

The Four Winds

Newsletter of the American Indian Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS (AIANEA)



Niibin 2014

Respect, Harmony, and Beauty



Elder Quote

"To be healthy in every way. Body, mind, spirit, Mother Earth. I think that's what we need to go forward in our life for seven generations to come. We're all in the same canoe, and we all need to paddle with the same blade together." *Marie Meade*

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AIANEA Membership Dues

- Student - \$10.00
- Regular - \$25.00
- Tribal College - \$100.00
- Tribal - \$500.00
- Lifetime - \$250.00 1 x payment/or payable in 4 installments of \$65/year

Please mail payment to:

Pam Crow, AIANEA Treasurer
101 So. Main Street
Temple, TX 76501

Please send articles on what is happening in your area. News stories, articles of interest, gatherings, pow wow's, whatever you want to share! Email to membership@aiana.com

2014 Training Conference—AIANEA COOKBOOK PROJECT

**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION FOR NRCS
2014 Training Conference
November 4-6, 2014 Atmore, Alabama
REGISTRATION FORM on page 10!!**

**Still time to get your favorite recipe in for the
Cookbook!! The project team is working hard to
finalize this project. Don't be left out!!**

The American Indian-Alaska Native Employees Association (AIANEA) is working to create a cookbook, and we need your assistance in reaching out to all those that we serve or partner with – Tribes; Tribal Conservation Districts; and, other partners.

The purpose of the book is to share our unique cultural heritage – to share American Indian and Alaska Native recipes, to honor our AIANEA Elders and their story, and to feature stories of the tribes and partners that AIANEA members work with and support – to tell the story of AIANEA and all that it accomplishes.

**SHARE YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE!
SHARE YOUR LEGACY!**

Please format your recipe(s) as follows:

- Name of Recipe.
- Name of person submitting recipe; Name of Tribe.
- List ingredients in order of use and/or addition to recipe. Don't forget to specify the quantities that are needed.
- Provide step-by-step instructions for preparation of ingredients.
- Provide step-by-step instructions for cooking.
- Provide temperature to cook and for how long.
- Provide any special tips or serving suggestions. How many will the recipe serve?
- Add a personal story about the recipe and why it is your favorite.



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Pam Crown
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101 So. Main Street
Temple, TX 76501

**PENALTY/
FRANKED MAIL &
OFFICIAL
STATIONARY.
YOU MAY NOT:**
Use official
government
envelopes (with or
without applied
postage) or official
letterhead stationery
for personal business.

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!

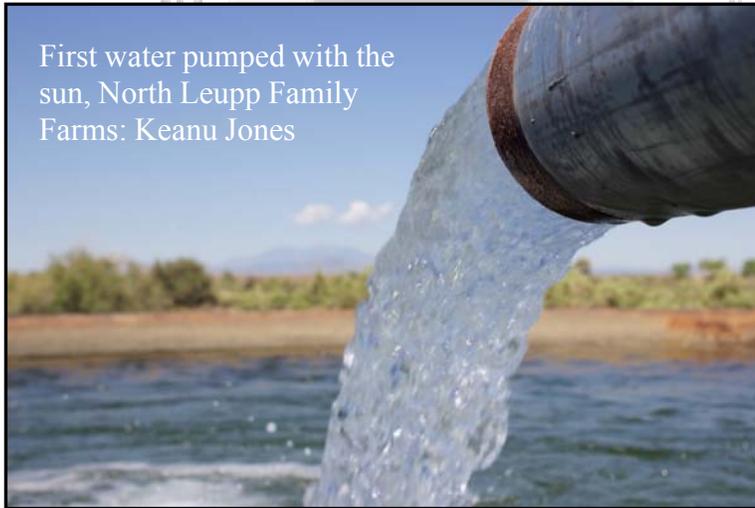
AIANEA is now on Facebook! AIANEA wanted to take advantage of the most popular social media tools to stay connected. This will give AIANEA the opportunity to stay connected not only with our membership, but with partners, friends, students and associates. AIANEA and Friends can use Facebook to post pictures of our events, share activities with tribes, share our journeys and participate in discussion forums. Please take advantage and stay connected!



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Indian-Alaska-Native-Employees-Association/160121254007738?sk=wall>

Solar-Powered Irrigation Pumping Demonstration Project at North Leupp Family Farms

Tó Lání Enterprises (TLE) received a Conservation Innovation Grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services in 2012 to conduct a three-year national pilot project to demonstrate the environmental, agricultural, economic, and socio-cultural effectiveness and benefits of solar energy systems for pumping irrigation-quantities of water;



First water pumped with the sun, North Leupp Family Farms: Keanu Jones

and to encourage and facilitate the adoption of such systems among Navajo, Hopi and other Tribal Conservation Districts, farmers and ranchers in the arid and semi-arid Southwest.

