

Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma (and Nebraska)

Presenter:

Deb *Josh-a-wi-di-hu-kuts* Echo-Hawk

Pawnee Seed Preservation Project
Title VI Elder Meals Program



Our seeds began in our homeland (Nebraska and Kansas) ... where the Pawnee were the cultivators of crops that sustained us for hundreds of years ...



The Pawnee were the original "Corn Huskers!"

- We were people of earth lodge villages who cultivated nine varieties of corn, squash, bush beans, and watermelon.
- We are fortunate the seeds survive today in our seed bank.
- We believe our seeds have a “seed memory”.

I want to show you our memory of the homeland ...

Our precious corn was part of our ceremonies.



Chiefs were very important in maintaining peace & harmony within our community.





We had horsemen protectors and hunters on the plains.

People a long time ago were philosophers who plan our future. ✨
Assimilation, colonialism came in and disrupted this process and the plan.





Our women cultivated and nurtured our crops



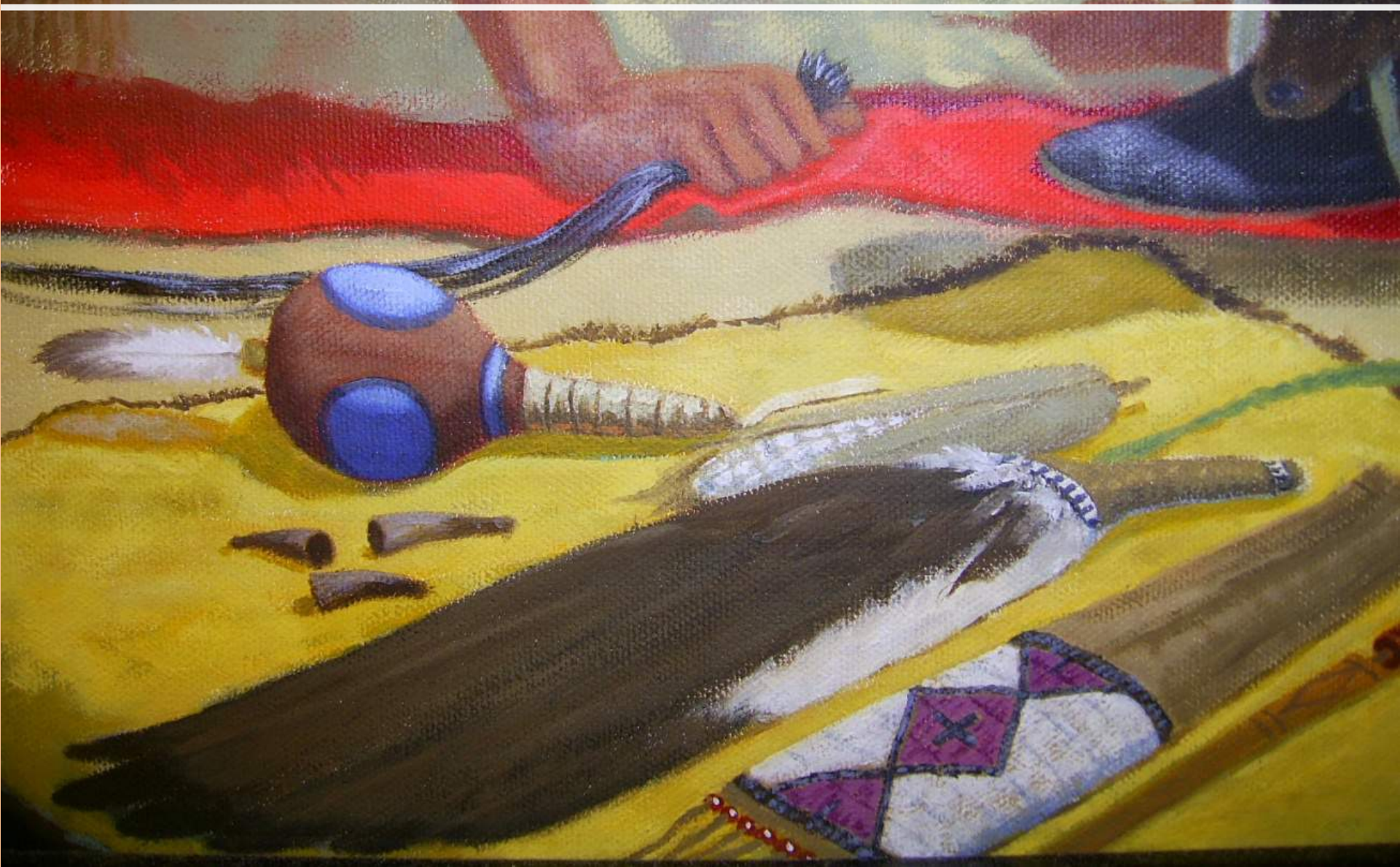


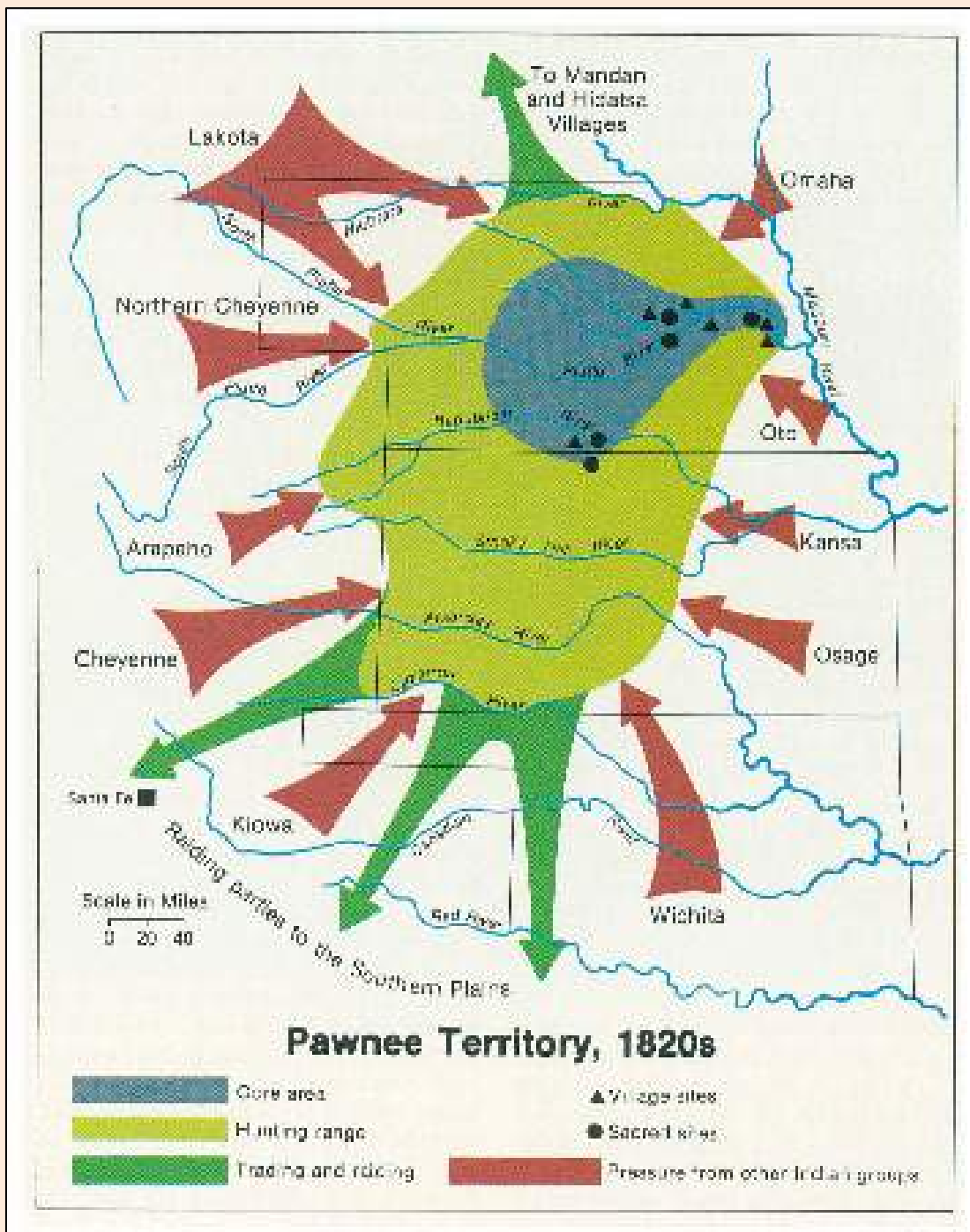
even after the
ladies moved
into boarding
schools of
Genoa ... in the
1860s



We had
doctors, use
plants to
perform
healing
ceremonies.
In the
Pawnee
context ...

those ceremonies were necessary to trigger the healing power of those plants.





