

Keepseagle – List of Native American Agriculture Projects

[Alaska Village Initiatives](#) -- \$1,500,000

Alaska Village Initiatives (AVI) is a nonprofit that assists Native Alaska villages and Alaska Native people and has been active in opening Alaska to USDA services and programs. AVI received funding for their Alaska Native Outreach and Assistance Project under which it will provide direct assistance (including conservation planning and business financing) to develop a “toolbox” of USDA programs and other programs that will help develop agriculture and make Alaska Natives and their villages more self-reliant and prosperous.

[American Indian College Fund](#) -- \$824,000

The American Indian College Fund (AICF) is a non-profit organization that provides scholarships and other support for Native American students. AICF will use these funds to offer additional scholarships specifically for Native Americans studying agricultural related fields, and provide mentoring and other support for the scholarship recipients. AICF will award 4-years of funding to a total of 20 students in each of the two years for which funding is awarded, providing each student with four years of funding at \$5000 per year.

[American Indian Science and Engineering Society](#) -- \$714,508

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) has provided millions of dollars in scholarships to students over the last 30 years. AISES will use its *cy pres* funds to provide scholarships and mentorship support for high school, college, and graduate students. Each year of the two-year grant, AISES will provide 30 students in agriculturally related fields with \$5000 scholarships, and 10 students with research grants. In addition, AISES will provide funds for the students to travel to conferences and participate in AISES programs.

[Bay Mills Community College](#) -- \$298,503

Bay Mills Community College (BMCC) in Michigan will purchase new equipment for its Waishkey Bay Farm, a research, educational, and extension facility, allowing for safer and more up-to-date educational experiences for all participants. In addition, they will increase the classes available by 40%, establish a mentorship program, and provide demonstration projects, meetings, workshops, internships, and summer youth experiences.

[Center Pole](#) -- \$343,652

Center Pole is a Native-led nonprofit organization on the 2.3 million acre Crow Indian Reservation in southeastern Montana. Center Pole will use this funding to continue and expand its work with Crow youth so that they may have hands-on learning about farming from beginning to end. The goal is to create a food system on the reservation that would use assets they can access – land, water, plants, and animals – to have more self-sufficient, healthier and longer lives. Over 200 youth will learn the basics of sustainable farming, 500 community members will learn about food, nutrition and farming, 15 youth will attend off-reservation programs in leadership and agriculture, a greenhouse will be developed so community members may emulate it, and Center Pole will advise tribal landowners on how to obtain land (most Crow land is currently leased to non-Indians) for food production.

Keepseagle – List of Native American Agriculture Projects

[Farm Aid -- \\$219,285](#)

Farm Aid is a nonprofit that has been working for family farmers and ranchers since its formation in 1985 by Willie Nelson, John Mellancamp and Dave Matthews. Farm Aid will use this grant to build on its three decades of one-on-one referral work and farm advocacy work with a new program that will be focused on, and guided by, the specific needs of Native American farmers and ranchers. Farm Aid will develop and expand its current index of resources to incorporate expanded data to address the needs of Native American farmers and ranchers, and make these resources available through its hot line and on-line resources. In addition, Farm Aid will provide advocacy training to Native American farmers and ranchers. Stipends (scholarships) will be provided to Native American farmers, farm advocates, and partner groups to attend these trainings. Farm Aid will develop resource guides, audio visuals, and otherwise increase sharing of the results of the training. A Native American advisory board will be appointed to ensure that Native perspectives continue to be integrated into Farm Aid's important work.

[Farmers Legal Action Group -- \\$692,213](#)

Farmers Legal Action Group (FLAG) is a national nonprofit law firm based in St. Paul, Minnesota providing legal services to family farmers and their communities, to keep farmers on the land. FLAG will use this funding to establish a Native American Agricultural Law Center, that will allow FLAG to expand its legal services to Native American farmers and ranchers. It will operate like a national legal-aid-like service for Native American farmers and ranchers and the advocates that serve them. All work will be non-litigation (e.g. USDA and BIA administrative appeals, advice on legal documents such as contracts, leases, loan documents). In addition to representation of individual farmers and ranchers, it will provide training on key legal issues to Native farmer advocate organizations. No funds will be used for litigation or lobbying.

[First Nations Development Institute -- \\$7,454,803](#)

First Nations Development Institute (FNDI) is a not-for-profit organization that has been a grantmaker since 1996, focusing on projects supporting economic development in Native communities, with one area of focus on food and agriculture. In addition to increasing its grant-making resources over the next two years, this award includes a \$5 million endowment to maintain its agricultural grant program in perpetuity.

