

April 9: USET SPF Alert: USDA Farm Bill Tribal Consultation, May 1-2 in Washington, D.C.

Dear USET SPF Membership,

Please see below information regarding Tribal consultation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the 2018 Farm Bill. On March 31st, USDA issued a [Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) inviting Tribal leaders, or their proxies, to participate in Tribal consultation on the 2018 Farm Bill which has a broad impact on Indian Country. USDA is seeking Tribal input on rural development, farm production, conservation, risk management, trade, research, marketing, nutrition programs, natural resources and much more. The agenda is available [here](#) [linked].

Date:

Wednesday, May 1, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 2, 8 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Location:

National Museum of the American Indian
300 Maryland Ave. NE, Room 4018/4019
Washington, D.C. 20002

To RSVP, email tribal.relations@osec.usda.gov with the following information:

1. Name
2. Tribe or organization name
3. Title
4. City and state
5. Phone number
6. Attending both days (Y/N)
7. Issues you are interested in

For proxy designations, please notify the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) by April 24, 2019, using [this proxy letter template](#).

For your reference, I have [attached a list of Tribal provisions within the Farm Bill which was compiled by the Native Farm Bill Coalition](#). In addition, I have [attached a letter to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees from USET SPF conveying our support for the Farm Bill's Tribal provisions](#). USET SPF is currently drafting talking points for USDA's Tribal consultation, and will send those out as a follow up to this email.

Please let me know if you may have any questions.

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From: Native Farm Bill Coalition [<mailto:info@seedsofnativehealth.org>]

Sent: Friday, April 05, 2019 2:05 PM

To: Sisy Garcia <SGarcia@USETINC.ORG>

Subject: Action alert: USDA tribal consultation scheduled, SNAP comment period extended

The USDA scheduled a tribal consultation on May 1-2 and listening sessions in Oklahoma in April. The comment period for the proposed SNAP rule will reopen April 8-10.



USDA 2018 Farm Bill Tribal Consultation

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is holding a tribal consultation to discuss the 2018 Farm Bill on May 1-2, 2019, in Washington, D.C. The USDA is seeking tribal input on rural development, farm production, conservation, risk management, trade, research, marketing, nutrition programs, natural resources and much more. [Click here](#) to view the agenda provided by the USDA.

The Native Farm Bill Coalition is supportive of in-person, government-to-government tribal consultations with the USDA. We encourage tribal leaders to participate in this consultation to provide your feedback and ensure the agency meets the needs of Indian Country as it works toward implementing the 2018 Farm Bill.

[USDA 2018 Farm Bill Consultation](#)

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You can also designate a proxy if you cannot attend. Please notify the Office of Tribal Relations

(OTR) by April 24, 2019, using [this proxy letter template](#).

To prepare for the consultation, the Native Farm Bill Coalition will host a webinar later this month to highlight key areas that need additional advocacy. More information on the webinar is coming soon.

NRCS Oklahoma listening sessions: April 10 and April 15

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is holding two listening sessions to discuss the 2018 Farm Bill in Oklahoma on Wednesday, April 10, and Monday, April 15. A teleconference listening session will also be held on Wednesday, April 10.

Wednesday, April 10, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (CDT)

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Reunion Hall #1
1601 Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Wednesday, April 10, 2-3:30 p.m. (CDT)

888-844-9904
Access code: 2451610

Monday, April 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (CDT)

Inter-Tribal Council Conference room
21 NS "8" Tribe Trail
Miami, Oklahoma

If you plan to attend in person or by phone, RSVP to [Dr. Carol Crouch](#). Lunch will be provided to in-person attendees.

Participants include NRCS State Conservationist Gary O'Neill, NRCS State Tribal Liaison Dr. Carol Crouch, Risk Management Agency Director James Bellmon and Farm Service Agency State Executive Director Scott Biggs. Other USDA agencies joining the face-to face listening sessions and teleconference include the National Agriculture Statistics Service, Rural Development and Food Nutrition Service.

[USDA resources](#) and a [comment form](#) are available for download.

Agricultural Marketing Service listening session: April 11

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is holding a listening session by phone on Thursday, April 11. The agenda includes updates on research and promotion boards, the hemp production program, and foods for the FDPIR program.

Thursday, April 11, 3-4 p.m. (EDT)
800-230-1059

USDA extends comment period for proposed SNAP rule

Due to technical difficulties, the USDA is reopening the comment period for the proposed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) rule from April 8 through April 10.

As a reminder, the proposed harsh changes would take away food assistance from the communities that need it most, including American Indian and Alaska Native communities who rely on SNAP each month to put food on the table. By USDA’s own estimates, the proposal would eliminate SNAP benefits for 755,000 Americans and cut SNAP funding by \$15 billion over 10 years.

Make your voice heard by taking just a few minutes to submit your opposition to this proposal. [Download a sample letter here.](#)



NativeFarmBillCoalition.org

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