



Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service (APHIS)

Legislative and  
Public Affairs  
(LPA)

Office of National  
Tribal Liaison  
(ONTL)

5601 Sunnyside  
Ave, Beltsville,  
Maryland 20705  
202.774.4612

July 10, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) protects the health of U.S. agriculture and natural resources against invasive pests and diseases, regulates genetically engineered crops, administers the Animal Welfare Act, and helps people and wildlife coexist.

In protecting agriculture and natural resources, we help ensure that all Americans have consistent access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food. Agriculture and natural resources face many threats, including from foreign and domestic diseases, destructive pests, and biological events resulting from emerging infectious diseases. These threats have the potential to impact Tribal agriculture, environmental health, economy, food sovereignty, and human health. Preparedness and response planning is crucial to protect Tribal resources.

APHIS continually implements new strategies and technology to detect and mitigate diseases and pests that can impact resources. Collaborating with Tribal, Federal, and State partners and industry stakeholders to advance emergency preparedness and response capabilities enhances our capacity to rapidly respond to disease and pest outbreaks.

APHIS focuses on improving Tribal awareness regarding animal and plant health threats and emergency response. We are currently partnering with Native American agriculture and natural resources organizations, colleges, and universities to host Tribal Nations Plant and Animal Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Trainings. These free, 2½-day regional trainings open critical dialogue between APHIS and Tribal personnel and emphasize the importance of emergency preparedness and the benefit of developing Tribal plant and animal health emergency response plans.

The initial training is an introduction to APHIS programs and agency services available to Tribes. Agency presentations will provide surveillance updates on plant and animal health threats that pose the greatest threat to Tribal agriculture and resources; and how programs can work together to prevent, control, and minimize these threats. Participants will learn how to find and apply to APHIS Tribal Funding Opportunities to build Tribal program capacity to protect plant resources from invasive pests like Spotted Lanternfly and other destructive insects; and protect livestock from foreign animal diseases (FAD). Subsequent trainings will include more advanced topics including but not limited to, surveillance methods, biosecurity measures, personal protection equipment, animal disease traceability, carcass disposal, and go into further detail on how to develop plant and animal health emergency response plans.

We encourage personnel to attend this no-cost training if they are engaged in Tribal leadership, management of lands, agriculture, natural resources, wildlife, or emergency management. Also, Tribal personnel are welcome to present on their programs and perspectives.

**We invite you and members of your staff to attend the next APHIS Tribal Nations Plant and Animal Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Training held at:**


**Miccosukee Hotel, 500 SW 177<sup>th</sup> Ave., Miami. Florida**

**September, 9-11 2025**

**RSVP Link: [https://uncp.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cOaVAiSGwXLvjPE](https://uncp.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cOaVAiSGwXLvjPE)**

We appreciate your time and look forward to the opportunity to assist your Tribal Nation in developing plant and animal health emergency response plans and additional measures that can be taken to protect your agriculture and natural resources. Please contact us for additional information or any questions, or if you are interested in attending the APHIS Tribal Nations Plant and Animal Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Trainings.

Sincerely,



Andrew W. Hubble  
Assistant Director  
Office of National Tribal Liaison  
Legislative and Public Affairs  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture