

# Tribal Elder Food Box Program Producer Information Meeting



# Become a Producer Partner in the TRIBAL ELDER FOOD BOX PROGRAM



The Tribal Elder Food Box Program is a pilot program designed to increase access to nutritious foods for Tribal Elders.

## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS



Local food is purchased from Indigenous and non-Indigenous producers and supply chain partners who share the values and practices of sustainable, regenerative and/or Organic stewardship.

---

Producers and supply chain partners deliver their bounty to be packed by volunteers for distribution.



---

Pre-packed, household-portioned boxes are delivered to Oneida, Menominee and Red Cliff food pantries. Free boxes of Native and non Native locally grown and raised perishable are available for Tribal Elders to receive at food pantries or by home delivery.

---

Tribal Elders receive a free box of perishable food items sourced from Indigenous and local producers.



# Tribal Elder Food Box Program Pilot

- The 2021 Pilot funded through \$427,800 Feeding America National Regional Agri Food Distribution grant
- Tribal Elder Boxes were distributed to elders of seven Tribal Nations
- 900 boxes of fresh produce and proteins distributed at each distribution
- 12 distributions every other week between June – December
- Feeding Wisconsin and food bank partners worked directly with Tribal partners to make important decisions around purchasing, aggregation and repack logistics, and distribution. Food preferences were informed by Tribal Elders themselves.
- Product sourced from Tribal and local producers. In 2021, 41% of product purchased for the boxes was purchased from Indigenous producers.



Learn More:

<https://feedingwi.org/programs/tribal-foodsecurity/>



# Tribal Elder Food Box Program Pilot

## Produce

- 192,000 pounds of produce in total
- Seasonal produce included: Onions, Potatoes, squash, tomatoes, strawberries, blueberries, lettuce, cabbages, beets, blackberries, cucumbers, herbs, apples, sweet corn, garlic, melons, carrots, winter squash, pumpkin, etc.)

## Protein

- 21,000 pounds of protein in total
- Included: Beef, Fish, Buffalo, Pork, Elk, Chicken, and Eggs



# 2022 Tribal Elder Food Box Program

- The 2022 Program will be funded through
  - \$1M of American Rescue Plan Act funds via a DATCP grant awarded to Feeding Wisconsin
  - \$200,000 from a Feeding America National Regional Agri Food Distribution grant
- 1300-1400 boxes of a variety of food products (proteins, produce, non-perishables, etc.) will be distributed 1-2 times a month to an expanded number of Tribal Nations for Tribal Elders
- 16 distributions between May – December
- Product will be sourced from Tribal and local producers



# Feedback from Recipient Survey

- Most appreciated seasonal variety that was included - enjoyed lettuce, apples, sweet corn, watermelon, proteins, and non-perishables (maple syrup and wild rice)
- Additional produce requested - berries, more fruit (fresh and frozen), herbs (cilantro, parsley, bergamont, mint, rosehips, juniper berries), cranberries
- More meat - especially buffalo
- More non-perishables - wild rice, beans, honey, maple syrup, white corn flour, hominy, teas, canned meats and other canned foods
- Other ideas: nuts (black walnuts), cheese, breads, mushrooms (fresh or dehydrated), diabetic friendly foods





# Interested in producing for the program?

Reach out to April Yancer

DATCP Farm to School and Institution Program Specialist

[april.yancer@wisconsin.gov](mailto:april.yancer@wisconsin.gov)

- **Assess** if this program is a good fit for your business
- **Learn** about additional local food system develop programs
- **Connect** to other Local Food Producers, Aggregators and Distributors
- **Find** information on Food Safety and Support Resources
- **Discuss** potential needs for your business to connect and grow to meet market opportunities
- **Plan** next steps



# Become a Collaborating Vendor

- Review and sign the [Producer MOU](#) (to be updated February 2022)
- Complete the [Seasonal Availability Form](#)
  - Products you will offer
  - Format you will sell the product in
  - Price per unit
  - Frequency you expect to have products available (weekly, monthly, etc...)
  - Months you expect products to be available





# Working Together

- The 2022 Elder Food Box Program will be distributed from May –November
- Producers and Vendors initiate price setting for wholesale transactions (no contract bids or set pricing for the program)
- Forecasting of availability of seasonal products and supply needs in advance (as possible) is helpful for all
- Availability Forms are submitted one week prior to purchase orders



# Q&A - Discussion



# Contact Information

## **APRIL YANCER**

**Farm to School and Institution and WI Foods Specialist,  
Department of Agricultural Development, Wisconsin  
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Offering technical assistance; assess readiness to sell to institutions, connect to projects, supply chain partners and resources to grow your local agricultural businesses to meet potential markets.

[April.Yancer@wi.gov](mailto:April.Yancer@wi.gov)

## **GARY BESAW**

**Director, Menominee Tribal Department of Ag and Food Systems, and Director, Menominee Tribal Food Distribution Program**

Assist in answering questions regarding current/future produce and protein volume needs and sustainable agricultural practices prioritized for Tribal Elder Box program. DAFS will also communicate with current and potential indigenous and non-indigenous producers for inclusion in current and future opportunities.

[gbesaw@mitw.org](mailto:gbesaw@mitw.org)

## **DAN CORNELIUS**

**Intertribal Agriculture Council**

Dan Cornelius provides technical assistance in accessing USDA programs, as well as more general food production support.

[dan@indianag.org](mailto:dan@indianag.org)

(608)280-1267

## **JEFF JOSLYN**

**Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin Director of Food Resources, Serves as the procurement lead.**

[jjoslyn@feedingamericawi.org](mailto:jjoslyn@feedingamericawi.org)

## **STEPHANIE JUNG DORFMAN**

**Feeding Wisconsin Executive Director**

Serves as the project lead

[sdorfman@feedingwi.org](mailto:sdorfman@feedingwi.org)

## **JEN FALCK**

**Menominee Tribal Department of Agriculture and Food Systems**

[jfalck@mitw.org](mailto:jfalck@mitw.org)

## **AMY MEINEN**

**healthTIDE/UW-Madison**

Supports/assists with food system-related partnerships and connections.

[ameinen@wisc.edu](mailto:ameinen@wisc.edu)