

Pawnee Federally Recognized Tribe Extension Program Ripple Effects Mapping Findings

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) engaged in a joint collaboration with an evaluation team and the Western Extension Risk Management Education Center to measure the long-term impacts of the Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP) serving the Pawnee Tribe. In order to collect this information, the evaluation team used a tool called Ripple Effects Mapping (REM). REM is a storytelling technique that is used to collect stories and experiences from community members. The results at the completion of a Ripple Effects Mapping included both a visual map and a set of narratives that were subsequently analyzed.

The data from 31 FRTEP programs was summarized into a final report – *“Mapping FRTEP Impacts in Indian Country”* and published in March 2022 for the purpose of demonstrating the collective value of the programs. This report can be found [Measuring FRTEP's success - Tribal Extension](#)

In June 2021, a virtual Ripple Effects Mapping event was held with Pawnee Tribal members and others in the community who benefited from FRTEP programs or were aware of the impact of this programming. Those participating in the online event may have included farmers/ranchers, community members including agency and/or Tribal leadership, high school students, 4-H members, and others. Tribal and community members joined either online or by phone.

During the session, participants had the opportunity to tell us stories about how they have benefited from having FRTEP in their community. A facilitator led the conversation, asking each Tribal and/or community member to share their story one at a time. Questions participants were asked to consider included:

1. *Tell us a story about how one of these programs has had an impact on your tribal community.*
2. *Are you or your family doing anything differently as a result of these programs?*
3. *What has been a personal benefit to you or your family because of these programs?*
4. *What has been the most helpful part of these programs for you, your family, or your tribal community?*

As individuals spoke, their stories were both recorded and mapped into digital mapping software in order to visually display the impact. No individual's names are included in this data set or the final report mentioned above. Following the REM, those stories were analyzed using the FRTEP priority program areas to determine the ways in which the FRTEP has impacted the Tribe and surrounding community. Additionally, the data was also analyzed to understand ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on programming.

This report includes all of the stories collected from the Pawnee Tribe.

- Page 2 shows examples of ways you can use this information.
- Page 3 summarizes in themes and subthemes the ways in which the FRTEP program and you as the FRTEP educator/agent had impact in your tribal community.
- Pages 4-8 includes these themes and all of the stories collected from your REM event.
- Page 9 is an image of the full REM Map, which is also attached as a PDF for reprinting. Additionally, a laminated poster of your REM MAP is being mailed to you, to share with community members, Tribal leaders and others vested in your programs.

If you would like to have an opportunity to discuss in further detail and/or have questions, we can set up a Zoom meeting with one of the Ripple Effects Mapping team members.

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How you can use your Ripple Effects Mapping data:

Storytelling is a powerful technique that can be used in many different ways. Your stories from REM helped us understand the impacts and value of FRTEP that can be shared with funders, Tribal members, and leadership. More than numbers, stories can reveal needs, achievements, and emotional real-life impacts. Your story examples can be used multiple ways to elevate the importance of the work that you are doing and to demonstrate the collective impact that it is having in your community.

Here are three ways you can use the two edited story examples (below) while also utilizing the report's themes and subthemes to demonstrate the impacts this program is having:

Within the Community

- Stories can be shared or incorporated into community celebrations and/or events.
- Communicated to your Advisory Committee to help build capacity for future programming.

In Reports

- Prepared reports Tribal Council members and other community leaders with story examples, themes and subthemes that show how FRTEP is working to accomplish the priority areas established by the Tribal Advisory Council; and which relay the benefits, impacts and other indicators of success as a result of FRTEP.
- Prepared reports for your 1862 Land Grant University or your 1994 Tribal College or University leadership with story examples embedded and that include the themes and sub themes from each of the program's priority areas. Highlight how the Ripple Effects Mapping session empowered community members to share their stories and the benefits inherent in discovering the successes brought about by the program.

In Grant Applications

- Having a solid evaluation plan is critical to writing a successful grant application. Including outcomes from the Ripple Effects Mapping demonstrates the long-lasting impacts of FRTEP and uses a culturally appropriate approach to do so.

In summary, the stories and data that you have collected through the Ripple mapping process can be used many different ways to communicate your successes and to elevate your program not only at the community level – but also to your stakeholder partners, collaborators and other individuals, organizations and entities, for the purpose of strengthening and building the capacity of FRTEP.

Themes and Subthemes

For the Pawnee Tribe and community, the impacts, effects, and benefits could all be found within the following program priority areas and subthemes listed here. On pages 4-8, you will see the same priority areas, subthemes with individual stories collected directly from the transcript.