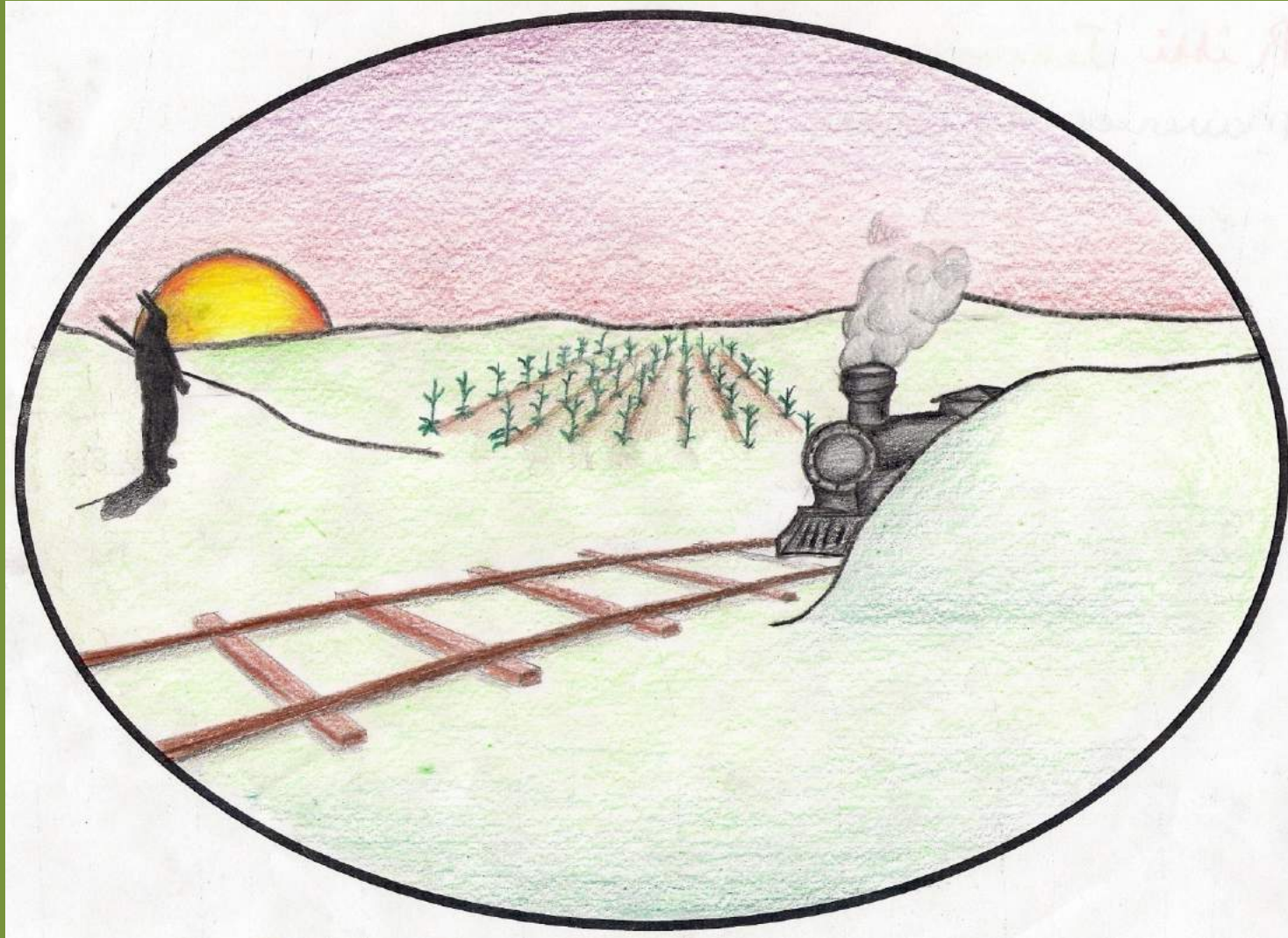
25,000 Strong

- The extent of raiding activities is evidence of Pawnee power ...
- More than 30 million acres

Home land Changes ...

- 30 million acres ceded to the U.S. for less than two cents an acre.
- Retained a reservation of 288,000 acres on the Loup River.
- Population declined to barely 4,000
- Surrounded by hostile forces
- 1860 the Pawnee were a people in eclipse, facing the very real possibility of extinction.

