



Website Updates:

*New Report Form
Annual Reports
Bison Research*

Follow-up of Mid Year Meeting:

Who have been your stakeholders during year 3?

What have they gained from the NRE project?

What new appreciations do you have for your NRE partners?

Highlights:

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NRE Partners:

- FBCC
- ISU
- SBC
- NDSU
- NICC
- SBC
- SGU
- SDSU
- UNL

Paula's Travel:

Dec 13 – FBCC
Jan 20 – SGU

USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005

Happy Holidays to NRE Partners

A letter to NRE participants from Harold Crawford, Co-Director

We as central staff for the NRE project want to thank all of you for another good year and to wish you a joyous Christmas holiday.

You are like Christmas to us everyday. It is great how we have grown to know one another and work together. The mid-year and annual meetings get us all excited about things to come and this year's were especially so. We enjoyed the mid-year meeting at Brookings and the annual meeting location at Niobrara State Park. Each get together is special and I think this is because each of you is special and you bring the good news of project progress.

I hope that each Tribal College took advantage of the USDA Tribal Research Grants Program. They are not easy to write but Dr. Subodh Singh at Sinte Gleska University achieved the goal so he can tell you about his experiences. Please let us know who has submitted a USDA Research proposal and who were the partners and we'll be listening for positive results by the proposal reviewers. This is one of the best ways of networking and a good way to expand the number of people partnering with Tribal Colleges. Of course, you don't need to wait for the USDA RFPs to work on a research proposal, you can fund projects through a



NRE Partnership Opportunity Grant and the process of obtaining support is not nearly so time consuming and specific as for a USDA grant.

Here are some ideas for New Year's resolutions;

1. Prepare and partner for a research project this next year.
2. Participate in the monthly conference calls. The next one is January 7, 2005.
3. Write and submit an article for the Tribal College Journal.
4. Work on some curriculum idea that will be sustainable for your T.C.
5. Bring at least one or two new faculty into the project.
6. Identify and encourage one student to apply for the internship program.

Happy New Year! And thank you for these past three years of growth and understanding.

New Quarterly Report Form

How do you report project outcomes? Where do you mention who has benefited from your programs? In what way have changes occurred as a result of your efforts? To what extent do you follow an activity from the beginning, showing gains and setbacks? At the annual meeting, Jenice Jim provided tips for improving quarterly reports.

Others made suggestions for incorporating "tell our story" into the quarterly reports. A revised quarterly report form has been developed from these suggestions. Submit on the new form at <http://ifafsnrep.ag.iastate.edu/> for your February 1 quarterly report.

Notice:

Mary de Baca will contact you soon regarding project evaluation.

NRE REPORTING

Year 4, Quarter 1 reports are due February 1. Submit your reports on-line on the new form please.



Lisa Colombe shows off new sign to SGU Ranch.

Send your news for the next newsletter to Mary M. de Baca

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NRE on the Web
<http://ifafsnrp.ag.iastate.edu/>

Submit project workbook and photos for the web to Jason at Jason_Decker@hotmail.com

Partner Activities

Sinte Gleska University

Lisa Colombe announced the 26th annual Ranchers Workshop, "Adapting for Changing Times" to be held Thursday, January 20, 2005 from 9:30 to 3:00 at the Community Events Center in White River, South Dakota. Workshops include record keeping, low stress livestock handling, invasive weeds and pests of the area. Sinte Gleska University Ranch will host the luncheon. Subodh Singh submitted a research proposal "Production Techniques and Analysis of Native and Non-native Sage Grown on the Rosebud Indian Reservation for Medicinal and Ceremonial Uses" to USDA Tribal College Research Grants with ISU and SDSU as partners.



