

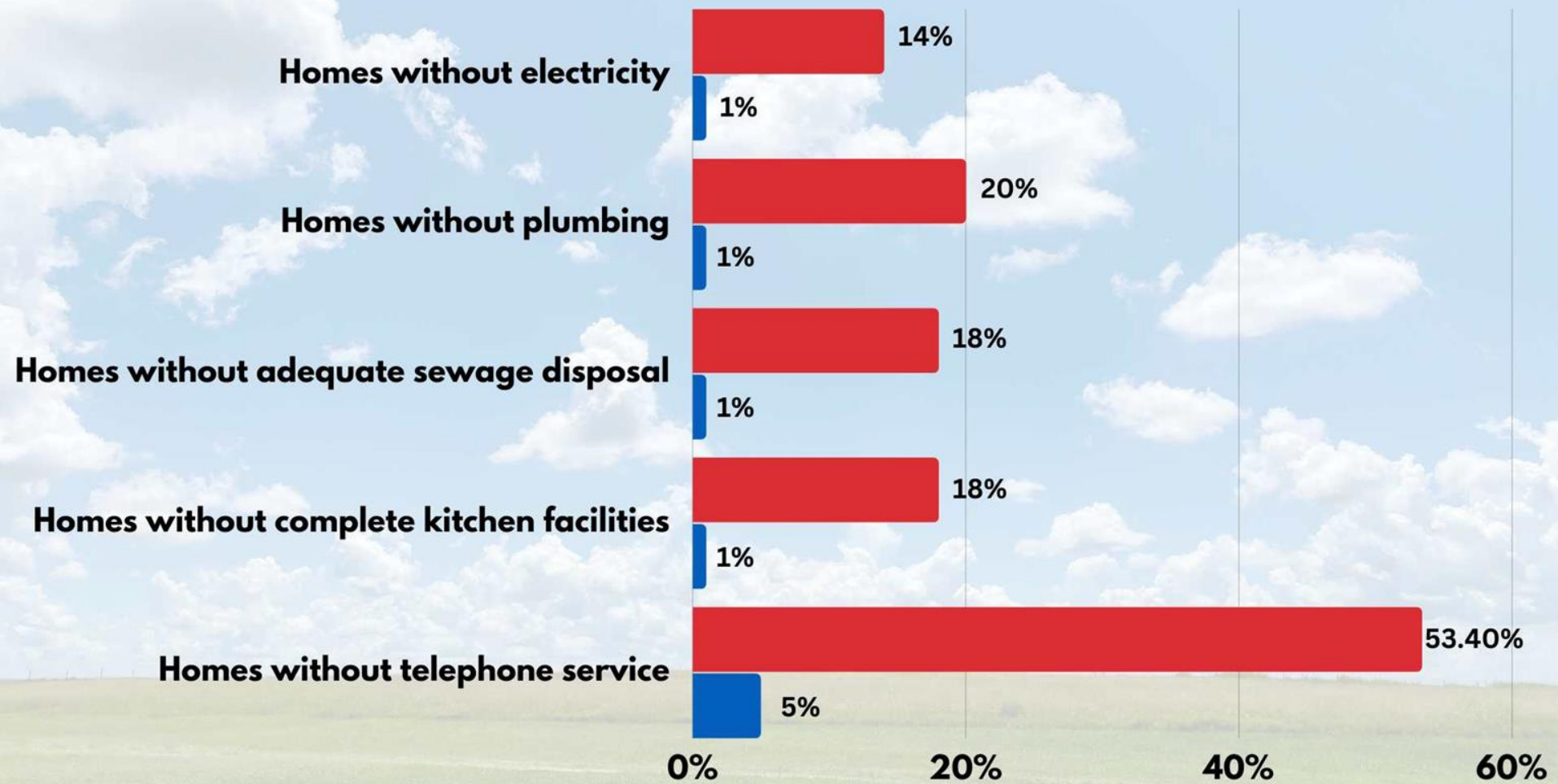
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION'S
TRIBAL LOCAL FOODS AGRABILITY PROJECT

What AgrAbility Looks Like in Communities in Persistent Poverty

ENTERING
PINE RIDGE
INDIAN
RESERVATION



■ On Reservations ■ National Average



PROGRAM DESIGN

First: Focus on Survival

Next: Help them become subsistence farmers

Then: Help them expand into self-sufficiency

FROM THERE, HELP THEM SCALE UP TO SURPLUS

LASTLY, SCALE TO SMALL-SCALE FOR-PROFIT FARMING.



Adapt Your Program:

1

DIVERSIFY YOUR FUNDING!

If your current funding source won't let you help clients directly develop infrastructure, seek other funding and partnerships that can. Don't rely upon one grant to control how you do outreach!

2

SOURCE LOCALLY!

