Native American Food Sovereignty in Montana

An Evaluation of Food Security, Food Access, and the Path Towards an Improved Food System on Seven Reservations

Hope Radford, Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO)
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The following report evaluates the movement towards food sovereignty on the seven Tribal reservations found within Montana—Blackfeet Agency, Flathead Agency, Rocky Boy’s Agency, Fort Belknap Agency, Crow Agency, Fort Peck Agency, and Northern Cheyenne Agency—by providing a baseline database of information on food insecurity, food access, agriculture, and health, and by describing related projects and organizations on each reservation. We hope this information will be used by individuals and groups working within the food sovereignty realm as a source of quickly accessible data and as a resource for connecting with other groups and projects, either within the same or across different reservations.

The Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) conducted this research and report in 2016 with the goal of creating a useful document for individuals and groups working towards Native American Food Sovereignty in Montana. Specifically, we sought to 1) research and compile existing public information related to food sovereignty, food access, food insecurity, and related topics, 2) provide updates and contacts for ongoing food sovereignty projects and groups on each reservation, and 3) create useful guiding documents including survey models and conclusions/recommendations for next steps. With these objectives in mind, the report contains the following components:

- **Report Summary:** summary of overall observations and conclusions.
- **Metric Catalog:** description of each data metric found in the data charts, including where the data was found and how it was calculated.
- **Data Charts:** compilation of publicly available data/statistics on reservations in Montana, which includes demographic, food security, food access, health, and agricultural data categories.
- **Metric Table:** list of existing data/metrics found in data charts as well as a list of desired or potential metrics that would be useful in further evaluation of each data category.
- **Reservation Profiles:** brief profiles of each reservation that include a brief description of ongoing projects and initiatives and a contact list specific to that reservation.
- **Sample Surveys:** four different sample surveys (Household Food Security Survey, Reservation Food Access Survey, Agricultural Producer Survey, Reservation Business Survey) with 7-10 questions per survey. Each survey also includes a demographic, specific objective, and potential distribution site description.

Based on research, investigation, and discussion with tribal members, we have synthesized the following conclusions as points for discussion, which can be found in more detail in the report summary:

- *Understanding the current state of Montana reservation food systems will require more qualitative data and input from tribal citizens.*
• More strategic survey work could help food sovereignty groups better understand not only the state of reservation food systems, but also how we improve access to healthy, locally-grown food.

• Achieving food sovereignty will require a greater coordination of efforts both within and between reservations in Montana.

The following report is a description of both the problem and the progress towards a solution, that of food sovereignty. Many steps have been made, and many steps are left to be taken. The current state of reservation food systems in Montana is unjust, and many tribal citizens are left without the fundamental right of nutritious food. Furthermore, they are left without a voice in their own food system. Though, as much as the story of the Native American food system is one of oppression, injustice, and the breaking of traditional customs and systems, perhaps it may also be considered a story of renewed hope.

Thank you to,

...Jennifer Hill-Hart, AERO Executive Director, for her endless guidance and wisdom throughout the creation of this report.

...The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger and AERO members for providing the funding that made this research possible.

...FAST Blackfeet, for a warm welcome to food sovereignty work and continued guidance in research.

...Virgil Dupuis, Hillary Maxwell, Marissa McElrone, Kirsten Krane, Annie Momborquette, Laura Arvidson, and others who contributed both information and encouragement.

...The countless passionate individuals working every day towards a more nutritious, more equitable, and more just food system on Native American reservations and beyond.

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Defining Food Sovereignty

“Food sovereignty is an affirmation of who we are as indigenous peoples and a way, one of the most surefooted ways, to restore our relationship with the world around us” -Winona LaDuke

“Food sovereignty is the right of peoples, communities, and countries to define their own agricultural, labor, fishing, food and land policies which are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique circumstances. It includes the true right to food and to produce food, which means that all people have the right to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and to food-producing resources and the ability to sustain themselves and societies.”
- Political Statement of the NGO/CSO Forum for Food Sovereignty

Food sovereignty can be incredibly difficult to define, to conceptualize, and to create. It means different things to different people, encompasses different concepts in different places, and necessitates different changes and different points in time. In whichever way we chose to define it, though, food sovereignty is an increasingly powerful and important movement among indigenous peoples. For tribal nations, food sovereignty is not just the right to nutritious, culturally appropriate foods, but more so, the right to define and participate in one’s own food system. Many consider the concept of food sovereignty on Native American reservations to describe tribes that¹:

* Have access to healthy food;
* Have food that is culturally appropriate;

• Grow, gather, hunt, and fish and ways that are sustainable over the long term;
• Distribute foods in a way so that people get what they need to stay healthy;
• Adequately compensate the people who provide the food; and
• Utilize tribal treaty rights and uphold policies that ensure continued access to healthy foods.

Tribal Nations found within Montana are participating, to varying degrees, in this multi-faceted concept. Several tribes have already established community gardens throughout their reservations. Others have strengthened and diversified their school meal programs and food banks. Most importantly, these tribes have passionate individuals and groups actively working to redefine and recreate the food system in their communities. As much as these steps towards food sovereignty incite hope, though, much of the following report describes just how support reservation food systems need. Tribes are making progress, but many people are still hungry, many people are still unhealthy, and many people are still left without a voice in deciding what their community eats and where it comes from.

Current State of Native American Reservation Food Systems

Previous to the mid 20th century, food security or access to any food was the main concern for reservation communities due to the unsuitability of reservation land and the lack of agricultural knowledge among previously hunter-gatherer communities. Since the late 1960's, Native communities have been heavily supplied by government programs to attempt to overcome food insecurity, which has helped to supply food to some of the communities most in need of food. The largest of these programs is the USDA’s Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) which currently serves 276 U.S. tribes and more than 80,000 individuals. This program offers a monthly supply of commodity foods to eligible participants, which primarily includes flours, grains, pastas, meats, and canned fruits. Another common program is SNAP (previously the Food Stamp Program), which provides households with benefits that can be used in grocery and supermarkets. Despite the presence of these and other programs, the following research seems to indicate the biggest concerns within the Native food system remain 1) whether individuals have access to 


Native American Reservation Food Systems within Montana

In obtaining data to define the current state of food systems on the seven Native American reservations within Montana, the distinct data categories of food security and food access arose. Like food sovereignty, these terms are defined differently by different organizations, but for the purposes of this report, we define food security as the ability to obtain enough food and food

access as the ability to obtain the right kinds of food (healthy, nutritious, culturally-appropriate). Data within these major conceptual categories, as predicted, showed clear discrepancies between Montana’s reservations and national averages. The average percentage of food insecure people on Native American reservations within Montana was near 17% compared to a state and national average of 14%. In regards to food access, the percentage of reservation populations with limited access to healthy foods was nearly twice that of the Montana average (Montana reservations: 17.52%, Montana (whole): 9%). These metrics, along with many other related food security, food access, health, and agriculture statistics, help to define the current state of food sovereignty on Montana’s reservation by quantifying aspects of the system most in need of repair.

