# Farm Bill Educational Guide



## For Tribal Governments, Citizens, and Food Producers

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#### Background about the Emerson National Hunger Fellowship

The Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program is a social justice program that trains, inspires, and sustains leaders. Fellows gain field experience fighting hunger and poverty through placements in community-based organizations across the country for 6 months, and policy experience through placements in Washington, D.C. for 5 months. The program bridges community-based efforts and national public policy, and fellows develop as effective leaders in the movement to end hunger and poverty.

#### Background about the Field Site

The Indigenous Food and Agriculture's mission is to bolster health and wellness in Indian Country through strategic planning, technical assistance, and youth development. By empowering Native producers, ranchers, farmers, and businesses, the Initiative supports diversified economic development and honors traditional knowledge and culture. IFAI empowers Tribal Governments, farmers, ranchers, and food businesses by providing them the legal framework, analysis, research, policy, and training they need to grow their operations, and by improving access to other resources, support, and education.

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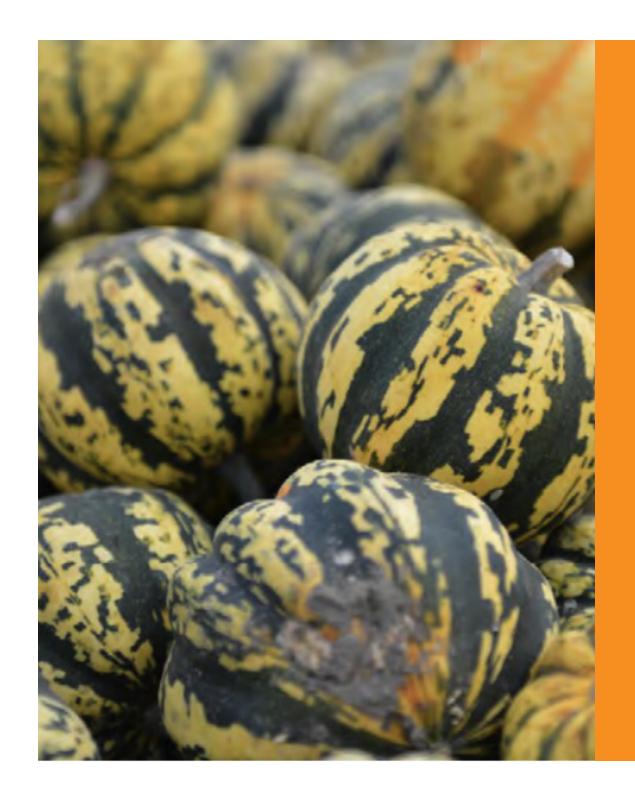
### Introduction

The "Farm Bill" is the single-most important piece of legislation that impacts federal food and nutrition assistance, farming, ranching and rural infrastructure policies in the United States. The most recent Farm Bill was passed in 2014, and Congress is projected to reauthorize the next Farm Bill in 2018. Analysis from the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the 2014 Farm Bill will have \$489 billion in spending over five-years [1]. As nearly 25 percent of tribal citizens participate in federal feeding programs (certain Native American communities see more than 50 percent of their citizens participating in federal feeding programs) [2], and Native Americans utilize more than 50 million acres of land in food and production agriculture [3], Native American involvement in the Farm Bill process is essential to build vibrant food systems, and support healthy communities.

Yet despite Native American utilization of Farm Bill programs, there is still a lack of parity in terms of funding for Native American producers. Nationally, Native American producers receive less average government monetary support than what the average producer in the U.S. receives. Thus, Native American involvement in the Farm Bill process is important not only due to Native Americans' utilization of many Farm Bill programs, but also the fact that their involvement could expand inclusion and remedy funding disparities in the Bill. As stated in the Regaining Our Future report: "the Farm Bill provides resources and programs that will allow [Native People] to reach our goals more quickly than in the past" [4].

This report is meant to be utilized by Tribal Governments, Tribal Citizens, and Tribal Producers as an educational guide during the Farm Bill reauthorization and rulemaking process.

## Farm Bill History



"What is clear for the language of many treaties is that the United States government explicitly intended for Indigenous peoples to become farmers, but ignored the basic premise: that we as Indigenous peoples had been feeding ourselves within the sustainable food systems since time immemorial."

- Regaining Our Future Report, IFAI

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law an act establishing the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Lincoln described this department as the "People's Department" because at the time the Department was founded, about half of the U.S. population lived on farms (today about 2 percent of the population live on farms) [5].

In 1933, 70 years after Lincoln established the USDA, Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the first Farm Bill as part of the New Deal legislation in response to the Great Depression and Dust Bowl. The Bill had three goals: "to keep food prices fair for farmers and consumers, ensure an adequate food supply, and protect and sustain the country's vital natural resources" [6]. Historically, Native American inclusion and representation in the Bill was minimal. However, through the work of organizations such as the Intertribal Agriculture Council and National Congress of American Indians, support for Native producers and communities through federal food assistance and agricultural programs has increased over time.

As the Intertribal Agriculture Council states: "Agriculture in Indian Country and in other socially disadvantaged communities has made tremendous strides in recent versions of the Farm Bill when you consider their meager representation prior to the 1994 Bill. The number of Native producers is up, production is more diversified, participation rates in some Farm Bill opportunities is improved, and we are poised to take the next step; turning our people into food producers and rebuilding our food systems locally, regionally, nationally and internationally" [7].

## Farming in Indian Country

The concept of farming in Indian Country has changed over time, and is intricately connected with the history of colonization [8].

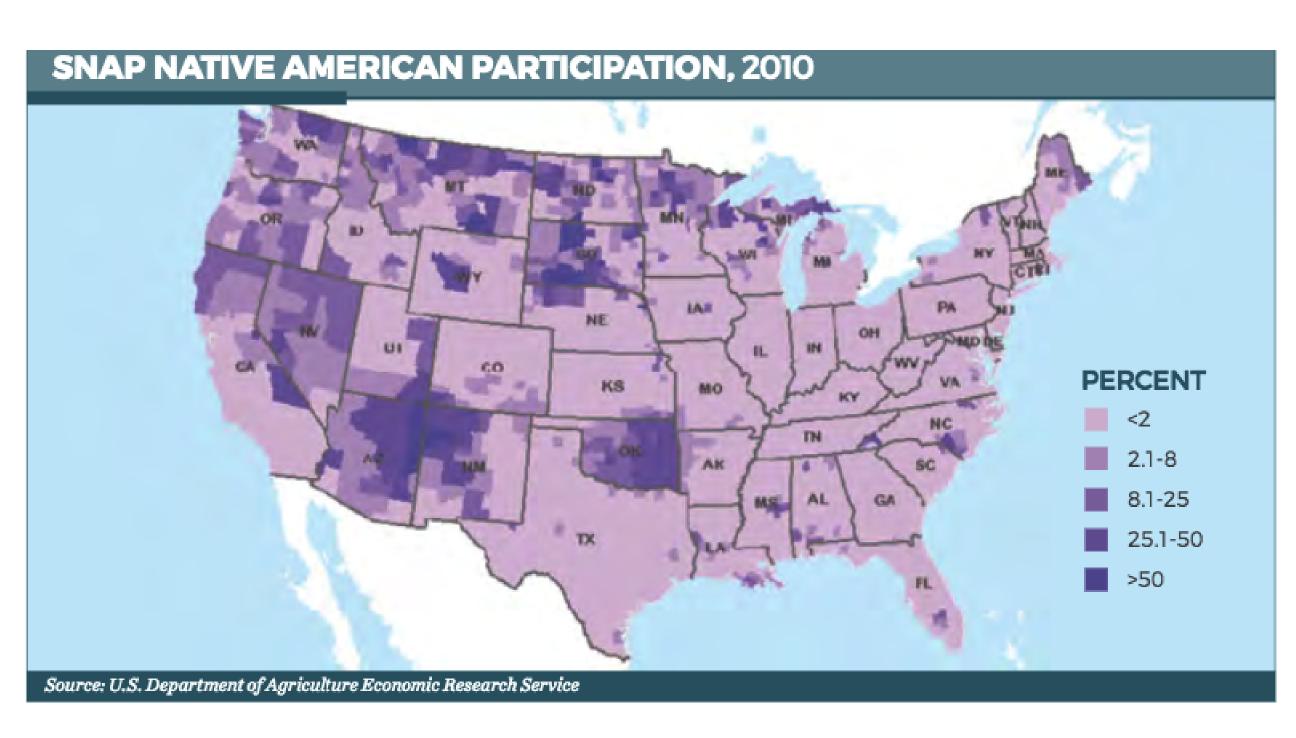
As stated in the Regaining Our Future Report: "The treaties between the United States and various Tribal Nations clearly show the intent of those executing the treaties to 'assist' Tribal Nations in the pursuit of 'farming'... The employment of individuals to 'instruct (them) in the mode of agriculture suited to their situation' [9] was recognized as a duty of the federal government... However, a 'farmer' by any standard definition is one who cultivates the land to feed him or herself and others around him or her, and Native Americans have been 'farming' for centuries. But in ways that were known to us [Native Americans] and were in concert and harmony with the lands, water, plants, and animals" [10].

Today, farming is still very important in Native American communities. Despite high rates of unemployment for American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native producers continue the arduous work of producing food in their communities. According to the 2007 Agriculture Census Fact Sheet Notes, "American Indian farm operators are more likely than their counterparts nationwide to report farming as their primary occupation...to derive a larger portion of their overall income from farming...[and] to own all of the land that they operate" [11]. This work occurs in spite of the fact that in every region of the country Native American producers receive less government assistance per farm (in terms of monetary support) than the average of all farms in those same areas [12]. These producers also operate larger farms than the average producer in many regions of the United States. Native American producers also participate in both livestock and crop production operations.

## Federal Food Assistance in Indian Country

The Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) began as the Food Stamp Act of 1964 with the goal of "strengthening the agricultural economy and providing improved levels of nutrition among low-income households" [13]. The SNAP program offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families, and is the largest domestic hunger safety net [14]. Today, SNAP funding represents approximately 80% of total mandatory spending in the Farm Bill [15]. In Fiscal Year 2014, approximately 46.5 million Americans received SNAP benefits, averaging \$125 per person per month [16].

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) provides food to "income-eligible households located on Indian reservations, and to American Indian households residing in approved areas near reservations or in Oklahoma" [17]. Many households participate in FDPIR as an alternative to SNAP because they do not have easy access to SNAP offices or authorized food vendors. The Food and Nutrition Service, an agency of the USDA, administers FDPIR at the federal level. The program is administered locally by either an Indian Tribal Organization (ITO) or State Agency [18]. The ITOs also provide employment to local and tribal personnel who administer the program. Congress also authorized the USDA to purchase traditional and locally grown foods as part of the FDPIR program in the 2008 Farm Bill, but the mandate was unfunded. However, with the continued engagement and advocacy by Tribal leadership, intertribal organizations and the National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations Board, in 2014 the "USDA" received an additional allocation of \$5 million dedicated to traditional and locally-grown foods" for the FDPIR program [19]. FDPIR now offers bison, blue cornmeal, traditionally-harvested wild rice and wild frozen sockeye salmon fillets [20]. There are "approximately 276 tribes receiving benefits under FDPIR through 102 ITOs and 3 state agencies" [21]. As stated in the Regaining Our Future Report, "since Fiscal Year 2013, FDPIR participation [rose] over 17 percent, and between Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2017, the monthly participants [rose] from 88,000 [people] to 100,000" [22]. Due to the rural location of many American Indian reservations, and high rates of unemployment and poverty in these areas, many American Indian families rely heavily on federal food assistance programs.



## Farm Bill Policy Development

This section outlines how the Farm Bill is reauthorized, funded, and implemented. This section does not encapsulate the entire Farm Bill process, but is meant as an overview that gives a general picture as to how this legislation is moved through the federal government with an emphasis on Native American voices and inclusion in the process.

For clarity and ease of understanding, this section divides the Farm Bill process into two phases as shown in the following infographic. These phases were adapted from the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition [23]:

- 1. Reauthorization: The writing and passage of a new Farm Bill.
- 2. **Rulemaking**: The USDA rule-writing process for Farm Bill program implementation.

#### Farm Bill Process

Reauthorization

**Appropriations** 

Rulemaking



#### Reauthorization

A Farm Bill is written, revised, and passed into Law. This happens approximately every 5 years.

Hearings

Congress, especially the Senate Committee and House Committee on Agriculture, hold listening sessions and hearings to gather input from the public.

NOTE: In 2018, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs conducting a Hearing on Agribusiness

Agricultural Committee Farm Bill Drafting and Mark-Up

The Senate and House Committees on Agriculture each draft their own version of the Farm Bill within the Committees. The Committees hold hearings and meetings to mark-up, debate, amend and eventually pass the Bill out of their Committee.

Full Congress

The Senate and House each consider, debate, and amend the Bill that was passed out of their Chamber's Agriculture Committee.

**Conference Committee** 

Once each chamber passes the separate Bills, it goes to a smaller Committee of Senate and House Members who combine the bills into its final form. This process requires negotiation, and the Bill can change from the Senate and House versions.

Full Congress

The new version of the Farm Bill then goes back to the Senate and House to be voted on for final passage.

The White House

Once the final Farm Bill passes the Senate and House, it goes to the President to be signed into law.

#### **Advocacy Opportunities:**

Opportunities for Advocacy in the reauthorization process include talking to Members of Congress in the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs before and during the hearing, mark-up, and conference committee process, and with all Senators and Representatives during the Full Congress stages.

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<b>Proposed</b>			
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Review by the Office of Management and Budget

**USDA** Revises Proposed Rule

Proposed Rule Comment Period

**USDA** Reviews Comments

Final Rule is Issued and Implemented

Proposed rules are developed within USDA

The Office of Management and Budget reviews the proposed rules

The USDA Revises the proposed rule based on the Office of Management and Budget suggestions

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is issued, proposed rules are published in the Federal Register and are usually open for public comment for 30-90 days.

The USDA responds to the comments submitted during the comment period, and revises rule (as needed).

#### **Advocacy Opportunities:**

Opportunities for advocacy in the Rulemaking process include contacting the Office of Tribal Relations at USDA and submitting comments during the Proposed Rule Comment Period.

This section discusses the various Congressional committees and government departments that are involved in Farm Bill development and implementation.

The committees with jurisdiction over the Farm Bill include the House Committee on Agriculture, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

#### House Committee on Agriculture

Created in 1820, the House Committee on Agriculture (as of January, 2018) has 46 members, with one Chairman (representing the majority party) and one Ranking Member (representing the minority party). The Committee has, by direct action of the House, secured jurisdiction over agriculturally-related subjects [24]. In addition, the Committee has various subcommittees with jurisdiction in the following areas: Commodity Exchanges Energy & Credit Conservation & Forestry, Nutrition, General Farm Commodities & Risk Management, Biotechnology Horticulture & Research, and Livestock & Foreign Agriculture. In preparation for the 2018 Farm Bill, the House Committee on Agriculture conducted a series of "Farm Bill listening sessions: Conversations in the Field" in various regions across the country to hear from farmers directly about the 2018 Farm Bill. In addition, the committee held over 20 hearings since February 15th, 2017 about the 2018 Farm Bill.

#### Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry

Created in 1825, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry (as of January, 2018) has 21 members, with one Chairman (representing the majority party) and one Ranking Member (representing the minority party). In addition, the Committee has five subcommittees with jurisdiction in the following areas: Commodities, Risk Management & Trade, Rural Development & Energy, Conservation, Forestry & Natural Resources, Nutrition, Agricultural Research & Specialty Crops, and Livestock, Marketing, & Agriculture Security. In preparation for the 2018 Farm Bill as of January 2018, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry had held seven hearings to gather "Perspectives on the 2018 Farm Bill".

## The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs also plays a role in the Farm Bill Process for Tribes and Native Producers.

#### Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Voted a permanent committee by Congress in 1984, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has broad jurisdiction to study "the unique problems of American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native peoples and to propose legislation to alleviate these difficulties. These issues include, but are not limited to, Indian education, economic development, land management, trust responsibilities, health care, and claims against the United States. All legislation proposed by Members of the Senate that specifically pertains to American Indians, Native Hawaiians, or Alaska Natives is under the jurisdiction of the Committee" [25]. There are 15 members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs which include a Chairman (representing the majority party) and a Vice Chairman (representing the Minority party). Due to the impact of Farm Bill legislation on Native American nutrition, health, and Native farming and ranching, the broad mandate of the Committee of Indian Affairs allows the committee to provide input, introduce legislation and advocate for policies in the Farm Bill which impacts Native American farmers and ranchers.

On January 17, 2018, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held an oversight hearing titled "Breaking New Ground in Agribusiness Opportunities in Indian Country." Chairman, John Hoeven, made the opening statement for this hearing. In his remarks, Chairman Hoeven mentioned that "this committee has worked to reduce the regulatory burden in Indian Country, and it is time we do the same for the growing industry of Indian agribusiness. We are here today to discuss just that, and to examine how tribes and their members can capitalize on opportunities in agribusiness" [26].

Beyond hearings, the authority of the Committee can include drafting legislation that pertains to Native Americans for consideration by the Senate Committee on Agriculture or introduction during the amendment process on the Senate Floor. In addition, the staff in the Senate Committee on Indian Affair and Senate Committee on Agriculture can work together when drafting the Farm Bill to assess the potential impact for Tribal governments and producers.

As of January 2018, Members of the Senate Committee of Indian Affairs who also serve on the Senate Committee on Agriculture include: Senator John Hoeven (Republican - North Dakota, Chairman Senate Committee on Indian Affairs), Senator Steve Daines (Republican - Montana), Senator Heidi Heitkamp (Democrat - North Dakota), Senator Tina Smith (Democrat - Minnesota).

## Federal Departments that Play a Role in the Farm Bill Process

#### Technical Assistance - United States Department of Agriculture

During the Farm Bill development process, much of the work that the USDA does includes providing technical assistance and counsel to Congress.

In preparation for the 2018 Farm Bill, representatives from the USDA provided testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Nutrition in the following Hearings:

- -Rural Development and Energy Programs: Perspectives for the 2018 Farm Bill (September 28, 2017)
  - Ms. Ann Hazlett, Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development
  - Mr. Richard Davis, Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service
  - Mr. Chadwick Parker, Acting Administrator, Rural Business Cooperative Service
  - Mr. Christopher McLean, Rural Utilities Service
- Nutrition Programs: Perspectives for the 2018 Farm Bill (September 14, 2017)
  - Mr. Brandon Lipps, Acting Deputy Under Secretary, Food and Nutrition Service
  - Mr. Gil Harden, Assistant Inspector General for Audit Office of Inspector General
  - Ms. Ann M Coffey, Assistant Inspector General of Investigations Office of Inspector General
- Conservation and Forestry: Perspectives on the Past and Future Direction for the 2018 Farm Bill (June 29, 2017)
  - Mr. Tom Tidwell, Chief, Forest Service
  - Mr. Jimmy Bramblett, Deputy Chief Programs, Natural Resource Conservation Service
  - Ms. Misty Jones, Director, Conservation and Environmental Programs
- Agricultural Research: Perspectives on Past and Future Successes for the 2018 Farm Bill (June 15, 2017)
  - Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture
  - Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service
  - Dr. Ann Bartuska, Acting Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education & Economics

In addition, the USDA developed a set of principles in January 2018 to share with Congress for consideration as Congress crafts the 2018 Farm Bill. As the USDA states in the first page of the document "the USDA stands ready to provide counsel to Congress, and strives to be the most efficient, most effective, and most customer-focused department in the federal government" [27].

Office of Tribal Relations - United States Department of Agriculture

Founded in 2003, the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) "serves as a single point of contact for Tribal issues and works to ensure that relevant programs and policies are efficient, easy to understand, accessible, and developed in consultation with the American Indians and Alaska Native constituents they impact" [28]. The OTR also helps expand USDA programmatic support throughout Indian Country [29]. The OTR can coordinate policies that affect American Indians and Alaska Natives "across other federal agencies and throughout the USDA" [30]. In September 2017, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the creation of an Office of Public Partnerships and Engagement, and moved the Office of Tribal Relations into this new office.

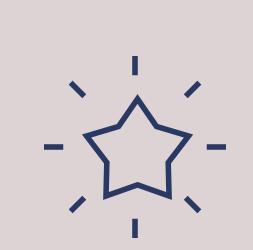
A majority of agencies within USDA work with the Office of Tribal Relations, including the Farm Service Agency, which make loans to farmers, and the Food and Nutrition Services, which administers the SNAP and FDPIR programs.

#### Bureau of Indian Affairs

The U.S. government is responsible for protecting Indian interests under the federal trust system, and these responsibilities include: "assets, lands, water, income from trust property, and proprietary treaty rights" [31]. The U.S. federal government holds in trust fifty-six million acres of reservation land currently under Indian ownership [32]. Therefore, the Secretary of the Interior is needed to approve transactions including "selling, leasing or business development" on trust land [33]. This complicates Native American farmers and ranchers' ability to access certain USDA programs that involve land-use, and requires coordination between the USDA and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Appropriations Process** 

The appropriations process is also an important process in securing funding for certain programs that are authorized in the Farm Bill. Though not technically part of Farm Bill policy development, it is important to be familiar with the appropriations process. See the infographic below for information about this process.



#### Appropriation

Funding Farm Bill Programs through the Annual appropriations process

Some programs in the Farm Bill come with mandatory money that is is provided automatically every year. Programs with discretionary money, however, require appropriators to fund the program through the appropriations process.

## Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees gather Input

The House Appropriations Committee gather input through Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittees.

NOTE: Input is provided through hearings, testimony submitted, requests from non-committee legislators, and meetings with constituents and advocacy groups.

#### Draft Agricultural Appropriations Bill

The Subcommittees on Agriculture draft the Bill based on the input, and then the full Appropriations Committee goes through a "mark-up" (editing) process.