Only local and easily sourced solutions will be truly sustainable. If they have to rely upon resources from afar, the solution will break down in time.

3

FREE OR AS LOW-COST AS POSSIBLE!

In communities of persistent poverty, solutions must be free or as low cost as possible.

4

DON'T RELY UPON HI-TECH OR EXPENSIVE SOLUTIONS!

Vast majority of clients will not be able to afford costly interventions and lack consistent access to technology and Wi-Fi.

Example of How We Diversify Our Approach

ALIGN WITH VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

We partnered with two Non-Profit organizations that work a lot with volunteers and each of these two partners, own and control land, agreed to start up a tribal small farmer incubator/aggregating hub to provide land, equipment access

DAY LABOR PROGRAMS

Day Labor is likely one of the existing resources in and around areas of high-poverty. Don't second guess this resource. Learn and adapt to work with such efforts.

Turn day labor in farm workforce development AND new farmer recruitment!

SOLVE EQUIPMENT CHALLENGES WITH CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

Ex. Co-Bank and Farm Credit Services grants allowed us to purchase equipment, hire part-time and seasonal workers.

DIVERSIFY YOUR FUNDING STRATEGY

Don't write one grant. Strategize how you can leverage different grants to cover different pieces of the project, always careful not to stretch yourself and your team too thin.

Ex. AgrAbility - Disability
FRTEP - Farm to School

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

26%-86%*

* ACCORDING TO THE
OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE

**Unemployment turned into day
labor, which turned into
Workforce Development, which
has led to entrepreneurship
and the start of several small
farms**



Example of Working with Volunteers to Help a Client



**WHEN YOU LIVE ON A
SERIOUS SLOPE**



**AND YOU NEED TO
MAKE IT SAFE**



**SOMETIMES YOU HAVE
TO REACH OUT FOR A
HELPING HAND**

Example of Working with Volunteers to Help a Client



**ALL DONE BY SHOVEL,
REAR-TINE TILLER AND
A HAND-AUGER**



**BUT MANY HANDS...
AND BACKS CHIPPED IN**



WICONI WASTE FARMS



LOCAL FOODS

**NOT EVERYONE WANTS TO BE A
FARMER...
YET EVERYONE HAS TO EAT &
PEOPLE WANT TO WORK.**

FARM TO SCHOOL MARKET

**MORE THAN OTHER PROGRAMS,
YOU'LL NEED TO HELP CLIENTS
DEVELOP A MARKET**

FARM WORKERS

**AGRICULTURE REPRESENTS THE
SINGLE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ON
PINE RIDGE RESERVATION**



DON'T PUT ALL YOUR SOLUTIONS IN ONE BASKET.

EXAMPLE:

NEED = SEASON EXTENSION

SOLUTION=
RELY UPON LARGE, COMMERCIAL GRADE HIGH-TUNNELS

LOOK FOR A LOCAL SOURCE TO PROVIDE THE SAME STRATEGY

IN A CHEAPER, MORE LOCALLY SOURCED WAY.

EXAMPLE:

WE SAW REMNANTS OF FIBER OPTIC CONDUIT LEFT ON LARGE SPOOLS, THAT THE COMPANY COULDN'T USE. WE ASKED IF THEY WOULD DONATE THE REMNANTS. THIS LED TO US BUYING UNUSED FULL SPOOLS TO BUILD HOOP HOUSES.



SOLUTIONS ALSO HAVE TO BE CLIMATE RESILIENT

It's a known fact that communities struggling with persistent poverty, trauma, hunger and malnutrition not only have higher rates of disability, but they'll be first and the hardest hit by Climate Change.





SCALABILITY:

Evolution of an idea, that turned into a strategy, that grew into a solution...



Step 1: Beginning Your Farm



- NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Program
- Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)
- National AgrAbility Project (Technical Assistance)
- Voc-Rehab (Tribal, State, VA)
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Loans
- EZ Guarantee Loan
- Land Contract Guarantee Loan
- Youth Loans

Step 2: Expanding Your Farm



444

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Value-added Producer Grant Program (VAPG)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- National Organic Certification Cost Share Grant Program (NOCCSP)
- Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)
- Farm Storage Facility Loan
- Business and Industry Loan Guaranty Program

Step 3: Protecting Your Farm- Insurance

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-D)
 - Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
 - Crop Insurance Program
 - Non-recourse Marketing Assistance Loans



Step 4: Security for Your Family and Community

- Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants
- Farm Labor Housing Direct Loans and Grants
- Single Family Housing Direct Home Loans and Guaranteed Loans Program
- Multi-Family Housing Direct Loans
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- What's Cooking? USDA Mixing Bowl
- ChooseMyPlate.gov and SuperTracker



DON'T TRY AND FORCE THE CULTURE TO ADAPT TO YOUR PROGRAM, ADAPT YOUR PROGRAM TO CULTURAL VALUES



Examples of How We Adapted to Work Within the Culture

1

IN LAKOTA CULTURE, IF YOU BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER, YOU FEED THEM

2

THE UNIVERSITY SAID WE CAN'T FEED PEOPLE MORE THAN SAMPLES

3

SO WE PLANTED AN EDUCATIONAL GARDEN WITH FUNDING FROM A DIFFERENT SOURCE

4

THEN WE THREW A PARTY TO TEACH, TRAIN, RECRUIT



POTATO PARTY!