Most producers on Navajo Nation are rural and beyond the reach of the grid, so they must choose from diesel-generated power or renewable energy options. With 96 percent of Navajo farmers making little or no positive return from their operations, start-up and operating costs must be low.

One of the principal technological innovations under investigation in this project is Photovoltaic (PV) direct water pumping for irrigation on sites capable of commercial production (10 acres and up). In PV direct pumping systems, solar arrays are connected directly to a pump. The pumps only run when the sun is shining. This technology has been

used most commonly for pumping domestic and livestock water (see NRCS Tech Note 28, October 2010), but has not been commonly used for irrigated farming. The other innovation under investigation is comparing solar tracking with fixed PV panel arrays for this application.

In year one, TLE worked with more than 10 partner organizations including the Little Colorado River Soil and Water Conservation District and the Hopi Natural Resource Conservation District to design, install, operate, and monitor a 21.2 KW PV direct water pumping system at North Leupp Family Farms, Inc. (NLFF). NLFF is a 100-acre farm near the Lower Colorado River about five miles north of Leupp, Arizona on the Navajo Nation. The farm has allotted small plots for 20 to 30 community-member farmers, provides educational outreach on healthy food and sustainable agriculture, grows crops for market, and is a partner in Farm to School programs with STAR School and Leupp School. All NLFF farmers are limited resource farmers.



North Leupp Family Farms Dual Axis Tracking PV Array: Shannon Clark

Ribbon Cutting at North Leupp Family Farms, September 2013 (above). Logging system performance



The solar PV system at NLFF is an innovative dual-axis tracking system manufactured by a local company, Sedona Solar Technology. Installation was completed in early August 2013. During the remainder of the growing season, the system provided sufficient power to run the 15 HP, 480 V AC well pump for irrigation during a six-hour window, roughly between 9:30 am and 3:30 pm.

A pump test conducted demonstrated a PV direct flow rate of 360 gallons per minute (GPM) compared to 436 GPM when powered by the on-site 125 kW diesel generator. During the pump test, the pump controller indicated the array was producing power at about 80 percent efficiency (decreased efficiency related to high temperatures), which accounts for the difference in pumping capacity.

Performance monitoring, evaluation and outreach will continue in years 2 and 3.

The article was written by Shawn Newell, a TLE employee
Submitted by Felix Nez, Jr.



StrikeForce helps farmers and ranchers provide communities with local produce by Beverly Moseley



An Apache youth, Noah Titla, 13, has chosen to follow in the footsteps of generations of San Carlos Apaches by growing and harvesting his own food. His passion for reconnecting growing food with tribal traditions has been a catalyst for increasing awareness of the benefits and availability of fresh food on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in southeastern Arizona.

Through his hard work at the San Carlos 4-H Garden Club's community garden, Noah is making a difference in a state included in the USDA's StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity. The initiative addresses high-priority funding and technical assistance needs in rural communities in 16 states, including Arizona, with a special emphasis on historically underserved producers and communities in designated counties with persistent poverty, such as



StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity and other NRCS efforts help farmers and ranchers provide fresh fruits and vegetables for their communities.

the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

"I didn't know that such a small community could grow such a good amount of crops," Noah said about his club's community garden. Club members share the harvested food with their friends and families.

Besides all the hard work club members put into keeping it going, the community garden is thriving thanks in part to StrikeForce and the resulting partnerships between USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Rural Development, as well as University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and local community members.

Noah's aunt, Millie Titla, NRCS district conservationist in San Carlos, teaches youth working in the garden about the importance of soil and water conservation practices. She also provides heirloom Apache squash, corn and watermelon seeds, which she grows behind the NRCS field office in San Carlos.

"Millie is my mentor. She really helped me out a lot with this and with my community fellow Apache members," Noah said.



Millie Titla, NRCS district conservationist in San Carlos, Ariz., and Noah Titla, San Carlos 4-H Garden Club at the club's community garden.



Millie Titla, NRCS district conservationist in San Carlos, Ariz., Noah Titla, San Carlos 4-H Garden Club member and Sabrina Tuttle, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension tribal extension program agent, inspect the garden's hose which is used for drip irrigation

opportunities for them,” NRCS district conservationist Gerry Gonzalez said.

Several states to the east, StrikeForce also helped Arkansas farmer, Mildred Griggs, equip her seasonal high tunnel with irrigation, which keep plants growing strong with the precise amount of water. Griggs uses micro-irrigation to drop water at the base of the plants. The results of this work lead to fresh, tasty produce that is enjoyed by both Griggs and the community.