Food Sovereignty on Native American Reservations Within Montana

In addition to quantifying current discrepancies and challenges, the other critical component of reporting on reservation food sovereignty was describing existing projects, resources, and groups. This involved research, investigation, and most importantly, direct connection with individuals working in food sovereignty on each reservation. This exploration showed a variety of exciting projects and passionate individuals, described in more detail in each reservation’s food sovereignty profile. Drawing from these projects and groups, along with existing data, we have synthesized the following recommendations as points for discussion.

- **Understanding the current state of reservation food systems within Montana will require more qualitative data and input from tribal citizens:**

Exploring the available information on Montana reservation food systems showed a relative wealth of quantitative over qualitative information. To an extent, this is no surprise, as organizations providing countywide and statewide statistics (such as U.S. Census, USDA, CHR) have much greater resources than do small, reservation-specific groups. While these over-arching quantitative statistics prove useful in understanding general access to food and food programs on reservations, they do not necessarily depict the food environment for individuals living on each reservation. We need a better understanding of not only how many grocery stores exist on each reservation, but also, where individual families are buying their food, and why. We need to understand not only the average income of tribal members, but also, the main barriers to tribal members accessing and buying nutritious foods. Most of all, we need to better understand not only what tribal members are lacking in their food system, but more so, what they want. While some of these are small, specific examples, they depict the need for more nuanced and place-specific information in our understanding of food systems on reservations in Montana. In general, obtaining this information will require survey work on a reservation-specific basis.

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5 Food Security Metric Tables, pg, 15.
• More strategic survey work could help food sovereignty groups better understand not only the state of reservation food systems, but also how we may begin to improve them.

Several tribes here and elsewhere have begun to conduct their own surveys to better understand food insecurity and food access on their reservation. Many of these surveys are modeled after the First Nation Development Institute’s (FNDI) Food Sovereignty Assessment Tool⁶. While this tool is an incredibly useful resource, it is also important that tribes have a clear understanding of survey objectives and desired data/information outcomes in order to most efficiently use their limited time and resources. For example, if a group simply wants reservation-specific statistics on food insecurity and food access to use for grant writing and other fundraising purposes, a food insecurity survey amongst tribal families would be appropriate. If a group, however, wants to begin connecting reservation farmers with reservation businesses as a self-led effort (unrelated to an outside source of funding), an agricultural producer or business survey may be more insightful. As most food sovereignty groups do not have the resources to survey every tribal member or to conduct multiple surveys, it is important that each survey has specific objectives in mind and is directly tied to next steps or goals of that group. Survey models pertaining to specific demographics and objectives can be found on pg. 38.

• Achieving food sovereignty will require a greater coordination of efforts both within and between reservations within Montana.

In exploring existing media on food sovereignty projects and connecting with individuals leading those projects, it became clear that many individuals are working towards the same general goals, but most are not working together. A few tribes, notably the Blackfeet, do have a fairly large, coordinated group of people working within food sovereignty, but most tribes seem to have a variety of individuals working in separate spheres. Every tribe has at least a handful of passionate, motivated individuals, but the tribes who have those people in the same room seem to be making much greater headway on project conceptualization and implementation. On some reservations, groups are meeting monthly to discuss food sovereignty work, while on other reservations, individuals working on food sovereignty projects are unaware of others on the same reservation working towards the same goals. Furthermore, food sovereignty groups that are working with other organizations and other tribes, both within and beyond Montana, have much greater momentum. Of course, many factors contribute to the relative success of some food sovereignty efforts over others, but it seems coordination of efforts between individuals, tribes, and other organizations could provide strength to a large pool of fairly resource-limited, but passionate groups. For these purposes, a list of contacts is available under each reservation’s food sovereignty profile. In addition to this, a greater connection to news, social media, and other publicity could help groups and project leaders connect with the community, with funders, and with other groups and individuals.

The following metric catalog provides a description of each metric used in the metric tables (pg. 11-21) including the data sources and methods of calculation for more complex metrics.

**DEMOGRAPHIC INFO**

- Population living on reservation
- Enrolled tribal members
- Size (acres)
- Tribal Government structure
- Percent population below poverty line
- Percent unemployed
- Median household income
- Percent rural population

**FOOD ACCESS**

- Grocery stores on reservation
- Grocery stores off reservation (location)
- Fast Food restaurants in primary reservation county (number)
- Full-service restaurants in primary reservation county (number)
- Percent of household using food stamps or SNAP
- Percent of households with no vehicle available
- Food Bank Location

**FOOD SECURITY**

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7 All population, employment, income, and poverty statistics obtained from 2010 American Community Survey under U.S. Census Bureau. Estimates calculated from selected tribal population groups in Selected Economic Characteristics 5-year table for American Indian and Alaska Natives.

8 Tribal government structure description obtained from Tribal homepages at Montana Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs.

9 Grocery store and Food Bank descriptions, locations obtained from Montana Department of Agriculture 2014 report, “Moving Toward Food Sovereignty: Assessing the Food System on Montana’s Indian Reservations,” by Linda Howard.

10 Fast food/full service restaurant data sourced from USDA Food Environment Atlas, 2012. Restaurant numbers are estimated based on county-specific data for counties in which the majority of the reservation population resides. Food insecurity and meal cost data sourced from USDA and calculated by Feeding America “Map the Meal Gap” program on a county-level scale.

11,8 See footnote 1

13 Food security statistics obtained from County Health Rankings under the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Calculations were based on averages for counties encompassing the greatest tribal reservation population as
- Food environment index\textsuperscript{14}
- Food insecurity as percentage of population\textsuperscript{15}
- Percent population with very limited access to healthy foods\textsuperscript{16}
- Estimated number of food insecure people\textsuperscript{17}
- Estimated SNAP/food program eligibility among food insecure people
- Average cost of a meal
- Additional money required to meet county food needs.

**AGRICULTURE** \textsuperscript{18}

- Percent of land base controlled by Natives
- Percent of population employed in agriculture, hunting, fishing, mining
- Percent of occupied housing units used for farming
- Number of farms on reservation (total)
- Number of farms operated by Natives
- Farm size by ownership (Native vs. non-Native)
- Total cropland (acres)
- Harvested cropland (acres)
- Irrigated cropland (acres)
- Market value of agricultural products sold per farm (Non-native, Native)
- Number of farms with internet access
- Number of beef/dairy operations
- Bison inventory
- 3 primary crops harvested

\textsuperscript{14} Food Environment Index is an indicator calculated by County Health Rankings (CHR) Statistics ranging from 0 (worst) to 10 (best) that equally weights multiple factors of a community’s food environment including access to healthy foods and food security. Based on 2012-2013 USDA Food Security Surveys.

\textsuperscript{15} Food Insecurity measure calculated as percentage of population without access to a reliable food source during the past year. Calculated by CHR using a model based upon Census, ACS, and Feeding America ”Map the Meal Gap” data.

\textsuperscript{16} Limited Access to Healthy Foods calculated by CHR as percentage of population who are low income AND do not live close to a grocery store. Low income defined as “having an annual family income less than or equal to 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold for the family size.” Close to a grocery store defined as living less than 10 miles from a grocery store (in rural areas) or less than 1 mile from a grocery store (in nonrural areas).

\textsuperscript{17} See footnote 4.