[First Nations Oweesta Corporation -- \\$1,250,000](#)

First Nations Oweesta Corporation (Oweesta) is a national nonprofit based in Colorado which provides technical assistance, financial support, training and related services to Native American Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) across the country. This grant will provide funding for Oweesta's "Native Fresh Food Fund," which will increase the capacity of 60 Native CDFIs so they can provide increased capital and business development services for agricultural clients, to support and fuel local economic activity, start and grow Native owned agriculture businesses and grow and retain agricultural jobs. Oweesta will provide financing to native CDFIs, conduct four national trainings to build capacity to do agricultural lending by CDFIs, sponsor a 3 day training course for CDFIs so they in turn can provide specified lending

Keepseagle – List of Native American Agriculture Projects

products and specific assistance for borrowers, develop improved underwriting and consideration of factors such as trust land status, lack of equity, and other challenges specific to Indian Country, gather data and publish two reports on the findings from the two year period of funding recommended.

[Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute](#) -- \$184,236

Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute (FTPI) was created in 1989 to teach classes on holistic techniques and methods of healthy agriculture and farming-based lifestyles. Based in Santa Clara Pueblo, it has five properties in Northern New Mexico including a 10 acre farmsite and 80 acres of land. FTPI will use this funding to expand its training programs in traditional agriculture and farming, including use of greenhouses, bread ovens, fencing and animal rotation, seed saving, and similar efforts.

[Fort Belknap Indian Community of Montana](#) -- \$399,574

The Fort Belknap Indian Community has long operated a revolving loan fund for tribal members, organized under the Economic Development-Credit Department in 1980 under a BIA program (§638). It has been awarded funds to establish a Farm and Ranch Services Bureau to better coordinate tribal government support for agriculture, including assessing the current state of fencing, irrigation, stock water, and other agricultural infrastructure on the range lands managed by the tribe, and take steps to repair or upgrade as needed. It will also provide business education and training activities for farmers and ranchers. The funds awarded include \$200,000 for its revolving loan fund.

[Four Bands Community Fund](#) -- \$350,097

Four Bands Community Fund (Four Bands) is a Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that is active on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. With the funding received, Four Bands will provide business development coursework (75 participants), financial literacy course work (50 participants), technical assistance for business development (75 participants) and \$250,000 in loan capital for agricultural loans. It will also evaluate the program and monitor performance of participants monthly. At the end of the two years, it will develop a best practices guide for future development and expansion of the Agribusinesses Services program.

[Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission](#) -- \$145,637

The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission serves 11 Ojibwe tribes with natural resource management, conservation enforcement, and policy advocacy. The Commission will use the funds awarded to provide technical assistance and processing equipment to tribal wild rice harvesters. Specifically, it will purchase 22 wild rice threshing machines, two for each tribe, and train local leaders in how to use and maintain them. The threshing machines will permit the wild rice harvesters to complete the necessary processing to sell their wild rice commercially. The Commission will also complete a Needs Assessment Survey to identify what programs exist and what is needed to best serve the agricultural producers of the 11 Ojibwe tribes served.

[The Hopi Foundation -- \\$1,011,034](#)

The Hopi Foundation has included, since 2004, the Natwani Coalition which supports initiatives directed at improving the Hopi community's capacity to sustain itself agriculturally. The Hopi Foundation will use the funds awarded to deliver food system training to 120 community leaders and influencers, complete the Hopi Youth Farming Curriculum and roll it out to several local schools, and support a seed saving initiative. In addition, they will provide \$37,500/year in direct micro-grants of \$500 to \$2000 to 50 local producers over the two year period, and provide \$150,000/year in Partnership Capacity Building Grants to 10 community partners in the range of \$10,000-\$25,000 each. Finally, \$250,000 of the total awarded will be added to the Hopi Foundation's existing endowment.

[Indian Land Tenure Foundation -- \\$2,193,971](#)

Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) is a Native-led national foundation that works to restore Native American land to the control of Native Americans. It operates much like a community foundation by aggregating funds and re-granting them on various initiatives involving Indian-owned lands. The ILTF has been awarded funding of \$1.4 million for the Indian Country Cooperative Extension Fund (ICCE), which supports the work of the chronically underfunded Federally Recognized Tribe Extension Program (FRTEP). FRTEP was established to improve agriculture outreach to tribal communities, to improve agricultural productivity, and to support tribal youth in agriculture (e.g. 4-H programs). The funds for ICCE will be used to stabilize FRTEP programs (now on 36 reservations) and to increase services provided by these programs. ILTF's award will also fund (i) \$150,000 for landowner trainings to enhance knowledge about federal and tribal policies that affect land tenure and revenue sources for Indian farmers and ranchers; (ii) \$328,000 for a focused estate planning effort for 360 Native Producers in six targeted states; and (iii) \$115,000 for funding to develop alternative land ownership models (e.g. trusts or corporations) for managing fractionated lands, which would include appropriate BIA regulations.

[Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council -- \\$1,000,000](#)

The Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) is a federally chartered Indian organization that provides services to its 62 member tribes in 19 states. For many years it has administered a program called the Herd Development Grant program which provides funds for fencing, invasive weed control, corral systems, staffing, buffalo meat processing, and other purposes, according to the needs of the member which is seeking the grant. The funds awarded to ITBC will supplement the Herd Development Grant program with a focus on supporting the business of buffalo ranching, rather than other non-economic buffalo projects.

[Intertribal Agriculture Council -- \\$9,031,000](#)

The Intertribal Agricultural Council (IAC) is a not-for-profit organization that was established by order of Congress as means to address and provide solutions to the barriers facing Native American farmers and ranchers. It is the oldest Native American agriculture organization in the United States, having operated since 1987. The IAC has been Native American farmers

Keepseagle – List of Native American Agriculture Projects

and ranchers' primary source of assistance with loan applications and applications for other types of USDA aid to farmers, and with financial literacy education. IAC's award encompasses three broad areas: (a) \$2,965,000 for creation of a nationwide Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) to make agricultural loans; (b) \$3,966,000 to hire four additional technical assistance providers, and other personnel expenses to expand its organizational capacity, including \$500,000 to be used for making small grants to youth who are involved in agricultural projects through 4-H, FFA, or similar endeavors and \$1,600,000 to fund attendance at the IAC Annual Conference by students and by producers; and (c) \$2,100,000 for an endowment, with \$100,000 of that total allocated to do the planning for and establishment of the endowment. Access to agricultural credit was the centerpiece of this litigation and remains a persistent barrier for Native American farmers and ranchers. IAC's experience for decades working to assist on loan applications and financial planning for farmers provides them a depth of expertise to evaluate loan applications and identify those with sound business plans. Of course, neither the IAC CDFI, nor the entire *cy pres* fund can serve to cover all of the credit needs of Native producers. The ongoing support of IAC technical assistance providers assisting with loan applications to USDA or other lenders will help ensure that Native American farmers and ranchers have a fair shot at access to the many other sources of agricultural loans. Finally, as IAC is one of the premier national organizations, it will devote 15% of the resources (other than the endowment) to assisting Native American farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma, because no Oklahoma-specific projects are receiving *cy pres* funds.

[The Lakota Fund -- \\$2,635,350](#)

The Lakota Fund (Lakota Fund) is a Native-led Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that operates on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The Lakota Fund will use its grant to hire a full-time dedicated agriculture loan officer, to set up an ag lending advisory group, to make 15 loans to farmers and ranchers to start or expand their operations, 20 loans to existing gardeners to enable them to transform gardens into self-sustaining small farming operations, up to 35 small equity investments (10% of a loan or \$5000, whichever is smaller), customized business training to 50 farmers and ranchers and 20 gardeners, and coaching support to 35 farmers and ranchers and 20 gardeners.

[National Congress of American Indians -- \\$388,941](#)

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), is the oldest, largest organization serving the broad interests of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and communities. NCAI will use their funding to launch a Tribal Food Sovereignty Advancement Initiative which will develop a substantial, in-depth report on how to improve the administration of and access to federal land and agriculture programs for Native farmers and ranchers. The report will provide Native farmers and ranchers, as well as tribal governments, with a reference guide to these programs so that they are aware of what services should be available to them. In addition, the report will identify – for tribal governments and for the USDA – where the existing programs can be improved to better serve Indian Country. NCAI will also produce additional reports and recommendations on agriculture services, showcasing the best practices, providing recommendations for improving programs, and offering technical assistance. NCAI will also host meetings at its two annual conferences, which will bring together tribal leaders, individual

Keepseagle – List of Native American Agriculture Projects

producers, and members of USDA and the Department of the Interior, to address how programs can best serve Native farmers and ranchers.

[Nisqually Indian Tribe -- \\$514,234](#)

The Nisqually Tribe is based in Washington state, and their traditional agricultural activities revolve around salmon fishing. The Nisqually will use the funds awarded to modernize and improve the dated hatchery on Kalama Creek, and to develop a new facility on McAllister Creek to reestablish another fishery area.