"StrikeForce has afforded some of the smaller alternative crop producers to be eligible to grow their crops under the seasonal high tunnel,” NRCS district conservationist Derinda Smith said. “Mildred’s done a really great job with this seasonal high tunnel. She's made it work for her and the community and that’s a really, really nice thing for her to do."

StrikeForce is creating conservation opportunities in rural communities and tribes across the nation. [Learn more.](#)



The bare garden lies ready for the soil to be worked and spring planting to begin. A boarded up, abandoned house with graffiti scrawled on the side sits beside the garden. This house is a stark reminder that San Carlos is defined as a persistent poverty area.

“Gardening has been a part of the Apache culture for thousands of years, and we’ve lost the traditional way of gardening throughout the century,” the elder Titla said. “I wanted to bring this back to the community so they could appreciate what gardens are about and what gardens can provide for their families.”

Fellow Arizona farmers, Alfredo and Sabrina Zamora, are also doing their part to help the community. The Zamoras, who have worked with NRCS the last 20 years, recently replaced four outdated pivot irrigation systems with new upgraded ones on their cropland with financial assistance through StrikeForce.

They regularly hold field days on their farm to share with other local farmers the benefits of USDA programs and to increase participation in those programs, especially among Hispanic farmers.

“Here along the border areas, there are a lot of small landowners—a lot of underserved, nontraditional clients and USDA’s StrikeForce provides

Programs & Eligibility Workshops for Agriculture Producers Cherokee Nation Tribal Headquarters by Dr. Carol Crouch

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) partnered with the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC) and the Cherokee Nation to hold a “hands on” workshop that covered the eligibility and application process for USDA Farm Bill programs for Tribes, tribal members, women in agriculture and producers. The workshop was held on January 21, 2014 at the Cherokee Nation Tribal Headquarters, located at 17723 Hwy 62, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The workshops were held in the Tsa La Gi Ballroom. Two workshops were held: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The opening prayer was given in Cherokee language by Cherokee Nation choir director and Cherokee Nation tribal member, Kathy Sierra.

USDA agencies participating in the workshop included NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Rural Development (RD) and Risk Management Agency (RMA). The focus of the workshops was to provide the opportunity for agriculture producers to receive “hands on” assistance in completing Farm Bill applications and receive the training on what forms need to be completed in order for the producer to be

eligible for USDA programs. NRCS and FSA staff provided assistance in completing Farm Bill application and eligibility forms. RD and RMA provided valuable information and training on their community and individual

program opportunities. In addition, all USDA agencies provided program information packets to all workshop attendees.

Facilitating the workshop was Dr. Carol Crouch,

NRCS State Tribal Liaison and NRCS National American Indian AI/AN Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM), with a welcome provided by Chad Kacir, ASTC-FO, representing NRCS state leadership. NRCS staff providing technical assistance during the workshop were: Matt Ward, Program Liaison; District Conservationists, Lisel Worley, Michael Ramming and Audra Fenton; NRCS State AI/AN SEPM, Coty Parker and Soil Conservationist, Clint Fleharty. Representing other USDA agencies included; Jerry Efurd, Director of Community Programs and Brian Wiles, Business & Energy Program Director, for RD; Steve Molloy, Farm Loan Programs and Jerry Starkey, Farm Programs, for FSA and LaShaun Smith for RMA. Lunch was provided for all attendees at the Cherokee Nation Natural Resources department in the Cherokee Nation *Restaurant of the Cherokees*. According to Dr. Crouch, “The workshops were a huge success because we were able to deliver “hands on” training to Tribes, tribal members, women in agriculture and producers in completing the farm bill application and how they become eligible for these programs.” Crouch added, “These types of workshops

Matt Ward, NRCS Program Liaison, provided “hands on” training for producers on completing applications for Farm Bill programs.



that focus on reaching our historically underserved populations could not happen without strong partnerships and government to government relations that NRCS has with the Cherokee Nation and OTCAC.” Attending the workshops was 17 Oklahoma Tribes, 41 tribal members, 9 women in agriculture and 7 beginning farmers.

Membership Form

American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

www.aianea.com

Please make checks payable to AIANEA and mail your membership form and dues to:

Pam Crow, AIANEA Treasurer
101 So. Main Street
Temple, TX 76501

Date: _____

Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Office Address: _____ New Address?

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

e-mail: _____

Tribal Affiliation (optional) _____

Type of membership. (Membership is for one calendar year **January 1 to December 31**)

My membership is for the year 20____.

