



## FACT SHEET

### Native American Producer Success (NAPS) Project

#### Project Partners

Developing Innovations in Navajo Education, Inc.  
New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service  
Dine' College Land Grant Office

#### Goal

The goal of the Native American Producer Success (NAPS) Project is twofold: (1) to increase the number of profitable and sustainable Navajo farmers and ranchers and (2) to increase the Navajo people's access to healthy food.

#### Need

The Navajo Nation is the largest Native American Tribe in the US. The Navajo population is predominately young with 50% under 18 years of age. Per capita is \$7,000, a fraction (42%) of federally designated poverty level income of \$12,000 for individuals. Studies show one in three Navajos are diabetic or pre-diabetic. The USDA has classified the Navajo Nation as a "food desert" and designated Apache, Navajo and Coconino counties in Arizona and San Juan and McKinley counties in New Mexico StrikeForce counties, where the majority of the Navajo population resides.

Family farming and ranching has shrunk to a shadow of what it once was in the Navajo's traditional agricultural/pastoral society. More than 90% of the family farms are fallow today and cattle and sheep numbers are a fraction of their past levels. Studies have identified the lack access to information, technical assistance and government programs as major barriers to reviving and improving the profitability and sustainability of Navajo farming and ranching operations.

#### Response

The Native American Producer Success (NAPS) Project has received USDA OAO Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (2501) Program funding, since 2012, to conduct a range of education, training and mentoring activities designed to (1) increase the number of profitable and sustainable of Navajo farmers and ranchers and (2) increase the Navajo people's access to healthy food.

#### Summary of NAPS Project Activities (2012-2021)

##### 2012-2014

People Impacted: 478

- Thirty-seven (37) producer roundtables were held - 323 Navajo farmers and ranchers, grazing and land board officials discussed barriers and solutions to improving the profitability and sustainability of Navajo farming and ranching operations.

- Two (2) resource fairs were held - connecting 98 farmers and ranchers with USDA agencies, the NNDA, BIA and other service providers.
- The Farmers and Ranchers Congress (NFRC) was established to encourage and facilitate producer cooperation.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> annual NFRC education and conference was held – 58 farmers and ranchers attended.

#### 2014-2015

People Impacted: 1,084

- Fifteen (15) workshops were held on resource conservation, livestock and crop production and marketing, food and nutrition topics - 626 farmers and ranchers attended.
- Eighty-seven (87) farmer and rancher resource inventories were completed.
- Eighty-one (81) farmers and ranchers received TA.
- Two (2) resource fairs were held - connecting 121 farmers and ranchers with USDA agencies, the NNDA, BIA and other service providers.
- Forty-four (44) farmers and ranchers BIA conservation plans were completed.
- Seven (7) home gardens were established.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual NFRC education and training conference was held – 79 farmers and ranchers attended; 39 youth (9-18) participated in the youth agriculture and natural resources camp.

#### 2015-2016

People Impacted: 1,327

- Twenty-one (21) workshops were held on resource conservation, livestock and crop production and marketing, food and nutrition topics - 734 farmer and ranchers attended.
- Fifty-one (51) farmer and rancher resource inventories were completed.
- Eighty-five (85) farmers and ranchers received TA.
- Three (3) resource fairs were held - connecting 185 farmers and ranchers with USDA agencies, the NNDA, BIA and other service providers.
- One hundred eleven (111) farmer and rancher BIA conservation plans were completed.
- Fourteen (14) home gardens and 1 community garden were established.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual NFRC education and training conference was held – 98 farmers and ranchers attended; 48 youth (9-18) participated in the youth agriculture and natural resources camp.

#### 2016-2017

People Impacted: 2,012

- Fifty-two (52) workshops were held on resource conservation, livestock and crop production and marketing, food and nutrition topics – 1,556 farmer and ranchers attended.
- Fifty-two (52) farmer and rancher resource inventories were completed.
- Sixty-three (63) farmers and ranchers received TA.
- Three (3) resource fairs were held - connecting 136 farmers and ranchers with USDA agencies, the NNDA, BIA and other service providers.
- Forty-three (43) farmer and rancher BIA conservation plans were completed.
- Six (6) community gardens and fifty-eight (58) home gardens were established; a farm-to school program was established linking ten (10) with two (2) local schools established.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> annual NFRC education and training conference was held – 43 farmers and ranchers attended; 61 youth (9-18) participated in the youth agriculture and natural resources camp.