1865-1877 Pawnee Scouts of the U.S. Army & protectors of the Union Pacific RR



“... On July 5, 1874, the Pawnee held council and asked the government to remove them to Indian Territory.

Lone Chief & Big Spotted Horse pushed the move.”



“The first group of migrants left in the fall of 1874, they marched from Genoa to the Texas frontier’s Red River-without assistance.



The first day of the march Chief Pitalesharo, who was opposed to the removal, was shot in his leg fording the Loup south of Genoa. Some say it was his own gun, others say whites did it because of his opposition. He returned to the agency, where he would not permit amputation of his mangled leg and died within a few days. He was buried south of the Loup. ...

The 500 Pawnee who were still at Genoa started late in the fall of 1875 for Oklahoma and reached there in November. Thus ended the Pawnee stay in their homeland of Nebraska.”

1874
the Pawnee
moved from
their home
lands to their
new home in
Oklahoma.





Pawnee Corn brought from Nebraska



ee ancestors hand carried their seeds from the homeland to
y Pawnee, Oklahoma.

ds were nearly lost over the 144 years ...

In 1998 elder Nora Pratt blessed three varieties with a prayer that inspired the Project to form and seek out our seeds.



- There are Nine varieties of Pawnee corn and three others from Oklahoma tribes as well in the seed bank.
- **Yellow** Corn
 - **Blue** Corn
- **Red** Corn
- Eagle Corn
- Carlson White Corn
- ~~Knife Chief~~ Hybrid Corn
- Skidi Red miniature Corn
- Skidi Yellow miniature Corn (popcorn)
- Skidi Blue miniature Corn (popcorn) from Geraldine Howell 2009
- Pawnee Watermelon (grows up to 45 lbs)
- Pawnee “painted-like-a horse” Bush Beans
- Arikara yellow squash
- And “Morman” Squash

Pawnee Blue Speckled Corn ... Extinct?

Kernel Description:



Kernels generally have a pale yellow base color sometimes mixing with darker yellow tints or blue-green tints. The kernels can have a round, sphere, flattened or triangular shape. The blue speckles on these kernels appear as dark blue spots ranging from barely visible dot to a nearly solid blue kernel. These blue spots tend to be in clustered patterns and are often located on the dent side of the kernel. The dent of these kernels ranges from very pronounced to slightly dented and a few kernels have convex dents. No blue coloring appears within the dent and the dent often has a wrinkled appearance.

Average width: 9.972 mm

max.: 11.455 mm

min.: 6.731 mm

Average height: 7.327 mm

max.: 9.9652 mm

min.: 4.699 mm

Average depth: 6.229 mm

max.: 9.347 mm

min.: 4.216 mm

If our seeds can't germinate ...
might as well label it as EXTINCT.



Three Pawnee varieties are not germinating so through our Nebraska friends Ken Bouc & Ronnie O'Brien, I was introduced to scientist **Tom Hoegemeyer**,



Chairman of the Technical Steering Group of the US Germplasm Enhancement of Maize. Tom is researching the Speckle Corn seed of the HorseChief family (germinate or recover the embryo utilizing the genetic information from the seed). Two more a red and blue variety is also under study.

Tom Hoegemeyer informed me that they un-earthed a buffalo skull that had hundreds of corn seeds inside. He said the corn was in good shape and he will study the DNA on it along with the Speckle corn that we cannot get to germinate.

Our people believe the first man was sent down to earth in a buffalo robe and when he discarded it buffalo rose up. The first woman was sent down in the husks of corn and held the seeds of life within her.

Together again!

Pawnee Corn









The Pawnee Seed Preservation Project
works to foster a new generation of food growers by learning and using tribal heritage seeds and planting techniques that introduce tribal members to Pawnee agricultural traditions while teaching the community values of growing and consuming local healthy food.

Since time immemorial
the Pawnee Nation has entrusted
the ancestral seeds to the
Seed Keeper,
it is that person's responsibility to
maintain and perpetuate that part
of the culture.

Seed Blesser, Laura Mae









Pawnee Seeds

Preservation Project in 1997



January 2004 we received an e-mail commitment to the preservation of seeds by Ronnie O'Brien and friends that live in Kearney, NE:



“I have been a gardener in Central Nebraska all of my life and am prepared to apply all of my knowledge of our soil, weather, insects, and other intruders, to help bring back the crops of the Pawnee through the horticultural cycle. I am credibly excited to be involved with a project that could bring back to Nebraska crops that were grown here in the 1800’s by the Pawnee.”