\textsuperscript{18} Farm characteristics agriculture statistics (number of farms-irrigated cropland) from 2012 Census of Agriculture conducted by U.S. Department of Agriculture, American Indian Reservations Subject series. Agriculture market statistics (market value of agricultural products- primary crops harvested) from 2007 Census of Agriculture.
## DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEMOGRAPHICS</th>
<th>TRIBES</th>
<th>RESERVATION POPULATION</th>
<th>ENROLLED MEMBERS</th>
<th>SIZE (acres)</th>
<th>TRIBAL GOVERNMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLACKFEET</td>
<td>Blackfeet</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>15,560</td>
<td>1.5 million</td>
<td>Tribal business council- 9 members from 4 districts of reservation. Elections June of even numbered years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLATHEAD</td>
<td>Salish Kootenai Pend d'Oreille</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>7,753</td>
<td>1.2 million</td>
<td>Tribal council- 10 members elected from 8 districts. Elections in October and December alternating years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCKY BOY</td>
<td>Chippewa Cree</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>6,177</td>
<td>122,000</td>
<td>Tribal business committee- 8 council members and chairman. Elections in fall of even numbered years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT BELKNAP</td>
<td>Assiniboine Gros Ventre</td>
<td>3,429</td>
<td>6,693</td>
<td>652,000</td>
<td>Indian Community Council-President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer (4 yr term) plus 8 council members (2 yr term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROW</td>
<td>Crow</td>
<td>7,900</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>2.2 million</td>
<td>Tribal Council- Executive, legislative, judicial branches. Members of executive elected every four years in November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT PECK</td>
<td>Assiniboine Sioux</td>
<td>6,800</td>
<td>11,786</td>
<td>2 million</td>
<td>Tribal Executive Board-Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, 12 board members. Elected at large every 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHERN CHEYENNE</td>
<td>Northern Cheyenne</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>9,043</td>
<td>445,000</td>
<td>Tribal Council--President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, 10 council members, 4 year staggered terms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEMOGRAPHICS</th>
<th>METRICS</th>
<th>UN-EMPLOYMENT</th>
<th>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME</th>
<th>PERCENT RURAL POP.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLACKFEET</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$34,436</td>
<td>28.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLATHEAD</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5.10%</td>
<td>$51,914</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCKY BOY</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>8.80%</td>
<td>$34,941</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT BELKNAP</td>
<td>23.50%</td>
<td>9.40%</td>
<td>$36,205</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT PECK</td>
<td>32.50%</td>
<td>11.70%</td>
<td>$40,833</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHERN CHEYENNE</td>
<td>36.20%</td>
<td>42.20%</td>
<td>$29,197</td>
<td>72.60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Food Access/Security Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Access Metrics</th>
<th>Grocery Stores on Reservation</th>
<th>Nearest Grocery Stores off Reservation</th>
<th>Fast Food Restaurants in Primary Res. County</th>
<th>Full-Service Restaurants in Primary Res. County</th>
<th>Percent Households with Food Stamps or SNAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blackfeet</strong></td>
<td>Teeples IGA, Glacier Family Foods (Browning)</td>
<td>Cut Bank, Shelby, Great Falls, Kalispell</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flathead</strong></td>
<td>Many options</td>
<td>Missoula, Kalispell</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rocky Boy</strong></td>
<td>Gramma's Market (Box Elder), Mary's Market (Box Elder)</td>
<td>Havre, Great Falls</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fort Belknap</strong></td>
<td>Albertson's (Harlem), Martin's (Hays)</td>
<td>Havre, Malta, Lewistown</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crow</strong></td>
<td>IGA (Hardin)</td>
<td>Billings, Sherian WY</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>35.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fort Peck</strong></td>
<td>Albertson's (Fort Peck), small store in Frazer</td>
<td>Williston, Glasgow</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern Cheyenne</strong></td>
<td>IGA (Lame Deer)</td>
<td>Forsyth, Hardin, Billings, Broadus, Miles City</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>29.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD ACCESS</td>
<td>METRICS</td>
<td>PERCENT HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO VEHICLE AVAILABLE</td>
<td>FOOD BANK LOCATION</td>
<td>WIC RETAILERS ON RESERVATION</td>
<td>SNAP RETAILERS ON RESERVATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACKFEET</td>
<td>11.40%</td>
<td>Browning</td>
<td>Teeples IGA,</td>
<td>Glacier Way C-store, Glacier Family Foods, Teeples IGA, Townpump</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Glacier Family Foods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLATHEAD</td>
<td>7.50%</td>
<td>Polson</td>
<td>Walmart Supercenter, Safeway, Super 1 Foods (Polson), Pablo Family Foods (Pablo)</td>
<td>Polson Farmer's Market, Safeway, Mission Mountain Natural Foods, Walmart, Main St. Market, Townpump, Super 1 Foods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCKY BOY</td>
<td>8.80%</td>
<td>Box Elder</td>
<td>Gramma’s Market, Jitterbugs (Box Elder)</td>
<td>Mary’s Market, Gramma’s Market, Jitterbugs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT BELKNAP</td>
<td>12.70%</td>
<td>No Food Bank</td>
<td>Fort Belknap Quickstop, Albertson’s (Harlem), Martin’s Grocery (Hays)</td>
<td>Albertson’s, Quikstop, Martin's Grocery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROW</td>
<td>7.80%</td>
<td>Hardin, Gerryowen</td>
<td>Big Horn IGA (Hardin)</td>
<td>Dollies C-store, Family Dollar, Hardin Express Center, Shopco, L &amp; B Laststop, Big Horn IGA, Town Pump, Crow Mercantile Co, Battlefield Express Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT PECK</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>No Food Bank</td>
<td>Tribal Express (Frazer)</td>
<td>Tribal Express, B &amp; B Foods, Shopko</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHERN CHEYENNE</td>
<td>11.40%</td>
<td>No Food Bank</td>
<td>Lame Deer Trading Post (Lame Deer)</td>
<td>Lame Deer Trading Post, Cheyenne Depot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRICS</td>
<td>FOOD ENVIRONMENT INDEX 0 (worst) - 10 (best)</td>
<td>FOOD INSECURITY</td>
<td>LIMITED ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS</td>
<td>ESTIMATED NUMBER OF FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACKFEET</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2,860</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLATHEAD</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4,360</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCKY BOY</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT BELKNAP</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1,110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROW</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>2,240</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT PECK</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>1,830</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHERN CHEYENNE</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1,330</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>部落</td>
<td>Estimated Eligibility</td>
<td>Average Cost of a Meal</td>
<td>Additional Money Required to Meet County Food Needs</td>
<td>Adult Obesity Rate</td>
<td>Diabetes Prevalence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackfeet</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>$2.87</td>
<td>$1,448,000</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flathead</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>$3.21</td>
<td>$2,470,000</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Boy</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>$2.95</td>
<td>$1,098,000</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Belknap</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>$3.07</td>
<td>$602,000</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crow</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>$2.93</td>
<td>$1,261,000</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Peck</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>$3.48</td>
<td>$1,124,000</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Northern Cheyenne</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>$2.93</td>
<td>$689,000</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Agricultural Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Percent of Land Controlled by Natives</th>
<th>Percent Pop. Employed in Agriculture, Fishing, Hunting, Mining</th>
<th>Percent of Occupied Housing Units Used for Farming</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackfeet</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>4.10%</td>
