a copy to each FSA direct loan borrower as soon as possible, but not later than December 31, 2016.	09/2016
26	The Secretary should extend USDA’s partnership with the Intertribal Technical Assistance Network.	03/2015
30	The Council recommends the Secretary of Agriculture ask the Secretary of Education to provide a briefing to the Council outlining how they support Native youth through funding to Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs in Indian Country as well as Education’s decision-making process for incorporating new FFA locations.	09/2016
34	The Council recommends the Secretary of Agriculture partner with the Department of the Interior to create a chart showcasing differences and similarities between grazing permit requirements.	09/2016
22	The Secretary should create a Memorandum of Understanding between the agencies that administer the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program.	05/2014
27	The Secretary should discuss with the DOI Secretary that BIA should allow the use of double cropping.	09/2015

#	Recommendation	Date of Rec.
54	The Council authorizes the Chair and Vice Chair to draft a letter to Secretary Perdue regarding resubmitting all outstanding recommendations, resubmitting the recommendations submitted in September 2016 and January 2017, and submitting the four new recommendations as a result of the November 2017 CNAFR meeting.	12/2017
38	The Council recommends that the Secretary direct the Farm Service Agency to engage with the appropriate state certified mediation programs to assure that mediation services are available to financially distressed Indian producers.	09/2016