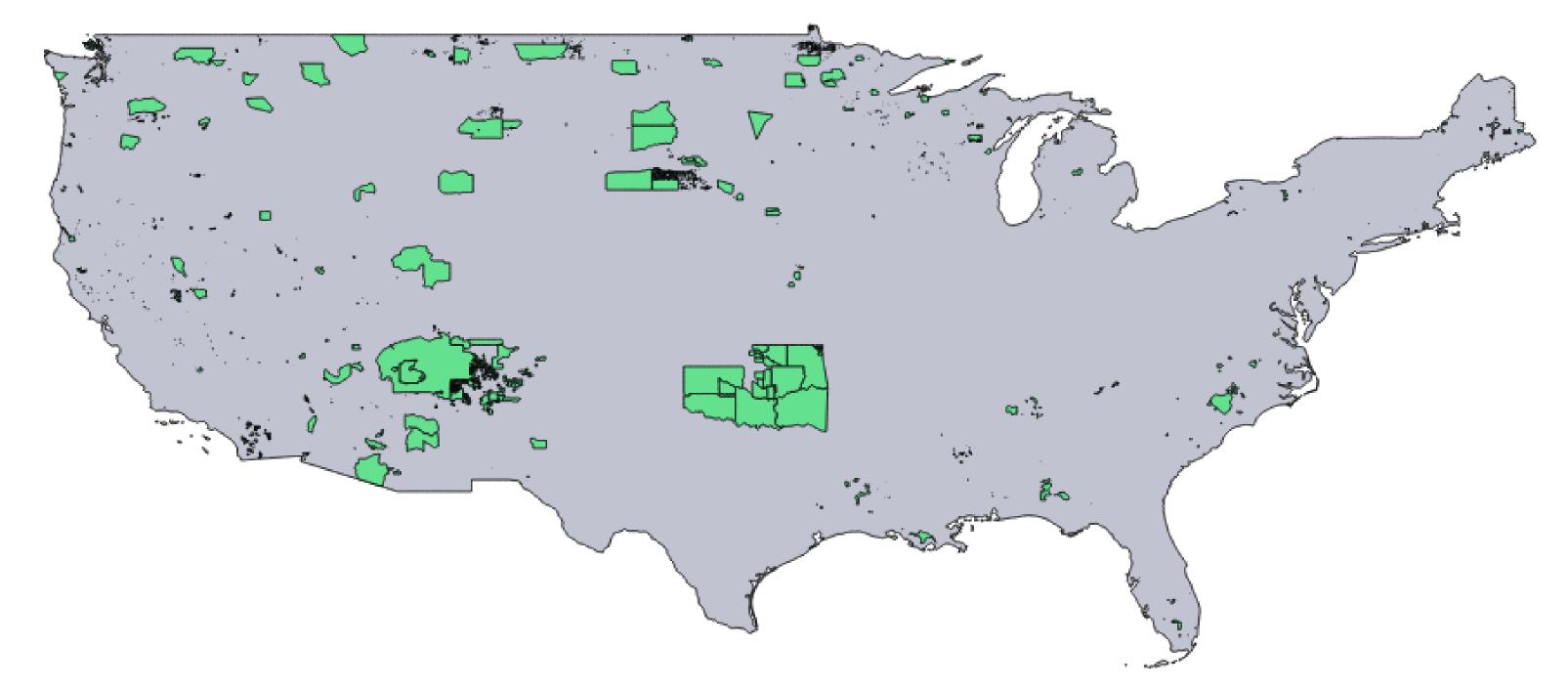
#### **Conference Committee**

Differences in House and Senate drafts are resolved through the Conference Committees, and once passed by both chambers, is sent to the President to sign into Law.

## Farm Bill Profiles - Regional Summaries

These regional profiles are meant to be used by Tribal governments and Tribal leaders, policymakers, and other stakeholders interested in Native agriculture and federal food and agriculture policies as a resource to understand the status of farming and ranching in Native communities and the impact of the 2014 Farm Bill.

Native American communities are building vibrant food systems throughout Indian Country. The following summaries present findings that are expressed in visual form through the regional one-pagers. The information included covers agricultural production, federal food assistance participation, and unique food sovereignty initiatives. The first page of the profiles focuses on poverty and federal food assistance data as well as unemployment statistics and crop production data. The second page focuses on the number, size, market value revenue, and government assistance received on Native farms. The second page also highlights a successful regional initiative in Native farming and ranching. For more information about how this information was collected and analyzed, please refer to Appendix A.



Federally Recognized Tribes in the United States

#### Alaska

The poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Native families in Alaska, 19 percent, is more than double the rate for the total population in the region. Alaska Natives participate both in the SNAP and FDPIR programs, and there were 650 FDPIR recipients in Alaska in Fiscal Year 2016. On average, there were also 9,461 households receiving SNAP benefits in Fiscal Year 2016. 20 percent of the Native population in Alaska is unemployed, and this rate is nearly double the unemployment rate for the entire state. However, there are many Native agriculture producers in Alaska. Top crops produced include forage, vegetables and flowers, and top livestock products include layers, cattle and horses. Layers include table egg type laying birds, "hatching layers for meat types, hatching layers for table egg types, and reported bantams" [34]. The total market value of agricultural sales by Native producers in Alaska totals \$1,086,000 with the majority of income (\$813,000) coming from livestock sales. As recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there are 49 Native-run farms and ranches in Alaska. The average size of Native-run farms (6,280 acres) is also nearly five and a half times larger than the average size of all farms in Alaska. Many Alaska Natives also rely on subsistence agriculture as an integral component of their livelihood, cultural expression and local food economy.

#### **Great Plains**

Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota

The poverty rate for American Indian and Alaska Native families in the Great Plains region, 39 percent, is nearly four-times the rate for the total population. The poverty rate is also over thirty percent for all American Indian and Alaska Native families in each of the Great Plain states. American Indians and Alaska Natives in the Great Plains participate in the SNAP and FDPIR programs, and there were 15,562 FDPIR recipients in the Great Plains region. FDPIR participation represented more than 19 percent of the Native population on reservations in each of the states in the Great Plains. In addition, 14,469 American Indian and Alaska Native households received SNAP benefits in Fiscal Year 2016. In each state, the unemployment rate for the Native population is approximately three times the rate for the total population, and the unemployment rate for the Native population in the region is 17 percent. However, there are many Native agricultural producers in the Great Plains. The top crop products produced include forage, corn for grain, and winter wheat, and the top livestock products produced include cattle, horses, layers, and bison. The total market value of agricultural sales by Native producers in the Great Plains region totals \$239,830,000. As recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there are 1,756 Native-run farms and ranches in the Great Plains. The average size of Native-run farms in the Great Plains (2,340 acres) is also nearly double the average size of all farms in the region. Native farmers in the Great Plains receive approximately six percent less average per-farm government receiving payments (assistance) than all farms in the region.

#### Midwest Region

Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin

The poverty rate for American Indian and Alaska Native families in the Midwest region, 25 percent, is approximately double the rate for the total population. American Indians and Alaska Natives participate in the SNAP and FDPIR programs, and there were 8,060 FDPIR recipients in the Midwest region in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. In addition, 17,693 American Indian and Alaska Native households received SNAP benefits in Fiscal Year 2016. The unemployment rate for the Native population in the region, 14 percent, is approximately double the rate for the total population. However, there are many Native agricultural producers in the Midwest. The top crop products produced include forage, corn for grain, and soybeans and the top livestock products produced include cattle, layers, and horses. The total market value of agricultural sales by Native producers in the Midwest totals \$157,071,000. As recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there are 1,666 Native-run farms and ranches in the Midwest, and the average size of Native-run farms (220 acres) is slightly smaller than all farms in the Midwest region. Native farmers in this area received approximately 11 percent less average farm government receiving payments (assistance) than all farms in the Midwest region.

#### Northeast

CT, DE, IN, KY, MA, ME, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV

The poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Native families in the Northeast region, 20 percent, is approximately double the rate for the total population. American Indians and Alaska Natives participate in the SNAP and FDPIR programs, and there were 451 FDPIR recipients in the Midwest region in the states of New York and Missouri. In addition, 27,389 American Indian and Alaska Native households received SNAP benefits in Fiscal Year 2016. The unemployment rate for the Native population in the region, 14 percent, is almost double the rate for the total population. However, there are many Native agricultural producers in the Northeast. The top crop products produced include forage, corn for grain and silage, and soybeans, and the top livestock products producers in the Northeast totals \$163,923,000. As recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there are 3,765 Native-run farms and ranches in the Northeast, and the average size of Native-run farms (113 acres) is slightly smaller than all farms in the Northeast region. Native farmers in this area received approximately seven percent less average farm government receiving payments (assistance) than all farms in the Northeast region.

#### Northwest Region

Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

The poverty rate for American Indian and Alaska Native families in the Northwest region, 27 percent, is more than double the rate for the total population. American Indians and Alaska Natives participate in the SNAP and FDPIR programs, and there were 9,372 FDPIR recipients in the Northwest region. In addition, 19,615 American Indian and Alaska Native households received SNAP benefits in Fiscal Year 2016. The unemployment rate for the region, 17 percent, is more than double the rate for the total population. However, there are many Native agricultural producers in the Northwest. The top crop products produced include forage, winter wheat, and vegetables, and top livestock products produced include cattle, horses, and layers. The total market value of agricultural sales by Native producers in the Northwest totals \$298,210,000. As recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there are 3,863 Native-run farms and ranches in the Northwest, and the average size of Native-run farms (2,142 acres) is approximately two and a half times larger than all farms in the Northwest region. Native farmers in this area received approximately 17 percent less average farm government receiving payments (assistance) than all farms in the Northwest region.

#### Pacific Region

California

The poverty rate for American Indian and Alaska Native families in California, 19 percent, is higher than the rate for the total population. American Indians and Alaska Natives participate in the SNAP and FDPIR programs, and there were 4,795 FDPIR recipients in California. In addition, 18,491 American Indian and Alaska Native households received SNAP benefits in Fiscal Year 2016. The unemployment rate for the Native population in California, 15 percent, is also higher than the rate for the total population. However, there are many Native agricultural producers in the Pacific region. The top crop products produced include forage, vegetables, and almonds, and top livestock products include cattle, sheep, and layers. The total market value of agricultural sales by Native producers in the Pacific totals \$451,607,000. As recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there are 2,203 Native-run farms and ranches in California, and the average size of Native-run farms (251 acres) is slightly smaller than all farms in the Pacific region. Native farmers in this area received approximately 42 percent less average farm government receiving payments (assistance) than all farms in the Pacific region.

#### Rocky Mountain Region

Montana, Wyoming

The poverty rate for American Indian and Alaska Native families in the Rocky Mountain region, 30 percent, is more than three times the rate for the total population. American Indians and Alaska Natives participate in the SNAP and FDPIR programs, and there were 4,409 FDPIR recipients in the Rocky Mountain region. In addition, 5,340 American Indian and Alaska Native households received SNAP benefits in Fiscal Year 2016. The unemployment rate for the Native population, 18 percent, is also more than triple the rate for the total population. However, there are many Native agricultural producers in the Rocky Mountain region. The top crop products produced include forage, spring wheat, and winter wheat, and top livestock products include cattle, horses, and layers. The total market value of agricultural sales by Native producers in the Rocky Mountain region totals \$161,168,000. As recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there are 1,959 Native-run farms and ranches in Montana and Wyoming, and the average size of Native-run farms (2,579 acres) is larger than all farms in the Rocky Mountain region. Native farmers in this area received approximately 22 percent less average farm government receiving payments (assistance) than all farms in the Rocky Mountain region.

#### Southeast Region

AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN

The poverty rate for American Indian and Alaska Native families in the Southeast region, 19 percent, is higher than the rate for the total population. American Indians and Alaska Natives participate in the SNAP and FDPIR programs, and there were 1,756 FDPIR recipients in the Southeast region located in the states of Mississippi and North Carolina. In addition, 25,610 American Indian and Alaska Native households received SNAP benefits in Fiscal Year 2016. The unemployment rate for the Native population, 13 percent, is also higher than the rate for the total population. However, there are many Native agricultural producers in the Southeast region. The top crop products produced include forage, soybeans, and corn for grain and silage, and the top livestock products include cattle, layers, and horses. The total market value of agricultural sales by Native producers in the Southeast region totals \$561,032,000. As recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there are 5,902 Native-run farms and ranches in the Southeast region, and the average size of Native-run farms (164 acres) is smaller than all farms in the Southeast region. Native farmers in this area received approximately 26 percent less average farm government receiving payments (assistance) than all farms in the Southeast region.

#### Southern Plains and Eastern Oklahoma Region

Kansas, Eastern Oklahoma, Texas

The poverty rate for American Indian and Alaska Native families in this region, 19 percent, is higher than the rate for the total population. American Indians and Alaska Natives participate in the SNAP and FDPIR programs, and there were 34,304 FDPIR recipients in the region. In addition, 26,421 American Indian and Alaska Native households received SNAP benefits in Fiscal Year 2016. The unemployment rate for the Native population, 11 percent, is also higher than the rate for the total population. However, there are many Native agricultural producers in this region. The top crop products produced include forage, winter wheat, and soybeans, and the top livestock products include cattle, horses, and layers. The total market value of agricultural sales by Native producers in the region totals \$1,006,560,000. As recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there are 17,777 Native-run farms in this region, and the average size of Native-run farms (297 acres) is half the size of all farms in the region. Native farmers in this area received approximately 26 percent less average farm government receiving payments (assistance) than all farms in the region.

#### Southwest Region

Colorado, New Mexico

The poverty rate for American Indian and Alaska Native families in the Southwest region, 26 percent, is almost double the rate for the total population. American Indians and Alaska Natives participate in the SNAP and FDPIR programs, and there were 3,332 FDPIR recipients in the Southwest region. In addition, 18,265 American Indian and Alaska Native households received SNAP benefits in Fiscal Year 2016. The unemployment rate for the Native population, 15 percent, is also nearly double the rate for the total population. However, there are many Native agricultural producers in the Southwest region. The top crop products produced include forage, corn for grain, and winter wheat, and the top livestock products include cattle, sheep and lamb, and layers. The total market value of agricultural sales by Native producers in the Southwest region totals \$221,695,000. As recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there are 6,141 Native-run farms and ranches in Colorado and New Mexico, and the average size of Native-run farms (1,546 acres) is larger than all farms in the Southwest region. Native farmers in this area received approximately 33 percent less average farm government receiving payments (assistance) than all farms in the Southwest region.

#### Western Region

Arizona, Nevada, Utah

The poverty rate for American Indian and Alaska Native families in the Western region, 29 percent, is higher than the rate for the total population. American Indians and Alaska Natives participate in the SNAP and FDPIR programs, and there were 14,256 FDPIR recipients in the Western region. In addition, 29,935 American Indian and Alaska Native households received SNAP benefits in Fiscal Year 2016. The unemployment rate for the Native population, 16 percent, is also nearly double the rate for the total population. However, there are many Native agricultural producers in the Western region. The top crop products produced include forage, vegetables, and cotton, and the top livestock products include horses, sheep, and cattle. The total market value of agricultural sales by Native producers in the Western region totals \$109,540,000. As recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there are 12,386 Native-run farms and ranches in the Western region, and the average size of Native-run farms (3,819 acres) is approximately three times larger than all farms in the Southwest region. Native farmers in this area received approximately 82 percent less average farm government receiving payments (assistance) than all farms in the Western region.

#### Youth Profile

All Regions in the United States

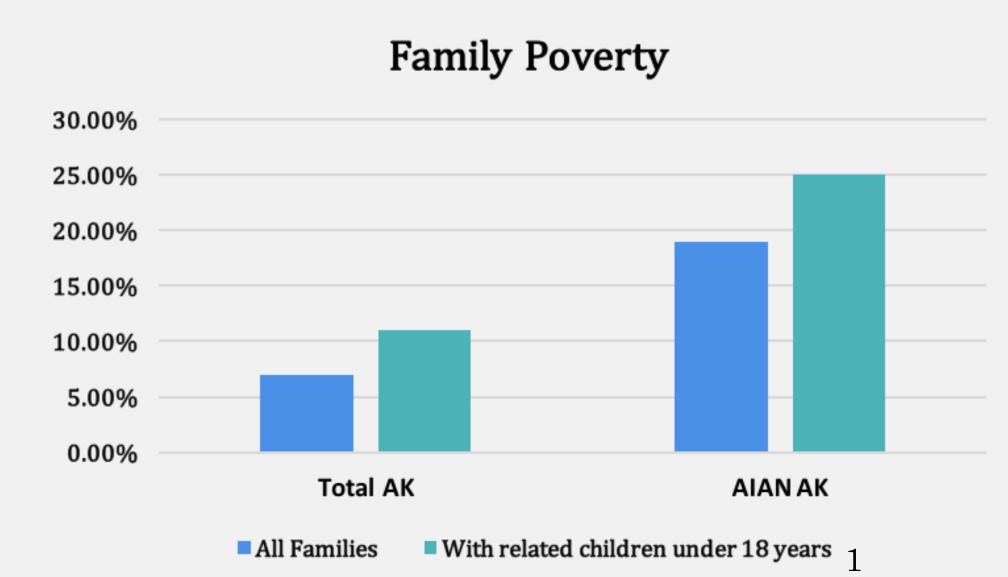
Native youth are actively engaged in the agricultural sector. The 2012 Census of Agriculture estimates that there are 6,832 Native farmers and ranchers under the age of 35. This population represents 10 percent of all Native farmers in the United States. In addition, there are specific elements of the 2014 Farm Bill that supported Native youth in agriculture. These initiatives include the reauthorization of tribal college and university operative funds, endowments, institutional capacity building, research grants, and the essential community facilities programs. In addition, the 2014 Farm Bill extended land-grant status to two additional tribal colleges and universities. Additional language was included for the beginning farmer and rancher development program regarding student training programs and set asides for limited resource farmers and socially disadvantaged farmers. Finally, the 2014 Farm Bill prioritized loans to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers through programs like the FSA direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan programs.

## Alaska Region

#### Alaskan Native Farm Bill Profile

#### Poverty & Federal Food Assistance

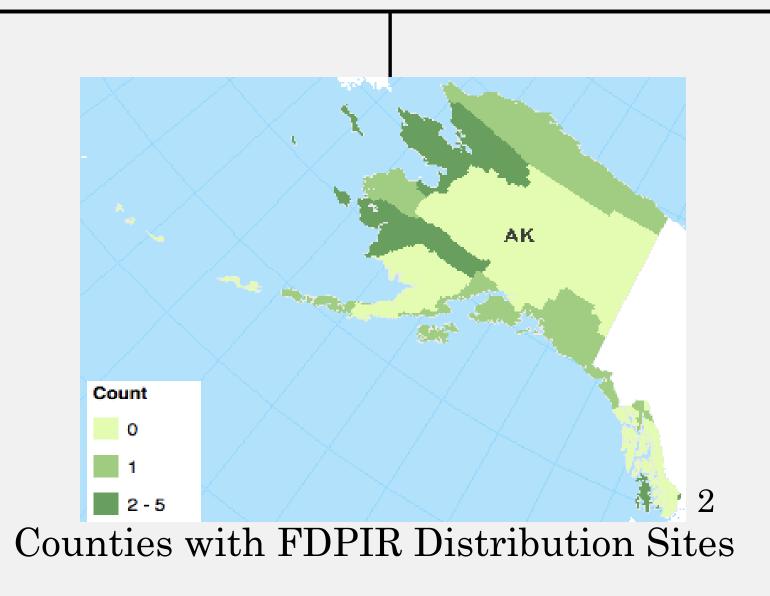
The poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Families is nearly double the rate for the total population, and there is high participation in the SNAP and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).



#### **FDPIR Participation**

On average, there were 650 FDPIR Recipients in Alaska in FY 2016.

- There is one Indian Tribal Organization that administers the FDPIR program
- There are 18 partner sites that help with FDPIR distribution

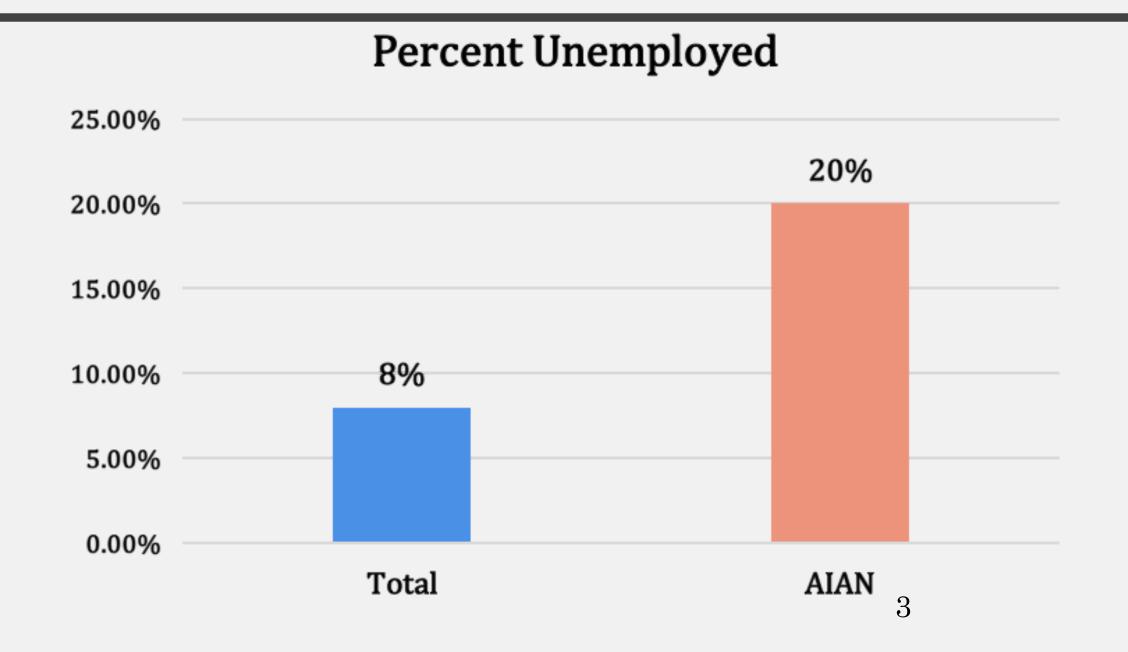


#### **SNAP Participation**

On average, there were 9461 Households receiving SNAP in FY 2016.

#### **Unemployment & Agricultural Production**

The unemployment rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is nearly double the rate for the total population. However, many of those employed work in agricultural production.



