



Newsletter for Western Agricultural Educators

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Serving Farmers and Ranchers Through Targeted Risk Management Education

June 2013

Keepseagle Tax Education

A Partnership with Purpose

Two national tax webinars and a series of tax clinic workshops enabled Keepseagle successful claimants and settlement recipients to receive general tax filing information and record keeping requirements to aid in their tax preparation before April 15, 2013. Tax clinic workshops that took place from January through April were successful due to the efforts of a diverse group of individuals and organizations who were willing to mobilize quickly in order to provide timely tax and financial guidance.

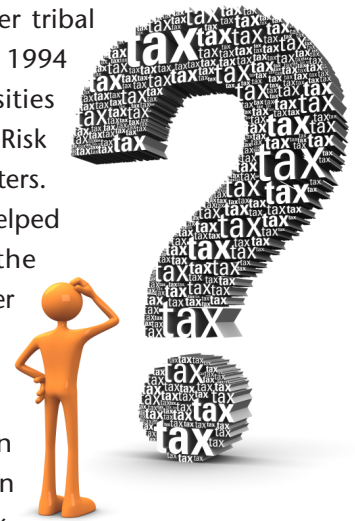
Thirty-nine tax workshops were held in 13 states across the country in an attempt to reach the approximately 4200 Keepseagle claimants. Several sessions were conducted as part of a larger agricultural conference or workshop series and some were arranged in remote locations to ease the burden of travel and make it easier for claimants to attend. Settlement recipients were especially encouraged to attend the tax clinic workshops which were open to all tribal farmers and ranchers.

Tax education materials and resources included an IRS 1099 Fact Sheet and business and financial tools developed by the Rural Tax Education team (Ruraltax.org), and the University of Arizona Tribal Extension Program, with guidance from the Keepseagle Class Counsel and the University Of Arkansas School Of Law. Because of the complexities associated with agricultural tax issues on tribal lands, tax workshop content was designed to help participants understand that 'one size does not fit all' and to enlist the advice of their own tax advisors. In several instances, claimants and their tax advisors were able to print off or access the tax education materials that are available on all of the partner websites.

The Intertribal Agricultural Council's Technical Assistance Team and the Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program were instrumental in determining the best locations for

reaching claimants and other tribal producers, with help from the 1994 Tribal Colleges and Universities and the regional Extension Risk Management Education Centers. This team of professionals helped to organize and convene the workshops and worked together across state lines and in remote locations to reach claimants.

The Rural Tax Education Team comprised of Extension Specialists, CPAs and tax preparers—many of whom work with the IRS to determine content for the Farmer's Tax Guide—were the contributing authors for the Keepseagle Fact Sheet for Form 1099. Several team members presented in person at the tax clinic workshops and others were available to answer questions via phone during and after the workshops.



Linda McLean—FRTEP Educator in Washington State—said that the "...tax clinics did their job! One claimant who had been on hold with the National Helpline for two days found the Keepseagle tax clinic workshop schedule via a Google search and was able to have her questions answered along with access to tax resource materials that could be shared with her tax preparer."



The tax webinars were made possible through the generous support of Montana State University's online meeting room; as well as, support from Northwest Farm Credit Services.

The stellar effort of our partner organizations and the many individuals who contributed tirelessly to this endeavor cannot be underestimated during a time when tax education for Native American tribal producers has never been more critical to Indian agriculture. The ability to successfully qualify for and participate in USDA programs depends upon tribal farmers and ranchers understanding tax laws affecting program payments and IRS requirements associated with these programs; as well as access to solid business tools to strengthen their financial position and help to improve the quality of life in Indian Country. The Western Center will continue to solicit proposals and seek partnership projects to deliver education and training that can improve Native American farmers' and ranchers' ability to be profitable.

"A tribal member and claimant from Idaho had this to say: "It was good. I wouldn't have known what to do without this [tax] clinic."

Links to the **tax clinic presentations and tools** may be viewed at any of the following websites:

Intertribal Agriculture Council: www.indianaglink.com

Rural Tax Education: www.ruraltax.org

Extension Risk Management Education Centers:

Western Region: www.westrme.wsu.edu

Southern Region: <http://srmec.uark.edu>

North Central Region: www.ncrme.org



**INTERTRIBAL
AGRICULTURE COUNCIL**
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



**RURAL TAX
EDUCATION**



1994 Tribal Colleges and Universities

Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP)

The Washington State University Western Center for Risk Management Education is one of five USDA NIFA Extension Risk Management Education Centers serving agricultural producers through targeted risk management education.



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