[Oregon State University, for the Warm Springs Indian Reservation -- \\$370,266](#)

Oregon State University has been working with farmers and ranchers from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) for decades. OSU and its partners will use these funds to start a project called “Growing the Next-Gen: Strengthening Tribal Agriculture on the Warm Springs Reservation.” The project includes developing a “Farm School” for those interested in beginning an agricultural endeavor on a small scale, and to refresh the knowledge of those already farming. This will include online classes and field sessions (e.g. range and forage management for livestock). At the end of the Farm School, it will graduate ten participants with individual plans for their own farms. The project would also include some equipment for the demonstrations. Graduates would receive grants to start their operations, and youth who submit an accepted FSA Rural Youth Agricultural plan would also receive small grants for their projects.

[Owens Valley Indian Water Commission -- \\$428,720](#)

The Owens Valley Indian Water Commission (Commission) is a tribal consortium of three tribes in California, the Bishop, Big Pine and Lone Pine Paiute Tribes. The Commission will use the funds awarded to provide hands-on training and technical support to individual Native American farmers/ranchers and to member Tribes to support sustainable agriculture, permaculture design, best management practices, contract formation, and agriculture business startup services. It will also provide access to water for the Big Pine reservation by repairing a half mile of irrigation pipeline. For youth, it will provide 4-H participation. Small grants (\$5000) will be made to 10 individual farmers and ranchers to enable them to enhance their operations. Small tools and other supplies will be provided.

[Painted Desert Demonstration Projects Inc. DBA The S.T.A.R. School -- \\$263,278](#)

Painted Desert Demonstration Projects, Inc. runs the charter school known as The S.T.A.R. School which serves the Navajo and Hopi communities. The funds awarded will be used to develop and improve farmer’s markets on the Hopi and Navajo reservations, to permit better opportunities for the farmers to sell their produce. The plan includes proper storage, handling, and basic processing facilities, mobile market equipment, and, significantly, workshops leading to the Good Handling Practices and Good Agricultural Practices certifications that are needed for local farmers to be authorized to sell STAR School and other reservation schools food for the school lunch programs. The program will also include summer internships and apprenticeships for the students, encouraging the next generation of farmers.

Keepseagle – List of Native American Agriculture Projects

Pueblo of San Felipe -- \$239,880.

The Pueblo of San Felipe in the middle Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico is a tribe with a legacy of intertwined language, agricultural and cultural traditions. The Pueblo will use the funds awarded to expand and strengthen its Agriculture Program by hiring an Ag Program Coordinator to assist the program with management, scheduling and coordination of jobs and implementation of sustainability functions like growing and processing value added products (ground blue corn and white corn for tamales, for example). The award also includes funding for fencing projects, seeding native grasses, and constructing wells and solar pumps to provide watering stations, and to provide summer internships for youth.

Pueblo of Sandia -- \$363,900

The Pueblo of Sandia (Sandia) is located in an arid area in New Mexico. Sandia was awarded funding for rehabilitation of on-farm concrete irrigation ditches. This funding will help complete a project that will provide approximately 20 miles of on-farm water delivery infrastructure to near original or better condition. Sandia received funding from other sources (BIA and Bureau of Reclamation) but did not have sufficient funding to complete the repair project. This award will directly help every farmer on the reservation, by irrigating 86% of all irrigated lands (1951 acres) and increasing efficiency and water access for the remainder of the lands.

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin -- \$595,000

The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians is a federally recognized tribe in Wisconsin. The Red Cliff Band will use this award to create a simple fish processing facility on the reservation, permitting tribal members to process their own fish and then sell it at a higher price than the current system which requires they sell to a processor off-reservation. The Red Cliff Band will also assist the producers in establishing marketing channels for their fish. In addition, this project will involve production of organic fertilizer from the fish waste, creating another economically valuable product.

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes -- \$317,545

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT) are located in Idaho where they have a 544,000 acre land base of which 410,000 is dedicated to farming and ranching. The SBT were awarded funds for scoping, programming, designing and architectural services for a proposed new Land Use Resource Range and Agriculture Complex to provide improved and more convenient services to farmers and ranchers and provide meeting rooms and services (wifi, computers) so that future development of agriculture on the SBT is enhanced.

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate -- \$627,785

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribe of South Dakota will use the funds awarded for an “incubator farm” to assist tribal members in launching farms. The tribe will secure tribal land for an “Incubator Farm” and establish the farm using a “farm in a box” – a shipping container that contains solar panels to provide power, and tools for irrigation and working the land. This is the most cost-effective platform to launch beginning farmers. They will also develop a tunnel

Keepseagle – List of Native American Agriculture Projects

greenhouse to extend the growing season. They will select seven candidates each year for intensive beginning farmer training, and launch them into starting their own farms, including assistance developing business plans.