Using the seeds collected from Ronnie O'Brien's 2004 Nebraska gardeners



Karla KnifeChief taught youth gardening and landscaping. She had them pulling weeds, putting up a small fence and they all learned about plants and gardening.



The youth (13 helpers) had never worked in a garden – ever. They learned that summer. Seven Youth received one classroom credit hour from Pawnee High School from Superintendent Ned Williams for their effort.

Harvest Dance we had our
watermelon, beans and squash.



It was the first time
since the Project
started that we had
our own food ...

4-5 ears on one stock FB comments:

- Now, that corn is just showing off.
- And flourishing cornsilk miijim / food miiniwaa / and mashkikiwaaboo / medicine (not sure which word to use for internal tea drink, and external wash, and poultice)















Reciprocal relationships are a blessing- Ronnie and Deb
celebrating progress of our Pawnee Seed Bank

18 gardens in Nebraska and 7 in Pawnee, Oklahoma



Maintaining
Homeland Ties

Trips to Nebraska -- many blessings ...



Visit sacred sites



Arikara and Pawnee built an Earth lodge
2010 at Kearney' Archway Museum ...



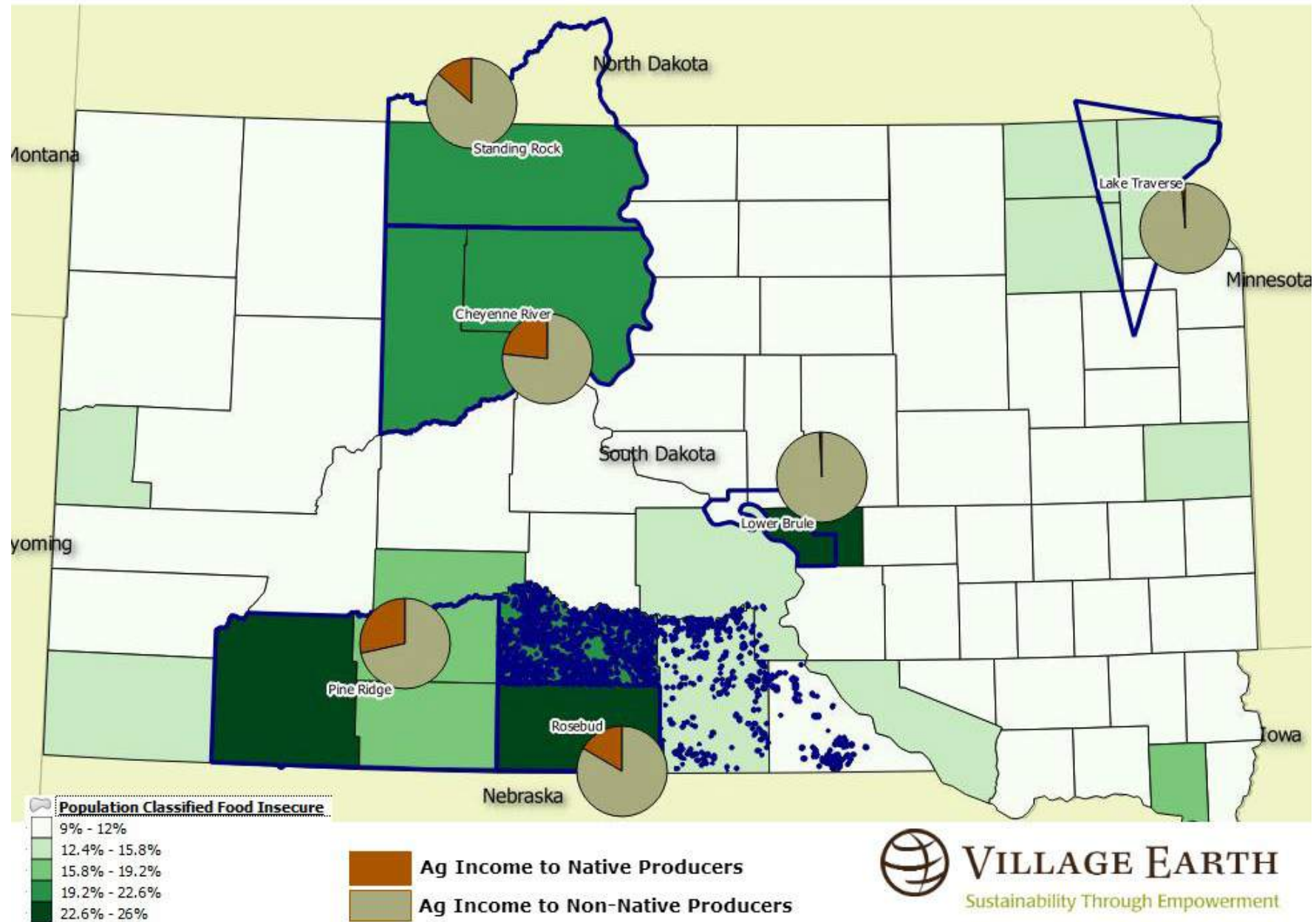




Who Controls our Land?

- Non-Natives Collect 84.5% of Agriculture Income on South Dakota Reservations
- Non-native producers control nearly 60% of all agriculture land and 65% of all the active farms and ranches on **Native American Reservations.**

Food Insecurity and Agriculture Income for Native vs. Non-Native Producers



Traditional Native Food

- Indian Tacos!?
- Commodities!?
- Food Assessment

Conclusions ... ✓

Collect Recipes from
pre-commodity
times...



Bison
Jerky

Elders
loved
it!



Internships are important for giving our youth a glimpse of what the Tribe needs in the future. This summer Interns the training included:

- Learning how to grow through permaculture.
- How to monitor and journal their observations on the farm and a variety of gardens throughout the state of Nebraska.
- How to identify DNA markers with the crops to guarantee the purity of the heritage Pawnee corn seed.
- Other essential processes to learn a sustainable way of growing.

See FaceBook: [Pawnee Seed Preservation Project](#)



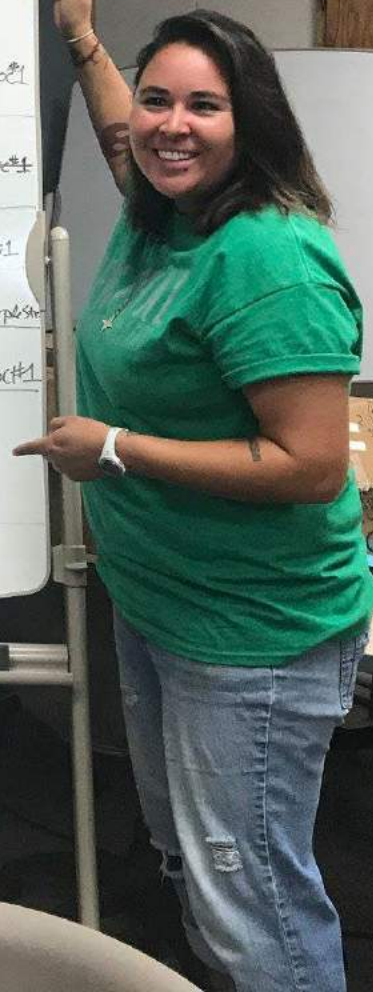
Seed Preservation Project inspires Pawnee to get excited
about their history, heritage

- The Grand Island, Nebraska Independent, July 2017





PSPP-2018 VISITS										
WEEK UP	# plants	1 5-27	2 6-3	3 6-10	4 6-17	5 6-24	6 7-1	7 7-8	8 7-15	9 7-22
• BLUE SPECKLED CCC-Hastings	500	Planted 5-31 & 6-12		6-12 replant	6-20 done	6-26 done		7-10 pic	7-19 Doc #1 7-19 pic	7-26 Doc #1
O'Brien-Shelton Barnes-Rowlee	165 125	6-12 4-22		6-12 plant	6-23 done	w/damage				
• RED FLOUR Woolsey-Mason City	125	6-4	6-4 plant		6-25 done			7-10 pic	→ 7-29 Doc #1	
• WHITE FLOUR Hunt-Arcadia	192	5-28			6-25 done			7-10 pic	→ 7-24 Doc #1	
• SWEET CORN CCC-Hastings	90	5-29 & 6-5	6-5 replant		6-21 done	6-28 done			7-16 Red St. 7-23 replant	
• BLUE FLOUR Fickel-Pleasant Dale	2400	6-1			6-20 pic	6-29 pic			7-20 pic	7-25 Doc #1
• EAGLE CORN EHR-Gerr-Rawlee	580?	5-14								
PNC-Rawlee	580?	5-15								
Carlson-Gerr	170	5-13 & 6-13	wind damage	6-13 replant		6-29 pic	7-3 Doc #1			







Throughout the 2018 fall and winter, several workshops and events will be facilitated to recruit and train tribal and community members. The proposed **workshops** and **events** are:

- Fall harvest of traditional Pawnee corn and other local crops.
- Process seeds for storage
- Meet the new seed keepers
- How to till and prepare the garden for the next season.

