



Arizona Department of Agriculture

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

October 1, 2019

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

TRIBAL CONSULTATION ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

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 AZDA does everything from encouraging applicable farms, ranches and agribusinesses to comply with regulations, to distributing grants, food safety trainings, pesticide safety trainings, protecting the public from contagious diseases in livestock, certifying, licensing and training pesticide applicators (for agriculture and non-agriculture purposes), working to keep the state pest free (from things like the Citrus Greening Disease), ensuring all scales are calibrated, checking for credit card skimmers on gas pumps, testing meat, milk and poultry, to commodity reporting for produce and implementing the Produce Safety Rule (under the Food Safety Modernization Act). Additionally, the AZDA regulates the production of industrial hemp, promotes and encourages domestic and international export of Arizona agricultural products, works on the Farm to School Program (looking to get healthy food to school children and local agricultural products sold in the local schools), seeks to reduce food insecurity and ensure that all Arizonans have access to healthy food and in the general promotion of Arizona agricultural producers and their products.

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

One of AZDA's Tribal Government Consultation Policy goals is to further enhance relationships with the Tribes and Native Americans and coordinate efforts to improve intergovernmental cooperation. As such, the AZDA seeks to meet quarterly with Tribal representatives to discuss how AZDA may be able to enhance their 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, the AZDA has held two Native American Council meetings. Although, the goal is to hold these quarterly, and we have held fewer meetings this year, we really focused on finding topics of interest to the Tribes, giving ample notice of the meetings and reaching a larger audience (by expanding our invitees and the number of Tribes reached).

Approximately eighty persons were invited to attend these meetings and although attendance only ranged from between 10-17 persons, we had numerous Tribes represented (at the last such meeting we had representatives from the Ft. McDowell, Tonto Apache, Hualapai, Navajo Nation, Colorado River Indian Tribe, Tohono O'odham, and Hopi Tribes). 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.

Another means to further the goal noted above is that all of the AZDA's employees and divisions are amenable to questions and requests from Tribes and Native Americans. The AZDA's eight main divisions are always available for such.

Upon request, the AZDA's Agricultural Consultation and Training Division (ACT), in conjunction with our Environmental Services Division (ESD), has held worker protection pesticide safety trainings for the following Tribes: Fort Mohave; the Navajo Nation; SRPMIC, the San Carlos Apache, the Tohono O'odham, the White Mountain Apache, and the Yavapai Apache Nation. In addition, ACT held a Good Handling Practices/Good Agriculture Practices training for the Navajo Nation.

Our ESD has had numerous exchanges and correspondence with Tribes throughout the year relating to pesticide safety. Additionally, after being requested to do so, the Weights & Measures Services Division (WMSD) conducted an on-the-job training with the Navajo Nation Weights and Measures representative (along with a WMSD investigator), and they held training regarding testing fuel dispenser calibrations with the Navajo Nation as well.

Further, in the past year, our Animal Services Division has done the following: (1) provided sample horse management plans and held discussions for management of large numbers of equines on the range (to the WMAT); (2) provided job descriptions for Livestock Officers/Inspectors and answered questions about livestock needs (for the Havasupai Tribe); (3) met with various Tribes to discuss issues with livestock and the Mexican Wolf; (4) assisted the Fort McDowell Tribe on nine occasions with injured, escaped horses and trespassing cattle; (5) attended the Feral Horse Conference at the Wild Horse Pass Casino; (6) presented to the Southwest Indian Ag. Association members; (7) held discussions with the Navajo Nation Agriculture Department about horses; and (8) met monthly with WMAT to discuss the Salt River Horses.

The AZDA, and all of its divisions, will continue to be available to provide assistance to Native Americans.

HIGHLIGHTS

The agency was able to further strengthen relationships with Native Americans and Tribes over this last fiscal year. Because of the AZDA's divisions making themselves more available for collaborative efforts and since we have been conducting more Tribal outreach and have had very engaging Native American Council meetings, we are receiving more requests from Tribes for assistance or to do presentations or trainings.

AZDA received several requests from Native Americans to hold Native American Council meetings more frequently and to schedule more trips to visit Tribal Lands. Additionally, upon request, Sharma Torrens, the Marketing Manager/Tribal Liaison, presented at the following: (1) two of the Indian Nations Conservation Alliance/Arizona Association of Tribal Conservation District's Annual meetings; (2) a Navajo Nation Ad hoc Ag Committee meeting; (3) two of the Southwest Indian Agriculture Association meetings; and (4) the STRIVE Indigenous Foods Forum (with the Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA)). Additionally, the AZDA had a presence and booth (sharing with the PWNA) at the Tribal Legislative Day.

Further, in FY2019, 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 specifically targeting the needs of Native Americans and Tribes. One of the key speakers was with the PWNA and we had approximately 80 persons attend this workshop in Mesa, with persons from the TO, WMAT, SRPMIC, San Carlos Apache, Chemehuevi, the Tonto Apache, Gila River, and Pascua Yaqui Tribes. The AZDA will continue to hold such events with topics of interest to Native Americans, with an Indigenous Foods Workshop scheduled in early of 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES

Various persons attending the Native American Council meetings requested that we meet with them and their Tribes more frequently. Additionally, since our last Native American Council (which focused on feral horses and hemp), we have had requests for more discussions/meetings regarding these topics of interest. We are working to implement those recommendations.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION POLICY

A Tribal Consultation Policy has been in place since September 2018. This policy has not been adjusted during this fiscal year. However, we are working to revise this to account for discussions with Tribes regarding hemp and other new topics.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

There are no legislative changes relating to the AZDA that would impact the Tribes.

CHALLENGES/ACTIONS

The AZDA has faced some challenges in obtaining a large attendance at these Native American Council meetings. However, through the various outreach to the Tribes, we have been compiling a larger invitee list, which includes more Tribes. Additionally, upon request, the AZDA is going to try to hold these meetings more frequently.

We are also working with Tribes to see if we can cooperate with them on their production of hemp.

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.