



APHIS Native American Notebook

[an e-update on Native American Program Delivery in APHIS]

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Welcome to Your New Newsletter About Native American Issues in APHIS

Janet Wintermute—APHIS' Native American Program-Delivery Manager (NAPDM)—welcomes you to the first quarterly e-newsletter about APHIS activities in Indian Country. The NAPDM monitors and coordinates the delivery of programs and services to many of the 562 federally recognized tribes. Some of these tribes have fewer than 50 members and collectively occupy just a few acres, with little or no agricultural activity. Others manage enormous land bases (e.g., the Navajo Nation, which is the size of West Virginia) or have large-scale ag operations (e.g., the Seminoles in Florida, with cattle, and the Gila River tribe in Arizona, with citrus).

Members of the APHIS Native American Working Group (ANAWG) serve as liaisons between their programs and the NAPDM. These individuals, who represent every line and support program, present information about tribal needs to management and encourage two-way communication between APHIS and tribal officials on a Government-to-Government basis. In addition, ANAWG members participate in meetings and conferences sponsored by tribal organizations. The purpose of these visits is to explain to the other attendees the types of programs APHIS can deliver on reservations and in urban settings. The ANAWG exhibit goes along on many of these trips, and members of the ANAWG staff the exhibit, meet the public, distribute publications, and help connect booth visitors with the parts of USDA where they can find the specific help they need.

Because APHIS is a regulatory agency—not a manager of natural resources, like the Forest Service, and not a pass-through agency for distributing money to tribes, like the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service—Native Americans are

often unfamiliar with what APHIS does. And our own employees are often unaware of the significant work already being done for the tribes.

This newsletter distributes a snapshot of APHIS initiatives in the Native American community nationwide.

Who's on the ANAWG, at HQ and in the Field

Deputy Administrators and regional and program directors have designated one or more employees to represent them on the ANAWG. Most of these folks are at headquarters, but three work out of Fort Collins. These employees are official voting members of the group; their help on the ANAWG constitutes a collateral-duty assignment. Details about the group's responsibilities can be found in [APHIS Directive 1040.1](#).

In almost every State, the ANAWG has identified one or more volunteers who've agreed to act as first points of contact for any tribes or Native American individuals who have questions about APHIS programs and services locally available. While they work for just one APHIS program, these employees are responsible for knowing the basics about all the line programs' activities in their State. It's a big job, but somebody's got to do it!

For an up-to-date list of who these representatives are, visit

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/anawg> and click on "State Contacts" in the right-hand column.

How the ANAWG Reps and State Contacts Get Up to Speed

Every other year, the NAPDM and the ANAWG participate in a week-long training session to help everybody working in Indian Country—but chiefly the ANAWG committee members and State-level contacts—better understand Native American culture.

At the ANAWG's biennial training events, we try to make sure that APHIS employees learn how to build successful relationships with tribal people.

Since the 1990s, we have held our training in conjunction with the annual meeting of a significant Native American organization having a subject-matter connection to the APHIS mission. This past May, the ANAWG we met with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society in Yakima, WA.

The Yakama Tribe (note the spelling change) hosted several side events on their reservation just outside of town. We toured their museum and enjoyed a salmon dinner at one of their "longhouses." The next day, the tribe's fisheries management staff showed us their sophisticated salmon hatchery:



ANAWG representatives mingle with Native American Fish and Wildlife Society members at the salmon hatchery run by the Yakama Tribe in eastern Washington State. Note the wire netting at the top of the frame, installed over the fish runs to protect against bird depredation on the fingerlings. *[APHIS photo by MRP-BS IT specialist Cheryl Johnson.]*

But It's Not Enough To Train Just the ANAWGers!

Every APHIS employee who deals with tribal officials in terms of general cooperation, program delivery, civil rights outreach, or official tribal consultation needs the same kind of background information that the ANAWG and State reps get. So the NAPDM began, this September, to offer similar training events to agency personnel not officially connected with the ANAWG.