Richard Gladon, ISU and Subodh Singh, SGU, with Sage Plant at SGU Ranch

Fort Berthold Community College



FBCC attendees to AISES Conference: Steve Walker, Ismelda Lucio, Unknown in back, Allen Demaray, Amber Finley and daughter, Jess Hall, Unknown, Twila Baker, Unknown, Vicki Alberts, Chris McLaughlin, Ruth Short Bull, Louella Demaray, Shyla Demaray, Insette Bell, Insie Holdrs

Nebraska Indian Community College



Jim Hallum, Quintin Saunsoci and Don Henzlick, NICC, in Alaska for AISES Conference

Hank Miller has invited Jim Pease, ISU wildlife specialist and NRE wildlife panel chair, to meet with his classes at both the Macy and Santee campuses. David Stamp, who popped into the annual meeting, will be teaching two classes spring semester, soil and water management and geographical landscaping and helping develop outdoor labs and projects. Hank, Jim Hallum, Quintin Saunsoci, and Don Henzlick attended the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Conference in Alaska in November. They are planning for spring tree plantings and garden preparations. Jim, Quinten and the student senate plan to have a college newsletter ready to go out at the end of next week with the hope this will help communication between the Santee and Macy campuses and help promote Natural Resources.

Sitting Bull College

Sitting Bull College attendees at the AISES Annual Conference in Anchorage were: Ronald Brownotter, Bison Management Director; Lois Olson, student and part-time NRE Employee, Justin Parisien, Joseph Parisien, Lynette Logg, Dylan Jones, Jade Ducheneaux, Randal Eaglesfield, and Carol Brownotter. Iowa State University graduate students Jeanne Ballinger and Jenice Jim also attended.

Monthly Conference Calls

The January 7 Conference Call from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. will be facilitated by Dave Lambert along with Nancy Hodur, NDSU, focusing on community development. The February 4 Conference Call on curriculum development will be facilitated by Kerry Hartman and Harold Crawford. In order to arrange for the appropriate number of lines, please let Mary (mmdb@iastate.edu) know if you will be on the call and she will send call-in directions prior to the scheduled day.

NRE Partnership Research Report



Evaluation of Selenium in Bison and Their Environment

Stacy Sabin¹, Kevin Sedivec¹, Ruth Short Bull², Lisa Colombe³, Linda Hugelen⁴, Chris Schauer¹, and Joel Caton¹

¹North Dakota State University, ²Fort Berthold Community College, ³Sinte Gleska University, and ⁴Sitting Bull College

Selenium (Se) has been known to be nutritionally essential for mammals for more than 40 years. Recent studies have reported a substantial decrease in the risk of certain cancers by persons who consumed Se in excess of the dietary recommended intake (55 µg Se/d) on a daily basis for 10 years, thus, prompting an interest among many people to increase their intake of natural Se.

This study began in 2003 to determine the levels of Se in the soils and vegetation, and subsequent levels of blood and hair in bison grazing lands associated with the Fort Berthold, Standing Rock, and Rosebud Indian Reservations in North and South Dakota. Soils and vegetation were sampled at five locations including northeast of Mandaree, ND (NWND1); southwest of Mandaree, ND (NWND2); northwest of Fort Yates, ND (SCND); southeast of McLaughlin, SD (NCSD); and south of Mission, SD (SCSD) in July and vegetation again in October/November. Blood and hair were collected when animals were gathered in October and November at all sites except Mission, SD.

Selenium concentrations in the soil and vegetation were highest in NWND1 and SCSD. Two of the five sites appear to have Se levels that are considered not favorable to obtain high levels of natural Se meat products and include NCSD and NWND2. The SCND site was marginal and may contain a final product that would be considered high selenium.

The second phase of this study is two-fold. We will study the marketability of high selenium bison as a niche market starting in 2005. We will also collect muscle tissue of bison that have grazed lands at NWND1, SCND, and SCSD during the winter months of 2005 and nearing the end of the grazing season in late summer, 2005. For more information, see Kevin's power point presentation on the NRE website: <http://ifafsnrep.ag.iastate.edu/>.