

Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program
2008 HIGHLIGHTS

FRTEP UNIT: Arizona-Window Rock-Navajo Nation

PROGRAM AREA : Agriculture/Natural Resources

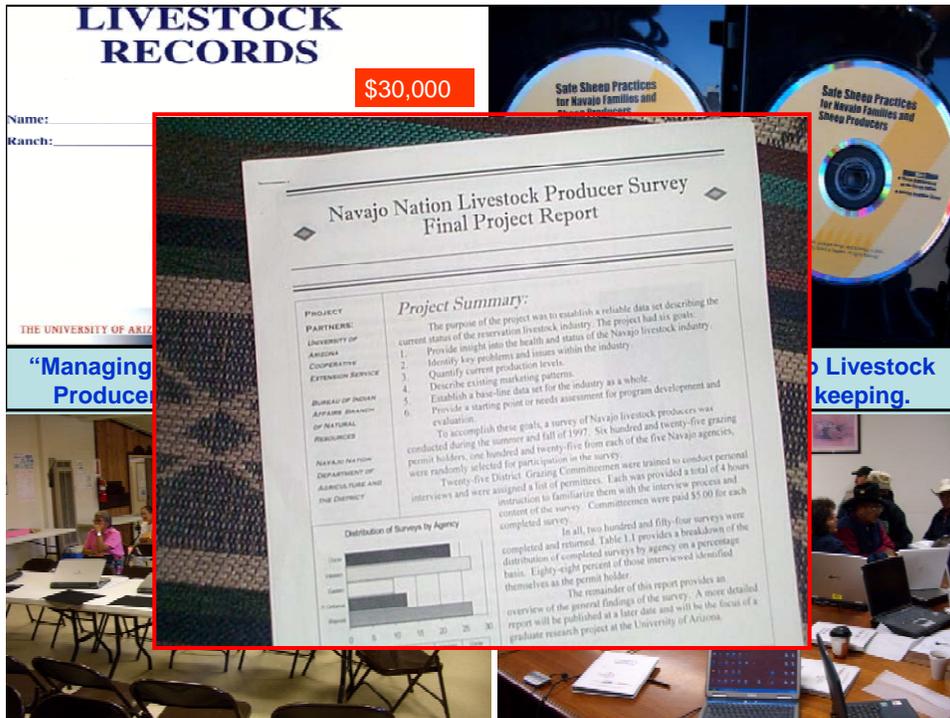
PROGRAM TITLE: Record Keeping Training and Program Assessment for Native American Livestock Producers

ISSUE(S) ADDRESSED: This program addresses the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service's (CSREES) **Strategic Goal 4:** Enhance Protection and Safety of the Nation's Agriculture and Food Supply. The Navajo Nation encompasses around 14.7 million acres while the Hopi and San Carlos Apache account of 1.56 and 1.8 million acres respectively in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Reservation agriculture is based primarily on livestock production with limited small scale irrigated and dryland farming. Small herds of sheep, goats, cattle and horses form an important part of life for many Navajos. In some instances, it is their subsistence (income, bartering, ceremonies, status, culture and beliefs). A typical participant would include Mr. & Miss Burbank how live in Round Rock and have a small flock of sheep a few heard of cattle and two horses, although they have been managing their place for over 30 years it has been a constant struggle balancing the operation and family needs. With no formal education or training they are looking of assistance in getting a handle on the management of their operation so they can some day pass it on to the next generation. There are approximately 340,00 head of livestock on the Navajo Nation. Much of the land is open range and herds move freely, but approximately 15% of the land made up of Tribal Ranches and Livestock Range Units. The Navajo Nation is divided into 5 Bureau of Indian Affairs Agencies (geographical regions within the reservation defined by the federal government for resource management). Native American producers are interested in improving their operations and perhaps marketing their product with a branded trademark in the future. Records would greatly enhance their ability to do so, and would make it easier for these producers to implement an Animal Identification System which Navajo Nation has taken that effort. Communication with local producers reveals that it will be easiest for them to continue to implement and improve record keeping with

routine training workshops and one-on-one assistance from local outreach professionals.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: This project is a continuation and expansion of the 2005-2006 Livestock Record Keeping Training Project. Where many of the Navajo, Hualapai, Hopi and San Carlos Apache livestock producers have adopted new record systems for their operations as a result of the past training. However, due to the overall lack of record keeping knowledge, adoption of sufficient records systems requires continued training and support. During the year, 07-08, the project will expand to offer training to more Navajo, Hopi and Apache producers, who continue to express interest in the training. Tribal outreach professionals will organize sessions for producers to learn to use variety of record keeping tools, including record books and computer software. Local "computer training stations" will be set up so that outreach professionals can provide follow-up support to participants after training workshops. Producers from all tribes will implement/improve records systems to track and evaluate animal health, production, and finances and their adoption will be assessed through personal interviews and a follow-up survey to document successes on the Navajo Nation.

PROGRAM IMPACT: Although over 2000 plus Livestock Record Keeping workbooks have been distributed across the Southwest, the effectiveness of the workbooks and trainings in assisting producers needed to be examined. So, as part of the most recent funding from the western Center, a program assessment was developed to determine the effectiveness of the trainings and workbooks and is in the final stages of being completed. Preliminary results from an on-going assessment of this project show that of the 116 responses received to-date, 27% have improved their knowledge of where their expenses are going, 14% have improved their knowledge of where their income is coming from, 11% have increased the price they receive for their animals, 12% have completed a management plan, and 4% of the respondents have received a new operating loan. These indicators suggest that the trainings and tools provided through this project are providing positive and lasting results.



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