1. Indian Community Development Around Economic and Workforce Enhancement

- Economic Development

2. Indian Farmer and Rancher Productivity and Management

- Support for Farmers

3. Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction

- Community Involvement
- Education
- Healthy Food Choices
- Traditional foods
- Youth Involvement

4. Natural Resource Conservation and Bio-energy Development

- Sustainability Efforts
- Tribal Connection to Land

Overall

- Responsive to Community Needs

Themes, Subthemes and Stories

Theme	Sub-Theme	Statement
Indian Community Development Around Economic and Workforce Enhancement	Economic Development	Well, the plot I have out here is probably going to be about a 30 x 40, and this is actually a project under the [Tribal] Nation College. It's the experiment of growing industrial hemp. So it's not necessarily a garden for produce, but a garden for industrial hemp, [which] could turn into a cash crop.
Indian Farmer and Rancher Productivity and Management	Support for Farmers	We do use the County Extension Office for getting brochures, particular crops, and we go through them, for our soil and water test for the project. So we draw on several sources for information and programs... [Extension]... is just that multi source well of information.
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Community Involvement	I was one of three people who first started the [Tribal garden]. It was me, [FRTEP] and a few other volunteers. And it started from scratch with basically the bare ground. And we went out there and we struggled, okay. Basically, [FRTEP educator] was telling us that the power of educating has a ripple effect. Basically our people, our children, students, even elders have joined in with the gardens. They've been volunteering for the past three years with us. And it seems like our following has been growing each year.
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Community Involvement	We have a deep appreciation of our ancestors. We honor them. We're very tribal. We're very cultural. And we believe that ... We say prayers. We believe very much in blessings, in giving, we're a very giving tribe. We share everything, our food. Our elders taught us if anybody's hungry, they can come eat so we never turn anybody away. We feed the community. We feed the homeless. We try to employ the homeless. We try to employ people that are basically down and out. We try to help them out mentally and physically because gardening does provide that mental relief, I guess, just put your hands in the soil and feel it, brings out the ... it's like a medicine, it helps. And people get ... when they're working out there, they forget about the troubles in their lives. And it's just ... it's awesome to see the transformation in people.
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Community Involvement	[The Extension employee] was the one that actually went down and helped us create it. He plowed it and then they put down, I believe, a plastic layer. And then we pretty much partnered with [FRTEP agent], Seed Preservation Project and the VISTAs helped create that. They planted I would say about 10 rows out of the 20, 30 something rows. And it was so massive. I mean, there was just food everywhere. I mean, it produced a lot of vegetables.

Theme	Sub-Theme	Statement
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Community Involvement	I can attest a little bit about what [other REM participant] was talking about as far as different people planting plots, planting their garden from that. Just last year I built a couple of raised beds for my aunt out at her place and she was looking to grow I believe there was cucumbers and spinach. There's different people even along [community], I've seen a couple of container gardens pop up. There was a plot last year behind [a Tribal member's] house. I know he produced a bunch of tomatoes and cucumbers and squash, beans and peas... [This all] was just the outreach of the program. I mean, that's what it's meant to do is reach these people and I see it, it's evident around town.
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Community Involvement	As far as with Extension I am actually working with [professor] as an assistant and we're reaching out to different communities and helping him with starting gardens.
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Community Involvement	[The Extension educator created] the south garden which is the garden on the [local] Allotment. He also introduced us to many farmers that were in the same project.
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Education	I think [Extension employee] went down and helped again with some of the ... see we try to teach them new technology, like new things. Each time he comes he changes it up a little bit. I know they did permaculture one year. And I know they did a few different types of stuff that was biodegradable and trying to teach them that they have choices.
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Education	[Tribal] Nation has all these allotments that were given to them in the allotment period. And these have been basically left idle and rented out to non-Indians for many, many years. And this is the first time we're seeing our ... like my allotment got planted, I believe last year, and they put in the electric solar fences, and they taught them how to hook up the water pump was powered by gas to ... the pond to the gardens. That's the only ... it doesn't have electricity. It doesn't have water on it. So that's how we've been teaching them how to ... If you don't have the resources, what is an alternative that they could use? And the electric fences, I believe were like \$90 or \$190. And it's a cheap method to keep deer out.

Theme	Sub-Theme	Statement
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Healthy Food Choices	<p>Since the [Tribal garden] Project, people have become more involved. They have been planting their own food, which is healthier of course, the ripple effect. It's helping us as the [Tribal] Nation who were plagued with diabetes and high blood pressure. We're not eating that canned food. We're not eating that processed food and it's helping us out. I see change in my family. They're getting out there. They're exercising in the garden. They are actually moving and eating these vegetables that even our students and our VISTAs and we see a change in them, they're happier. They're energetic, you see them bouncing around talking and in a good mood. And that's what we're really striving for is to try to get our community to come together and be more involved and help each other, especially because we are in a poverty area.</p>
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Healthy Food Choices	<p>When we first started, like the first year they let the youth come and help us. We would hire them like youth program to help in the garden. Well we had this young individual that's never seen a cucumber before. And they were like, "What is that?" We're telling them, "Well, this is a pickle," you know? And so they eventually ate it and they really liked it. So we had a whole bunch of cucumbers. So we boiled them, we baked them, we fried them. They just thought it was so ... I mean and that was something ... and I realized for the first time, why did this kid not know what a cucumber was? And I guess people were not ... they didn't have the money to go and buy the fresh vegetables and fruit because that's just ... it's high priced here because of the ... we're rural, and we only have one grocery store and the next grocery store's 40 miles away. So, and you spend a lot of money. It's expensive.</p>
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Healthy Food Choices	<p>Me personally, I started to eat more vegetables. I made veggie burgers here one time for everyone, and they were surprised how delicious they were and how rapidly they can change your health. I lost 10 pounds in about a week and it improved my blood pressure and blood sugar and I'm sleeping better. And I'm just hooked... I've reduced greatly the amount of meat I eat and I've noticed some other people are following that pattern too, students and faculty. That's what [Tribal member] was talking about. Improving the health of [Tribal] Nation and the greater community around here too with our vegetable gardens.</p>