## **Top Crops Produced by Native Producers**

#### 1. Forage . . . . . . . . 6 farms produce 158 acres

**3. Flowers** . . . . . . 5 farms produce 3 acres

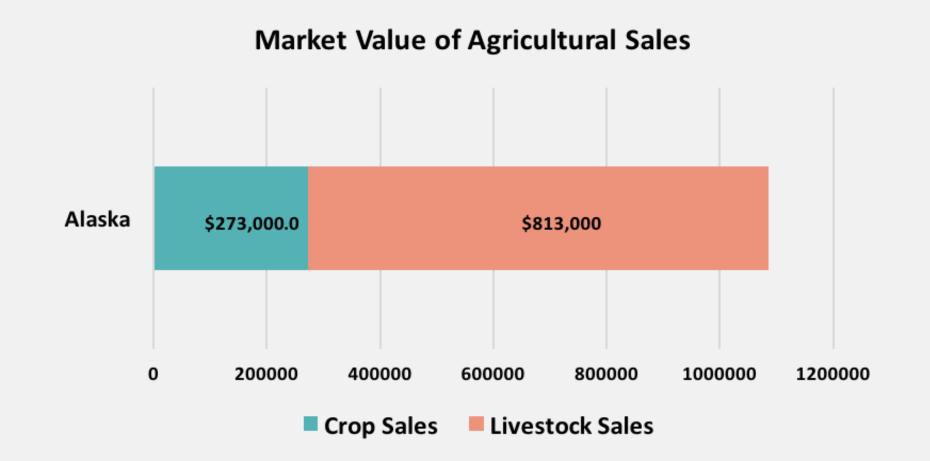
2. Vegetables . . . . . 7 farms produce 5 acres

## **Top Livestock Produced by Native Ranchers** 4

 1. Layers
 15 farms

 2. Cattle
 10 farms

 3. Horses
 10 farms



In Alaska, the total market value of agricultural sales as recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture totaled \$1,086,000 for Native Producers.6

Native-Run Farms in Alaska – – – – 6,280 acres
All Farms in the Alaska – – – – – 1,094 acres

There are 49 AI/AN farms or ranches in Alaska as recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture. The average size of Native American and Alaska Native-run Farms and Ranches are approximately five a half times larger than all farms in Alaska. 7

#### Subsistence Agriculture

Many Alaskan Natives rely on subsistence agriculture as an integral component of their livelihood, cultural expression, and local food economy. Various initiatives in the state highlight the importance of subsistence agriculture in the region:

#### Elders Traditional Foods Hunter Support Program<sub>8</sub>

This program provides Kotzebue hunters with funding to purchase drums of gas, which support their hunting operations. In return, the hunters provide Kotzebue elders with traditional Niqipiaq (foods), including large bearded seal in the spring and caribou in the fall. The program creates a collaborative partnership between the tribe and its elders and hunters. Currently, the program's goals are to expand its traditional food service to elders living in long-term care centers, in addition to those it already serves in-home.

#### Siglauq Center<sub>8</sub>

The Siglauq Center was constructed after the passage of the 2014 Farm Bill which included "Service of Traditional Foods in Public Facilities" amendment. Alaska's first official processing center for native foods, this center provides space and equipment to process wild game and fish served in the Kotzebue nursing home. This space includes steel counter-tops, saws, grinders and two walk-in freezers for storage.

#### **Native Farm Bill Coalition**



The Native Farm Bill Coalition is the largest coordinated effort to give Native Americans a strong, united voice to advance a common Farm Bill agenda benefiting Indian Country. It is a joint project of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's Seeds of Native Health campaign to improve Native dietary health and food access; the Intertribal Agricultural Council; the National Congress of American Indians; and the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative as a research and education member. For more information visit the Coalition website: http://seedsofnativehealth.org/native-farm-bill-coalition/

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School of Law Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative



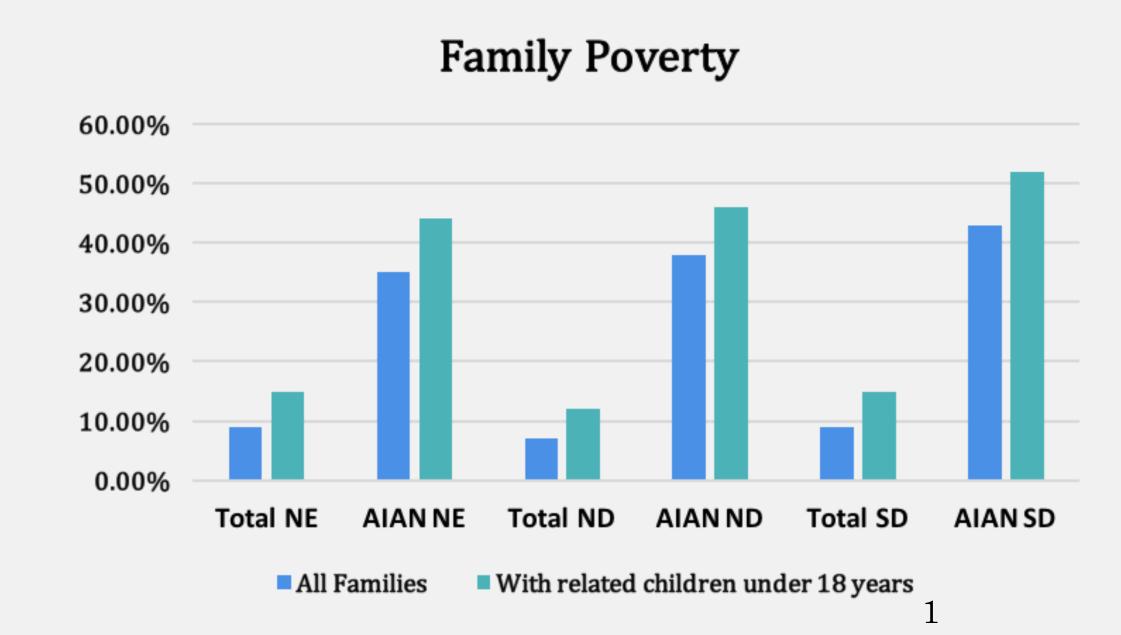
## Great Plains Region

#### American Indian Farm Bill Profile

Nebraska :: North Dakota :: South Dakota

#### Poverty & Federal Food Assistance

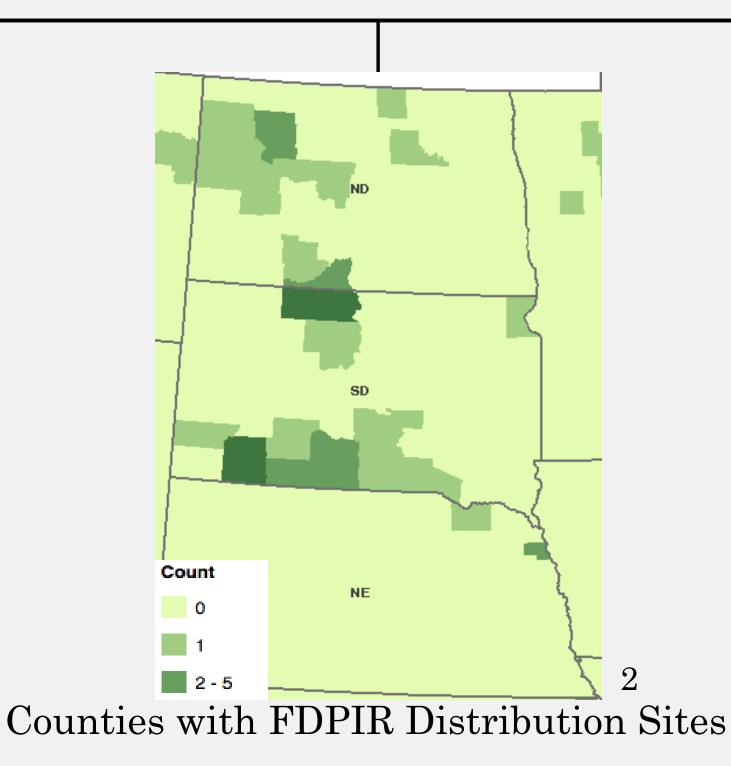
In each state, the poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Native (AIAN) Families is nearly four times the rate for the total population, and there is high participation in the SNAP and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).



#### **FDPIR Participation**

There were 15,562 FDPIR Recipients in the Great Plains region in FY 2016

- NE: 1,396 participants, representing 30% of the Native population on reservations
- ND: 5,661 participants, representing 28% of the Native population on reservations
- SD: 8,505 participants, representing 19% of the Native population on reservations



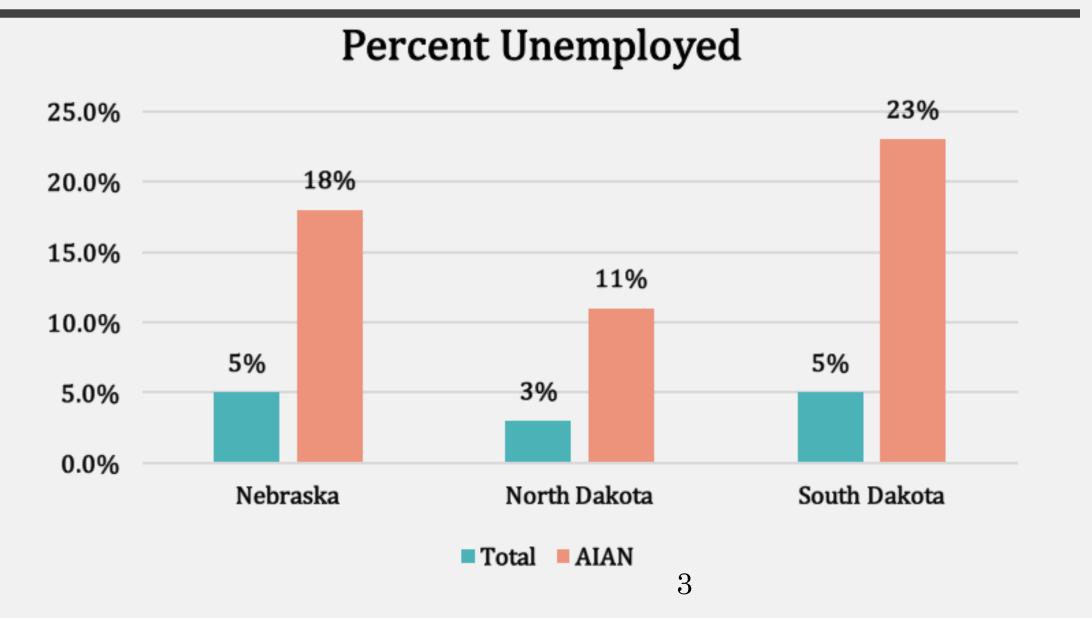
**SNAP Participation** 

In Fiscal Year 2016:

- 1,251 AIAN households in Nebraska receives SNAP benefits
- 3,827 AIAN households in North Dakota receives SNAP benefits
- 9,391 AIAN households in South Dakota receives SNAP benefits

#### **Unemployment & Agricultural Production**

In each state, the unemployment rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN) is nearly triple the rate for the total population. However, many of those employed work in agricultural production.



## **Top Crops Produced by Native Producers**

**1. Forage** . . . . . . 705 farms produce 170,228 acres

2. Corn for Grain . 124 farms produce 61,527 acres

## **Top Livestock Produced by Native Ranchers** 4

**3. Layers** · · · · · 110 farms produce 3,654 layers

**4. Bison** · · · · · · 29 farms produce 3,181 layers



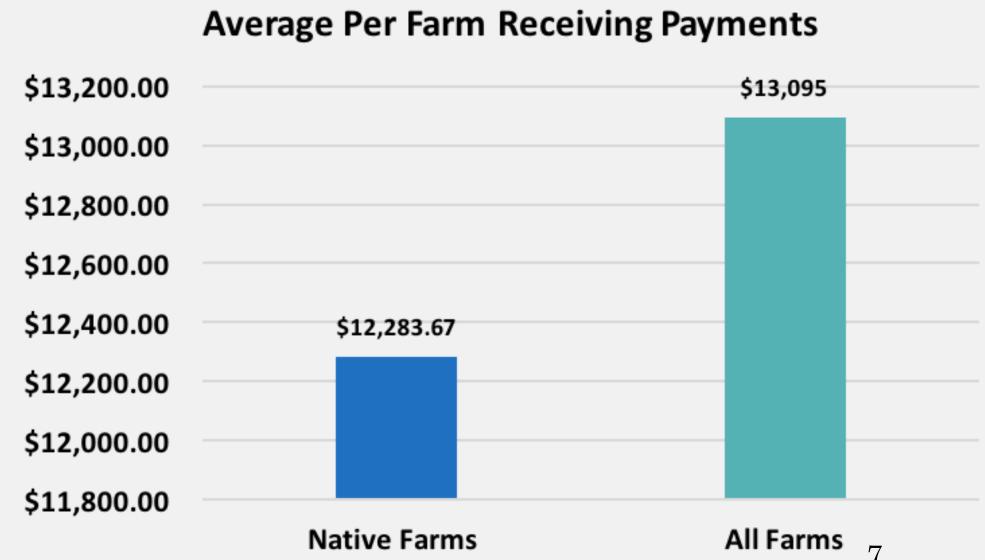
179 Nebraska 1,096 South Dakota North Dakota 481 400 600 800 1000 1200

Native-Run Farms in the Great - - - - 2,340 acres **Plains** All Farms in the Great Plains - - - - - 1,310 acres

The average size of Native American Farms and Ranches are large than all farms in the Great Plains Region.

In all three states, the total market value of agricultural sales as recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture totaled \$239,830,000 for Native Producers. Average per farm government receiving payments, however, were not equal, and Native farmers received 6% less average per farm receiving payments than all farmers in the Great Plains Region. 6

#### Market Value of Agricultural Sales \$8,038,000 Nebraska \$5,158,000 **South Dakota** \$56,371,000 \$96,062,000 \$25,881,000 **North Dakota** \$48,320,000 50000000 100000000 200000000 150000000 Crop Sales Livestock Sales



#### Farm Success Stories and Native Farm Bill Coalition

Winyan Tika Garden and Farmers Market







The Winyan Toka Win Garden (Eagle Butte, SD) is a two-acre garden that plays and integral part in the Cheyenne River Youth Project's health and wellness program. This "field to fork" program teaches youth not only about growing the food, but also preparing or selling it. Volunteers work with children as young as four years old in the garden during the growing season, where the youth learn how to plant, maintain, and harvest food. Then, post harvest, the project sponsors special meals where teenage volunteers highlight some of the produce they've grown and harvested by cooking it themselves. The youth are also able to sell the produce at the project's Leading Lady Farmers Market, which is open to the whole community.

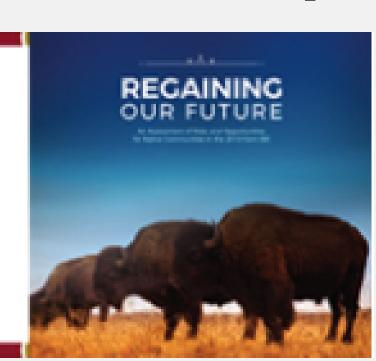
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## Midwest Region

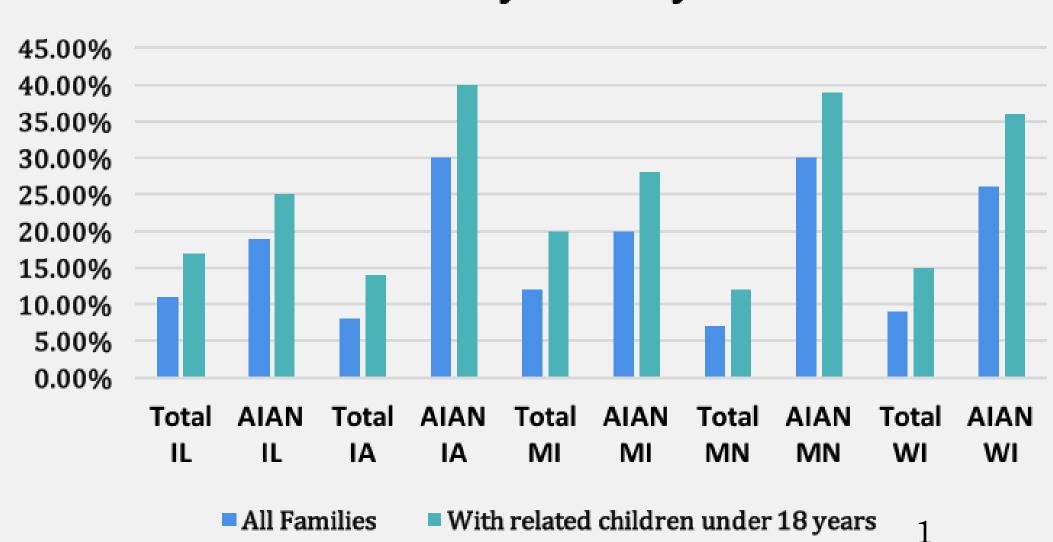
#### American Indian Farm Bill Profile

Illinois :: Iowa :: Michigan :: Minnesota :: Wisconsin

#### Poverty & Federal Food Assistance

#### Family Poverty

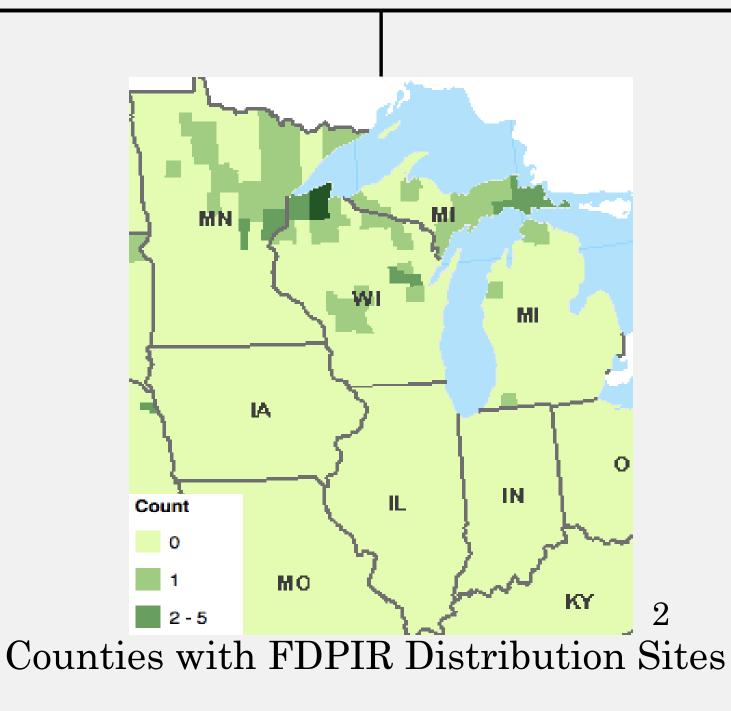
In each state, the poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Families is higher than the rate for the total population, and there is high participation in the SNAP and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).



#### **FDPIR Participation**

There were 8,060 FDPIR Recipients in the Midwest region in FY 2016

- MI: 2,061 participants, representing 36% of the Native population on reservations
- MN: 2,600 participants, representing 13% of the Native population on reservations
- WI: 3,399 participants, representing 20% of the Native population on reservations



**SNAP Participation** 

In Fiscal Year 2016:

- 3,859 AI/AN households in Michigan receive SNAP benefits
- 5,170 AI/AN households in Minnesota receive SNAP benefits
- 4,929 AI/AN households in Wisconsin receive SNAP benefits
- 2,917 AI/AN households in Illinois receive SNAP benefits
- 818 AI/AN households in Iowa receive SNAP benefits

#### **Unemployment & Agricultural Production**

In each state, the unemployment rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is higher than the rate for the total population. However, many of those employed work in agricultural production.

#### Percent Unemployed 17% 18.0% 15% 16.0% 14% 13% 14.0% 11% 12.0% 10% 9% 10.0% 8.0% 6% 6% 5% 6.0% 4.0% 2.0% 0.0% Michigan Illinois Iowa Minnesota Wisconsin ■ Total ■ AIAN 3

## **Top Crops Produced by Native Producers**

1. Forage . . . . . . 596 farms produce 32,714 acres

2. Corn for grain . 318 farms produce 75,951 acres

**3. Soybeans**.... 276 farms produce 53,222 acres

## **Top Livestock Produced by Native Ranchers** 4

1. Cattle . . . . . . 432 farms produce 26,948 head

**2. Layers** · · · · · 275 farms produce 7,612 horses

**3. Horses** · · · · · 326 farms produce 2,554 layers



WI 238 MN 423 MI 550 IA 195 ΙL 260 100 200 300 400 500 600 0

Native-Run Farms in the Midwest - - - 220 acres

All Farms in the Midwest - - - - - - 290 acres

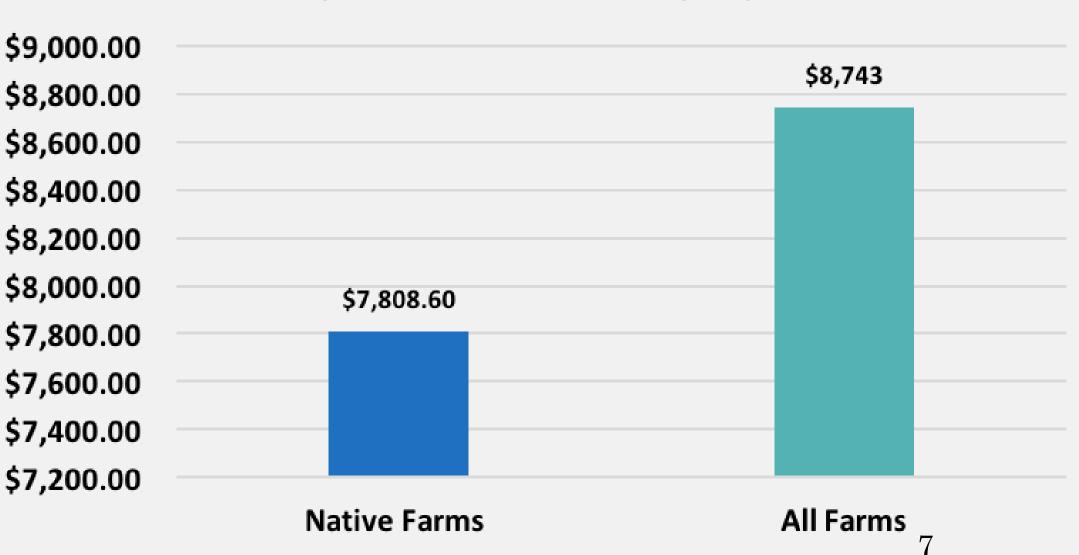
The average size of Native American Farms and Ranches are slightly smaller than all farms in the Midwest region.