[Sitting Bull College -- \\$549,396](#)

Sitting Bull College is a tribal college which was established in 1973, located in Fort Yates, ND and serving the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Smaller producers on the reservation lack access to needed equipment. It is too expensive for every farmer or rancher, especially when starting up, to purchase all of the equipment they might need for most productive agriculture, and due to the remote location of the Standing Rock reservation, equipment rental – the usual fallback for newer farmers and ranchers – is not a viable option. Sitting Bull College will use the funds awarded to start a Shared Equipment Program that will permit tribal members to borrow needed equipment from the College, with ongoing expenses for repairs and maintenance covered by a cost-share plan. Sitting Bull College will also build a barn and buy the needed equipment, providing room for seed storage and hosting the ongoing workshops the college is already providing.

[Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute -- \\$1,500,000](#)

The Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) was founded in 1971 and became a land grant college in 1994. SIPI will use the funds awarded for three projects: creating a Land Grant Office, converting its existing greenhouse to an Agricultural Training Complex for Native farmers and ranchers, and funding the creation of an Indian Food Hub (IFH). The Land Grant Office will assist tribes and their members access resources from USDA and others. The Agricultural Training Complex will include training/workshops in pest management, seed-saving, and organic farming; research-based practices to extend growing seasons, strengthening production and yield; cultivation of plants for restoration and reforestation; agricultural business management marketing; and intergenerational training of Native youth to sustain farming and ranching traditions. The Indian Food Hub is designed to address barriers to small producers finding markets for their products. Most institutional purchasers (restaurants, school lunch programs, groceries) need a consistent supply of a certain size from their meat and produce suppliers. Most small farmers and ranchers cannot provide such a consistent supply. However, a food hub provides a way for many small producers to aggregate their produce, including areas for proper storage to allow for a steady supply. Thus, the food hub should help improve the economic viability of smaller agricultural producers.

[Stone Child College -- \\$188,804](#)

Stone Child College (SCC) is a tribal college serving the Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana. SCC will use their award to purchase equipment that can be shared by small producers on the reservation. Most of the tribal producers have forage and hay in their fields, but lack the equipment to mow and bale their hay. Most balers create large round bales which cannot be transported without a one-ton pickup truck that most small producers do not have. Thus, SCC proposes to purchase a small baler that produces square bales that can be moved in the pickup trucks that most local producers own. By permitting mowing at the proper time, this will also help control the spread of invasive species. In addition to the shared equipment, SCC will also

Keepseagle – List of Native American Agriculture Projects

develop a “Agricultural Technician Certificate” training program, with the hope of ultimately developing an Associate’s Degree program in Agriculture. Those who complete the certificate program will have access to the small baler and related equipment, and not only may they mow and bale their own fields, but those of family members or others. Thus, there will be both the resources to overcome an obstacle to most effective use of their current land base, and also the provision of increased training and education to improve farming and ranching practices.

[Suquamish Indian Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation -- \\$400,000](#)

The Suquamish Indian Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation is a federally recognized tribe in Washington state. Their agricultural activities are focused on shellfish harvesting and fishing. The Suquamish Tribe will use their award to purchase a boat to harvest geoduck clams. The tribe currently owns and operates a geoduck boat which is 40 years old, suffers from significant rot, and is essentially beyond repair. Twenty-five tribal members are geoduck divers, independent contractors earning money based on the geoduck they harvest, and will lose their livelihood if the Tribe is not able to buy a new boat.

[United Tribes Technical College -- \\$821,225](#)

United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) is a tribal college owned and operated by the five Tribes of North Dakota. UTTC will use its award to start a Native Farmer Initiative which will establish an Associate of Science degree in low acreage, low capital agriculture. In addition, it will provide scholarships for its ag students, summer internships, on-line classes and seminars, and undertake various demonstration projects focusing on high tunnel and greenhouse production of high value specialty crops.

[White Earth Land Recovery Project -- \\$183,163](#)

White Earth Land Recovery Project (White Earth) is based in Minnesota and has provided services to Ojibwe harvesting wild rice and berries, and maple syrup producers. White Earth will use its funding to create a White Earth Farmers and Producers Association to promote Native leadership and peer-to-peer support, providing funding to purchase needed supplies for maple syrup production which will increase production, for purchase of farm equipment for the White Earth demonstration farm, to support seed saving, to provide services (e.g. plowing) for small scale producers, to provide training at 10 meetings, to provide services for food grade maple syrup production so that small producers can market through Native Harvest, and a community celebration at the Annual Indigenous Farming Conference.