Friday, August 4th, 5-8pm

at Serenity Community Garden
(behind Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Kyle)



5 pm potato harvest (kids love to dig them!)

6-8 pm build your own potato roast
(with bratwursts, baked beans and watermelon)

Campfire

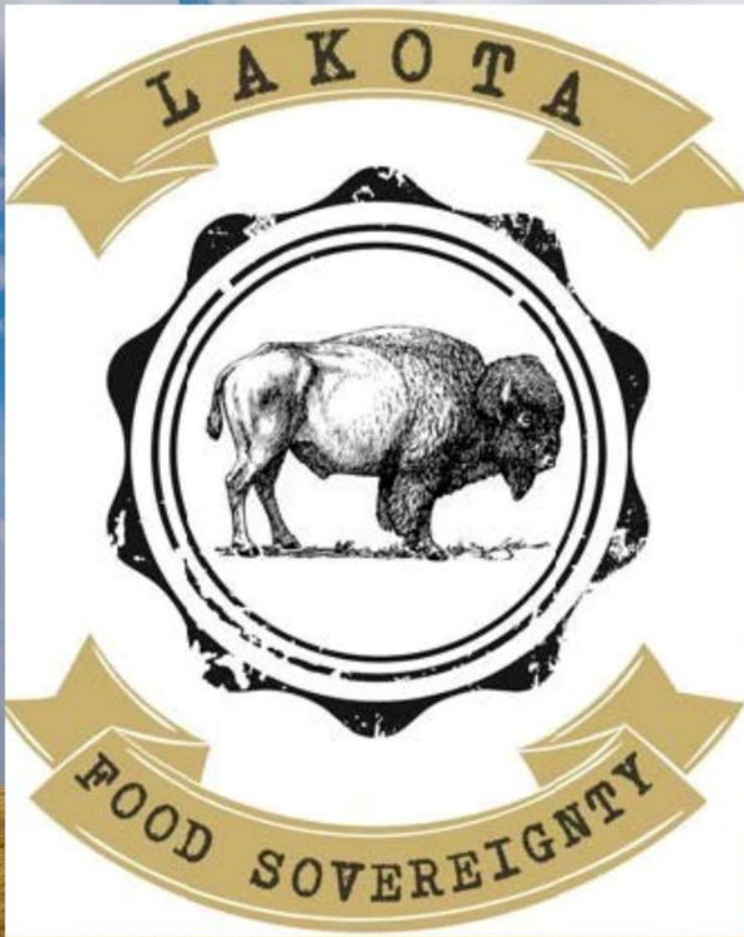
Kid-friendly activities and art projects