Managers and supervisors based at headquarters were invited to participate in a 2-day training event held in the Riverdale Conference Center in September. In an extra bonus for attendees, Janet Wintermute and ANAWG members cooked and served a buffet lunch featuring Native American foods.

In addition to the cultural-sensitivity material furnished at the Yakima meeting, the Riverdale curriculum was expanded to include a half-day presentation by a professor of Indian law at the University of Oregon Law School. Ms. Mary Wood furnished this presentation by custom-making a video tape for APHIS. Wood covered much of the rich but at times troubled history of the relationship between tribes and the Federal Government.

Twenty-eight employees took the September training. The USDA Director of Native American Programs, Ms. Dawn Charging, attended along with NAPDMs from two other USDA agencies.



Dawn Charging (left) tells the Riverdale audience that she's an old friend of trainer Velma Real Bird. The man in the middle: Larry D. Keown, principal trainer and owner of LDK Associates of Sheridan, WY. [APHIS photo by Nora Lea Lynch of PPQ.]

Training Opportunities Outside of Riverdale

The NAPDM will be putting on the same training at the regional hubs in the next few months. The Raleigh dates have not yet been set. But the training will be given on **Wednesday and Thursday, February 18 and 19, 2009, in Fort Collins.**

Eastern and Western Regional Office management will send out an e-mail to field employees about both sessions when all dates and venues are lined up.

Spotlight on Veterinary Services' Tribal Liaison

Terry Clark, D.V.M., a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, is Veterinary Services' on-the-ground liaison for program delivery and implementation nationwide. Although technically assigned to the National Animal Health Policy and Programs Staff in Riverdale, MD, Terry spends most of his time in travel status, working with individual tribes and tribal organizations. He has spearheaded the development of cooperative agreements with dozens of tribes to do chronic wasting disease surveillance activities, prepare for and respond to animal-health emergencies, and implement the National Animal Identification System and various other surveillance and outreach programs that benefit not only VS but other parts of APHIS.

In addition, Terry understands the value of leveraging. By working with the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), a consortium of 24 tribes east of the Mississippi, he has been able to employ USET people to reach out to a couple tribes that choose to have no interactions with the Federal Government.

Terry is also the Marketing and Regulatory Programs' representative to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). This group is made up of the presidents of the 33 tribal colleges and universities. These mostly 2-year schools gained land-grant status in 1994 and offer Indian youth the chance to further their education inexpensively and without going far from home. Terry's role as AIHEC representative will become more significant as USDA has put great emphasis on deepening the Department's connection with the 1994 schools in recent months.

How To WIN With a WINS Intern for Summer '09

Every summer, APHIS line and support programs sponsor several Indian college students as interns through American University's WINS Program. The acronym stands for "Washington Internships for Native Students." But this internship is unique. Not only does it afford the interns 8 weeks of meaningful work in a Federal agency, but they earn 6 hours of college credit from A.U., too.

American U. manages the mechanics of the program—issuing the call for applications nationwide, evaluating the application packages, selecting the winners, making arrangements to fly them here (and home again), and so forth. All the interns live in the dormitories at A.U., eat on campus when they're not at work, and go to night school 2 evenings a week to earn those transferable credits. During the work week, they all take Metro to their agency assignments. On weekends, they participate in group activities like local pow wows and trips to the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian downtown. Some years, the interns take a bus trip to New York City to see the George Gustav Heye Center (another unit of the Indian museum), and they're always taken to Capitol Hill to meet their congressional representatives and find out how the Legislative Branch works.

WINS interns come from the 1994 land-grant schools, mainstream State schools, and private colleges like Stanford and Cornell. They're bright and motivated. If your unit could use help this summer, talk to your supervisor *now* about getting a WINS intern. The cost for a WINS participant is \$10,500.

It is beneficial to make your selections early. All receiving units get to evaluate the résumés of students accepted into the WINS program by the university, so it's usually possible to find a student whose background, academic experience, and interests match the hiring unit's profile.

