Umo’ho’ Nation Food Sustainability Medicine Wheel

Uk’iko’- a (Helping One Another) Program
Community Cooperative
Market/Store/Café Program

Umo’ho’ Nation Nourishment Program
Local Food Producers Program

Entry Way
Ashita Thewathe Program
UNPS K-8
Garden Greenhouse Program

U’ba Udo’ Program
UNPS 9-12 Farm-to-School Program

Center for Rural Affairs
Buy Native
Nebraska Cooperative Development Center
NAC
Food Sovereignty Survey Conducted

- Many questions based on Food Sovereignty Assessment Tool by First Nations Development Institute
- Online survey and paper copies were available
- Some people completed surveys at June 30 kickoff event
- Interviewers then went door to door to hand out surveys
- 105 surveys completed
- 96% completing the survey are tribal members
Most aren’t familiar with indigenous cooperatives, but are interested in learning more about them and almost one-half are interested in being part of one.
Most respondents think it is very important that a grocery store be in the community. Most also think it is important to have a café in the community.
Most are interested in learning more about growing or raising their own food. Of those, most are interested in learning: how to garden, gathering traditional foods and crop selection/crop planning.

**Interest in learning more about how to grow or raise own food**

- Yes: 82%
- No: 18%

**Topics interested in learning more about**

- How to garden: 82%
- Gathering traditional foods: 62%
- Crop selection/crop planning: 51%
- Buffalo: 49%
- Raising chickens for eggs: 45%
Cooperatives

What & Why
Welcome to the tip of the “Cooperative Iceberg”!
What do we mean when we say “cooperatives”?
Cooperative Principles

- Open and Voluntary Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members’ Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community
A Type of Business...

1. **Owned by its Users** –
   Those participating in the business own it, not outside shareholders or investors.

2. **Governed by its Users** –
   Each member has a vote in major business decisions and selecting representatives.

3. **Exists for User benefits** –
   Focus on service to users, not profit to shareholders. Any profits are distributed equitably among users.
How does the Cooperative Relate to Tribal Communities

Prior to colonization, we had equitable economies and practices in place based upon:

- Cooperation
- Sharing
- Hospitality
- Responsibility for the Common Welfare of All
Demonstrated by the Practice of the Give Away

Accumulated community wealth redistributed to ensure community wide survival and prosperity

This is why the cooperative business model closely aligns with the principles and values of the Umoⁿhoⁿ Nation.
Many Cooperative Businesses!

Ocean Spray is an agricultural cooperative
https://youtu.be/AbNthoN8iA8

Roots4Change is a cooperative of Latina and Indigenous Doulas and Community Health Workers

Defector is a cooperative sports & culture media outlet
Tribal Examples Highlight Flexibility in Organization

Rez Chicks is Native American Cooperative organized under Oregon Cooperative Law.

Fond Du Lac Food Sovereignty is a tribal and citizen partnership.

Ancestral Rich Treasures of Zuni Cooperative is a formal cooperative within Zuni Tribe and New Mexico Cooperative Law.
Why Do Tribal Communities Form Cooperatives?

• Arise from a desire of tribal members to work together to solve a common need.

• Cooperatives are formed when a group of people want to work together to improve things in your communities.

• Need to diversify and strengthen their local economy.
New Grant – *Expanding Nebraska’s Cooperative Reach*

• Create and develop a series of trainings for tribal members to participate.

• Trainings will be created to help build capacity to support a cooperative; and translating cooperative development materials into Umoⁿhoⁿ Nation language.

• Grant starts January 1, 2022.
Think about how cooperatives might fit into your own life and your community.

- What are the unmet needs of your business, your community or yourself?
- Are there others who may share those same needs?
- Are you willing and committed to explore with others a vision for a mutually-owned business?
Are you Interested in Continuing Journey of Learning about Cooperatives

Potential Next Steps

• Explore / Research other Cooperative Models.
• Begin thinking about that common vision.
• Provide input on the type of academies/training that will work.
• Share concept with others.