

MEAT PROCESSING INDEX

*As of April 2025



American Meat Processors Association

➤ **The American Association of Meat Processors (AAMP) is North America's largest meat trade organization. It is the mission of AAMP to provide quality service, knowledge through education, regulatory representation, and networking opportunities for their members.**

AAMP provides access to training and educational resources that can help tribal producers improve their meat processing techniques, ensure compliance with regulations, and adopt best practices. AAMP also offers support in navigating complex regulatory requirements, which can be particularly valuable for tribal producers looking to expand or enhance their operations. By joining AAMP, tribal producers can connect with other members of the meat processing industry, fostering partnerships and collaborations that can lead to new opportunities. AAMP also hosts conventions and events where producers can showcase their products, learn about industry trends, and gain exposure to new technologies and equipment. AAMP represents its members' interests at the national level, advocating for policies that support small and independent meat processors, including those in tribal communities.

Flower Hill Institute

➤ **Flower Hill Institute is a Native-owned, community-directed nonprofit. Their objectives include preserving and enhancing cultural resources, preparing youth to inherit leadership, improving economic self-sufficiency, agriculture, food sovereignty and security, and improving outcomes to climate change.**

Tribal producers can collaborate with the institute to integrate traditional agricultural practices and cultural values into farming methods, ensuring the preservation of tribal heritage, and partner with the institute to involve younger generations in agriculture through educational initiatives, fostering leadership and innovation in tribal food systems.

Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative

➤ **The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI) focuses on putting tribal sovereignty in food sovereignty, promoting tribally driven solutions to revitalize and advance traditional food systems and diversified economic development throughout Indian Country. IFAI provides Tribal governments, producers, and food businesses with educational resources, policy research, and strategic legal analysis as a foundation for building robust food economies.**

By accessing IFAI's educational resources, tribal producers can learn how to incorporate traditional agricultural practices, crops, and food systems into their operations, reconnecting with cultural heritage while enhancing sustainability. Producers can utilize IFAI's policy research and strategic legal analysis to navigate complex regulatory systems, secure land and water rights, or advocate for policies that benefit their food and agriculture endeavors. Native producers can also explore new markets, develop business strategies, and strengthen their economic resilience, whether through small-scale farming, food processing, or distribution. IFAI offers a platform for networking with other Tribal governments, food businesses, and organizations. This helps producers collaborate and innovate within Indian Country. With IFAI's resources, native producers can identify and apply for grants or other financial programs tailored to support Tribal agriculture.

IFAI's Model Food and Ag Code



The Model Tribal Food and Agriculture Code Project is coordinated by the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas. The Model Tribal Food and Agriculture Code Project serves as a resource for Tribal governments, providing a comprehensive set of model laws for review, adoption, and implementation. The model laws contained in the code were designed by IFAI and contributing attorneys to facilitate agricultural production, food systems development, and health outcomes improvement in Indian Country.

Tribal producers can work with Tribal governments to review and adopt model laws tailored to their agricultural needs. This could include laws on land use, water rights, food safety, and production practices. Producers can also collaborate with their governments to use these model laws in building robust food systems, such as fostering local markets, food processing facilities, and distribution networks within the Tribe. The model laws promote initiatives that improve access to healthy, traditional, and culturally significant foods. Producers can also play a role in these initiatives by aligning their work with the health goals outlined in the code. They can also use the code to advocate for policy changes, resources, or funding that support Tribal food and agriculture initiatives.

Intertribal Agriculture Council



The Intertribal Agriculture Council's (IAC) mission is to pursue and promote the conservation, development, and sustainable use of agricultural resources for the betterment of our people. With a goal of promoting positive change in Indian agriculture, IAC engages in a wide range of programs that aim to enhance the livelihoods and well-being of Indigenous people.

Tribal producers can collaborate with IAC to access programs and leverage IAC programs to enhance market access, explore value-added product development, and build economic self-sufficiency. and tools that promote sustainable farming practices and agricultural resource development. Through these initiatives, tribal producers can not only strengthen their agricultural practices but also contribute to the well-being and prosperity of their communities.

Intertribal Buffalo Council



ITBC is dedicated to the support of sustainable Tribal buffalo programs and provides the membership with technical assistance in the development of such programs on both a localized and a national scale. This includes training and technical assistance on the development of feasibility analyses, business plans and marketing plans. ITBC assists Tribes in the development of a consistent supply chain, uniform labeling, packaging and product distribution.

Tribal producers can collaborate with ITBC to design and implement buffalo programs that align with cultural values and sustainability goals, both locally and nationally. They can also utilize ITBC's technical assistance for creating feasibility studies, business plans, and marketing strategies tailored to buffalo production and distribution. They can participate in ITBC's training programs to build skills and knowledge in buffalo program development and management. This support empowers tribal producers to enhance food sovereignty, build economic opportunities, and preserve cultural connections through buffalo production.

Meat Locker



Online resource for comprehensive information on meat safety, plant operations, and frequently asked questions. This platform is designed to serve the entire meat industry and anyone associated with the industry of any size and scale.

Tribal producers are able to use the platform to find answers to frequently asked questions and troubleshoot specific challenges related to meat processing and operations, leverage the resource to train workers or community members in safe and efficient meat processing techniques, can ensure compliance with industry standards, and connect with other producers, industry experts, and organizations through the platform to share knowledge and collaborate on projects.

MPPTA



USDA's Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity- Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA) ensures that participants in USDA's Meat and Poultry Supply Chain initiatives have access full-range technical assistance (TA) to support their project development and success.

Tribal producers can access guidance on navigating federal grant processes, from application to post-award management, ensuring successful participation in USDA initiatives, receive expert advice on meat and poultry processing operations, including workforce development and plant utilization, and participate in webinars, workshops, and access publications to stay informed about best practices and industry standards.

Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network



NMPAN is a university Extension-based community of practice of people and organizations helping small meat processors thrive by growing their shared wealth of information and innovation. They offer tools and technical assistance for small processors and the farmers, marketers, and meat buyers who depend on them. NMPAN is housed at Oregon State University.

NMPAN provides guidance on meat processing operations, including facility planning, equipment selection, and regulatory compliance. This can help tribal producers improve efficiency and meet industry standards. Producers can benefit from webinars, workshops, and training programs offered by NMPAN to enhance their skills and knowledge in meat processing and marketing. NMPAN connects producers with other small processors, marketers, and buyers, fostering collaboration and sharing of best practices within the industry. NMPAN emphasizes sustainable and humane meat processing, which aligns with many tribal values and can help producers differentiate their products in niche markets.