



## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### **For More Information:**

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Farm Service Agency

### **Tribal Outreach Forum Scheduled for September**

*Bozeman*—The USDA State Food and Agriculture Council in cooperation with the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), 1994 Land Grant Tribal Colleges and Universities, Tribal Governments and Tribal organizations from across the state will be hosting a Tribal Outreach Forum and training session at the Gran Tree Inn, in Bozeman, MT, Sept. 24-27, 2007.

The purpose of the forum is to provide cross-training between Montana Tribes, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and USDA personnel. The three-day event will provide a setting for participants to strengthen partnerships and relationships in order to improve access to USDA program and services.

The conference registration fee is \$35 which will be waived for individual Tribal producers who attend. A limited amount of funds for scholarships has been provided by Tribal Governments, Tribal Organizations and USDA Agencies to support the attendance and participation of producers and operators. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, contact Vicki LeBeaux at 605/964-4342 or by e-mail at [vlebeaux@indianaglink.com](mailto:vlebeaux@indianaglink.com).

The first day of the training will feature Tribes providing training to USDA personnel on cultural, history, land ownership, jurisdiction, demographics and current issues. Day two will emphasize USDA program services to a variety of agencies. USDA representatives will be available from the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development, NASS – MT Field Office, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, MSU Extension Service, and Risk Management. The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), Bureau of Indian Affairs and Montana Department of Livestock will also be present. Day three will provide the opportunity for participants to learn more about the legislative process and the 2007 Farm Bill.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Gran Tree Inn. Room reservations must be made by August 31, 2007 to be included in the block. Rooms may be reserved by calling 1-800-624-5865 and referencing Group number 803876 or Tribal Outreach, Farm Service Agency.

Pre-registration is encouraged and must be received by August 31 to determine meal counts. Please contact Heidi Brewer at 406/587-6905 for a registration application or for further information or by logging on to the Montana FSA webpage at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt) or IAC webpage at <http://www.indianaglink.com>.

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