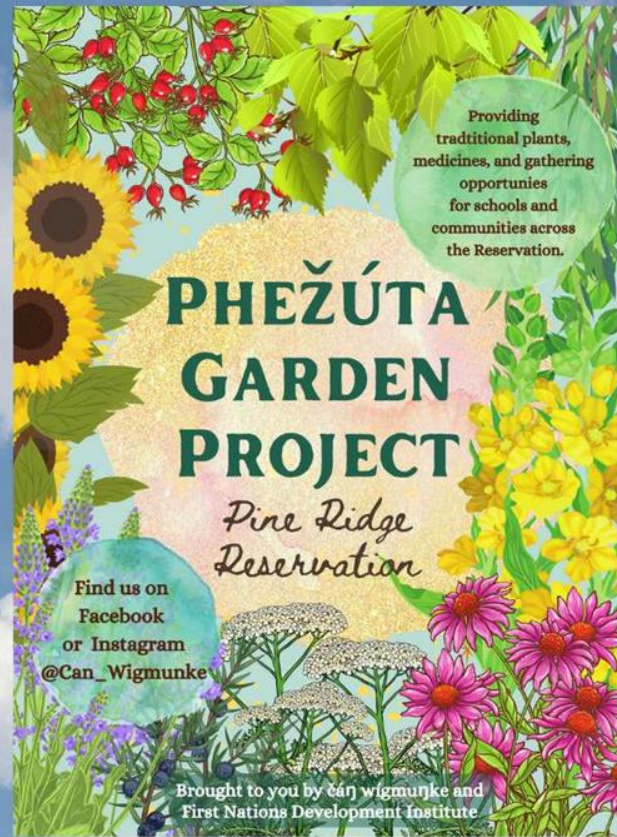
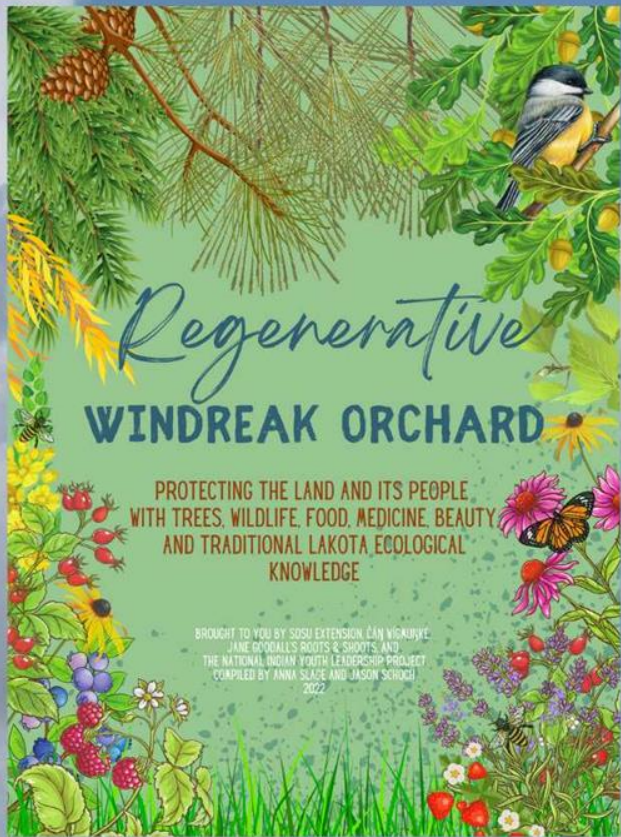
all extra potatoes get taken home by guests

FREE TO THE PUBLIC, ALL ARE WELCOME









Our Approach



PARTNERING WITH WILDLIFE

Embracing wildlife as partners and community members, rather than seeing them as nuisances or pests



PARTNERING WITH PEOPLE

Growing food for our community while fighting persistent poverty and the challenges that small farmers face



PARTNERING WITH THE LAND

Using Local Ecological Knowledge and western science to protect and steward the land that we owe our lives to

How We Partner With Beaver

Using resources and papers such as the Beaver Restoration Guidebook (created by the Beaver Coalition), our team works with individual producers and land managers to implement projects specific to each farm or ranch. Some examples of the tools we use include: Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs), “beaver deceivers” or “beaver bafflers”, wetland restoration techniques, and community education. In return, beavers provide water, flood mitigation, and soil nutrients to our working lands.



The background of the image shows a vast landscape of rolling hills under a soft, hazy sky, likely at sunset or sunrise. The hills are bathed in a warm, golden light. In the foreground, several sunflowers with bright yellow petals and dark brown centers are in focus, growing on green stems. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

LAKOTA PEOPLE HAVE FOR YEARS SOUGHT A CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE AND ACCEPTABLE
FORM OF AGRICULTURE.

AGRO-ECOLOGY AND REGENERATIVE FARMING HAVE A TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

IN THE LAKOTA TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE, PEOPLE AND PLANET COME BEFORE (ECONOMIC)
PROFIT.

THEY DO NOT WANT NOR CAN THEY AFFORD TO USE CHEMICAL INPUTS AND LARGE
MACHINES.

THE LARGE AGRICULTURAL RANGE UNITS AND COMMODITY FARMS THAT NON-NATIVES
OPERATE AREN'T THEIR GOAL.

THEY WANT TO GROW FOOD TO FEED THEIR OWN PEOPLE, BUILDING UP BOTH SOCIAL &
ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE.



Communication

It's important to take time to have a conversation. Don't be in a rush to check the boxes and get on to the next site. When working with indigenous people or with communities struggling with poverty, it's important to be respectful and to actually hear what they're saying. We all know client's input is vital, but when working in communities in poverty, it's extra important for them to know that you are listening and are actually hearing what they say.

Being culturally and ability sensitive is important, but you also need to be sensitive to their financial situation.

Lastly, people are an incredible resource. Just because someone's broke, doesn't mean they don't have anything to offer. Communities in poverty are resilient, ingenious, and have become masters of making things work. Learn from them.





REBEL WEST

Farm & Conservancy

RE-



MEMBER

FEATHER 2 FARMS

SDSU

Extension



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A wide-angle photograph of a rural landscape. The foreground is a field of golden-brown crops, possibly corn, with several large, round hay bales scattered across it. The middle ground shows rolling hills under a clear blue sky with a few wispy white clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a clear day in late summer or early autumn.

How Can You Adapt the NAP Online Tool-Kit?