In all five states, the total market value of agricultural sales as recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture totaled \$157,071,000 for Native Producers. Average per farm government receiving payments, however, were not equal, and Native farmers received 11% less average per farm receiving payments than all farmers in the Midwest.6

#### Market Value of Agricultural Sales



#### **Average Per Farm Receiving Payments**



#### Farm Success Stories and Native Farm Bill Coalition

Oneida Community
Integrated Food
Systems<sub>8</sub>

ONEIDA

COMMUNITY
FOOD
SYSTEMS

Since 1994, Oneida Community Integrated Food Systems (OCIFS) has recognized the complexity of food systems, as well as the importance of a healthy food system for the Oneida People of the Standing Stone. For 20 years, OCIFS has promoted economic development and job creation through production of high-quality, organic foods. This umbrella organization encompasses multiple food production operations, including a garden, cannery, orchard, farm, seed distribution site, and more. OCIFS is open to the public and serves tribal members on the reservation in nearby urban areas like Green Bay, DePere, Ashwaubenon, Pulaski and Seymour.



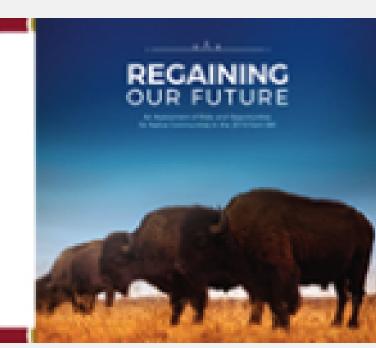
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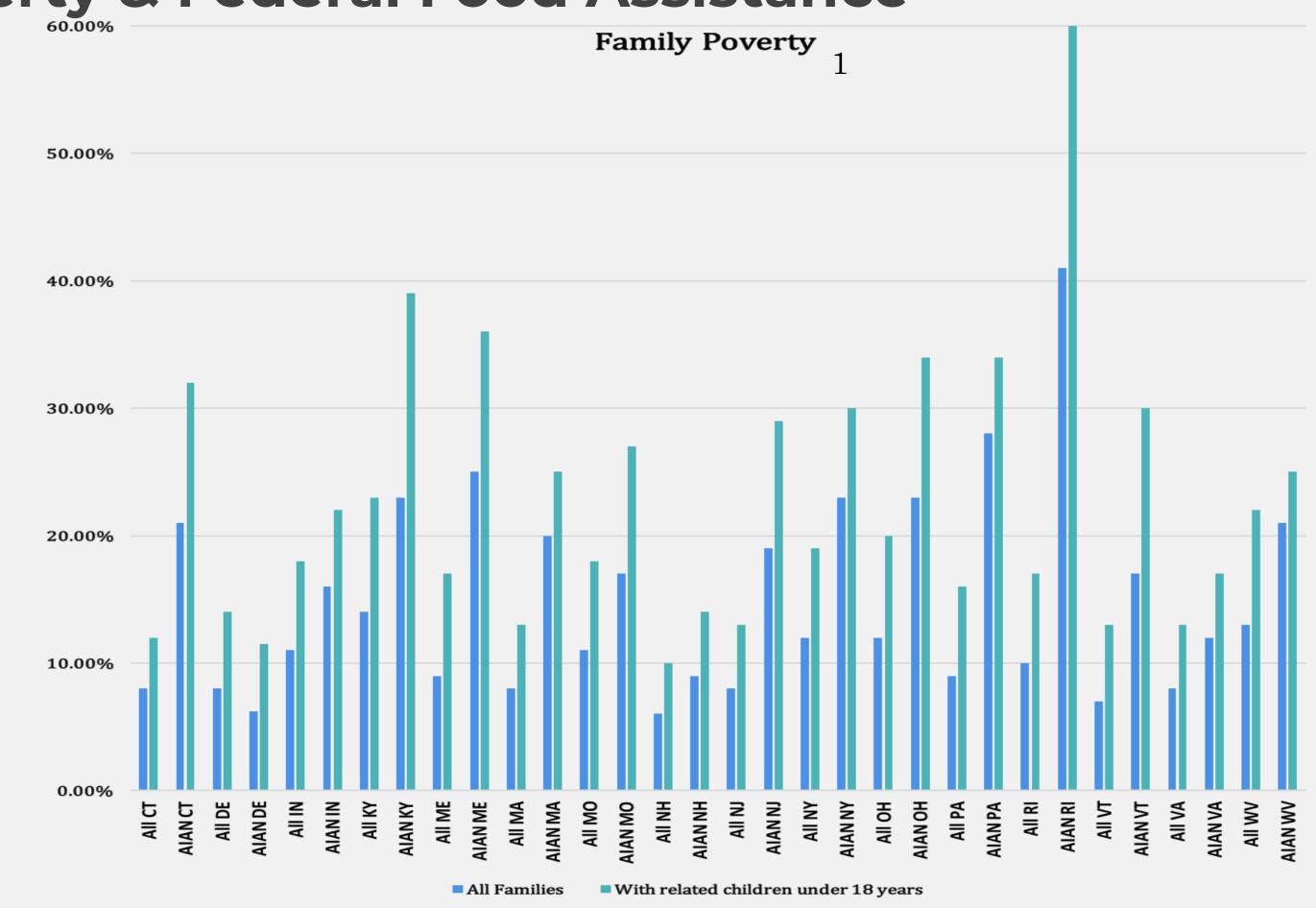
## Northeast Region

#### **American Indian Farm Bill Profile**

 $\mathrm{CT} \ :: \ \mathrm{DE} \ :: \ \mathrm{IN} \ :: \ \mathrm{KY} \ :: \ \mathrm{MA} \ :: \ \mathrm{ME} \ :: \ \mathrm{MO} \ :: \ \mathrm{NH} \ :: \ \mathrm{NJ} \ :: \ \mathrm{NY} \ :: \ \mathrm{OH} \ :: \ \mathrm{PA} \ :: \ \mathrm{RI} \ :: \ \mathrm{VA} \ :: \ \mathrm{VT} \ :: \ \mathrm{WV}$ 

#### Poverty & Federal Food Assistance

each state except Delaware, for the for poverty rate American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Families is higher than for the total rate population, and there is high participation in the SNAP and Food Distribution Program on Reservations Indian (FDPIR).



#### **FDPIR Participation**

#### **SNAP Participation** In Fiscal Year 2016 there were a total of 27,389 AI/AN

There were 451 FDPIR Recipients in the Northeast region in FY 2016. All the FDPIR recipients were located in the State of New York and Missouri.

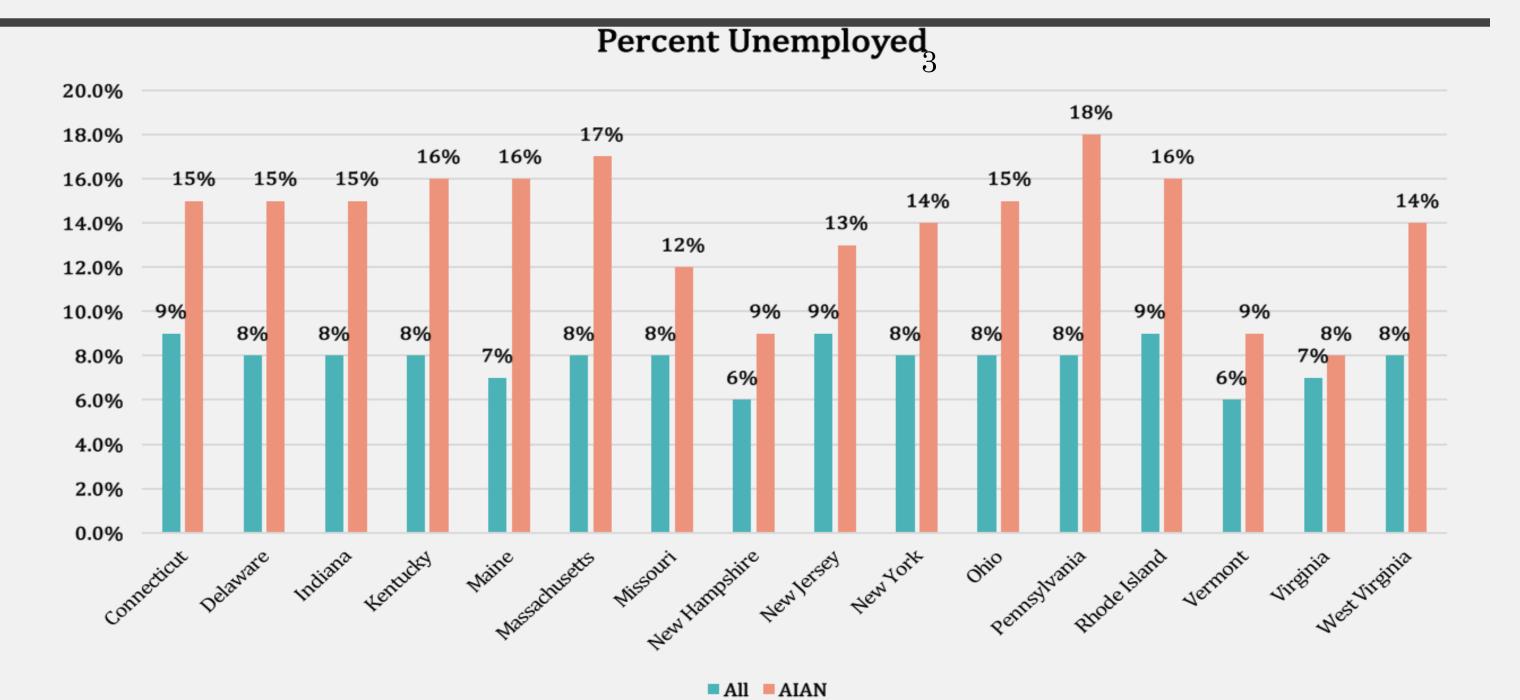
households in the Northeast that received SNAP benefits: Counties with FDPIR Distribution Sites

CT - 1,073 Households ME - 1,379 Households NH - 125 Households MA - 1,382Households RI - 800 Households NY - 8,339 Households NJ - 901 Households VT - 680 Households

DE - 253 Households PA - 2,244 Households IN - 1,558 Households OH - 2,071 Households VA - 1,497 Households KY - 1,458 Households MO - 3,000 Households WV - 629 Households

#### **Unemployment & Agricultural Production**

In each the state, for unemployment rate American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is higher than the rate for the total population. However, many of employed work those 1n agricultural production.



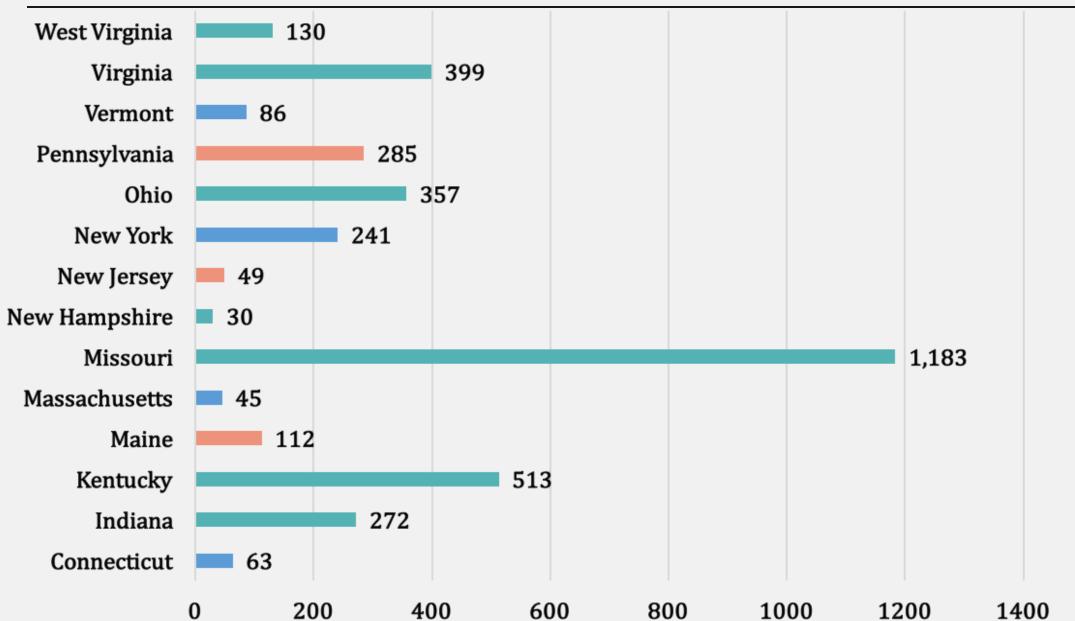
#### **Top Livestock Produced by Native Ranchers** Top Crops Produced by Native Producers 4

- **1. Forage** . . . . 1,590 farms produce 77,224 acres
- 2. Corn for grain & Silage . . . . 344 farms produce 34,255 acres
- **3. Soybeans**. . . . 223 farms produce 37,406 acres
- **1. Cattle** . . . . 1,443 farms produce 62,929 head
- **2. Horses** · · · · · 648 farms produce 4,640 horses
- **3. Layers** · · · · · · 681 farms produce 34,033 layers



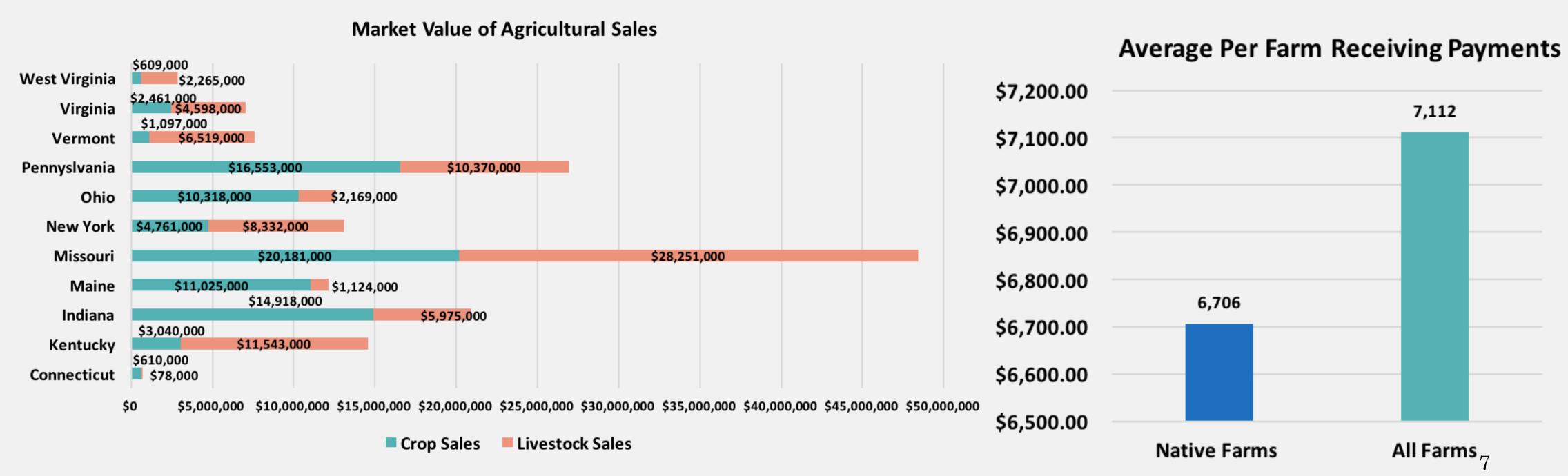
#### **Average Size of Native-Run Farms**





All Farms in the NE ----- 161 acres

In the Northeast, the total market value of agricultural sales as recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture totaled \$163,923,000 for Native Producers. Average per farm government receiving payments, however, were not equal, and Native farmers received 7% less average per farm receiving payments than all farmers in the Northeast. 6



#### Farm Success Stories and Native Farm Bill Coalition

Food Is Our Medicine





Food is Our Medicine strives to improve Seneca Nation health outcomes by increasing access to culturally significant food and food usage. This holistic program offers the Seneca Nation community a multitude of opportunities to engage in food and health-focused activities, from gardening to film festivals. One of the earliest projects, the farmers market, opened in 2013 and offers community members fresh, local produce from neighboring farmers. The organization has also overseen the building of a community garden and raised beds, where volunteers have planted more than four-hundred Native plants. Forty community members support the work of the garden, which features half an acre of traditional white corn. The project also hosts community outreach gatherings around traditional food.

The Native Farm Bill Coalition is the largest coordinated effort to give Native Americans a strong, united voice to advance a common Farm Bill agenda benefiting Indian Country. It is a joint project of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's Seeds of Native Health campaign to improve Native dietary health and food access; the Intertribal Agricultural Council; the National Congress of American Indians; and the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative as a research and education member. For more information visit Coalition website: the http://seedsofnativehealth.org/native-farm-bill-coalition/

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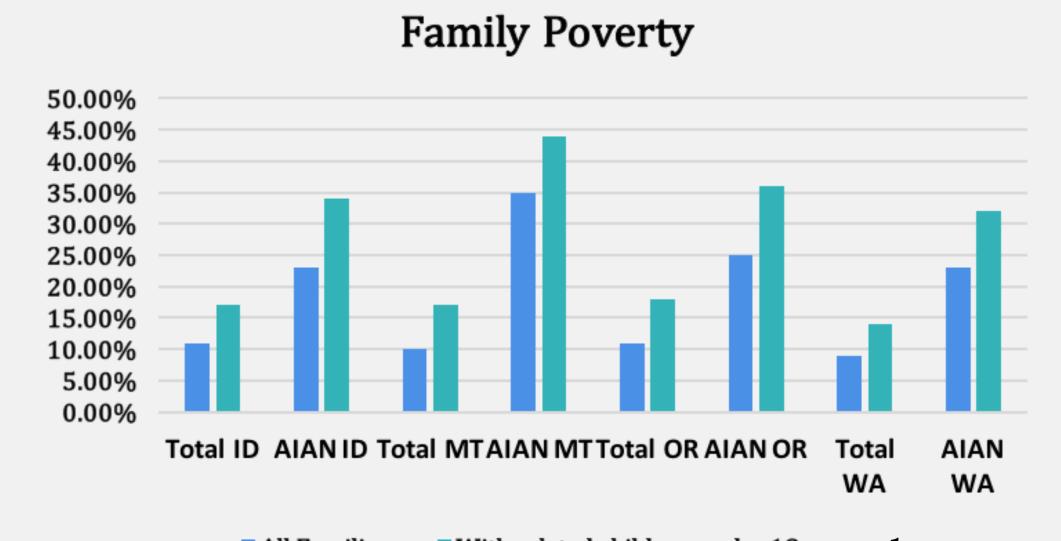
## Northwest Region

#### American Indian Farm Bill Profile

Idaho Montana Oregon Washington

#### **Poverty & Federal Food Assistance**

In each state, the poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Families is nearly double the rate for the total population, and there is high participation in the SNAP and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).



■ With related children under 18 years 1 All Families

#### **FDPIR Participation**

There were 9,372 FDPIR Recipients in the NW region in FY 2016

- ID: 1,706 participants, 23% of the Native population on reservations
- MT: 3,313 participants, 9% of the Native population on reservations
- OR: 943 participants, 16% of the Native population on reservations
- WA: 3,410 participants, 12% of the Native population on reservations

# Count

Counties with FDPIR Distribution Sites

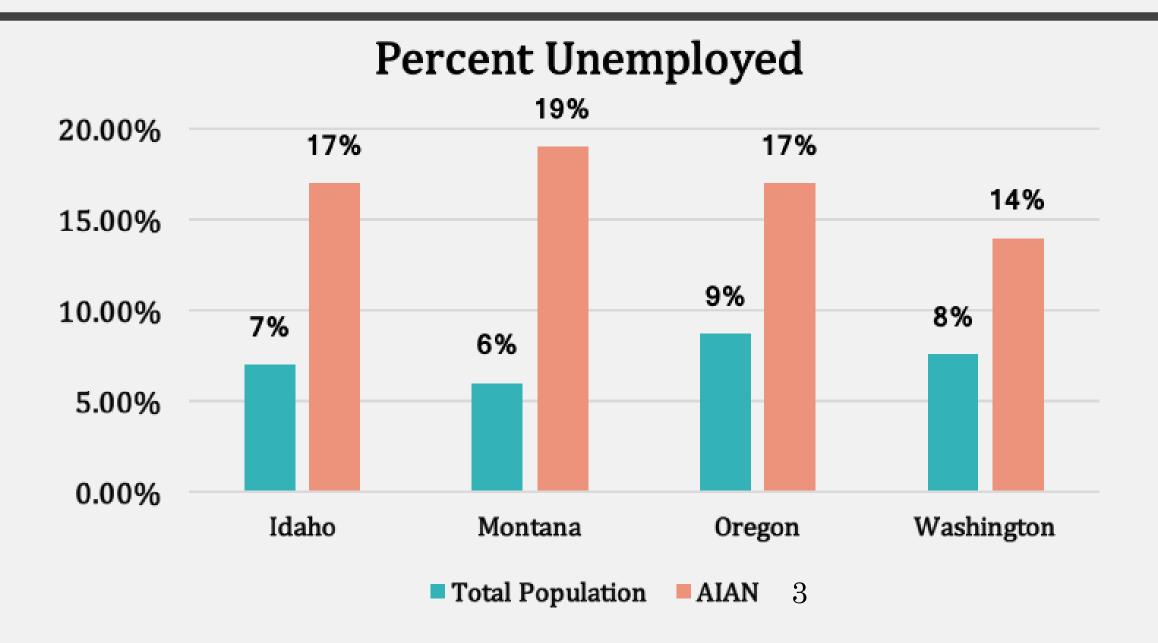
#### **SNAP Participation**

In Fiscal Year 2016:

- 2,278 AI/AN households in Idaho receive SNAP benefits
- 4,463 AI/AN households in Montana receive SNAP benefits
- 5,207 AI/AN households in Oregon receive SNAP benefits
- 7,667 AI/AN households in Washington receive SNAP benefits

#### **Unemployment & Agricultural Production**

In each state, the unemployment rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is nearly double the rate for the total population. However, many of those work employed agricultural in production.