Last year, APHIS sponsored six WINS students, a relatively low number compared to previous years. USDA employed a total of 28, the largest number of all cabinet departments. For that level of commitment, which has been sustained since the mid-1990s, American U. recognized USDA as a prime partner at the university's WINS sponsors' luncheon on November 12, 2008.

To find out more about WINS, visit this Web site:

www.american.edu/wins

or send an e-mail to wins@american.edu or call (800) 853–3076 toll free. Janet Wintermute has a supply of the university's color pamphlet about the program. Request one by e-mailing Janet through Lotus Notes.

A Recipe You'll Love, From the Crow Tribe in Montana

Several fabulous dishes were prepared by ANAWG members for the Riverdale training session. The menu emphasized Crow specialties as a surprise for trainer Velma Real Bird, who's a member of that tribe.

The following recipe came from *A Taste of Heritage: Crow Indian Recipes & Herbal Medicines*, by Alma Hogan Snell, a famous Crow medicine woman and herbalist. Here, from page 47 of the book, is

Indian Ketchup

2 ½ quarts wild plums (but the dark, domestic plums work fine)
1 cup water
½ teaspoon baking soda
2 pounds sugar
1 cup apple cider vinegar
1 ¼ teaspoons cloves
¾ teaspoon cinnamon
1 ½ teaspoons allspice

Boil the plums in the water with the baking soda. Bring them to a rolling boil. When they're cooked, strain the plums through a cloth or sieve. Return the pulp and juice to the stove and heat. Add the sugar, vinegar, cloves, cinnamon, and allspice and simmer until thickened.

There are some mysterious aspects to this recipe, but the final results are great. For instance, should those cloves be whole or powdered? You can use whole cloves, but make sure to remove them from the ketchup before serving. And do you just throw the plums, whole, into the water for boiling? No—you need to cut them at least in half to remove the big seed in the middle. Smaller chunks speed the cooking process.

What should you do if the mixture doesn't get thick enough? Leave it out overnight on the countertop. Everything's cooked, so that's safe. And the slow cool-down will result in natural thickening. Next morning, your mixture will be chunkier than tomato catsup and plenty thick.

What's it good for? Accompanying all sorts of meats. The taste is rich and complex, much like the best plum sauces from oriental restaurants.

Native American Heritage Month: PPQ and Homeland Security Folks in New Jersey Showcase a Mohawk Storyteller

November is Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month, and APHIS units all around the country celebrate it in interesting ways. Since everybody likes a good story, Alex Nappi, a plant export specialist with Plant Protection and Quarantine in Linden, NJ, arranged to host a well-known Mohawk storyteller from upstate New York. Dr. Helen Rende, shown below, brought various Mohawk dolls and artifacts to use in illustrating her stories.



Dr. Helen Rende shows off Mohawk textiles, baskets, and dolls to illustrate her stories in New Jersey. Note the satin ribbons on the cuffs and front of her overblouse. The heavily embroidered black items behind her are typical of Mohawk ceremonial regalia. *[APHIS photo by Alex Nappi of PPQ.]*

After the event, we found out that Dr. Rende is a cousin of APHIS veterinarian Roberta Duhaime, an epidemiologist with Veterinary Services' tick-rider program in south Texas. Roberta is one of the ANAWG's two Texas State outreach representatives. She was delighted to hear about her cousin's appearance in New Jersey. Both women hail from the Kahnawake Mohawk Tribe, which occupies territory in northern New York and Canada.

Alex Nappi also took his Special Emphasis Program Manager expertise on the road during November. He was invited to speak at the Native American Heritage Month event put on by the Customs and Border Protection unit in Port Elizabeth, NJ, near New York City. About 70 CBP employees attended that presentation.

What To Look for in Our Next Issue

Info on next summer's Tohono Land Connections summer internship for teens.
Spotlight on PPQ's tribal liaison, Christina Jewett.
Janet and PPQ's AI Tasker join forces to help Native Americans write grant and coop agreement applications.
And more.

Questions or Comments?

To reach out to your own State's ANAWG rep, get contact info from the Web site listed earlier.

To contact Janet Wintermute, phone (301) 734-6336 or send her an e-mail through Lotus Notes.