



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Generation Indigenous Food: Preparing Beginning Farmers and Ranchers for Success and Resiliency

Janie Simms Hipp, J.D., LL.M. (Chickasaw)  
Project Director

Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative,  
University of Arkansas School of Law[

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development  
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# Project Audience

- Native youth, high school and early-college aged beginning farmers and ranchers
  - Where are they: national, intertribal, from every region
  - Who are they: socially disadvantaged producers, American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian young and beginning farmers and ranchers
  - Type of farming/ranching/forest management: livestock, fruits and vegetables, grain, traditional foods, forest owners, fishers, wild game, etc.
  - Stage of farming: exploring, start-up, first 10 years, in business with their families already



# Partners/Collaborators

- Who are the key people on your team?
  - Erin Shirl, IFAI, Co-PD
  - Intertribal Agriculture Council (Ross Racine, Zach Ducheneaux, Donita Fisher and all IAC Technical Assistance Specialists and staff)
  - FFA (Ben Meyer and all FFA chapters with Native students)
  - Farm Credit Council (Gary Matteson and all FCC associations and leadership)
  - The entire University College of Agriculture faculty
  - The Southern Region Extension Risk Management team
  - Tribal governments such as Coushatta Tribe of LA, Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Quapaw Nation, etc.
  - A-dae Romero and Vicki Karhu, consultants to IFAI



# Key Approach(es)

- Our focus is on critical skills development among Native youth involved or passionate or entering food and agriculture during an annual Summit
- Continued interface with students post-Summit
- In-classroom education and training & Career Skills Improvement course
- 10-day+ on-site annual on-campus classroom training (Summer); field trips; experiential learning; research exposure
- Fellowships, mentorships and internships
- Ongoing Regionally-based Technical assistance



# Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this project, we will have helped:

- 375-400 new students by end of the project period; continued rolling incorporation of all participants; all socially disadvantaged, will start a farm, ranch or food business or take over significant new roles in their families' or tribes' food operations
- 375-400 new students by end of the project period; continued rolling incorporation of all participants; all socially disadvantaged, will continue to improve their skills through pre- and post (and ongoing) assessment and evaluations.



# What do you have to share?

- Curriculum focusing on Ag Business Development in Indian Country, tested to Youth Audiences
- Curriculum focusing on Indian Land Tenure and Landownership issues, tested to Youth Audiences
- Curriculum focusing on Ag and Food Law Issues, tested to Youth Audiences



# What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Resources and curriculum that is tested in Indian Country and with youth and young adult audiences
- Business management, financial management and risk management for youth and young adult audiences
- Career Skills Development
- Farm Financial Skills Development



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# Keep in touch!

Janie Simms Hipp, J.D., LL.M.

[jhipp@uark.edu](mailto:jhipp@uark.edu); 479-575-4699

[www.law.uark.edu/ifai](http://www.law.uark.edu/ifai)