<td>1.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flathead</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>1.90%</td>
<td>1.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Boy</td>
<td>100% unallotted, held in trust for tribe</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Belknap</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>6.10%</td>
<td>4.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crow</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>6.60%</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Peck</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Cheyenne</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>5.30%</td>
<td>0.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRICS</td>
<td>Number of Farms (total)</td>
<td>Number of farms operated by Natives</td>
<td>Native-owned small farms (1-49 acres) over total small farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACKFEET</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>73/83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLATHEAD</td>
<td>942</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>60/403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCKY BOY</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>6/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT BELKNAP</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>8/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROW</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>27/49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT PECK</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>6/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHERN CHEYENNE</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>21/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRICS</td>
<td>Native full farm owners/total full farm owners</td>
<td>Native part farm owners/total part farm owners</td>
<td>Native farm tenants/total farm tenants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACKFEET</td>
<td>185/245</td>
<td>121/224</td>
<td>29/57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLATHEAD</td>
<td>70/256</td>
<td>102/292</td>
<td>23/38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCKY BOY</td>
<td>56/56</td>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>7/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT BELKNAP</td>
<td>53/57</td>
<td>52/66</td>
<td>16/27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROW</td>
<td>80/157</td>
<td>58/160</td>
<td>19/44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT PECK</td>
<td>35/178</td>
<td>71/328</td>
<td>11/58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHERN CHEYENNE</td>
<td>54/55</td>
<td>25/28</td>
<td>23/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRICS</td>
<td>Market value of agricultural products sold on per farm on Native-owned farms</td>
<td>Farms with internet access (Native-owned/tot al)</td>
<td>Beef/Dairy operations (Native-owned-total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACKFEET</td>
<td>$51,827</td>
<td>204/339</td>
<td>235/348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCKY BOY</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>55/57</td>
<td>36/37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT BELKNAP</td>
<td>$47,245</td>
<td>89/121</td>
<td>89/128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROW</td>
<td>$34,403</td>
<td>105/271</td>
<td>107/282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT PECK</td>
<td>$101,822</td>
<td>106/456</td>
<td>79/297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHERN CHEYENNE</td>
<td>$47,071</td>
<td>51/59</td>
<td>60/69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Metric Evaluation
The following table summarizes the existing data metrics (found in data tables) and potential or desired metrics for future research and surveys.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEMOGRAPHICS</th>
<th>Existing Metrics/Data</th>
<th>Potential Metrics/Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|              | • Population living on reservation  
• Enrolled members  
• Size (acres)  
• Tribal Government structure  
• Percent population below poverty line  
• Percent unemployed  
• Median household income  
• Percent rural population                                                                                                                                   | • Updates to existing demographic data from 2012 ACS.  
• Most significant reservation employers  
• Educational attainment                                                                                                                                         |
| FOOD ACCESS  | • Grocery stores on reservation  
• Grocery stores off reservation (location)  
• Fast food restaurants in primary reservation county  
• Full-service restaurants in primary reservation county  
• Percent of household using food stamps or SNAP  
• Percent of households with no vehicle available  
• Food Bank Location                                                                                                                                          | • Average number people served at Food Bank/month  
• Public school district number of meals served/month  
• School free/reduced lunch rate  
• Traditional foods and frequency of access to them.  
• Number of convenience stores/reservation  
• Number of farmers markets/CSA programs available on reservation  
• Availability of fresh food items in each food outlet.                                                                                                        |
| FOOD SECURITY| • Food environment index  
• Food insecurity percentage (metric/tool from County Health Rankings)  
• Percent population with very limited access to healthy foods  
• Estimated number of food insecure people  
• Estimated SNAP/food program eligibility among food insecure people  
• Average cost of a meal  
• Additional money required to meet county food needs.                                                                                                       | • Childhood hunger (qualitative metric, based on children skipping meals due to lack of adequate food)  
• Average number of miles traveled to access fresh foods  
• Food resources, in order of importance (frequency of use of each type of food assistance)  
• Most commonly needed items at Food Bank.  
• Food purchases as percentage of household income  
• Average number of miles traveled to access fresh foods.                                                                                                 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Metrics/Data</th>
<th>Potential Metrics/Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Adult obesity rate</td>
<td>• Reservation specific obesity/diabetes rates by demographic category (age, gender, etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Diabetes rate</td>
<td>• NEMS/other nutrition analysis tool for grocery stores and other food outlets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Percent of land base controlled by Natives</td>
<td>• Contents/nutrition analysis of FDPIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Percent of population employed in agriculture, hunting,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fishing, mining</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Percent of occupied housing units used for farming</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of farms on reservation (total)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of farms operated by Natives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Farm size by ownership (Native vs. non-Native)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Total cropland (acres)</td>
<td>• Percentage of community members that earn income from food and agriculture businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Harvested cropland (acres)</td>
<td>• Number of food and farm businesses in community (plus breakdown of ownership)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Irrigated cropland (acres)</td>
<td>• Farmer/rancher access to production inputs (seeds, tractors, fertilizer, etc) from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Market value of agricultural products sold per farm</td>
<td>inside and outside community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Non-native, Native)</td>
<td>• Local enterprises that produce food in community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of farms with internet access</td>
<td>• Destinations (by percentage) of locally produced foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of beef/dairy operations</td>
<td>• Food storage/processing facilities in community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bison inventory</td>
<td>• Community growers with focus on traditional foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 3 primary crops harvested</td>
<td>• Community growers with focus on specialty crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ongoing projects/groups/initiatives</td>
<td>• Food processing facilities (meat-processing, kitchens, etc) for “value-added” production in community. If not, distance to closest facility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Contacts</td>
<td>• Support from tribal governments to local food producers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Contact info</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Project updates/networks/newsletters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reservation Food Sovereignty Profiles:
Groups, Projects, and Community Efforts to improve the reservation food system

