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## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Office of Tribal Relations, Council for Native American Farming and Ranching**

**AGENCY:** Office of Tribal Relations, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a forthcoming meeting of The Council for Native American Farming and Ranching (CNAFR), a public advisory committee of the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR). Notice of the meetings are provided in accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2).

This will be the fourth meeting held during fiscal year 2016 and will consist of, but not be limited to: hearing public comments, update of USDA programs and activities, and discussion of committee priorities. This meeting will be open to the public.

**DATES:** The teleconference meeting will be held on September 1, 2016. The meeting will be open to the public with time set aside for public comment at approximately 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The OTR will make the agenda available to the public via the OTR Web site <http://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations> no later than 10 business days before the meeting and at the meeting.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be conducted using teleconference technology. This meeting will not be convened in person. Participants interested in joining this meeting may dial 1-877-369-5243 or 1-617-668-3633. Any modification to this number will be accessible online at [www.usda.gov/tribalrelations](http://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations).

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:** Written comments may be submitted to: Josiah Griffin, Acting Designated Federal Officer, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Whitten Bldg., 501–

A, Washington, DC 20250; by Fax: (202) 720-1058; or by email:

Josiah.Griffin@osec.usda.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions should be directed to the CNAFR Contact Person: Josiah Griffin, Acting Designated Federal Officer, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Whitten Bldg., 501-A, Washington, DC 20250; by Fax: (202) 720-1058 or email: Josiah.Griffin@osec.usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2), USDA established an advisory council for Native American farmers and ranchers. The CNAFR is a discretionary advisory committee established under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture, in furtherance of the *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* settlement agreement that was granted final approval by the District Court for the District of Columbia on April 28, 2011.

The CNAFR will operate under the provisions of the FACA and report to the Secretary of Agriculture. The purpose of the CNAFR is (1) to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on issues related to the participation of Native American farmers and ranchers in USDA loan and grant programs; (2) to transmit recommendations concerning any changes to USDA regulations or internal guidance or other measures that would eliminate barriers to program participation for Native American farmers and ranchers; (3) to examine methods of maximizing the number of new farming and ranching opportunities created by USDA loan and grant programs through enhanced extension and financial literacy services; (4) to examine methods of encouraging intergovernmental cooperation to mitigate the effects of land tenure and probate issues on the delivery of

USDA programs; (5) to evaluate other methods of creating new farming or ranching opportunities for Native American producers; and (6) to address other related issues as deemed appropriate.

Interested persons may present views, orally or in writing, on issues relating to agenda topics before the CNAFR. Written submissions may be submitted to the contact person on or before August 29, 2016. Oral presentations from the public will be heard approximately 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on September 1, 2016. Those individuals interested in making formal oral presentations should notify the contact person and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the issue they wish to present and the names and addresses of proposed participants by August 29, 2016. All oral presentations will be given three (3) to five (5) minutes depending on the number of participants.

The OTR will also make the agenda available to the public via the OTR Web site <http://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations> no later than 10 business days before the meeting and at the meeting. The minutes from the meeting will be posted on the OTR website. OTR welcomes the attendance of the public at the CNAFR meetings and will make every effort to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or special needs. If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Josiah Griffin, at least 5 business days in advance of the meeting.

Leslie Wheelock,  
Director,  
Office of Tribal Relations.

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