#### **Top Crops Produced by Native Producers**

**1. Forage**  $\dots$  1,212 farms produce 156,801 acres

2. Winter Wheat . 108 farms produce 71,182 acres

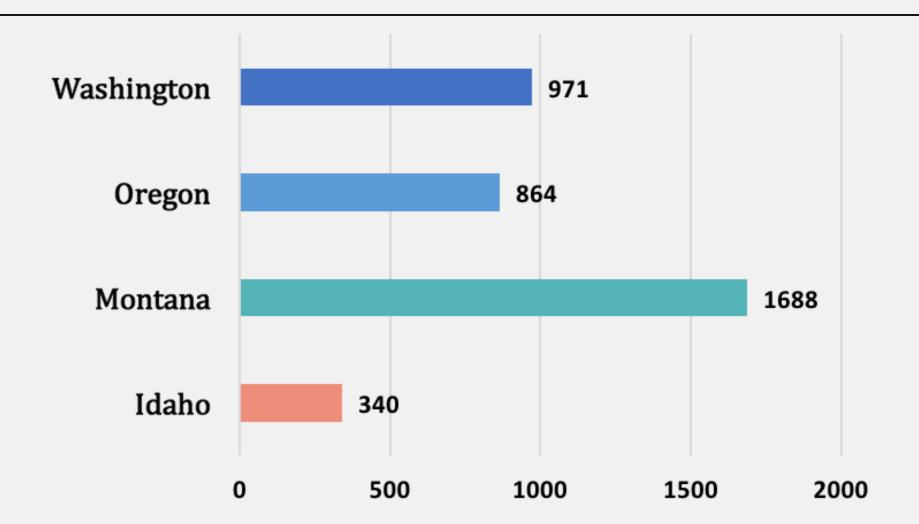
**3. Vegetables** . . . . 43 farms produce 737 acres

#### **Top Livestock Produced by Native** Ranchers 4

**1. Cattle** . . . . 1,748 farms produce 157,056 head

**2. Horses**  $\cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot 1,867$  farms produce 26,050 horses



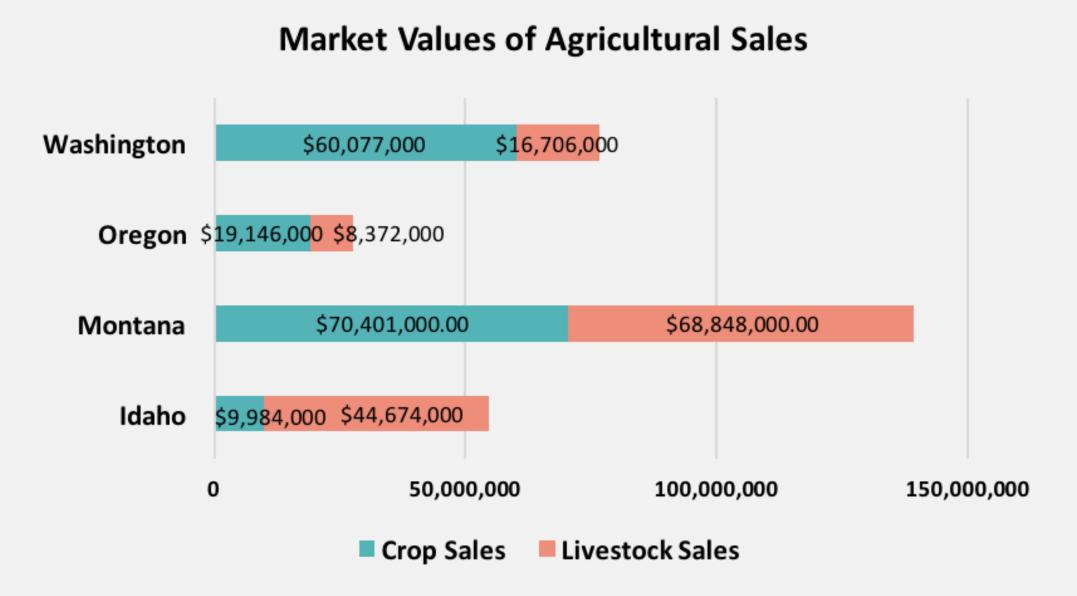


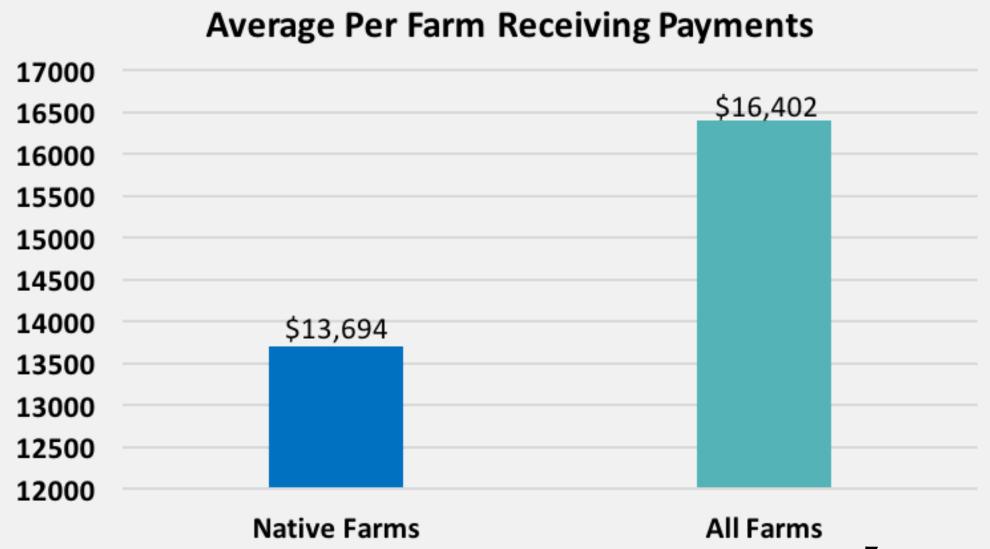
Native-Run Farms in the NW---- 2142 acres

All Farms in the NW ---- 866 acres

The average size of Native American Farms and Ranches are approximately two and a half times as large as all farms in the Northwest

In all four states, the total market value of agricultural sales as recorded by the 2012 census totaled \$298,210,000 for Native Producers. Average per farm government receiving payments, however, were not equal, and Native farmers received 17% less average per farm receiving payments than all farmers in the Northwest. 6





#### Farm Success Stories and Native Farm Bill Coalition

Salmon Marketing Program<sub>8</sub>



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians began the Salmon Marketing Program in 2010 to promote the sale of value-added products from Tribal fishermen and harvesters in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Throughout the life of the program, ATNI has reached more than 125 producers and estimates that the program has generated more than one million dollars through the creation of new sales and the promotion of higher existing revenue streams. The program helps producers by providing a range of technical assistance and other support, including but not limited to promotion of brands and processors, food quality and safety trainings, and fishing supplies.



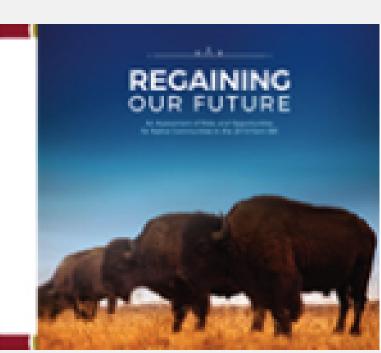
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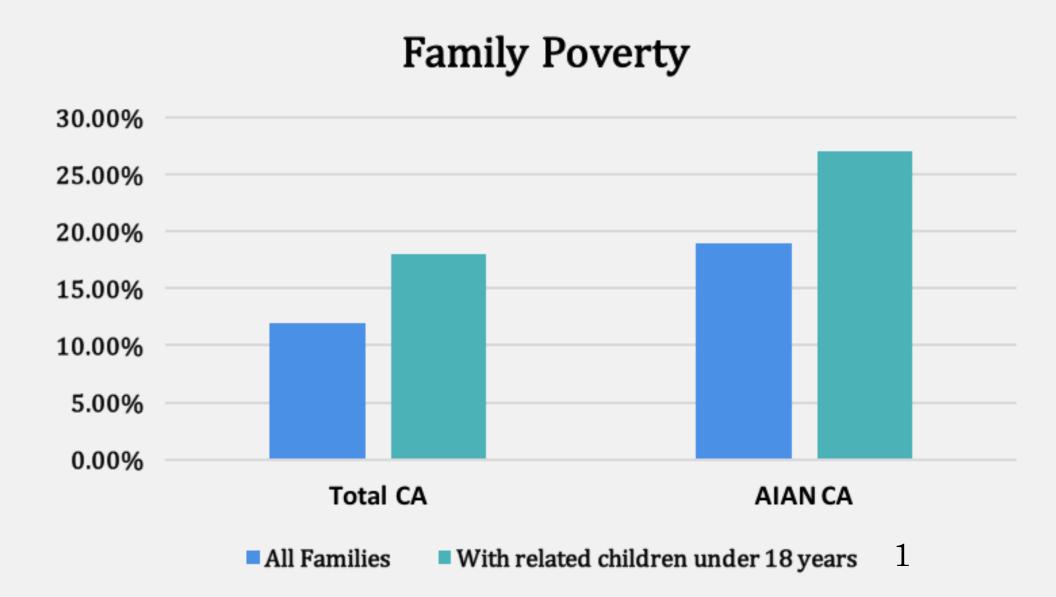
## Pacific Region

#### American Indian Farm Bill Profile

#### California

#### Poverty & Federal Food Assistance

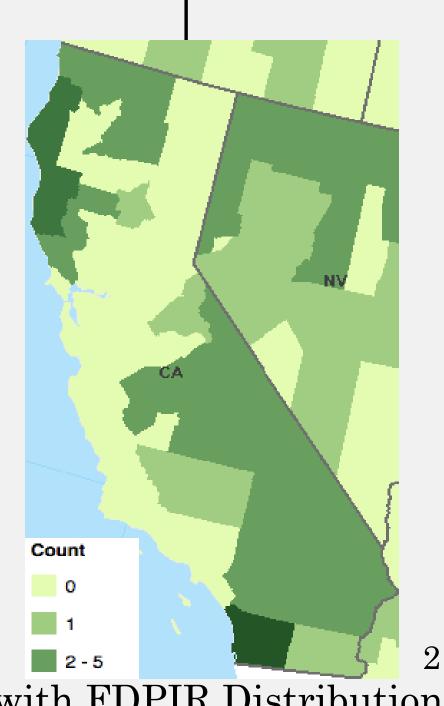
In California, the poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Families is higher than rate for the total population, and there is high participation in the SNAP and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).



#### **FDPIR Participation**

#### **SNAP Participation**

There were 4,795 FDPIR Recipients in the Pacific region in FY 2016

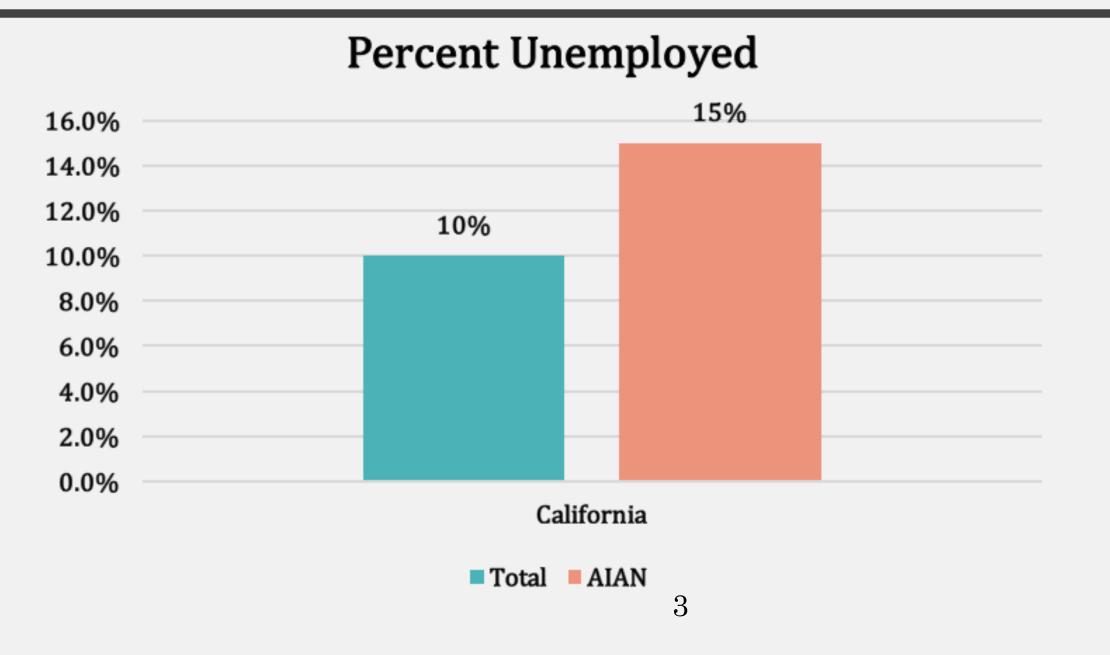


In Fiscal Year 2016: 18,491 AI/AN households in California receive SNAP benefits

Counties with FDPIR Distribution Sites

#### **Unemployment & Agricultural Production**

In California, the unemployment rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is higher than the rate for the total population. However, many of those employed work agricultural in production.



#### **Top Crops Produced by Native Producers**

#### 1. Forage . . . . . . 198 farms produce 27,342 acres

**2. Vegetables** . . . 201 farms produce 17,683 acres

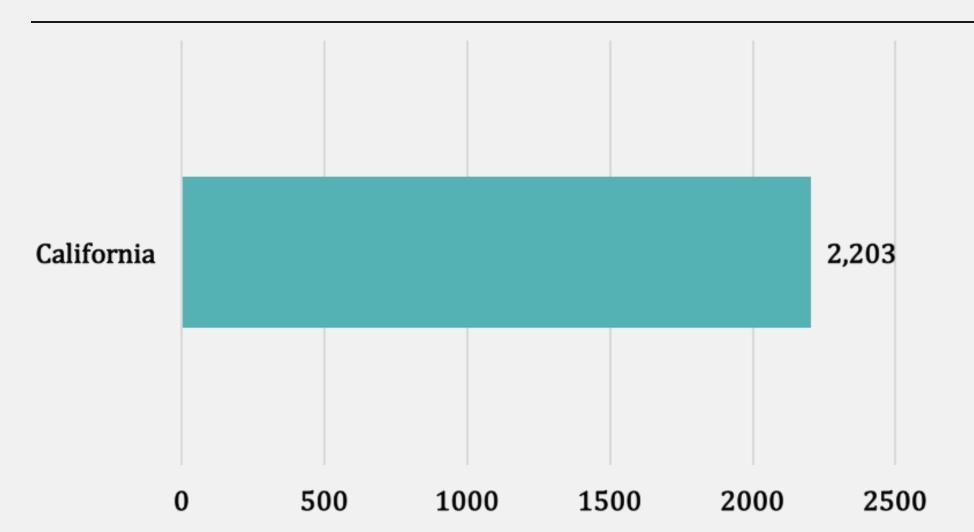
**3.** Almonds. . . . 175 farms produce 13,435 acres

#### **Top Livestock Produced by Native** Ranchers 4

**1. Cattle** . . . . . . 647 farms produce 71,968 head

**2. Sheep** · · · · · 132 farms produce 23,350 horses

Ethnicity, Gender Profile

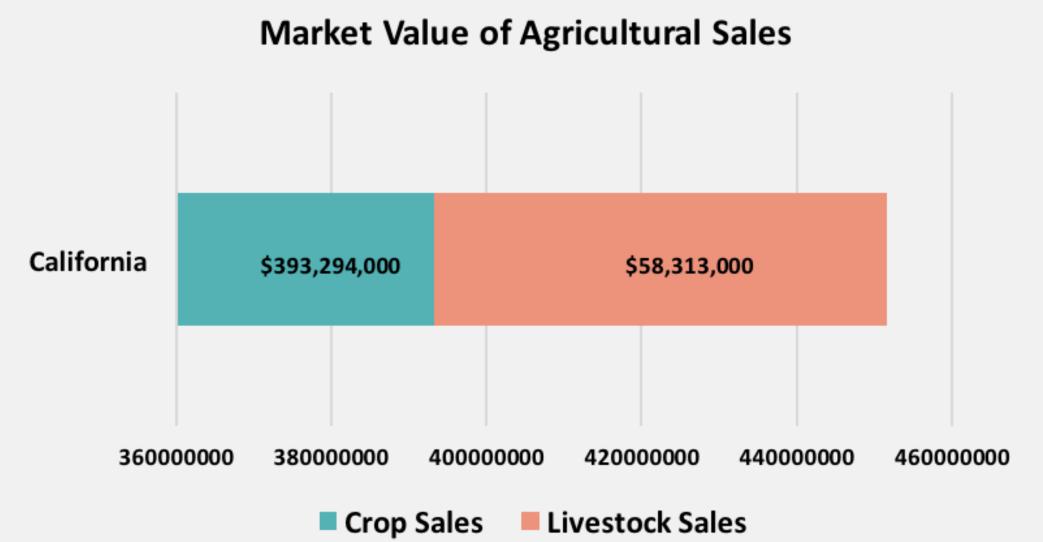


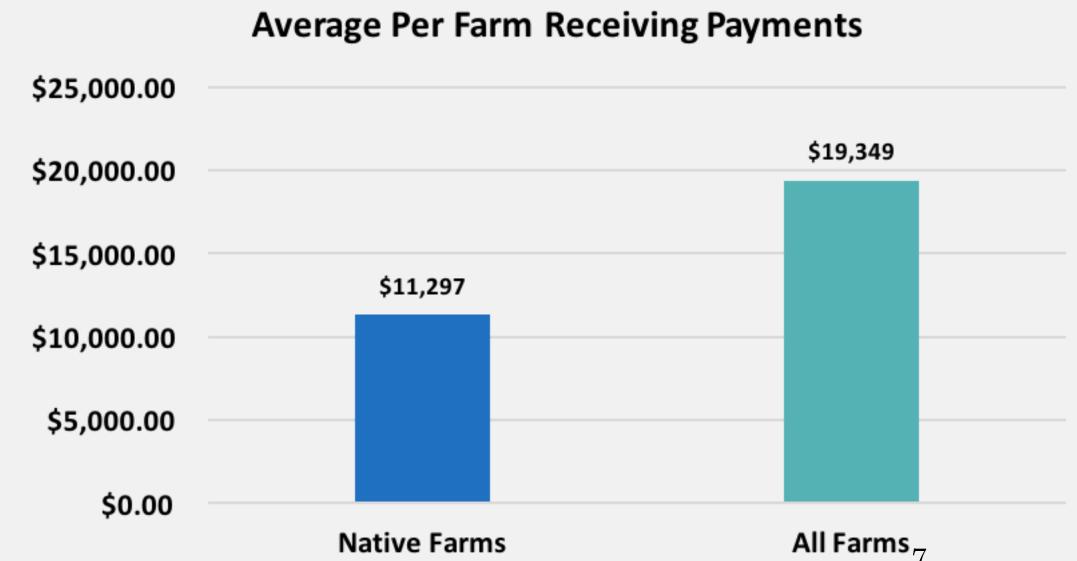
Native-Run Farms in the Pacific - - 251 acres

All Farms in the Pacific - - - - - - - 328 acres

The average size of Native American Farms and Ranches are smaller than all farms in the Pacific region.

In California, the total market value of agricultural sales as recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture totaled \$451,607,000 for Native Producers. Average per farm government receiving payments, however, were not equal, and Native farmers received 42% less average per farm receiving payments than all farmers in the Pacific. 6





#### Farm Success Stories and Native Farm Bill Coalition

Potawot Health Village,

Potawot Health Village was founded in 2002 in Arcata, California to serve members of multiple tribes in northern California. The village supports better health and fights obesity-related disorders through traditional food, herbs and cultural practices. The health complex features a two-acre community garden, as well as greenhouses, which yield a variety of fresh produce that is distributed throughout the community via produce stands and a produce subscription program. Throughout the year, the village staff also uses the fresh produce in cooking demonstrations. The village also maintains an herb garden, where a multitude of traditional and non-traditional medicinal and culinary herbs grow.



The Native Farm Bill Coalition is the largest coordinated effort to give Native Americans a strong, united voice to advance a common Farm Bill agenda benefiting Indian Country. It is a joint project of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's Seeds of Native Health campaign to improve Native dietary health and food access; the Intertribal Agricultural Council; the National Congress of American Indians; and the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative as a research and education member. For more information visit the Coalition website: http://seedsofnativehealth.org/native-farm-bill-coalition/

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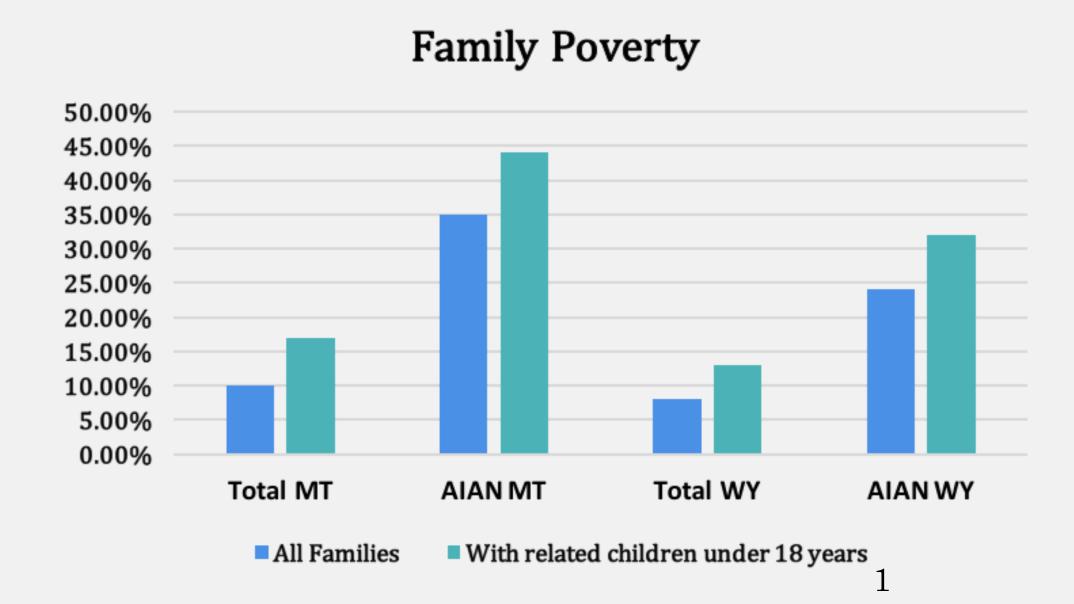
## Rocky Mountain Region

#### American Indian Farm Bill Profile

Montana :: Wyoming

#### **Poverty & Federal Food Assistance**

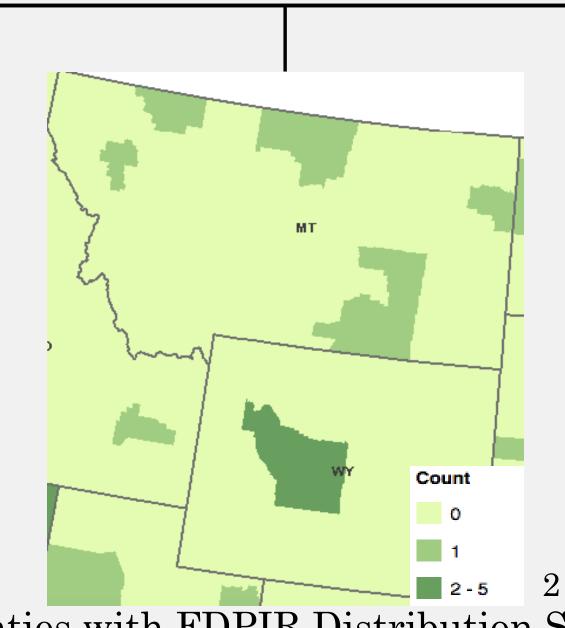
In each state, the poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Families is nearly triple the rate for the total population, and there is high participation in the SNAP and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).



