



Arizona Department of Agriculture

Office of the Director
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TRIBAL CONSULTATION ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) was created in 1991 and 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 encourages applicable farms, ranches and agribusinesses to comply with regulations, distributes 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), working to keep the state pest free (such as Citrus Greening Disease), ensures all scales are calibrated, checks for credit card skimmers on gas pumps, tests meat, milk and poultry, commodity reporting for produce, implementing the Produce Safety Rule (under the Food Safety Modernization Act), regulates the production of industrial hemp, promotes and encourages domestic and international export of Arizona agricultural products, works on the Farm to School Program, seeks to reduce food insecurity and ensure that all Arizonans have access to healthy food.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

Director's Office

Goal	Objective	Activity and Performance Measure
To support and encourage the strengthening of relationships between AZDA and Tribal governments, including urban Native Americans.	Invite all Arizona Tribal Nations to participate in AZDA's Native American Council Meetings to discuss and collaborate on topics such as feral horses and industrial hemp.	AZDA held two Native American Council Meetings here at the Department on 8/12 and 9/18 to discuss mentioned issues as well as discuss other issues that we can work together on.
Same as above	Invite from the Salt River - Pima Tribe to meet the new President and discuss Salt River horses.	AZDA met with the leadership of the Salt River – Pima Tribe on 12/2019.

Environmental Services Division (ESD)

Same as above	Request from a number of tribes for AZDA to present on pesticide regulation enforcement.	AZDA held Annual Recertification & Training Courses in Safford on 12/4 and had a member of ITAC present to 46 attendees.
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Same as above	Invited Gila River, Ak-Chin and Salt River-Pima Tribes to present on pesticide regulation enforcement on tribal land.	AZDA held Annual Recertification & Training Courses at MAC in Maricopa where the 3 tribes presented on 12/11 to 52 attendees.
Same as above	Invited Cocopah and Quechen Tribes to present on pesticide regulation enforcement on tribal land.	AZDA held Annual Recertification & Training Courses in Yuma where both tribes presented on 12/10 to 72 attendees.

Agricultural Consultation and Training Division (ACT)

Same as above	Request from the Navajo Tribe for AZDA to provide pesticide use safety and / or worker safety training in collaboration with the U of A.	AZDA held Navajo tribal member training in Chinle in October 2019 where we proctored exam, answered licensing questions.
Same as above	Request from the Gila River Tribe for AZDA to provide pesticide use safety and / or worker safety training in collaboration with the U of A.	AZDA held Gila River tribal member training in November 2019 where we presented and proctored exam.
Same as above	Request from the CRIT EPO Colorado Tribe to present on pesticide use safety and worker safety in collaboration with the U of A.	AZDA presented to the CRIT EPO Colorado Indian Tribe in January 2020 regarding pesticide use safety and worker safety.
Same as above	Request from the Navajo Tribe for AZDA to provide pesticide use safety and worker safety training in collaboration with the U of A.	AZDA held Navajo tribal member training in Chinle in February 2020 where we proctored exam, answered licensing questions.

OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST

AZDA was contacted by several interests with concern about the shortage of pet and livestock food on the Navajo Nation as a result of the pandemic. AZDA contacted senior management at Cargill to ensure all of the Bashes' Dine Markets located on the Navajo Nation were fully stocked with pet food. Cargill doubled up their inventory checks with all of these stores to ensure pet food was continually in stock for tribal members to obtain. This positive effort coupled with the assistance of the Governor's Office of Tribal Relations, also provided the opportunity for AZDA to establish important contacts with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

An issue that arose as a result of the pandemic was the shortage of hay for livestock animals on the Navajo Nation. Even though AZDA has no regulatory oversight of hay businesses, the Department attempted to facilitate contact between hay distributors and leadership of the Navajo Nation. While unsuccessful in getting hay donated, this is an area the Department continues to look at with agribusinesses in hopes of getting hay donated in the event of future shortages.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES

Various individuals attending the Native American Council meetings requested that we meet with them and their Tribes on specific issues such as feral horses and industrial hemp. Additionally, since our last Native American Council (which focused on feral horses and hemp), we held a follow up meeting to extensively cover both topics and will continue to meet and collaborate on these issues in the future.

For questions or more information, please contact:

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