Regular-\$25.00 Check here if this is a renewal membership

Student -\$10.00 full-time high school or college students

Lifetime - \$250.00 or payable in 4 installments of \$65/year

Enclosed is payment # 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

Tribal College-\$100.00

Tribal - \$500.00

Our Land – Our Promise to the Next Seven Generations

AMERICAN INDIAN ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION FOR NRCS
2014 Training Seminars
Hosted by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians

November 4 - 6, 2014 • Atmore, Alabama
REGISTRATION FORM



PLEASE TYPE. FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY.

FIRST NAME				LAST NAME			
ADDRESS						CITY	
STATE		ZIP		POSITION/TITLE			
PHONE		EXT	FAX	EMAIL ADDRESS			
Are you an AIANEA member for 2014?				Yes	No		
Are you attending on APPROVED TRAVEL with NRCS?	If so, contact your HR department to complete the registration. Complete this form and return if you plan to attend the AIANEA Awards dinner on Tuesday evening.			Yes	No		
Are you an NRCS employee attending at your own expense?	If so, complete this form and return with your payment to the Treasurer.			Yes	No		
Are you bringing a guest(s) to an event(s)?	If so, complete this form and return with your payment to the Treasurer.			Yes	No		

REGISTRATION FEE	
FULL CONFERENCE	\$400.00

Special Needs (Accommodations, dietary needs/meals, etc.): _____

PLEASE SELECT PAYMENT METHOD **CHECK** (Make payable to AIANEA) **CREDIT CARD** (Government Travel cards will NOT be accepted for registration payment)

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Pam Crow
 AIANEA Treasurer
 101 South Main Street
 Temple Texas 76501
 254-742-9944 (phone)
pam.crow@tx.usda.gov

Type of Card: _____
 Card Number: _____
 Expiration Date: _____
 Cardholders Name: _____
 Cardholders Phone#: _____
 Cardholders Signature: _____

A Copy of this form serves as receipt for payment.

GUEST REGISTRATION

CONFERENCE ATTENDANT'S FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	STATE
GUEST(S) FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	

Event Fees: Indicate how many, including you, who will attend the following events.

EVENT(S)	# ATTENDING	COST (Per/Person)	= TOTAL PAYMENT
TUESDAY EVENING AIANEA AWARDS DINNER		x \$26.00	=
FULL CONFERENCE FEE (if applicable, see above for type of registration)		x \$400.00	=
TOTAL FEES (must be paid with personal check or personal credit card)			=

Guest Special Needs (Accommodations, dietary needs/meals, etc.): _____

Important

The following information is provided for the Host Tribal Venue.

HOTEL INFORMATION: Wind Creek Casino Hotel, 303 Poarch Road, Atmore, Alabama 36502
Website: www.windcreekcasino.com

For Reservations, please call: Group Sales at 1-866-946-3360 or 1-251-446-4290

Reservations must be made by October 2, 2014 to receive the guaranteed rate.

Approved travel dates for NRCS employees are Monday November 3rd and Friday November 7th.

A block of rooms are reserved under the name, "AIANEA Conference."
\$77.00 plus tax (King or Queen)

The AIANEA has 100 rooms reserved in their block at Wind Creek. Roll over hotels are listed below, if needed. The room rate at these hotels will be government rate but that is \$83.00 plus tax due to the increase in Per Diem rates.

Muskogee Inn (Tribal Owned and Operated)
6141 Hwy 21
Atmore, Alabama 36502
1-251-368-8182

Holiday Inn Express
111 Lakeview Circle
Atmore, Alabama 36502
1-251-368-1585

Hampton Inn
45 Rivercane Blvd.
Atmore, Alabama 36502
1-251-368-9090

Airports are:

Pensacola International Airport
2430 Airport Blvd., Suite 225
Pensacola, Florida 32504
1-850-436-5000

Mobile Regional Airport
8400 Airport Blvd.
Mobile, Alabama 36608
1-251-633-4510

All flight information will need to be submitted to David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison, 5535 Poarch Road, Atmore, Alabama 36502, david.elliott@al.usda.gov so that shuttle service can be arranged. Both airports are a one (1) hour drive to the Reservation.

If you are presenting a session and have training materials needing special handling, please contact David Elliott for assistance.

For the POSTER SESSION, send your poster to David Elliott's attention at the address provided above.

Items for the SILENT and LIVE AUCTIONS can be mailed or shipped to David Elliott (at the address above). Proceeds from the sale of items donated for the silent and live auctions will help fund college scholarships awarded by the AIANEA. Please support this effort!

The 2014 AIANEA National Council

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