#### **FDPIR Participation**

There were 4,409 FDPIR Recipients in the Rocky Mountain region in FY 2016

- MT: 3,313 participants, representing 9% of the Native population on reservations
- WY: 1,096 participants, representing 14% of the Native population on reservations



Counties with FDPIR Distribution Sites

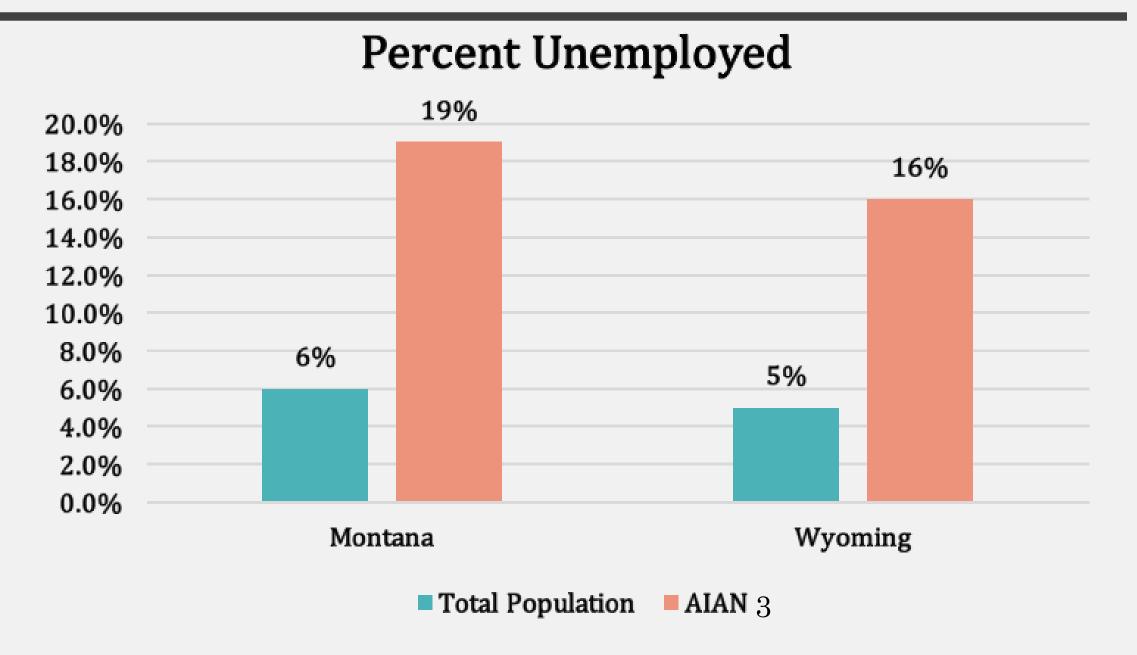
#### **SNAP Participation**

In Fiscal Year 2016:

- 4,463 AI/AN households in Montana receive SNAP benefits
- 877 AI/AN households in Wyoming receive SNAP benefits

#### **Unemployment & Agricultural Production**

In each state, the unemployment rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is nearly triple the rate for the total population. However, many of those employed work agricultural in production.



#### **Top Crops Produced by Native Producers**

. . . . . . . 738 farms produce 135,237 acres 1. Forage

2. Spring Wheat . .145 farms produce 109,873 acres

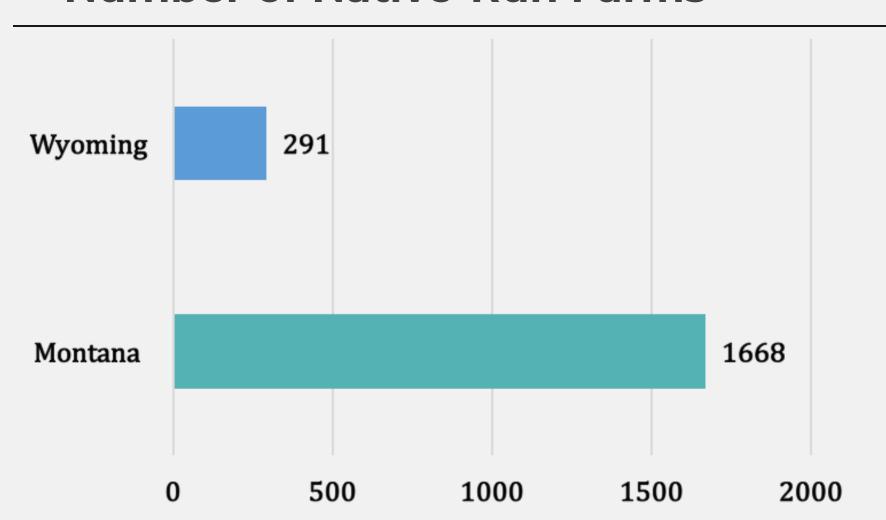
**3. Winter Wheat**. . 74 farms produce 51,008 acres

#### **Top Livestock Produced by Native** Ranchers<sub>4</sub>

**1. Cattle** . . . . 1,018 farms produce 147,805 head

**2. Horses**  $\cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot 1,155$  farms produce 15,226 horses

**3. Layers** · · · · · 138 farms produce 2,989 layers

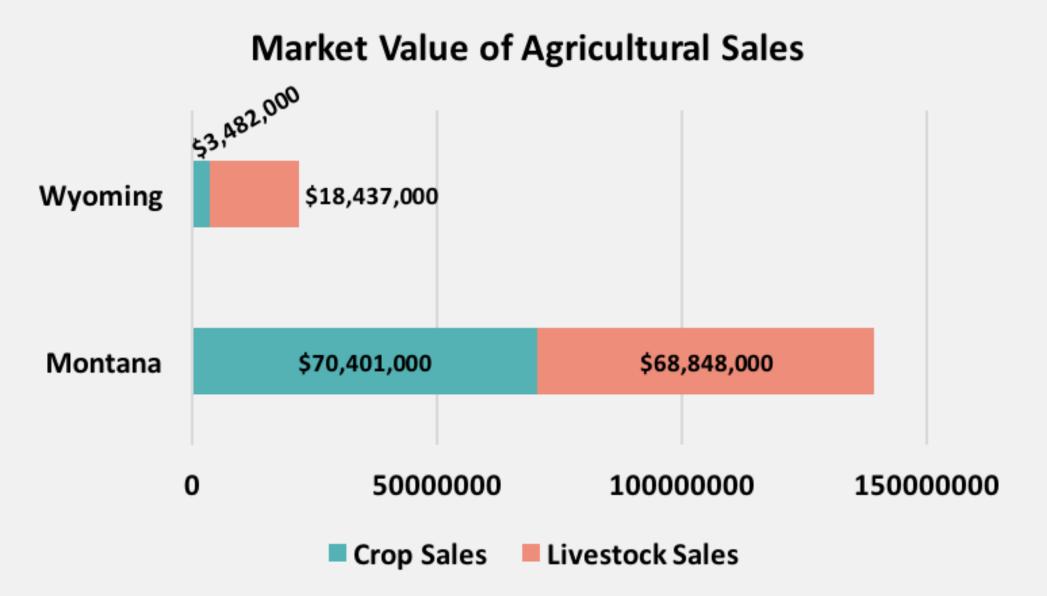


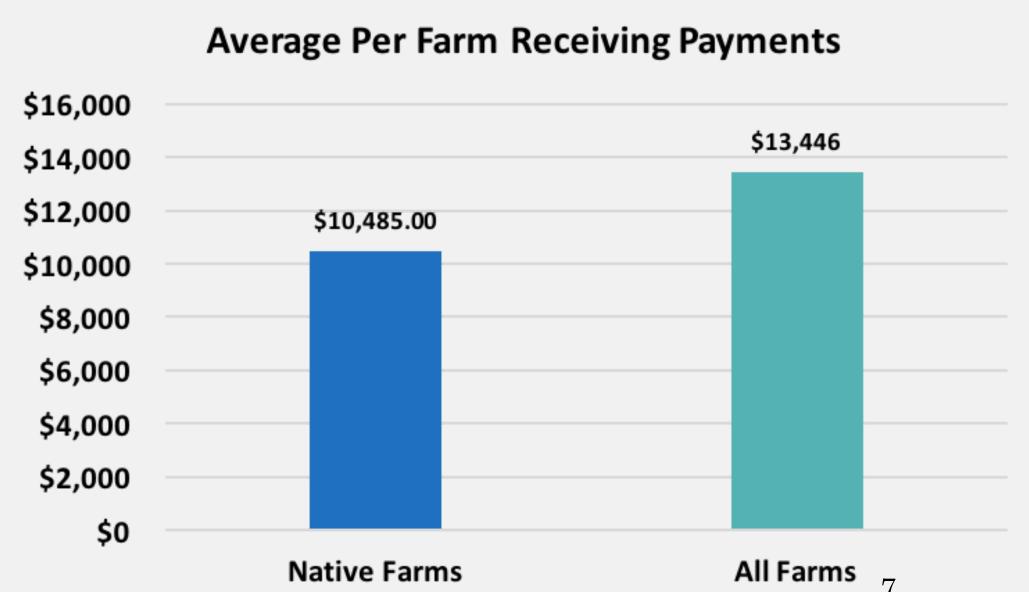
Native-Run Farms in the Rocky\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ 2,579 acres Mountain Region

All Farms in the Rocky Mountain - - - 2,360 acres
Region

The average size of Native American Farms and Ranches are larger than all farms in the Rocky Mountain Region.

In Montana and Wyoming, the total market value of agricultural sales as recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture totaled \$161,168,000 for Native Producers. Average per farm government receiving payments, however, were not equal, and farmers received 22% less average per farm receiving payments than all farmers in the Rocky Mountain Region. 6





#### Farm Success Stories and Native Farm Bill Coalition

Kiva Sun Foods <sub>8</sub>



Kiva Sun Foods produces antibiotic and GMO-free bison steak, burgers, chili and hotdogs, all made from bison raised in Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota. The company seeks to source from Native ranchers, when possible. Kiva Sun was recently selected by the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations as the primary vendor for bison for the commodity-feeding package offered to more than 70 tribes throughout the United States.



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School of Law Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative



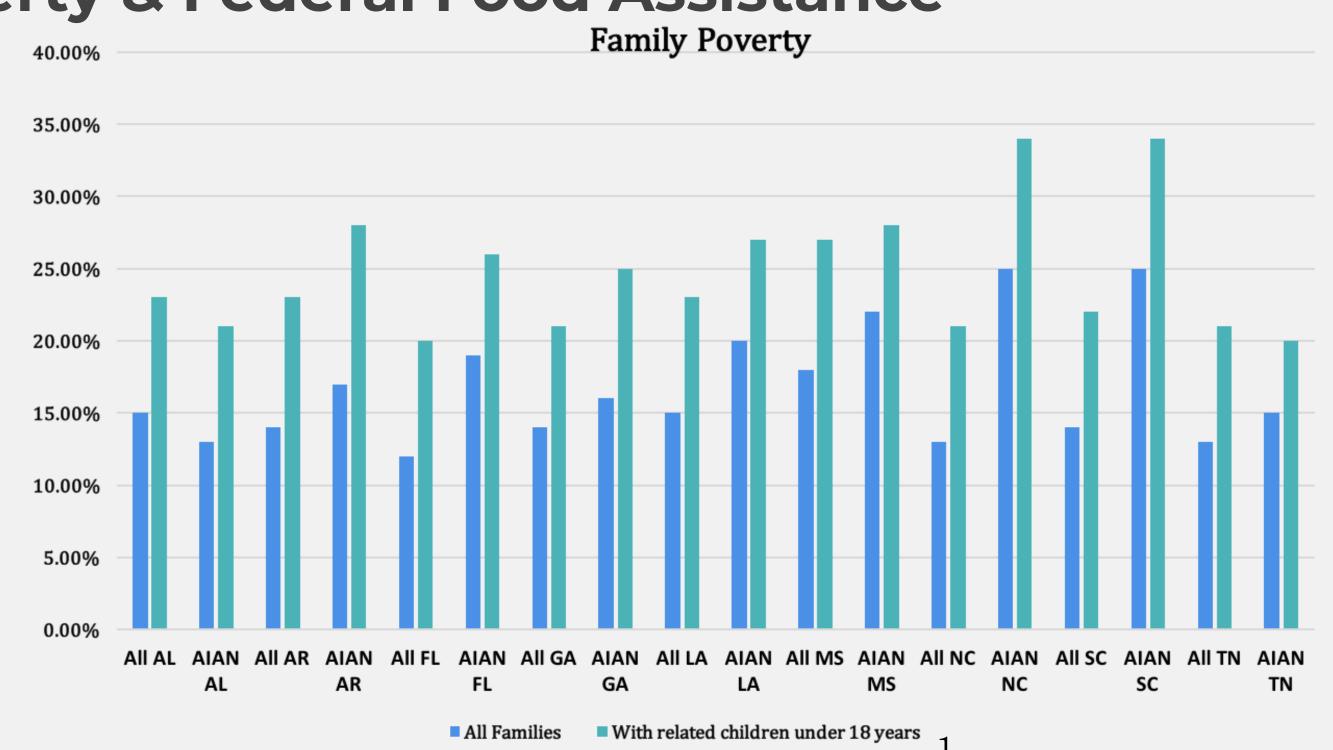
## Southeast Region

#### American Indian Farm Bill Profile

TN SCAR :: FL :: GA ::MSNC

#### **Poverty & Federal Food Assistance**

the each state, for rate poverty American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Families is nearly double the rate for the total population, and there is high participation in the SNAP and Food Distribution Program on Reservations Indian (FDPIR).



#### **FDPIR Participation**

**SNAP Participation** In Fiscal Year 2016 there were a total of 25,610 AI/AN households in the Southeast that

received SNAP benefits:

AL - 1,354 Households

AR - 1,172 Households FL - 3,674 Households

GA - 3,047 Households

LA - 1,901 Households

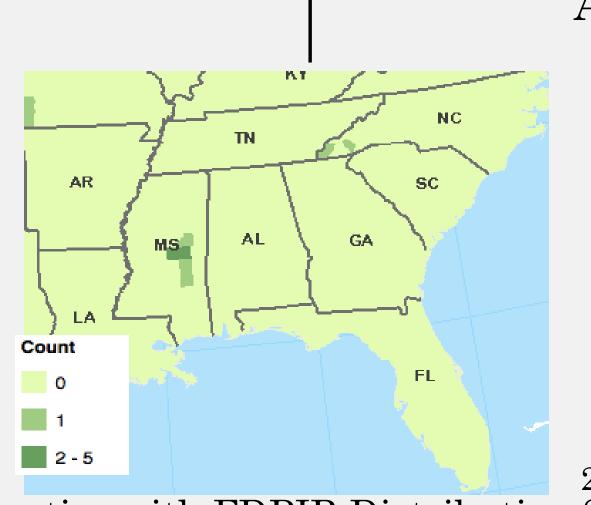
MS - 1,581 Households

NC - 10,724 Households

SC - 1,243 Households

TN - 914 Households

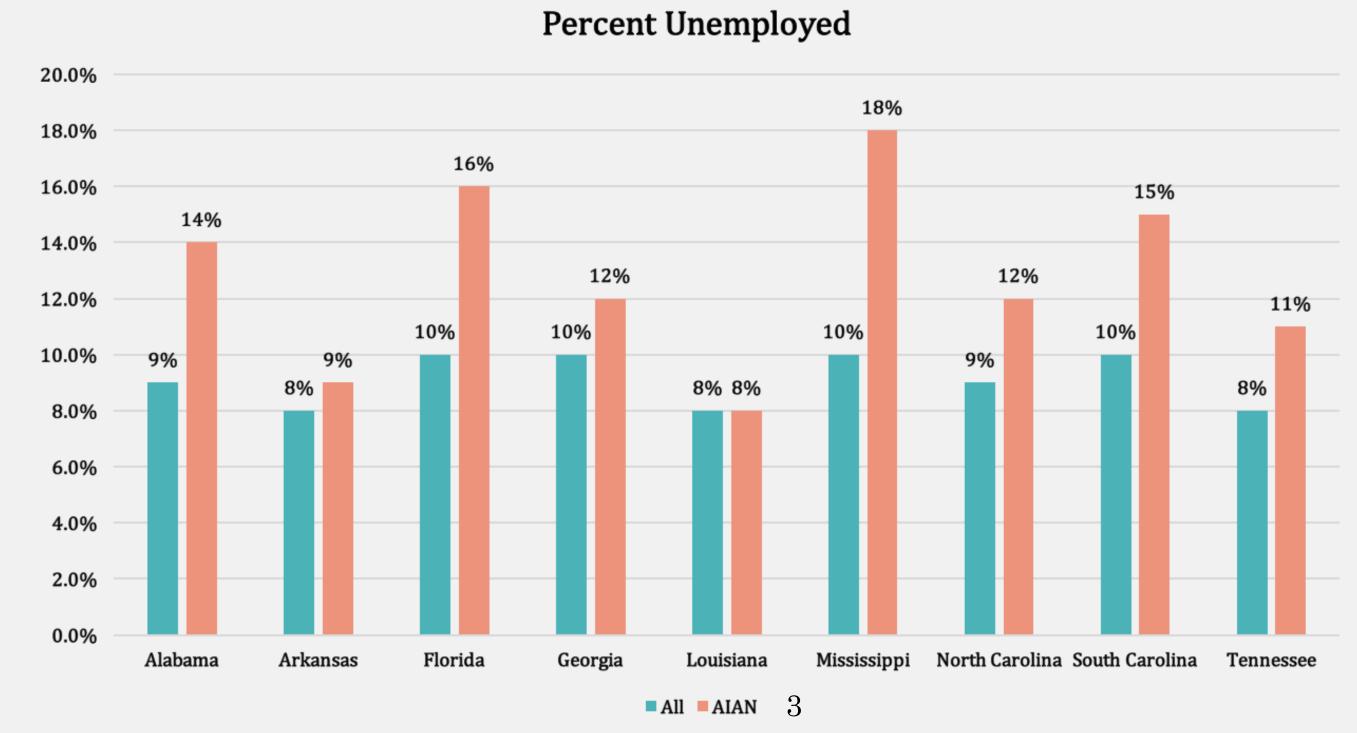
In total there were 1,756 FDPIR Recipients in the Southeast region in FY 2016. All FDPIR recipients are located in the states of Mississippi and North Carolina



Counties with FDPIR Distribution Sites

#### **Unemployment & Agricultural Production**

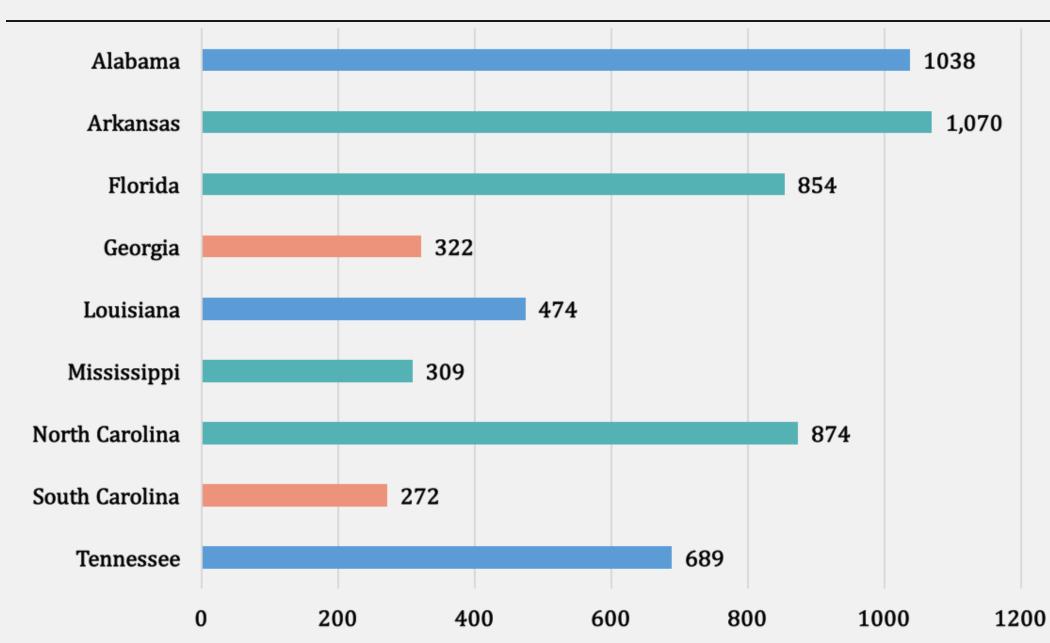
In each state, the unemployment rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is higher than the rate for the total population. However, many of those employed work agricultural in production.