Theme	Sub-Theme	Statement
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Traditional foods	We have our first ever [community garden]. It's located in a neighborhood that is predominantly our tribal community members. And we want to just introduce a beautiful community garden. Since it's our first, we don't have rules established just yet. We haven't even had our grand opening yet, but there's probably about 15 covered mound rows. They're all linked to a water line and so it's convenient watering. We will turn it over to the community at some point. But right now it's kind of under the guidance of our partnership with [Tribal] Nation, the housing and [Tribal] College, but mostly under the [Tribal] Seed Preservation Project. We're just trying to foot the bills on building a deer fence and some other [infrastructure]. We've got a lot of work to do but... the garden's starting to look nice.
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Traditional foods	So we also learned traditional gardening techniques as a part of our curriculum here. And also they've learned about the variety of beans and corn that came from our homelands... And they have partnered up with us there for a little while and taught us how to grow the [indigenous] corn here. So this is something we do in our research garden is we're trying to teach people how to grow it without the pesticides and any ... we're trying to do all organic because we're trying to implement that health part of ... especially with our students, the youth. So that way hopefully they can grow up different than what we did. Because like I said, we were raised on commodities. We ate ... basically our meat came from a can. We ate ... it was very unhealthy, corn syrups and all kinds of stuff.
Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction	Youth Involvement	And that's what we've been trying to do with ... get them while they're young, get them, teach them something new. Get them interested in ... there's something better out there than drugs and alcohol. Planting seeds.
Natural Resource Conservation and Bio-energy Development	Sustainability Efforts	And we grew these [sunflower] seeds in organic land. Never any pesticides, no fertilizers used. The fertilization was natural. So modern science coming back to today, if there were enough fish in the world, all farmers should use fish emulsion or other natural fertilization methods, as opposed to chemicals, which is now damaging our soil and damaging our water tables, and recycled into some of the food products, which hurts our long-term memories or our aches and pains that we grow old with. So there's a story there to be told about natural fertilization and regenerating into soil with various plants, which it took them a long time after the dust bowl, how to do that.

Theme	Sub-Theme	Statement
Natural Resource Conservation and Bio-energy Development	Sustainability Efforts	I'd like to say on the sunflowers, [the FRTEP agent] used to tell us it would keep the deer and the varmints out because they didn't like to go through the itchy part of it. They were staggered in about six to twelve inches apart. So a deer could not walk through them without rubbing their hide both sides. And it was very ... it wasn't pleasant for humans either. So they were a quite a good deterrent.
Natural Resource Conservation and Bio-energy Development	Sustainability Efforts	I was going to say that when we grow them we'd kind of describe it as growing it like a thicket around there, the gardens and for [the Tribe], we'd consider that to be like our fourth sister that we do have that protection. Plus what we have found is that it has provided a windbreak as well... when there's 17 days consecutive of 45 mile an hour winds, the thicket is what keeps it so that we can still pollinate in the area of the garden.
Natural Resource Conservation and Bio-energy Development	Tribal Connection to the Land	One of the exciting things about this project has been greater awareness by our community and historical knowledge of how the [Tribe] had used or did grow their crops, their gardens... And my part of this, the story I have is, I was very intrigued to learn about the sunflower, not just the seeds, but it's used as a garden guardian because of the small barbs that are on the stalk, which keeps some larger animals, maybe some small ones away from the garden plot... And how, when we started this program four years back, everybody around us, were amazed to see our sunflower stalks reach up six and seven foot high and having multiple heads of sunflowers and some of them as large as a basketball is round... This little program initiated with the support of [FRTEP and the university] brought us greater support and continual outreach from other programs to assist us bringing agricultural studies back to a nation that had agriculture in its way distant past. That's the story I like, and that's a regeneration and bringing pride to their people.
Overall	Responsive to Community Needs	I just wanted to say thank you to all the wonderful people in the Extensions that have helped us because we would have never had this opportunity if they didn't help us. My daughter said: "Mom, you got to meet [the agent] and she's awesome. She'll help you." And oh my gosh, I never dreamed that we would ... I mean, it's amazing how much stuff has happened here. So I just want to say thank you, to all these people that took the extra time to help us. I mean, literally we didn't know anything, so thank you guys.

