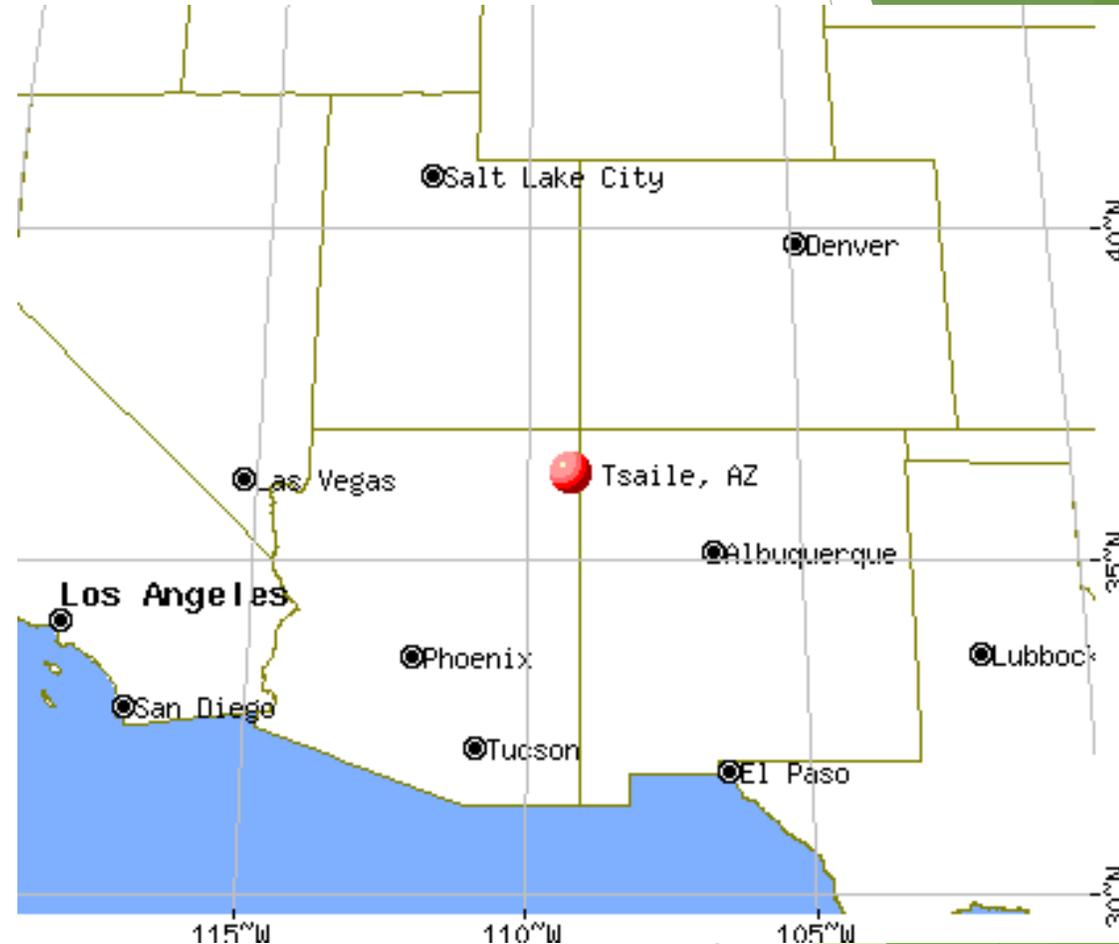


Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Jared Begay

Location

- ▶ We are located on the Navajo Nation, Northeast of Arizona in the four corners area.
- ▶ In the small rural community called Tsaile and Wheatfields.
- ▶ We worked in three areas; Tsaile Farms, Upper Wheatfields, and Lower Wheatfields Farms



The Goals of this Grant



- ▶ The purpose of this grant is to aid farmers and ranchers within the Navajo Nation.
- ▶ We want to increase the production of produce, herd health, and overall knowledge for producers to become self productive.

Our partners

- ▶ We had the privilege to work along with a non-profit organization called the Tsaile Wheatfields Dineh Water Users Association.
- ▶ Farmers within the Tsaile and Wheatfields community



\$5 million dollar grant

- ▶ In 2017, The Tsaile Wheatfields Dineh Water Users Association was very fortunate to receive a grant from the Navajo Nation for \$5 million dollars.
- ▶ With this money it will last for a remainder of 4 more years to help the cause of revitalization of farming in Tsaile and Wheatfields.
- ▶ The purchase of brand new machines, vehicles, fencing materials, seeds, irrigation pipes, and farming equipment.



The Challenges



- ▶ The setbacks we face is the lack of participation in farmers.
- ▶ The poor soil in most farm plots due from top soil erosion and 30 years of being neglected
- ▶ Old, broken perimeter fences.

Last years results

- ▶ Perimeter Fence Progress:

Lower Wheatfields; 96 percent (5.8 miles) of the perimeter fence has been completed in Lower Wheatfields.

Upper Wheatfields; 0 percent of the perimeter fence was completed

- ▶ Hay Production

Tsaile Farms; 257 bales

Upper Wheatfields; 329 bales

Lower Wheatfields; 574 bales

- ▶ Acres cultivated:

521 acres

- ▶ Farmers Participating:

Total of 32 producers



Strategies of improvements

- ▶ The implement of reaching out to new farmers.
- ▶ Have producers make a profit from their crops.
- ▶ Proper water management practices
- ▶ Cultivate fields for farmers.
- ▶ Provide seeds, irrigation pipes, and any other equipment needed.
- ▶ Build perimeter fences.
- ▶ Have infrastructure provided such as high tunnels, hoop houses, and green houses.



Perimeter Fencing

- ▶ The main purpose of the perimeter is to keep out livestock and wildlife.
- ▶ 6ft tall
- ▶ Surrounds all three farms in Tsaile, Lower and Upper Wheatfields
- ▶ Weld H-Braces
- ▶ Worked in upper Wheatfields this past summer.



Irrigation

- ▶ Helping the irrigation process with farmers
- ▶ Setting irrigation pipes
- ▶ Helping new farmers understand the basics of irrigation
- ▶ Transporting pipes



Workshops

- ▶ We hosted many workshops with our farmers year round.
- ▶ Informing them about soil management, Business planning, planting, record keeping, farm tours, traditional cooking presentations, food safety practices, invasive species management, etc



Chuska Farmers

- ▶ A Co-op of a group of farmers within the Tsaile and Wheatfields Community.
- ▶ They used the Land Grant's high tunnel greenhouse to grow their produce.
- ▶ Weekly Salad sales.
- ▶ Over the summer they raised \$1,200 selling their produce.



Farmer Markets

- ▶ We hosted 19 Farmer Markets across the reservation in order for our farmers to make a profit from all their produce.
- ▶ We provide services for our farmers in order for us to sell and they receive all profits.



Year End Results

- ▶ Perimeter Fence Progress:

Lower Wheatfields; 98 percent (6miles) of the perimeter fence has been completed in Lower Wheatfields.

Upper Wheatfields; 61 percent (3.6 miles) of the perimeter fence is finished in Upper Wheatfields

- ▶ Hay production:

Tsaile Farms; 497 bales

Upper Wheatfields; 1,130 bales

Lower Wheatfields; 2,122 bales

- ▶ Acres cultivated:

494 acres

- ▶ Farmers Participating:

Total of 47 producers



Acknowledgements

- ▶ The Land Grand Office
- ▶ Diné College
- ▶ Tsaile Wheatfields Dineh Water Users Association
- ▶ FALCON
- ▶ The tribe of the Navajo Nation