## 2017-2018

People Impacted: 1,965

- Forty-one (41) workshops were held on resource conservation, livestock and crop production and marketing, food and nutrition topics – 1,272 farmer and ranchers attended.
- Fifty-three (53) farmer and rancher resource inventories were completed.
- Fifty-three (53) farmers and ranchers received TA.
- Three (3) resource fairs were held - connecting 117 farmers and ranchers with USDA agencies, the NNDA, BIA and other service providers.
- One hundred nine (109) farmer and rancher BIA conservation plans were completed.
- Ten (10) school gardens were established; 10 garden curriculum workshops were held, attended by 235 teachers, students, and parents; and two chapter-based farmers' markets were established.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> annual NFRC education and training conference was held – 75 farmers and ranchers attended; 51 youth (9-18) participated in the youth agriculture and natural resources camp.

## 2018-2019\*

People Impacted: 502

- Thirteen (13) workshops were held on resource conservation, livestock and crop production and marketing, food and nutrition topics – 323 farmer and ranchers attended.
- Fifteen (15) farmer and rancher resource inventories were completed.
- Thirteen (13) farmers and ranchers received TA.
- One (1) resource fair was held - connecting 43 farmers and ranchers with USDA agencies, the NNDA, BIA and other service providers.
- Nine (9) farmer and rancher BIA conservation plans were completed.
- Two (2) school gardens were established; 2 senior center gardens were established; and 1 home garden was established.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> annual NFRC education and training conference was held – 52 farmers and ranchers attended; 47 youth (9-18) participated in the youth agriculture and natural resources camp.

\*Delayed project funding greatly restricted the number education and training sessions held and technical assistance provided to farmers and ranchers.

## 2019-2020\*

People Impacted: 13,455

- Fourteen (14) workshops were held on resource conservation, livestock and crop production and marketing, food and nutrition topics – 580 farmer and ranchers attended.
- Eighty (80) farmers and ranchers received TA via phone calls, texts, and emails.
- Eight (8) webinars were held on resource conservation, livestock and crop production and marketing, food and nutrition topics – 1,311 farmer and ranchers participated in/viewed the webinars.
- Three (3) videos were produced on resource conservation, livestock and crop production and marketing, food and nutrition topics – 5,579 farmers, ranchers, and family members viewed the videos.
- Fifteen (15) newsletters were developed on posted on NAPS' website and Facebook Page – the newsletters received 1,201 views.
- Fifty-eight (58) USDA and other publications on resource conservation, livestock and crop production and marketing, food and nutrition topics were posted on NAPS' website and Facebook Page – the publications received 2,201 views.

- Thirteen (13) USDA, NNDA, BIA, and other resource agency webinars were produced – 683 farmers and ranchers participated in/viewed the webinars.
- Twenty-three (23) workshops were held on “best practices” for establishing school, senior center, and community based gardens – 594 teachers, program managers, and gardeners attended.
- One (1) video was produced on “how to” establish a backyard garden – 541 individuals viewed the video.
- Twenty-one (21) USDA and other publications on gardening topics were posted on NAPS’ website and Facebook Page – the publications received 406 views.
- Ninety-five (95) persons received TA on gardening topics via phone calls, texts, and emails.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> annual NFRC education and training conference was not held due Navajo Nation restrictions on in-person gatherings – 84 NFRC members, nevertheless, received TA via zoom conference calls, phone calls, texts, and emails

\* The COVID-19 pandemic required the NAPS management team and field staff to change the delivery methods of the project’s activities. Following the Navajo Nation’s decision to close government offices- central agencies, departments, and chapter houses, and impose restrictions on social gathering in March 2020, a decision that largely remains in effect to this day, the NAPS team switched from engaging producers (farmers, ranchers, and gardeners) through traditional in-person workshops, field demonstrations, mentoring, and one-on-one technical assistance to connecting with them “virtually”. Team members have worked diligently to establish on-line communication methods, including the NAPS website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel for posting webinars, videos, newsletters, publications, and other materials that stakeholder farmers, ranchers, and gardeners can use improve the profitability of their operations.

#### 2020-2021\*

People Impacted: 11,683

- Seventy-five (75) webinars were held on resource conservation, livestock and crop production and marketing, food and nutrition topics – 5,753 farmer and ranchers participated in/viewed the webinars.
- Nineteen (19) newsletters were developed on posted on NAPS’ website and Facebook Page – the newsletters received 1,451 views.
- One hundred thirty-one (131) USDA and other publications on resource conservation, livestock and crop production and marketing, food and nutrition topics were posted on NAPS’ website and Facebook Page – the publications received 3,633 views.
- Eight hundred sixty-six (866) persons received TA on gardening topics via phone calls, texts, and emails.

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**NAPS Project Field Team Members**

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