



Intertribal Agriculture Council

100 North 27th Street, Suite 500, Billings Montana 59101 (406) 259-3525

August 2, 2010

The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) has endeavored since 1987 to improve the access to USDA programs by American Indian producers. As an organization, we have worked on every Farm Bill since 1990 as the primary focus of this improved access. The 2008 Farm Bill brought about many changes in USDA programs, the most important of these are the way many programs are linked together thus you have to be active in one to be eligible for another.

Montana has some new USDA leaders who are responsible for ensuring that you have full access to USDA programs and services. Matthew Jones is the State Director for Rural Development, Bruce Nelson is the State Executive Director for Farm Service Agency and Joyce Swartzendruber is the new State Conservationist for Natural Resources Conservation Service. This new leadership along with Doug Hagel, Regional Director, Risk Management Agency are looking forward to meeting with you on August 31, to explain the Farm Bill changes and perhaps most importantly, what is and what is not working.

The IAC is hosting a meeting for you to meet the USDA leadership, offer your comments, enjoy a hosted lunch, and pick up some tips for program participation. We hope you can join us on August 31st. On the back side of this letter is an agenda for your reference.

**IAC Hosted USDA Meeting
August 31, 2010
Mission Valley Power - Conference Room
Pablo, Montana
9:00 a.m.**

We look forward to seeing you on the 31st.

Sincerely,

Ross R. Racine
Executive Director

AGENDA

Reservation Producer Meetings

August 31, 2010
Mission Valley Power -- Conference Room

- 9:00 – 9:15** **Introductions of State USDA Leadership *by IAC***
- 9:15 – 11:00** **Farm Service Agency – *Bruce Nelson, State Director***
- 11:00 – 12:00** **Rural Development – *Matt Jones, State Director***
- 12:00 – 1:00** **LUNCH (Hosted)**
- 1:00 – 2:30** **Natural Resources Conservation Service – *Joyce Swartzendruber, State Conservationist***
- 2:30 – 3:30** **Risk Management – *Doug Hagel, Regional Director***
- 3:30 – 4:30** **Intertribal Agriculture Council, 1099's – *Ross Racine***
- 4:30 – 5:00** **Unanswered Questions – *Wrap up***