#### Top Livestock Produced by Native Ranchers Top Crops Produced by Native Producers

- **1. Forage** . . . . 1,459 farms produce 710,090 acres **1. Cattle** . . . . . . 1,956 farms produce 113,601 head
- **2. Layers** . . . . . . . . . . . . 682 farms produce 6,972 horses **2. Soybeans**. . . . . . 295 farms produce 49,095 acres
- 3. Corn for grain / silage



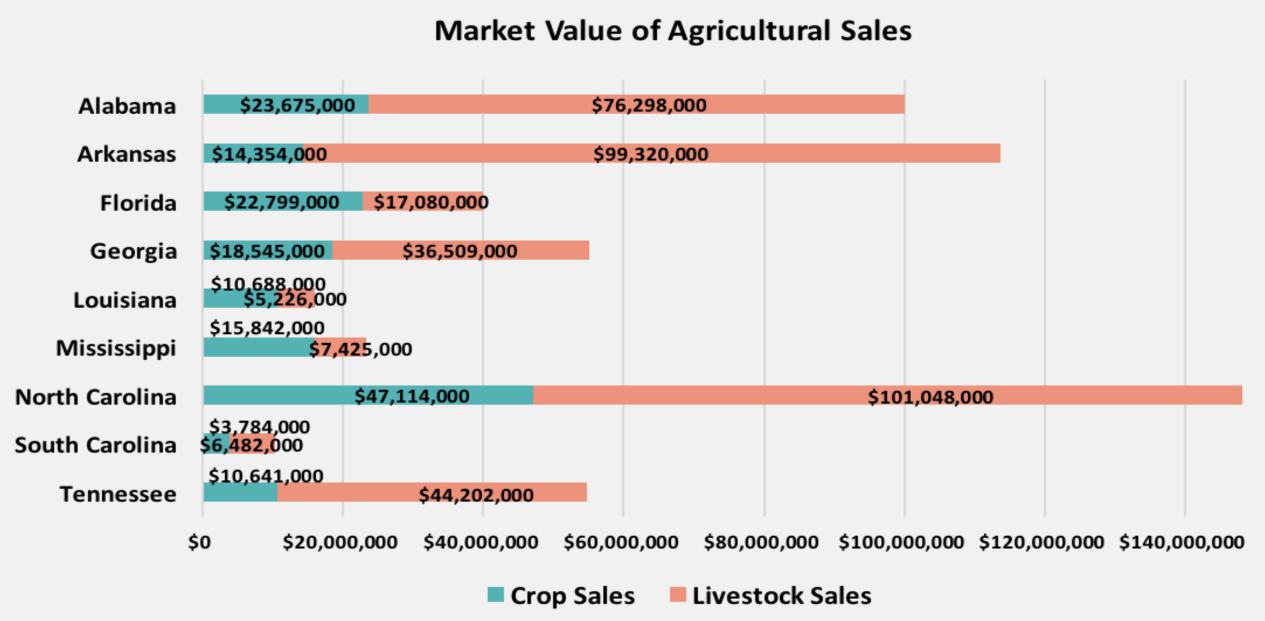


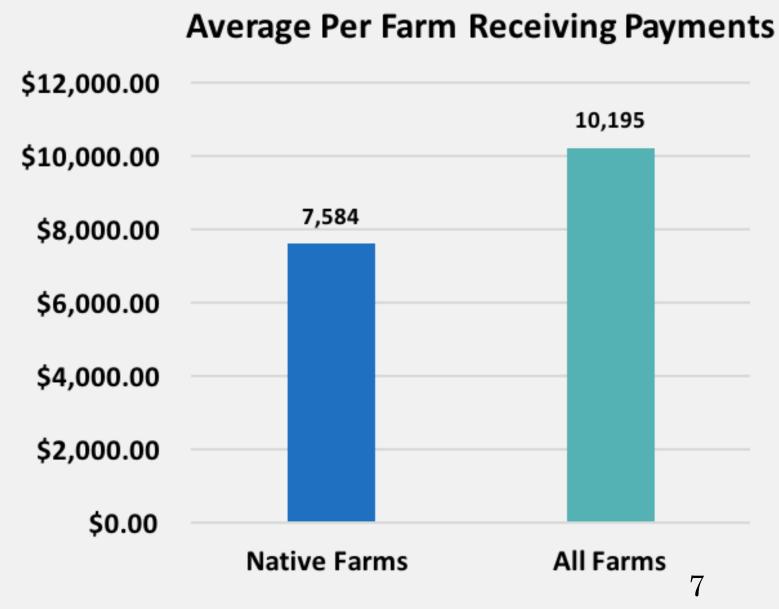
Native-Run Farms in the SE - - - - 164 acres

All Farms in the SE ----- 226 acres

The average size of Native American Farms and Ranches is smaller than all farms in the Southeast.

In all nine States, the total market value of agricultural sales as recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture totaled \$561,032,000 for Native Producers. Average per farm government receiving payments, however, were not equal, and Native farmers received 26% less average per farm receiving payments than all farmers in the Southeast. 6





#### Farm Success Stories and Native Farm Bill Coalition

Choctaw Fresh Produce<sub>8</sub>



This 100 percent tribally owned business operates five farms spread throughout the reservation, creating jobs for tribal members and improving the vibrancy of the local and regional food system in and around the area through sales of fruits, vegetables and herbs. Through Choctaw Fresh Produce, the community can access a variety of pesticide- and chemical-free produce that is available at the casino restaurants and in select area grocery stores and farmers markets around Choctaw, Mississippi. The Choctaw Fresh market has also developed a mobile setup that helps Choctaw Fresh goods reach even the most remote places inside the reservation.



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## Southern Plains and Eastern Oklahoma Region

#### American Indian Farm Bill Profile

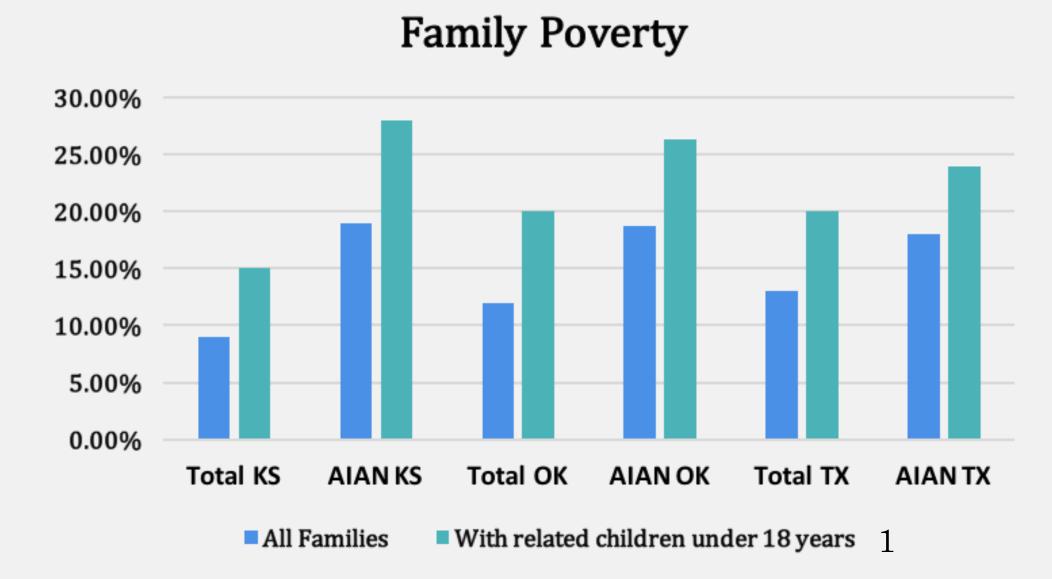
Kansas

Oklahoma

Texas

#### Poverty & Federal Food Assistance

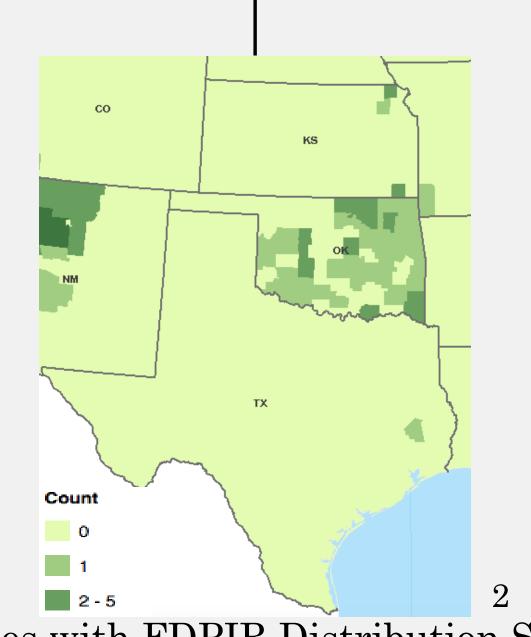
In each state, the poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Families is higher than the rate for the total population, and there is high participation in the SNAP and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).



#### **FDPIR Participation**

There were 34,304 FDPIR Recipients in the Southern Plains region in FY 2016

- KS: 592 participants, representing 40% of the Native population on reservations
- OK: 33,588 participants, representing 9% of the Native population on reservations
- TX: 124 participants, representing 8% of the Native population on reservations



Counties with FDPIR Distribution Sites

#### **SNAP Participation**

In Fiscal Year 2016:

- 1,328 AI/AN households in Kansas receive SNAP benefits
- 18,256 AI/AN households in Oklahoma receive SNAP benefits
- 6,837 AI/AN households in Texas receive SNAP benefits

#### **Unemployment & Agricultural Production**

In each state, the unemployment rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is higher than the rate for the total population. However, many of those employed work in agricultural production.

#### Percent Unemployed 13% 14.0% 12.0% 10% 9% 10.0% 7% 8.0% 6% 6% 6.0% 4.0% 2.0% 0.0% Oklahoma Kansas Texas All AIAN 3

## **Top Crops Produced by Native Producers**

**1. Forage** . . . . 7,319 farms produce 485,702 acres

2. Winter Wheat .554 farms produce 164,318 acres

**3. Soybeans** . . . . 221 farms produce 57,739 acres

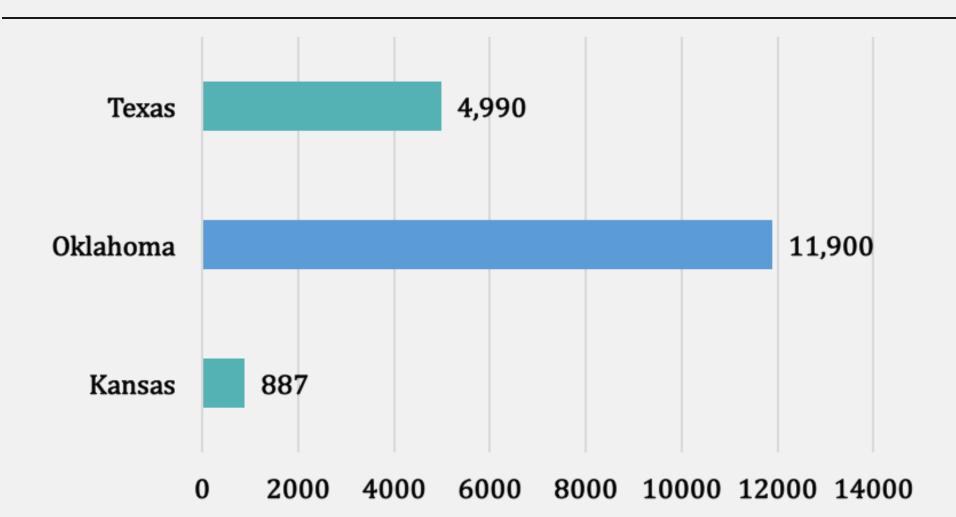
## **Top Livestock Produced by Native Ranchers** 4

**1. Cattle** . . . . 11,380 farms produce 657,726 head

**2. Horses** . . . . 4,728 farms produce 29,488 horses

**3. Layers** . . . 2,159 farms produce 379,391 layers



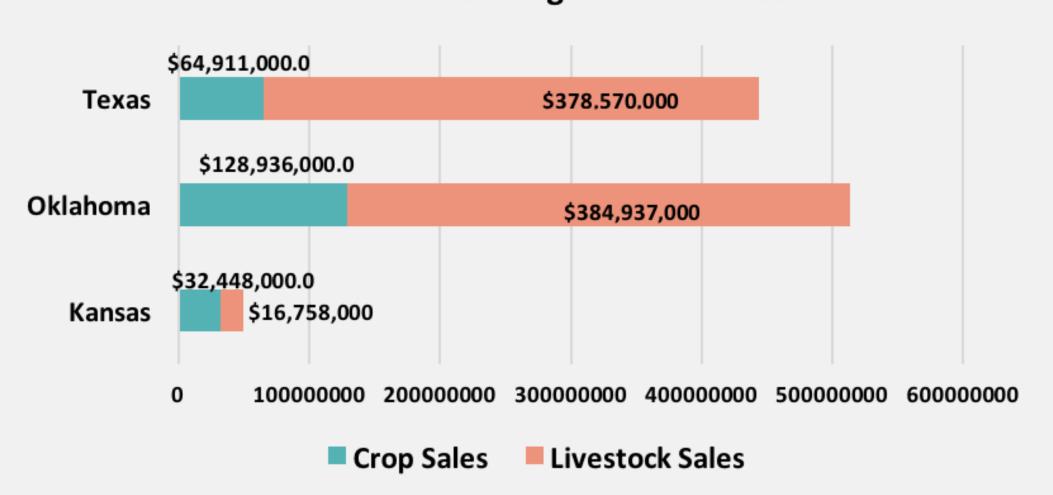


Native-Run Farms in the - - - - 297 acres
Southern Plains
All Farms in the Southern - - - - 566 acres
Plains

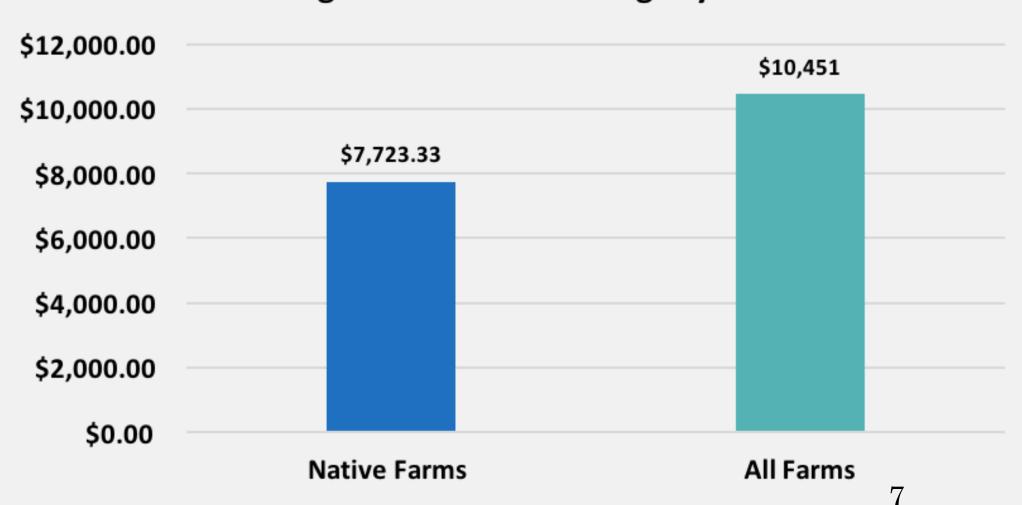
The average size of Native American Farms and Ranches are approximately half the size of all farms in the Southern Plains region.

In all three states, the total market value of agricultural sales as recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture totaled \$1,006,560,000 for Native Producers. Average per farm government receiving payments, however, were not equal, and Native farmers received 26% less average per farm receiving payments than all farmers in the Southern Plains and Eastern Oklahoma region. 6

#### Market Value of Agricultural Sales



#### **Average Per Farm Receiving Payments**



#### Farm Success Stories and Native Farm Bill Coalition

Cherokee Nation Seed Bank<sub>8</sub>



Managed by the Cherokee Nation Natural Resources Department, the Cherokee Heirloom Crop Seed Bank provides tribal citizens with access to 25 heirloom varieties of crop seeds. The seeds, which are distributed free of charge to Cherokee citizens, are preserved specimens of crops that were once cultivated by the Cherokee people thousands of years ago. The tribe releases two to five thousand seed packages each year to Cherokee gardeners, promoting a renewed connection to their ancestors' agricultural practices, as well as an active lifestyle and access to healthy food.



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School of Law Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative



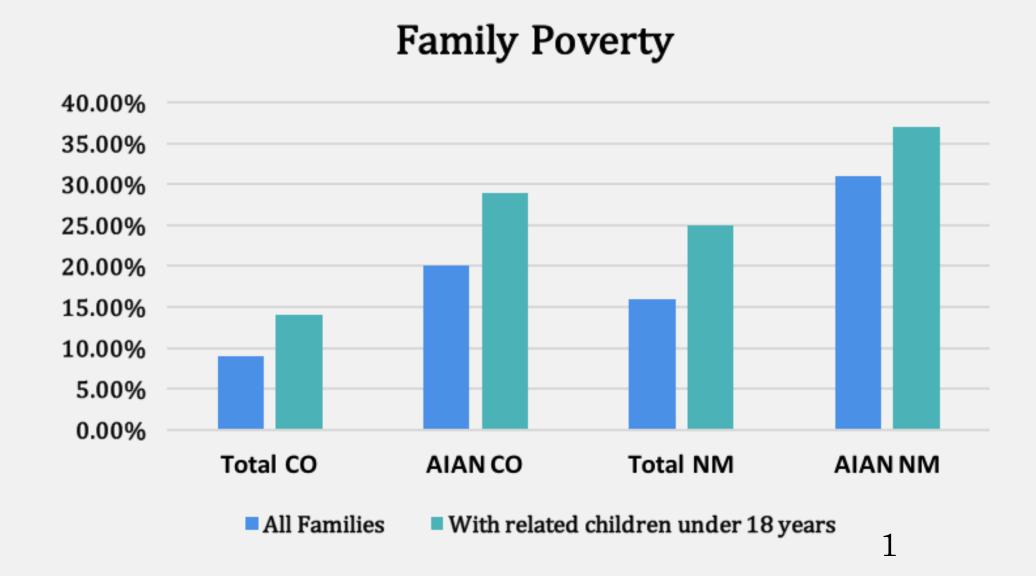
## Southwest Region

#### American Indian Farm Bill Profile

Colorado :: New Mexico

#### Poverty & Federal Food Assistance

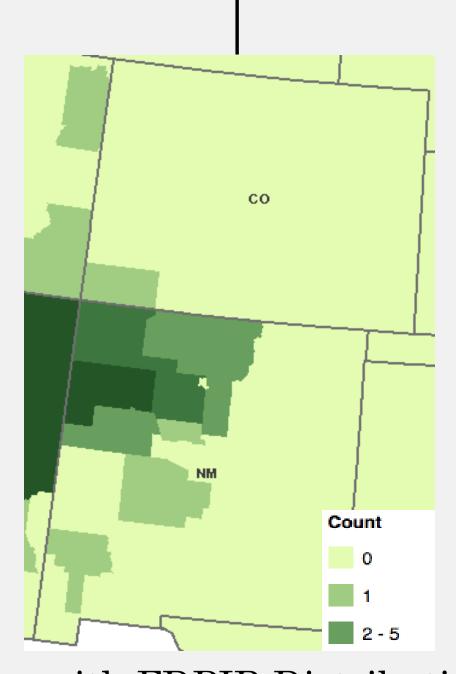
In each state, the poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Families is higher than the rate for the total population, and there is high participation in the SNAP and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).



#### **FDPIR Participation**

There were 3,332 FDPIR
Recipients in the
Southwest region in FY
2016

- CO: 442 participants, representing 15% of the Native population on reservations
- NM: 2,890 participants, representing 3% of the Native population on reservations



#### **SNAP Participation**

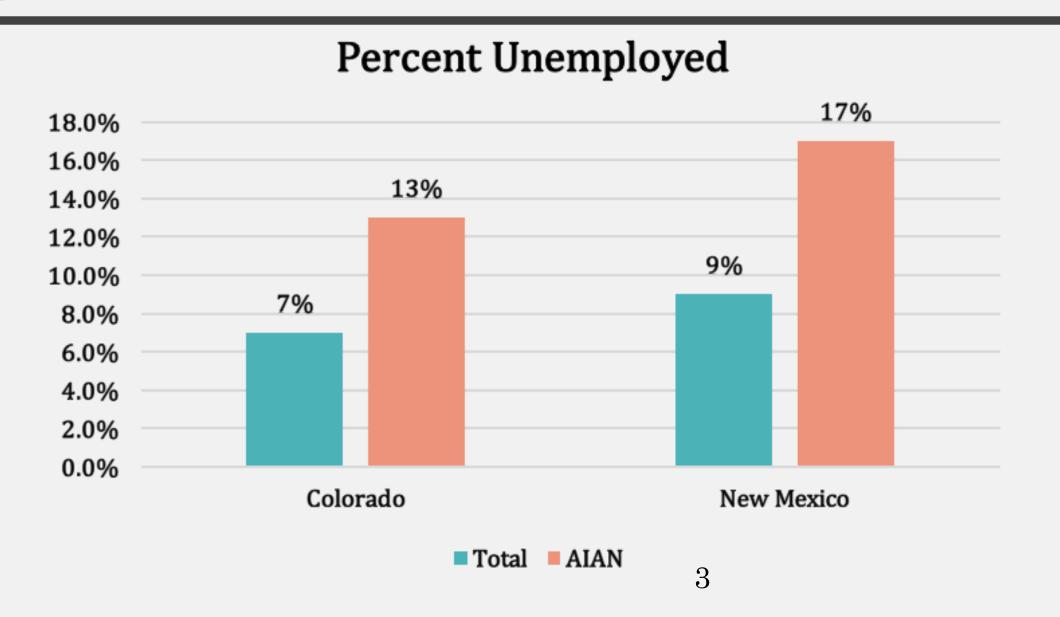
In Fiscal Year 2016:

- 3,262 AI/AN households in Colorado receive SNAP benefits
- 15,003 AI/AN households in New Mexico receive SNAP benefits

Counties with FDPIR Distribution Sites  $_{\rm 2}$ 

#### **Unemployment & Agricultural Production**

In Colorado and New Mexico, the unemployment rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is nearly double the rate for the total population. However, many of those employed work in agricultural production.