Blackfeet .................. 24
Flathead .................. 26
Rocky Boy .................. 28
Fort Belknap ............. 30
Crow .................. 32
Fort Peck .................. 34
Northern Cheyenne ... 36
Fast Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Environment Index (0(worst)–10(best))</th>
<th>Food Insecurity (percent of pop.)</th>
<th>Estimated Number of Food Insecure People</th>
<th>Percent of Households with Food Stamps or Snap</th>
<th>Number of Native-Owned Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>2,860</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>335/526</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* see metric catalog (pg. 9) for statistic sources/details

Groups/Organizations

**FAST Blackfeet**: Food Access and Sustainability Team Blackfeet consists of 12-15 core members and 40 interested members in areas of health, education, food service, and agriculture, who meet monthly to address issues of hunger, food security, and food sovereignty in the reservation community. The group’s cited purpose is to “support community strengths, culture, and wellness by developing local, sustainable systems that provide healthy food access and education at every age, for all who need it.” FAST Blackfeet organized an FNDI community food assessment workshop in May 2016 and conducted a Community Food Security and Food Sovereignty Assessment of the Blackfeet Reservation in July 2016. Group Contact: Nonie Woolf (fastblackfeet@gmail.com).

Projects/Community Efforts/Grants

**Blackfeet Community Garden**: (Inactive as of 2015) The Blackfeet Community Garden project began in 2012 as a partnership between the Montana Rural Health Initiative, Blackfeet Manpower VISTA and Blackfeet Academy. The garden remains small and has been primarily maintained by food corps volunteers over the last three years, though the Blackfeet Academy has plans to partner with at-risk-youth programs to revitalize the garden in the coming year. Project Contact: Annie Mombourquette (ammembour@gmail.com)

**Summer Food Service Program**: As part of the Browning Public Schools Foodservice, the summer food program includes a mobile food truck that stops at four different sites in Browning and serves an average of 500 meals per day. Program Contact: Lynne Keenan (lynnek@bps.k12.mt.us).

**Blackfeet Bison Project**: Known as the Linnii Program as of 2016, a group of genetically pure bison calves was returned to the tribe, in addition to their existing 450-strong bison herd. This project stemmed from an inter-tribal treaty and will serve as a cultural, educational, and economic resource for the tribe. Project Contact: Leona Tracey (leona.blackfeetbuffalo@gmail.com)
**Hunger coalition:** created through efforts of a Food Corps Service Member working at the Browning Public Schools focusing on nutrition education in classrooms, garden education for elementary students and supporting the Backpack program. Coalition includes participants from Families in Transition program, Indian Health Service, BCC Extension/greenhouse and No Kid Hungry program. BCC Grant obtained to work with Hunger coalition, allowed for parents of kindergarten and first grade students to attend grocery store tours and receive gas and food cards as incentives.

**Contacts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stefany Jones, IHS Nutritionist</th>
<th><a href="mailto:Stefany.jones@IHS.gov">Stefany.jones@IHS.gov</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kirsten Krane, FAST Blackfeet Member</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kirsten.kander33@gmail.com">kirsten.kander33@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonie Woolf, FAST Blackfeet Member</td>
<td><a href="mailto:woolfnonie@yahoo.com">woolfnonie@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Marceau, Blackfeet Food Bank</td>
<td><a href="mailto:blkftfdp@yahoo.com">blkftfdp@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynne Keenan, Browning Public Schools</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lynnek@bps.k12.mt.us">lynnek@bps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources and Media**


http://bfcc.edu/academics/academic-affairs/greenhouse/

http://montanaruralhealthinitiative.info/?p=2353

http://www.cutbankpioneerpress.com/glacier_reporter/news/article_60c865db-709d-5b04-ae96-5c5aa492c859.html

http://www.cutbankpioneerpress.com/glacier_reporter/news/article_e20906a0-457c-5cb3-8233-7ec5e3e59157.html


*Further information and review from: Nonie Woolf and Kirsten Krane (FAST Blackfeet) and Annie Mombourquette (Food Corps)*
Fast Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Environment Index</th>
<th>Food Insecurity (percent of pop.)</th>
<th>Estimated Number of Food Insecure People</th>
<th>Percent of Households with Food Stamps or Snap</th>
<th>Number of Native-Owned Farms/Total Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>4,360</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>181/942</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*see metric catalog (pg. 9) for statistic sources/details

Groups/Organizations

*Healthy Food Community Network* - The Food Community Network is a recent collaborative effort between multiple stakeholders in an effort to “bring healthy lifestyles” and “cultivate seasonal food ways” on the Flathead reservation. Involved groups include SKC students, SKC Extension Office, Montana Kids Co-op, Partnerships to Prevent Childhood Obesity on the Flathead Reservation, Native Seeds, and the CSKT Tribal Preservation Office. The overall mission of the group is to create and facilitate a locally based, sustainable food system on the Flathead reservation that is operated by tribal people. Group Contact: Virgil Dupuis (Virgil_Dupuis@skc.edu)

Projects/Community Efforts/Grants

*Field Home Community Garden Project*: This garden project, a program of Salish Kootenai College, has helped to establish five community gardens throughout the Flathead reservation in Pablo, Arlee, St. Ignatius, and Elmo areas. These gardens were funded by a USDA grant obtained by the SKC extension office and are maintained by a variety of organizations, students, and volunteers. The majority of the produce from the project is donated to the senior citizens center. Project Contact: Virgil Dupuis.

*SKC Garden/Greenhouse*: A garden and greenhouse located at Salish Kootenai College is also organized by the SKC extension office and serves as a center of food and agriculture education. Project contact: Virgil Dupuis.

*Tribal Fisheries Program, “Mack Days”*: This event, which seeks to reduce the number of lake trout in Flathead Lake, occurs every year and provides thousands of fish to tribal members and food banks. Contact: Mackdays.com.
First Nations Development Institute Grant: This $34,343, awarded in 2016, helps to fund the “Healing the Jocko Valley Project” is intended to support classes and trainings focused on healthy eating and gardening, with a particular focus on traditional foods. The grant also includes a community garden as well as family gardens and nutrition/food curriculum in schools. Contact: Healing the Jocko Valley Food Sovereignty Project, Facebook.

Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ginger Pitts, MSU Extension Agent</th>
<th><a href="mailto:gpitts@montana.edu">gpitts@montana.edu</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tammy Matt, Tribal Community Health Division</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wjfish@yahoo.com">wjfish@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgil Dupuis, Tribal Extension Agent</td>
<td><a href="mailto:virgil_dupuis@skc.edu">virgil_dupuis@skc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Tyron, SKC Health and Development</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Michael_tyron@skc.edu">Michael_tyron@skc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Arvidson, FoodCorps Service Member</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Laura.arvidson@foodcorps.org">Laura.arvidson@foodcorps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicki Jimenez, FoodCorps Service Member</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nicki.g.jimenez@gmail.com">Nicki.g.jimenez@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources and Media


“After Slow Start the Tribal Community Gardens are Beginning to Blossom,” Char-Koosta News, 2010.  


*Further information and review from: Virgil Dupuis, Tribal Extension Agent


**Rocky Boy Reservation**

**Fast Facts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Environment Index</th>
<th>Food Insecurity (percent of pop.)</th>
<th>Estimated Number of Food Insecure People</th>
<th>Percent of Households with Food Stamps or Snap</th>
<th>Number of Native-Owned Farms/Total Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>74/79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*see metric catalog (pg. 9) for statistic sources/details

**Groups/Organizations**

*Rocky Boy Cattlemen’s Association:* This active group includes more than 30 Native ranchers, led by Leon LaSalle. Group Contact: Leon LaSalle ((406) 395-4776)

*Chippewa Cree Wellness Coalition:* The wellness coalition was formed as part of the Chippewa Cree Wellness Center, an exercise and health facility constructed in 2006 in partnership with the Montana Rural Health Initiative. The group has not specifically worked on food projects but may be a useful ally in future food sovereignty work. Contact: Rosie Goldich (rgoldich@opportunitylinkMT.org)

**Projects/Community Efforts/Grants**

*Chippewa Cree Dry Fork Farms:* As of 2014, a 10-acre parcel of Dry Fork Farms has been granted by the tribe to Mary Ruth St. Pierre, the tribal extension agent, for the purpose of a vegetable/herb farm Project Contact: Mary Ruth St. Pierre: (406-395-4875)

