



Arizona Department of Agriculture

Office of the Director
1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 542-3191 FAX (602) 542-5420

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Kristine FireThunder
Policy Advisor on Tribal Relations
Office of the Arizona Governor
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

TRIBAL CONSULTATION ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) has eight main divisions/programs and has a mission, "to support and promote Arizona agriculture in a way that encourages farming, ranching and agribusiness, protects the well-being of people, plants, animals and the environment while safeguarding commerce, consumers and natural resources."

AZDA was created in 1991 and sought to bring together various boards and commissions and all aspects of agriculture under one roof, using the fewest regulations possible while improving customer service, enhancing protection of the public, consumers and natural resources. Additionally, AZDA was tasked with assisting producers in raising the best crops and herds, educating the public about Arizona agriculture and increasing the demand for our commodities.

The Director of AZDA, Mark Killian, is dedicated to strengthening AZDA's relationships with Tribal Governments and Native Americans. When Director Killian was Speaker of the House of Representatives in Arizona he sponsored and created the first Native American Legislative Day.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

AZDA did not have a Tribal Consultation Policy in place until September of 2018.

One of AZDA's goals is to meet quarterly with tribal representatives to discuss how AZDA may be able to enhance tribal agricultural enterprises. Another purpose for these meetings is to strengthen AZDA's relationships with the Tribal governments and Native Americans in the State of Arizona. In the last year, AZDA has held three Native American Council meetings.

Thirty-one persons were invited to attend these meetings and attendance ranged from 5-10 persons. The Director attended all of these meetings, talked about the activities of AZDA and listened to the attendees about any agricultural issues they may be facing.

For three days, Staff from AZDA's Environmental Services Division as well as the Agricultural Consultation and Training (ACT) program conducted initial certification trainings at Diné College. The course was to prepare attendees for taking the exam to become a private applicator (which would be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency to then issue a federal certification which would allow the applicant to use restricted use pesticides on the reservation).

Additionally, eight ACT Pesticide Safety Training sessions were conducted for Tribal members through FY2018. The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Tohono O'odham Nation, Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe were represented by the 240 attendees at these events. The courses were presented by request and free of charge.

HIGHLIGHTS

The agency was able to strengthen relationships with the Native Americans in Cibecue and with the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT). The Director and Sharma Torrens made two separate trips out to Cibecue to further explore how AZDA can be of assistance to the WMAT.

The Director, in his individual capacity, donated an Angus bull and a cattle dog to the Grasshopper Livestock Association (within the WMAT). Also, on the last trip, AZDA brought out the State Executive Director for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Farm Services Agency (FSA) to discuss the FSA programs available to help out with drought.

In FY2018, as part of AZDA's efforts to help tackle food insecurity and to facilitate larger collaborations in these efforts, a Food Access workshop was held in Apache County. Approximately 100 persons attended, with 10-15 Native Americans from the Navajo Nation, and the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Furthermore, the consultation activities conducted by the AZDA's various divisions/programs also helped to strengthen relationships with Tribal members and to assist them in their commercial enterprises.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES

Various persons attending the Native American Council meetings requested that we meet with them and their Tribes more frequently.

REVISIONS TO THE TRIBAL CONSULTATION POLICY

A Tribal Consultation Policy was not in place prior to September 2018. A second version was created to further clarify points in procedures #4 and #5. As such, the latest Tribal Consultation Policy is dated October 1, 2018.

CHALLENGES

The AZDA has faced some challenges in obtaining a large attendance at these Native American Council meetings. As such, the AZDA is expanding its outreach for these meetings to include Tribal Liaisons for the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and we have doubled our email invitation list.

Food Access workshops continue to be held in different counties around this state and we seek to attract more Native Americans to these meetings.

Additionally, the AZDA would like to further respond to the needs of Native Americans and members of the various Tribes by putting on more trainings and courses.

For questions or more information, please contact: Sharma Torrens, Marketing Manager/Tribal Liaison, 602-542-3191, storrens@azda.gov.