## **Top Crops Produced by Native Producers**

**1. Forage** . . . . 1,224 farms produce 56,,326 acres

2. Corn for grain · · 60 farms produce 4,903 acres

**3. Winter wheat** · 42 farms produce 21,088 acres

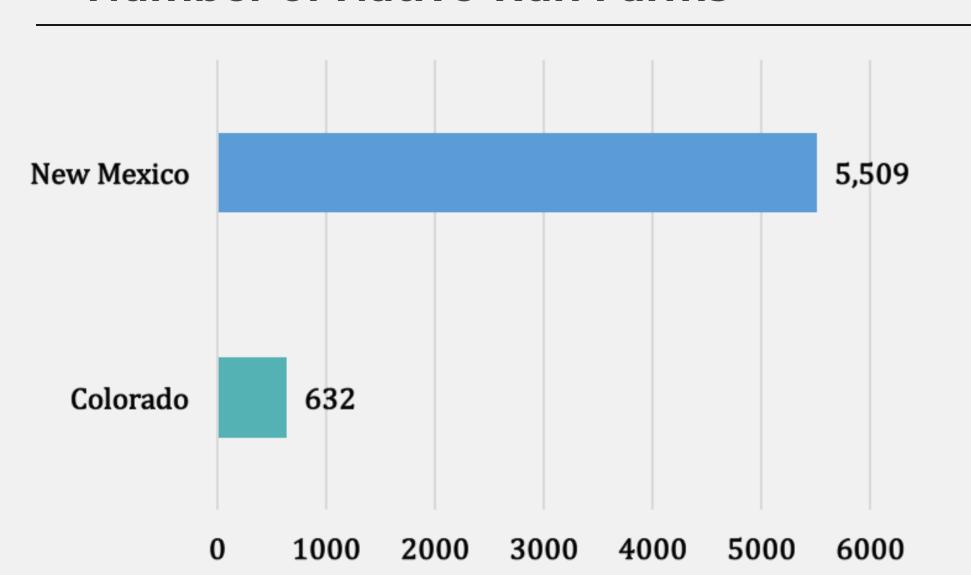
## **Top Livestock Produced by Native Ranchers** 4

**1. Cattle** . . . . 3,608 farms produce 119,778 head

2. Sheep and . .2,479 farms produce 46,571 sheep/lamb

**3. Layers** . . . . 1,440 farms produce 15,964 layers



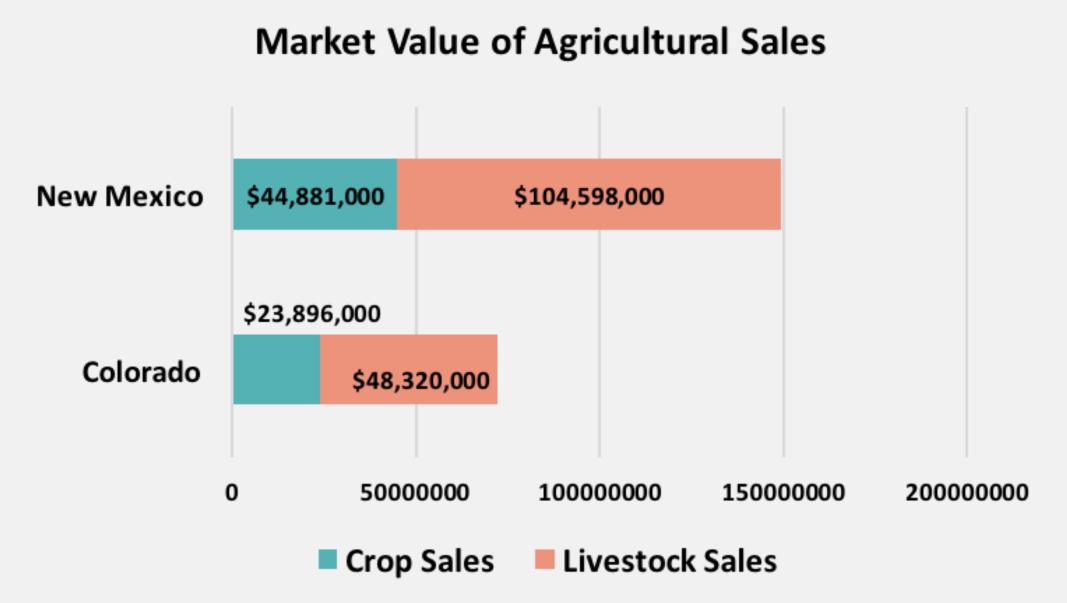


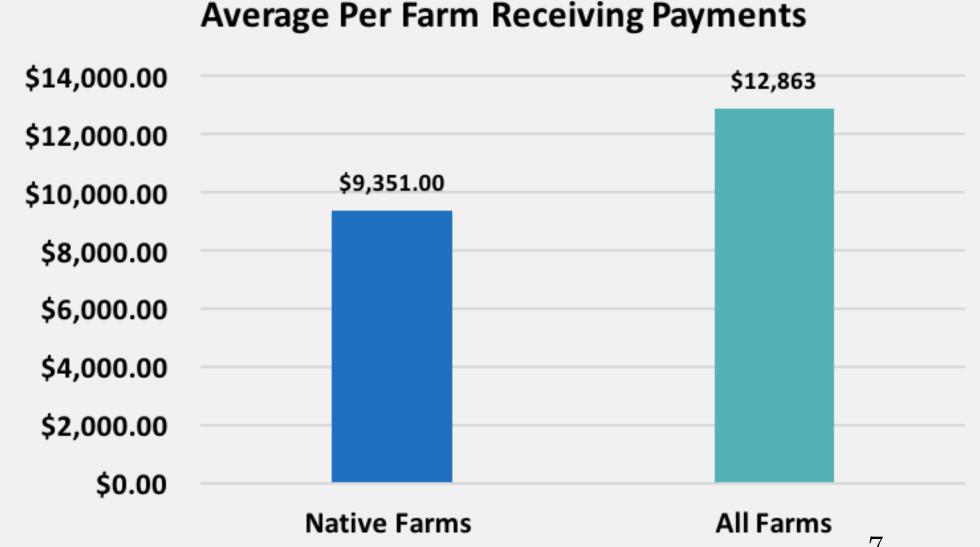
Native-Run Farms in the - - - - - - - 1,546 acres Southwest Region

All Farms in the Southwest - - - - - 1,315 acres
Region

The average size of Native American Farms and Ranches are larger than all farms in the Southwest Region.

In Colorado and New Mexico, the total market value of agricultural sales as recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture totaled \$221,695,000 for Native producers. Average per farm government receiving payments, however, were not equal, and farmers received 33% less average per farm receiving payments than all farmers in the Southwest.6





#### Farm Success Stories and Native Farm Bill Coalition

Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance<sub>8</sub>





Formed in 2012, Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance (NAFSA) is initiative of First Nations a joint Institute Development and the Taos County Corporation. Economic Development intertribal organization, NAFSA aspires to create a national movement of Native American advocates and leaders around issues of food sovereignty, food security and nutrition in Indian Country. The organization strives to foster growth and change in Indian Country food systems through networking opportunities for Native producers, development of educational materials, culinary-history education and training, and more.

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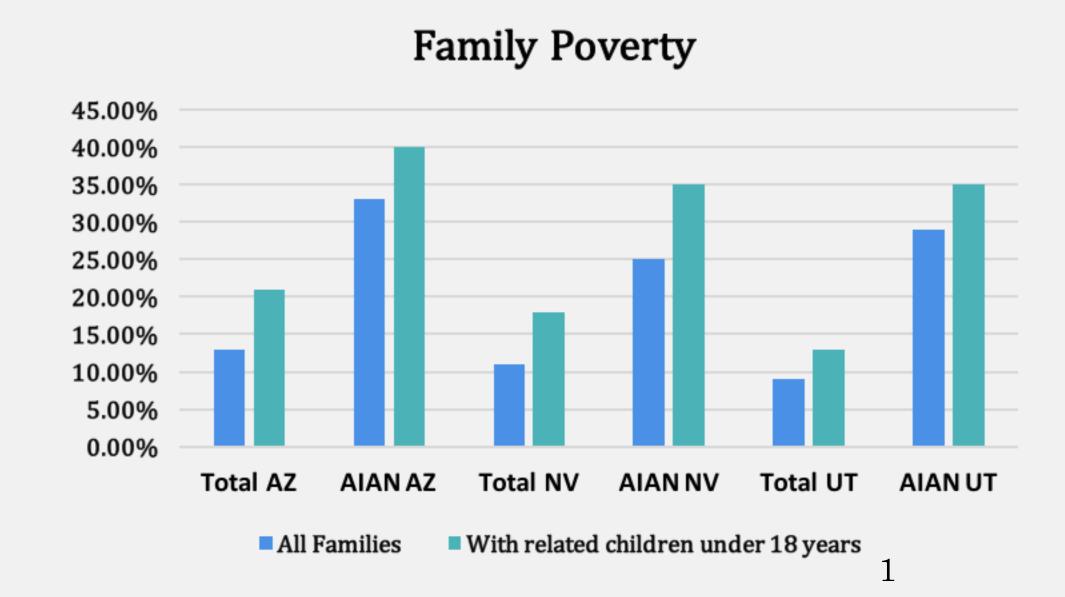
## Western Region

#### American Indian Farm Bill Profile

Arizona :: Nevada :: Utah

#### **Poverty & Federal Food Assistance**

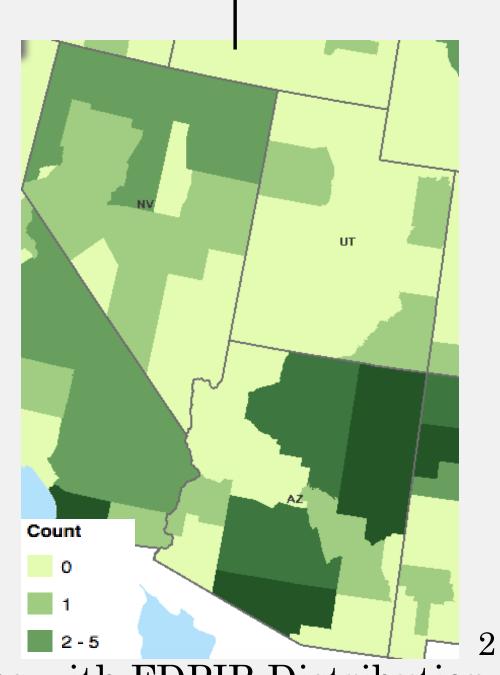
In each state, the poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Families is nearly double the rate for the total population, and there is high participation in the SNAP and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).



#### **FDPIR Participation**

There were 14,256 FDPIR Recipients in the Western region in FY 2016

- AZ: 11,887 participants, representing 7% o the Native population on reservations
- NV: 1,468 participants, representing 20% of the Native population on reservations
- UT: 902 participants, representing 10% of the Native population on reservations



Counties with FDPIR Distribution Sites

#### **SNAP Participation**

In Fiscal Year 2016:

- 24,825 AI/AN households in Arizona receives SNAP benefits
- 3,010 AI/AN households in Nevada receives SNAP benefits
- 2,100 AI/AN households in Utah receives SNAP benefits

#### **Unemployment & Agricultural Production**

In each state, the unemployment rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is higher than the rate for the total population. However, many of those employed work in agricultural production.

#### Percent Unemployed 25.0% 20% 20.0% 17% 15.0% 12% 11% 9% 10.0% 6% 5.0% 0.0% Arizona Nevada Utah ■ All ■ AIAN 3

## Top Crops Produced by Native Producers

**1. Forage** . . . . . . 480 farms produce 51,106 acres

2. Vegetables . . . . 1,752 farms produce 152 acres

**3. Cotton**···· 16 farms produce 10,177 acres

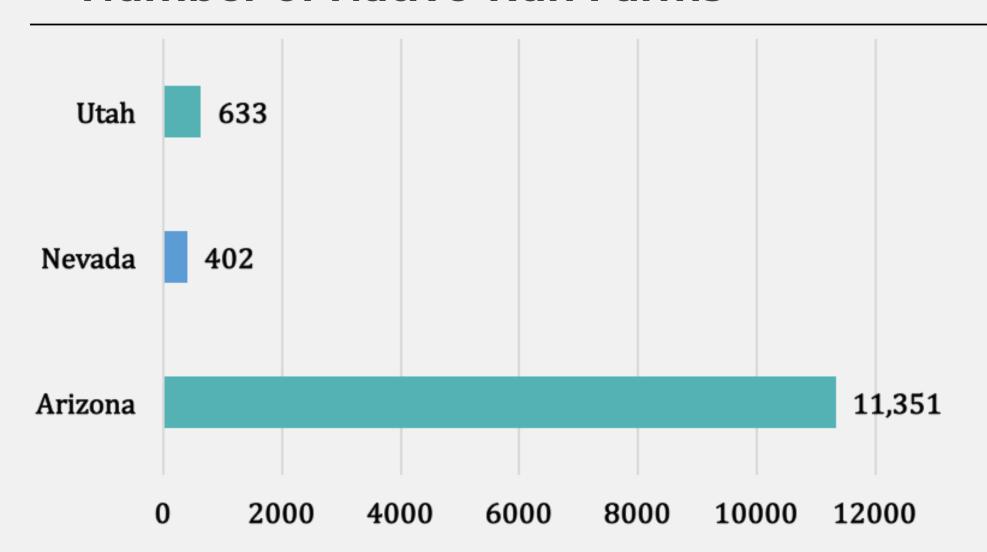
## Top Livestock Produced by Native Ranchers 4

**1. Horses**  $\cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot 7,714$  farms produce 51,937 horses

**2. Sheep** . . . . . . 7,393 farms produce 5,529 head

**3. Cattle** . . . . 4,361 farms produce 74,724 layers



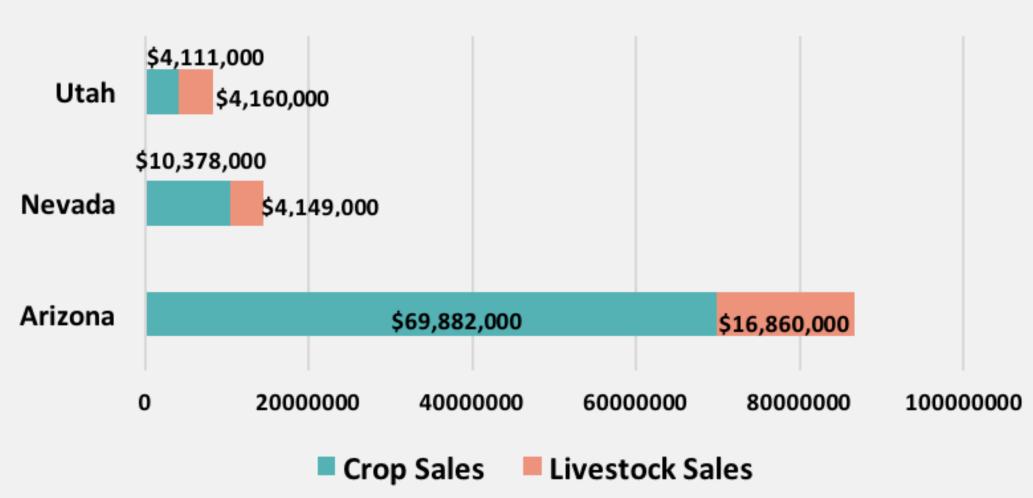


Native-Run Farms in the West - - - 3,819 acres All Farms in the West - - - - - - 1,117 acres

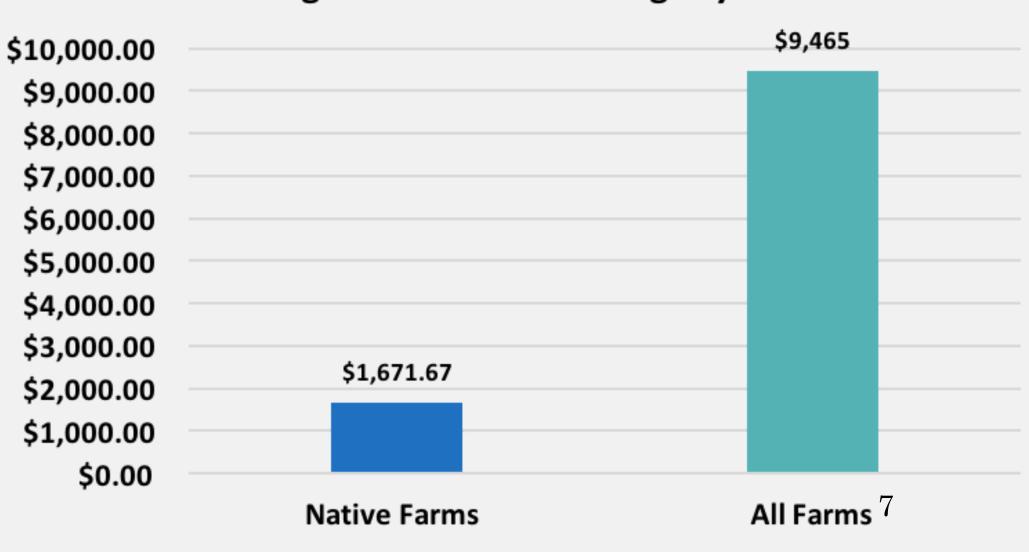
The average size of Native American Farms and Ranches are approximately three times as large as all farms in the West

In all three states, the total market value of agricultural sales as recorded by the 2012 Census of Agriculture totaled \$109,540,000 for Native Producers. Average per farm government receiving payments, however, were not equal, and Native farmers received 82% less average per farm receiving payments than all farmers in the West. 6





#### Average Per Farm Receiving Payments



#### Farm Success Stories and Native Farm Bill Coalition

Hopi Food Cooperative 8 In 2013, the Hopi Food Cooperative (Arizona) opened its doors to the local Hopi community. The cooperative supports local Hopi producers and community members in a variety of ways, including cooking classes for the Hopi junior and senior high schools, canning and preservation education, community food sharing and recipe swapping, and more. The cooperative also partners with other local organizations, like the Natwani Coalition, Hopi Tutswka Permaculture and the Hopi Special Diabetes Program to hold community events, including a Hopi Farmers Market and Exchange, where community members can gather to trade, barter and sell fresh foods.



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## Native Youth

#### American Indian Farm Bill Profile

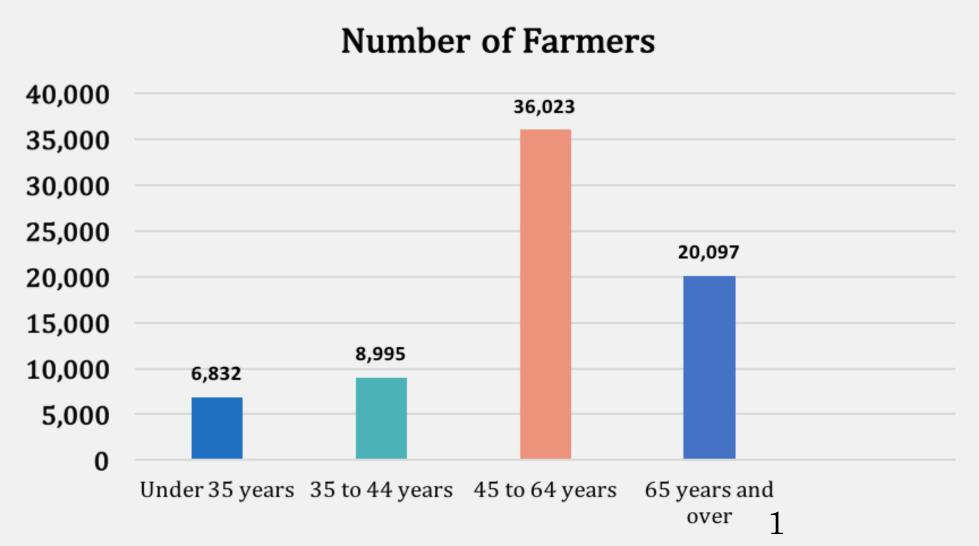
#### **Youth Voices**

Through programs covering everything from crop insurance for farmers to healthy food access for low-income families, from beginning farmer trainings to support for sustainable farming practices, this powerful package of laws [in the Farm Bill] sets the course of our food and farming systems. - Steven Antelope

It is time for Native Americans to unite and reclaim native foodways, improve our food security, and stand up for sovereign growth throughout Indian Country... We can not ignore the one piece of federal legislation that can either improve, or slow down, our relationship with farming and ranching, a relationship that we've been a part of for centuries. - Joseph Gabriel Vieira

#### Young Farmers and Ranchers

## Number of Native Youth in Agriculture



There are 6,832 Native Farmers in the United States under 35 years of age. This population represents approximately ten percent of all Native Farmers in the United States.



#### Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Leadership Summit

This 10-day event is sponsored and organized by the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law and is an opportunity for Native Youth to learn about how food and agriculture policy impacts their tribal communities.

## Support for Native Youth in the 2014 Farm Bill 2

## Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU)

- Reauthorized TCU operating funds, endowments, institutional capacity building, research grants, and the Essential Community Facilities programs.
- Extended Land-Grant Status to two additional TCU's.

#### Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

- Additional language was included regarding student training programs and set asides for limited resource farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, and veteran farmers in the beginning farmer and rancher funded programs, all of which could be used to fund tribal programs.

#### Youth Loans

- Prioritized loans to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers through programs like the FSA Direct and Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loan programs.

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## Appendix A Regional Profile Data Source Key

#### Poverty and Federal Food Assistance

American Community Survey 2011-2015 Data, Table DP03

#### **FDPIR Program**

2016 FDPIR Participation Rates as recorded

Percentage of Population calculated utilizing 2010 Census Data (number of AI/AN alone on reservations)

Map: 2012 Food and Environment Atlas

#### **SNAP Program**

2016 American Community Survey One-Year Estimates ("Households received Food Stamps / SNAP in the past 12 months)

#### **Unemployment and Agricultural Production**

American Community Survey 2011-2015 Data, Table DP03

#### **Number of Native-Run Farms**

2012 Census of Agriculture: Race, Ethnicity, Gender Profiles

#### **Average Size of Native-Run Farms**

2012 Census of Agriculture: Race, Ethnicity, Gender Profiles

#### Market Value of Agricultural Sales

2012 Census of Agriculture: Race, Ethnicity, Gender Profiles

#### **Average Per Farm Receiving Payments**

2012 Census of Agriculture: Race, Ethnicity, Gender Profiles

#### **Farm Success Stories**

Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative Inter-Tribal Food Systems Report

### ENDNOTES

- 1. Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI), *Regaining Our Future Report*, June 2017, pg. 13, available at:http://seedsofnativehealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Farm-Bill-Report WEB.pdf
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