*Boys and Girls Club of the Bear Paw:* The Rocky Boy Boys and Girls club serves as a center of recreation as well as nutrition education for children on the reservation. Children are given and educated about healthy snack options. In addition, a day camp offered by the club teaches children and parents about preparing traditional foods with more nutritious ingredients. Project Contact: (406-395-4420)

*Havre Community Garden:* A small community garden in Havre is managed by the diabetic program at Hill County Health Department and offers free instruction and produce to interested community members Project Contact: (406-265-6743)
Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ruth St. Pierre, Tribal Extension Agent</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mstpierre@stonechild.edu">mstpierre@stonechild.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Mitchell, Planning Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joan@cct.rockyboy.org">joan@cct.rockyboy.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barb Stiffarm, Vibrant Futures Program Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bstiffarm@opportunitylinkmt.org">bstiffarm@opportunitylinkmt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon LaSalle, Rocky Boy Cattleman's Association</td>
<td>406-395-4776*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*no email available

Sources and Media

Gardening Project and Produce, Hill County Health Department, 2016.  
http://hillcountyhealth.com/promote/get-to-know-your-community/


http://www.theprairiestar.com/news/special_section/dry-fork-ag-is-growing/article_c6c0fdca-e299-11e1-9c09-001a4bfcf887a.html


*Further information from: Rosie Goldich, Opportunity Link, inc.
Fast Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Environment Index 0(worst)-10(best)</th>
<th>Food Insecurity (percent of pop.)</th>
<th>Estimated Number of Food Insecure People</th>
<th>Percent of Households with Food Stamps or Snap</th>
<th>Number of Native-Owned Farms/Total Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>1,110</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>121/150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* see metric catalog (pg. 9) for statistic sources/details

Groups/Organizations

* *Island Mountain Development Group: IMDG is a company started in 2009 with the goal of serving the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Nations through the development of tribally owned businesses and job opportunities. The company is directed by tribal members and has been involved with the meatpacking and processing business on the reservation. (Group Contact/website: http://islandmtn.com)*

* *Ft. Belknap Livestock Marketing Co-op: The tribe's livestock cooperative extension program began in 2009 as part of a USDA grant and has since received additional grants to fund their operation. The group seeks to allow livestock producers on the reservation to work together to market natural beef both on and off-reservation. In addition, the board of directors meets monthly to evaluate marketing and production challenges and to provide information sessions and other assistance to ranchers Group Contact: Bud Walsh (406-673-3164).*

Projects/Community Efforts/Grants

* *Little Rockies Meat Packing Company: The meat packing company, started in 2002, was the first USDA-inspected, tribally owned facility in the U.S. Though the facility was initially used to process some of the tribe's 400-head bison herd, it is now used primarily to process cattle from local ranchers. Island Mountain Development Group took over both the processing facility and the associated smokehouse in January of 2011 in attempts to make these business ventures more profitable for the tribe. Project Contact: Michelle Fox ((406) 788-4258)*

* *Aaniiih Nakoda College Garden/Greenhouse: The tribal college has a 3-acre garden and large greenhouse that were funded by a USDA grant and are maintained through the college’s extension program. The facilities are used primarily for gardening,*
agriculture, and traditional plant educational purposes Project Contact: Manuel Morales, Aaniiih Nakoda College Extension Program (406-353-2607).

Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hillary Maxwell, MSU Extension Nutrition Educator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hillary.maxwell@montana.edu">hillary.maxwell@montana.edu</a></td>
<td>(406)-673-3164*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Fox, Island Mountain Development Group</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Michelle@islandmtn.com">Michelle@islandmtn.com</a></td>
<td>(406) 673-3561*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bud Walsh, Livestock Co-op</td>
<td></td>
<td>(406) 945-1359*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gail Whiteman, MSU Extension Agent</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gail.whiteman@montana.edu">gail.whiteman@montana.edu</a></td>
<td>(406)-353-2607*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlene Werk, Hays Boys and Girls Club</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuel Morales, Aaniiih Nakoda College Extension</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana Piyette, Island Mountain Development Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*no email available

Sources and Media


*Further information and review from: Hillary Maxwell, MSU Extension Agent.
Crow Reservation

Fast Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Environment Index</th>
<th>Food Insecurity (percent of pop.)</th>
<th>Estimated Number of Food Insecure People</th>
<th>Percent of Households with Food Stamps or Snap</th>
<th>Number of Native-Owned Farms/Total Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>2,240</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>157/361</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* see metric catalog (pg. 9) for statistic sources/details

Groups/Organizations

Projects/Community Efforts/Grants

**Little Big Horn College Greenhouse Program:** The LBHC Greenhouse program assists in establishing and maintaining gardens for schools, businesses, and individuals on the Crow reservation, using the campus garden as a demonstration center. Project Contact: Francesa Pine, (pinef@lbhc.edu)

**Little Big Horn College Gardening Grant:** The tribal greenhouse program at Little Big Horn College earned a 2015 grant from the First Nations Development Institute for the purposes of increasing “knowledge of and access to healthy foods through gardening.” The project is centered on Little Big Horn College’s campus and includes community workshops and trainings (Contact: Facebook “Little Big Horn College Greenhouse/Community Garden”)

**Hardin Country Farmers Market:** An on-reservation farmers market operates every Saturday from May through October. Contact: (info@hcfarmersmarket.com)

**Crow Land Community Buy Back Program:** The tribe has been working in cooperation with the federal government to buy back lands leased to non-natives. Though this is not directly a food and agriculture project, it’s results will pose important implications for the tribe’s ability to control and manage their own agricultural lands. (Contact: Land Buy-Back Staff, 406 638-2041)

**Crow Reservation Bison Herd:** The Crow Tribe manages its own herd of more than 1,000 bison, the largest tribal bison herd in the state. (No contact available)
Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email/Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Todd Wilson, Crow Tribal Health Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Todd.Wilson@crow-nsn.gov">Todd.Wilson@crow-nsn.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Not Afraid, Crow Agency NRCS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeremy.notafraid@mt.usda.gov">jeremy.notafraid@mt.usda.gov</a> (731)-925-2238*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Wallace, Hardin High school Nutrition</td>
<td>(306) 665-2997*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Connor, Hardin Food Bank Director</td>
<td>406.665.9300*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrice Benjamin, Director of School Nutrition</td>
<td>*No email available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources and Media


*Awaiting Review
Fast Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Environment Index (0(worst)-10(best))</th>
<th>Food Insecurity (percent of pop.)</th>
<th>Estimated Number of Food Insecure People</th>
<th>Percent of Households with Food Stamps or Snap</th>
<th>Number of Native-Owned Farms/Total Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>1,830</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>117/564</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* see metric catalog (pg. 9) for statistic sources/details

Groups/Organizations

Projects/Community Efforts/Grants

**Wolf Point Community College Garden**: The Fort Peck community garden has been in and out of operation and in different locations for the past 15 years, but found a permanent home on the WPCC campus in 2014. The garden is maintained by interns at WPCC, and much of the produce is brought to elders or to the soup kitchen in Wolf Point. (Project Contact: Terrance Gourneau, 406-768-3025).