Starting in March 2019 till April 2020, with the assistance of the Pawnee Seed Preservation Project, educational and horticulture consultants, tribal and local community members will participate in several community gardens and do one-on-one assistance for home gardens.



Pawnee Seed Preservation Project

presents ...

Control Your Destiny

Friday, September 14, 2018 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm



Presentation One Conducted by:
Del Ficke, Family owned Ficke Cattle Company
Graze Master Genetics Pleasant Dale, NE

Presentation One: **Control Your Destiny...**

Small-scale Regenerative Approach in
Agra-Ranching ... everything is possible!

Pawnee Nation Tribal Resource Complex
1202 Heritage Circle
Pawnee, OK 74058
(Next door to Tribal Police)



Presentation Two:

**Kahheetah Barnoskie's
Story** of the 2018 Pawnee Seed
Preservation Project Nebraska
(18) gardens.

For more Information:
Deb Echo-Hawk, Pawnee Seed Preservation Project (918) 500-1302



2018 Elder Garden hills



Pawnee Seed Preservation Project fosters a sense of ownership and excitement around the idea of native and local food growing, heritage seed preservation and usage, how to transfer tribal knowledge and stories around traditional agriculture to younger generations, and that participants will have a sense of how to incorporate traditional and local foods into their everyday diets.

Elder Meals supplemented... not only from the seeds of our ancestors, but from the “Kitchen Sink Seeds” as well.



Lettuce,
radishes,
chive,
tomatoes,
squash,
Pecans all
come from the
nearby green
house







Squash Soup ...

Yum!













Blue Corn ...

*When an elder is ill,
we cook a Pawnee
blue corn mush-
native pecans-local
honey mixture,
as it is received
with astonishing
claims they regain
their appetite and is
soothing delicacy,
easily digested.*





Someday we will design our own
produce sticker for our marketing
enterprises ...

In the meanwhile ...



Annual Reveal ... we get to study how the garden produced in the plot

INPUT

Drying the corn,
Inspecting,
storing



INPUT

Grind the corn



Out Put

Sell our beautiful
Blue Corn

PAWNEE HERITAGE BLUE CORN IS FOR SALE FOR \$15 PER BAG



Homeland grown... picked by
Pawnee and Nebraska friends.
Shucked in the Pawnee Round
House and shelled in the Elder
Center. Grinding was done this
Summer at the Steam Engine Show.
Bagged by AmeriCorp Associates.
Drawing by Deb Echo-Hawk and
made into a print label.

\$15 per bag ...
while they last.

We are proud Pawnee.

**Blue Corn meal is measured
to 6 cups per bag and is
\$15 per bag.**

**Checks can be made out to:
Pawnee Seed Preservation Project**

**Mail check to:
Pawnee Nation
PO Box 470
Pawnee, OK 74058**

Please include your Name, Shipping
Address, Contact Phone Number, and
Email with your Check.

SHIPPING COST (US ONLY)

1 bag - \$7.25 "Priority Flat Rate"
padded envelope

2-4 bags - \$13.65 "Priority Flat-Rate Box"


For more info: **(918) 500-1302**



We have a lot to learn about Bison ...





A photograph of a sunset over a dark field. The sun is a bright orange orb on the horizon, partially obscured by the silhouette of a tree. The sky is a gradient of blue and orange, with wispy clouds. The foreground is a dark, flat field.

Our story continues ... chance
would have it.

Tribes repatriate your seeds ...
Make your policies ...
Take a chance.

The merging of cultural
preservation and economic
development supports cultural
survival.



Visit Facebook for updates:
[Pawnee Seed Preservation Project](#)

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Osheana Aguilera, PSPP Volunteer, Pawnee Tribal Youth
Mee-Kai Clark
Kahheetah Barnoskie
Jesse “Sonny” Howell
Laura Mae Melton, Seed Blessor













