Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

BY: JARED BEGAY
Tsaile / Wheatfields Farming Communities

- Tsaile and Wheatfields community is located northeastern part of AZ on Navajo Nation
- 60 miles north of Window Rock, AZ
- 45 miles northeast of Chinle, AZ
- Mountain area with an elevation of 7,000 ft.
- Three Farming Locations
  - Tsaile - 570 acres of farmland, 42 farmers
  - Lower Wheatfields - 485 acres, 33 farmers
  - Upper Wheatfields - 620 acres, 52 farmers
TW DWU is a nonprofit organization developed October 8, 2002

Purpose of the organization: *To have a sustainable supply of high quality water to support a prosperous agricultural community that nurtures healthy and happy families.*

Partnered with Diné College Land Grant staff in Tsaile, AZ in 2009 to provide educational outreach for farmers; and other technical assistance

Acquired a $5 million grant through the Navajo Nation Permanent Trust Fund in 2017 approved by the Navajo Nation Council known as *Wheatfields Agriculture Project to be implement over 5 years.*
Wheatfields Agriculture Project

Purpose of the Project:
◦ To revitalize farmlands, to stimulate a healthy food source within the community, and to increase local economy.

Goal of the Project:
◦ Cultivate 100% of farmland by 2020 growing season includes 20% production of fresh food crops, 10% production of native foods, and 70% production of forage crops
◦ 80% of infrastructure for water system development will improve irrigation system and increase revitalization of earthen dams for farmers and ranchers by 2020
Wheatfields Agriculture Project

Method of the project:

◦ In first year, work with 30 farmers, and the following keep adding 30 farmers until all 127 farmers are reached within 5 years.

◦ In first year, construct 6 feet perimeter fences for one location of farm and keep adding one location until all three farm location are completed.

◦ Annually, conduct workshops for producers, farmers and ranchers.

◦ Hire staff to implement revitalization of farmlands: Farm Manager, Accountant, Office Specialist, Equipment Operator, Grant Writer, and Irrigation Technicians

◦ Purchase necessary materials to implement project:
  ◦ New farming equipment, fencing materials, irrigation pipes, seeds, and storage facilities
Dine College Land Grant Staff and Intern Partnership

Involvement with Wheatfields Agriculture Project:
  ◦ Constructing Perimeter Fence
  ◦ Conducting Workshops
  ◦ Planting
  ◦ Irrigating
  ◦ Farmer’s Market
My Experiences

Leadership skills
Time management skills
People skills
Hard work ethic
A difference
Acknowledgement

- Diné College
- Land Grant Office of Diné College
- USDA/APHIS
- Tsaile/ Wheatfields Dineh Water User
- FALCON
- The Fencing Crew
- My Blue F150
Thank You FALCON 2018

Questions?