**Fort Peck Bison Herd**: The tribes manage a herd of nearly 200 bison that serve as a cultural resource and may also contribute to the local food system (Project Contact: Robert Mangan, robertm@nemontel.net)

Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mary Plante, Summer Food Service Program</th>
<th>406-768-3826*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terrance Gourneau, Ft. Peck College, Agriculture Dep.</td>
<td>(406)768-3025*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Becker, MSU Tribal Extension Agent</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wbecker@montana.edu">wbecker@montana.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Flynn, Food Service Director, Frazer School</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jflynn@frazer.k12.med.us">jflynn@frazer.k12.med.us</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*No email available
Sources and Media


*Awaiting Review
**Northern Cheyenne Reservation**

**Fast Facts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Environment Index</th>
<th>Food Insecurity (percent of pop.)</th>
<th>Estimated Number of Food Insecure People</th>
<th>Percent of Households with Food Stamps or Snap</th>
<th>Number of Native-Owned Farms/Total Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0(worst)–10(best)</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>1,330</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>102/108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* see metric catalog (pg. 9 ) for statistic sources/details

**Groups/Organizations**

**Projects/Community Efforts/Grants**

*Northern Cheyenne Summer Feeding Program:* The Montana Food Bank network operates a summer feeding program, with locations at Crazy Head Dining Hall and Lame Deer High school. (Contact: Montana Food Bank Network, info@mfbn.org)

**Contacts**

| Tom Mexicancheyenne, IHS | tom.mexicancheyenne@ihs.gov |
| Denise Featherstone, Headstart | denisef@billingsheadstart.org |
| Henry Thompson, Chief Dull Knife College Extension | henry@cdkc.edu |
| Meredith Tallbull, community garden contact | thumpinrabbit2001@yahoo.com |
| Janelle Timber-Jones, OPI | 406-720-0682* |
| Lane Spotted Elk, Boys and Girls Club | 406-477-6654* |

*No email available

**Sources and Media**


“Nutrition on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation,” Montana State University. (Year Unavailable)
http://www.montana.edu/mali/pptsaspdfs/RagsdaleSarahPosterCommunityGardensLam eDeer.pdf


*Awaiting Review
Family Food Security Survey..................39
Reservation Food Access Survey.............41
Agricultural Producer Survey...............43
Reservation Business Survey...............45

*The following sample survey questions were derived using a combination of the FNDI Food Sovereignty Assessment Tool sample questions, USDA Food Security survey questions, and FAST Blackfeet’s food security survey conducted in 2016. While several questions were picked word for word from FNDI and USDA samples, the majority were either modified or newly created to target specific demographics or produce specific data outcomes that match the listed survey objectives.
Family Food Security Survey

Demographic: Tribal families living on reservation

Potential Survey Sites: Food outlets, schools, social gatherings

Driving Questions:

1. Do tribal families have enough food? Why/why not?
2. What food assistance is available to tribal families?
3. What food resources do tribal families most need?

Objectives:

• Assess levels of hunger/food insecurity amongst reservation families.
• Evaluate main barriers to household-level food security.
• Evaluate use of food assistance programs including SNAP, FDPIR, free/reduced lunch, etc.
• Assess what food resources/aid/programs would be most useful to tribal families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reservation Family Food Security Survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What zip code do you live in? :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What race do you identify with?:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many adults live in your home?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many children (0-18)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Does your family always have enough food?
   - Yes
   - No, because...
     - We can’t afford enough food
     - We don’t have access to enough food
     - We don’t have access to the foods we want
     - We don’t have time to buy enough food
     - Other:

2. In the last 12 months, did you or other adults in your household ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn’t enough money for food?
   - Yes
   - No
   - I don’t know
3. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn’t eat because there wasn’t enough money for food?
   - Yes
   - No
   - I don’t know

4. “The food that my family bought just didn’t last and we didn’t have money to get more.” In the last 12 months, this statement was:
   - Often true
   - Sometimes true
   - Never true
   - I don’t know

5. “My family and I couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.” In the last 12 months, this statement was:
   - Often true
   - Sometimes true
   - Never true
   - I don’t know

6. Does your family participate in any of the following food assistance programs?
   - Food stamps, SNAP
   - Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)
   - Commodities Program (FDPIR)
   - School lunch/breakfast program
   - Meals on Wheels
   - The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
   - Other: __________________________

7. How many days in the last month did you use these food assistance programs? ____________

8. What were the reasons you used food assistance in the past month? Check all that apply.
   - Unusual expenses this month
   - Ran out of food stamps
   - Recent job loss
   - Continued unemployment
   - Traditional sources of food not available
   - Other:

9. What barriers, if any, prevent you from using these programs? ____________________________

10. What does your family most need in order to obtain enough food? _______________________
Reservation Food Access Survey

Demographic: Families and individuals (tribal or non-tribal) living on reservation

Potential Survey Sites: Food outlets, places of employment, social gatherings

Driving Questions:

1. What are the most important/abundant food resources on the reservation?
2. Are nutritionally appropriate foods available on the reservation?
3. Are culturally appropriate foods available on the reservation?

Objectives:
• Determine most important/most frequently used food resources for tribal families and individuals.
  o Evaluate WHY certain food resources are used more frequently.
• Assess availability of fresh foods, particularly fruits and vegetables.
• Assess availability of locally produced foods.
• Assess availability of culturally significant foods.
• Determine largest barriers to consumption of nutritionally appropriate foods.
• Evaluate which food resources would be most important/useful for reservation families/individuals.

_________________________ Reservation Food Access Survey

What zip code do you live in?:

What race do you identify with?:

How many adults live in your home? How many children (0-18)?

Age: Gender:

1. How important are the following food resources for people in your community? Please rank 1 (most important) – 14 (least important)
   - Grocery Store
   - Convenience Store
   - Trading Post
   - Farmer’s Market
   - Community Garden/Farm
   - Trade/Barter/Sharing
   - Home garden/farm
   - Food Co-Op
   - Tribal Farm
   - Hunting-gathering
   - FDPIR/Commodities Program
   - Food Stamps
   - Food Bank
   - Other?
2. How many of each of the following exists in your community? Please provide an estimate.
   - Grocery Store
   - Convenience Store
   - Trading Post
   - Farmer’s Market
   - Food Co-Op
   - Tribal Farm
   - Community Garden/Farm
   - Food Bank

3. Of the food resources listed above, which do you use most often?

4. Why do you use this food resource most often?
   - It is closest to where I live/work.
   - It has the most affordable food.
   - It has the healthiest food.
   - It has the types of food that I prefer.
   - It is where I am most comfortable buying food.
   - Other:

5. Evaluate the following statement: “There is healthy food available in my community.”
   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Neutral
   - Disagree
   - Strongly Disagree

6. How often are locally produced foods available in your community? If so, what are these foods?
   - Always:
   - Sometimes:
   - Rarely:
   - Never

7. How often are traditional foods available in your community? If so, what are these foods?
   - Always:
   - Sometimes:
   - Rarely:
   - Never

8. On average, how many minutes from your home do you have to drive to access fresh fruits and vegetables?

9. Are there certain foods you would like to eat that are difficult to get in your community? If so, what are they? Why are they difficult to get?

10. What would you like to see happen in your community to increase access to healthy, locally-produced, and/or traditional foods?
**Tribal Agricultural Producer Survey**

**Demographic:** Farmers and ranchers (tribal or non-tribal) living on reservation.

**Potential Survey Sites:** Farms/ranches, agricultural supply stores, farmer’s markets

**Driving Questions:**

1. What are community farmers/ranchers producing? Why?
2. Where is locally produced food going?
3. What are the most significant challenges/obstacles for local producers?

**Objectives:**

- Obtain basic operation/market info about reservation farms and ranches.
- Evaluate availability of land, inputs, processing facilities, local markets, and market assistance for reservation producers.
- Determine extent to which reservation producers sell products locally vs. for export.
- Evaluate largest barriers to reservation producers’ success.
- Gather recommendations from local producers regarding steps towards local food production and consumption.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reservation Agricultural Producer Survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What zip code is your farm/ranch in?:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What race do you identify with?:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many adults live in your home?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many children (0-18)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. How long have you been farming/ranching?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How many acres do you have/work?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. What is the status of the land you farm/ranch?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o I own the land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o I lease the land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o I am a tenant of the land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o The land is tribally owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Other:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. What are you main crops and/or livestock? __________________________

5. Why are your main crops/livestock?
   o I have always grown these crops/livestock
   o My land is most suited to these crops/livestock
   o I receive the greatest payment for these crops/livestock
   o I most enjoy growing these crops/livestock
   o My community wants these crops/livestock
   o Other:

6. Where do you sell the majority of your crops/livestock? Check all that apply.
   o On-reservation farmer’s markets
   o Off-reservation farmer’s markets
   o On-reservation stores/businesses/restaurants
   o Off-reservation stores/businesses/restaurants
   o Wholesale distributors
   o Individuals
   o Other:

7. Why do you sell the majority of your produce in this/these markets?
   o These markets provide the greatest payment for my products.
   o These markets are the most convenient/nearest to my farm/ranch
   o These market are the most consistent/reliable
   o I am accustomed to selling in these markets
   o Other:

8. Do you sell your products to on-reservation stores/businesses?
   o Yes: What stores/businesses? _____________________________________________
     For how long? ____________________________________________________________
   o No: Why not? ___________________________________________________________
     Would you like to sell to reservation stores/businesses? Why/why not? ________

9. Which of the following do you have sufficient access to? Check all that apply. If not, why?
   o Land______________________________________________________________
   o Water______________________________________________________________
   o Inputs (seeds, fertilizer)______________________________________________
   o Processing facilities__________________________________________________
   o Local markets________________________________________________________
   o Non-local markets____________________________________________________
   o Financial support/loans_______________________________________________
   o Information/education________________________________________________

10. What is your biggest obstacle to producing and selling food that stays within your community? What would you recommend changing in your community to overcome that obstacle? __________________________

   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
Reservation Food Business Survey

**Demographic:** Reservation store, grocery, restaurants owners/operators

**Potential Survey Sites:** Reservation stores and restaurants, community meetings

**Driving Questions:**

1. Are reservation business owners buying locally-produced foods?
2. What are the primary obstacles to local businesses connecting with local producers?
3. What needs to change in order to reservation businesses and producers?

**Objectives:**
- Determine extent to which reservation business owners are procuring locally produced foods.
- Evaluate why reservation business owners are/are not sourcing products locally.
- Gather recommendations regarding next steps towards connecting reservation business owners with reservation producers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reservation Food Business Survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What zip code is your business in? :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What race do you identify with?:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In which food business do you work?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age: Gender:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. What type of entity do you ( own / operate / manage / other: )? (Please circle one)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Small business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Grocery store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Convenience store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o School dining operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Other:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How long has this entity been in operation? How long have you been affiliated with it?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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45
3. Does your business source/supply locally-produced foods?
   - Yes
   - No (skip to question #5)
   - Sometimes
   - I don’t know

4. If YES or SOMETIMES to question #3,
   What foods do you source locally?
   What farms/ranches are they from?
   How often do you source/supply these foods?

   Why do you source locally produced foods? Check all that apply.
   - These foods are less expensive
   - These foods are easier to find/access
   - These foods are healthier
   - I want to support local producers
   - My customers want locally produced foods
   - Other:

5. If NO to question #3,
   Why don’t you source locally produced foods? Check all that apply.
   - Locally produced foods are too expensive
   - Local farms/ranches do not produce the food I need for my business
   - I do not know how to access locally produced products
   - I prefer the foods I can source from off the reservation
   - My customers do not care/want locally produced foods
   - Locally produced foods are inconsistent/unreliable

   Would you like to source locally produced foods for your business in the future? Why or why not?

6. Is it important to you that your business sources and supplies locally produced foods? Why/why not?

7. What needs to change in your community in order for your business to source more locally produced foods?

8. How do you recommend that community leaders connect reservation business owners with reservation farmers and ranchers?
**General Reference Sources:**


**Statistical Sources:**


Howard, Linda, “Moving Toward Food Sovereignty: Assessing Food Systems on Montana’s Indian Reservations,” Montana Department of Agriculture, 2014: *Used as reference for description of grocery stores and food banks located on each reservation. Confirmed and updated by later research.*


U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Census of Agriculture, American Indian Reservation Subject Series, United States Department of Agriculture, Web. June, 2016.: *American Indian Reservation Tables (listed by tribe) used as source for agricultural statistics found in agriculture data tables.*

**Survey Sources:**


McElrone, Marissa, “Food Security and Sovereignty Survey,” FAST Blackfeet, July 2016. This survey, created and conducted by the FAST Blackfeet group on the Blackfeet reservation was used as a general survey reference. No questions were pulled directly from this survey but it was used as a structure reference, and many questions align with my survey models as they were pulled from the same FNDI and USDA sources. “USDA Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit,” United States Department of Agriculture, Web. July 2016. http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/327699/efan02013_1_.pdf: Used as source for food security evaluation and questions. Questions sourced from USDA food security assessment module include: Food Security Survey #2, #3, #4, #5.

**Reservation Profile Sources:**

Blackfeet Reservation:


Flathead Reservation:


“After Slow Start the Tribal Community Gardens are Beginning to Blossom,” Char-Koosta News, 2010.

Rocky Boy Reservation:

Gardening Project and Produce, Hill County Health Department, 2016.
http://hillcountyhealth.com/promote/get-to-know-your-community/


http://www.theprairiestar.com/news/special_section/dry-fork-ag-is-growing/article_c6c0fdca-e299-11e1-9c09-001a4bcf887a.html


Fort Belknap Reservation:


http://nativenews.jour.umt.edu/2011/fort_belknap.html

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http://www.ancollege.edu/?page=sponsored_programs/extension


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http://www.lbhc.edu/programs/greenhouse/

Hardin County Farmers Market Official Site, 2016.  
http://www.hcfarmersmarket.com/

http://billingsgazette.com/news/government-and-politics/crow-land-buyback-program-reaches-halfway-mark/article_a0d39c49-af21-5a72-b08a-635c0e91ad03.html


**Fort Peck Reservation:**

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FPCC Community Garden Blossoms with Harvest Underway,” Herald News. (Year unavailable)  

**Northern Cheyenne Reservation:**
