

An Holistic Approach to Conservation, Agriculture Resource Management, and Food Sovereignty in Blackfeet Country

at Amskapi Piikani (Blackfeet Nation)

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Shakopee Mdewankanton Sioux Community

Tribes will never attain true sovereignty without first attaining food sovereignty – Ross Racine, Former Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council

Our land is more valuable than your money. It will last forever. It will not even perish by the flames of fire. As long as the sun shines and the waters flow, this land will be here to give life to men and animals. We cannot sell the lives of men and animals. It was put here by (Creator) and we cannot sell it because it does not belong to us. - Crowfoot, Blackfeet Orator

Treat the earth well: We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children – Crazy Horse

When our hands are facing up, we will always be hungry, when our hands are facing down and working the earth, we will never be hungry – Native Hawaiian Elder

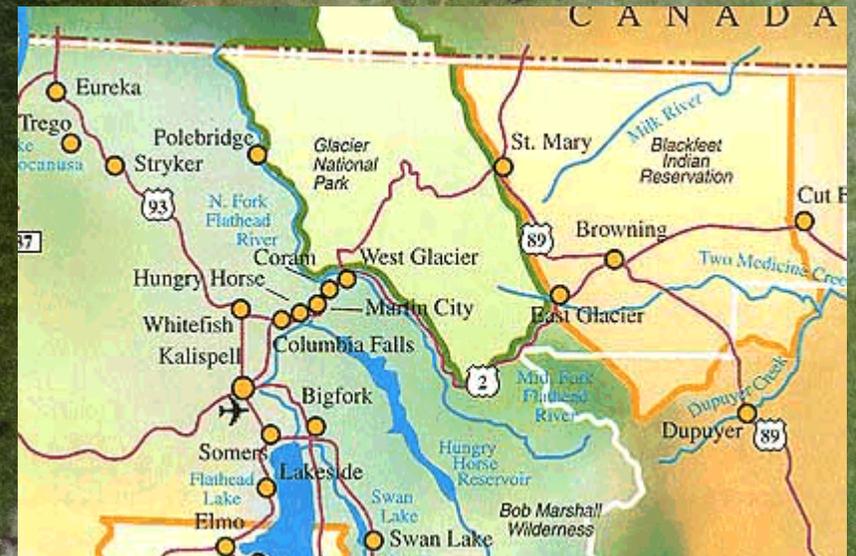


BLACKFEET NATION



Roadmap

- Blackfeet Ways of Knowing
- Authority
- What is the Role of the Blackfeet Tribal Government
- Current Projects
- Blackfeet Food Sovereignty
- Blackfeet Food Code
- Necessary Partnerships
- Roles of Funders, NGO's, non-Profits, and Higher Education



CONTEXT

- **Niitsitapi (Blackfoot Confederacy), a transboundary Indigenous government (Canada + USA).**

Amskapi Piikani (Blackfoot Nation)

- **1.5 million acres (640,000 hectares).** Recently acquired 324,404 acres of fractionated interests.
- **Larger than the state of Delaware (or nation of Puerto Rico).**
- **80% percent of the large Vertebrates in Montana**
- **55% of the Regions Biodiversity**
- **Water rights to 5 watersheds, 518 miles (833 Kilometers) of streams and 180 bodies of water at the headwaters of the continent.**
- **51,582 acres (20,874 hectares) of wetlands.**
- **175,000 acres (70,820 hectares) of forest.**



BLACKFEET WAYS OF KNOWING, BEING & PLANNING

Amskapi Piikani Core Values:

[Tsi-ksi-ka-ta-pi-wa-tsin](#) Blackfeet Ways of Knowing: Blackfeet culture/spirituality in philosophy, thought and action

[Nin-na-wa-tsin](#) Being a Leader: professionalism, integrity, and responsibility in human interaction

[Ini-yimm](#) Respect: respect for one self, all other people, all ideas and each thing in the natural world

[Ni-ta-pi-pa-ta-pi-tsin](#) Living in a Good Way: honest in all thoughts and actions.

[li-yi-kah-kii-ma-tsin](#) Trying Hard: commitment, dedication, sincerity in the pursuit of all our goals.

[Aoh-kan-otah-tomo](#) Accepting Everyone: embracing the unique talents and contributions of each individual.

[li-ta-mii-pa-ta-pi-yoip](#) Happy Living: humor, laughter and enjoyment of life.

Authority: Public Law 103-77

(The American Indian Agriculture Resource Management Act of 1993)

2019 Blackfeet Agriculture Resource Management Plan

1.2 Authority

The Blackfeet Nation's ARMP derives its authority to supersede Federal regulations from the American Indian Agriculture Resource Management Act (AIARMA) of 1993 – 25 U.S.C § 3702 & 3712, as well as Blackfeet Tribal Resolution 19-2015. As defined by the Code itself, United States Departments of Interior and Agriculture shall manage agricultural resources consistent with the Blackfeet Nation's ARMP.

Indian agricultural resource management planning program

(C) Whether developed directly by the tribe or by the Secretary, the plan shall-

- determine available agriculture resources;
- identify specific tribal agricultural resource goals and objectives;
- establish management objectives for the resources;
- **define critical values of the Indian tribe and its members and provide identified holistic management objectives;**
- identify actions to be taken to reach established objectives;
- be developed through public meetings;
- use the public meeting records, existing survey documents, reports, and other research from Federal agencies, tribal community colleges, and land grant universities; and
- be completed within three years of the initiation of activity to establish the plan.

What is the role of a Tribal Government? A triple bottom Line

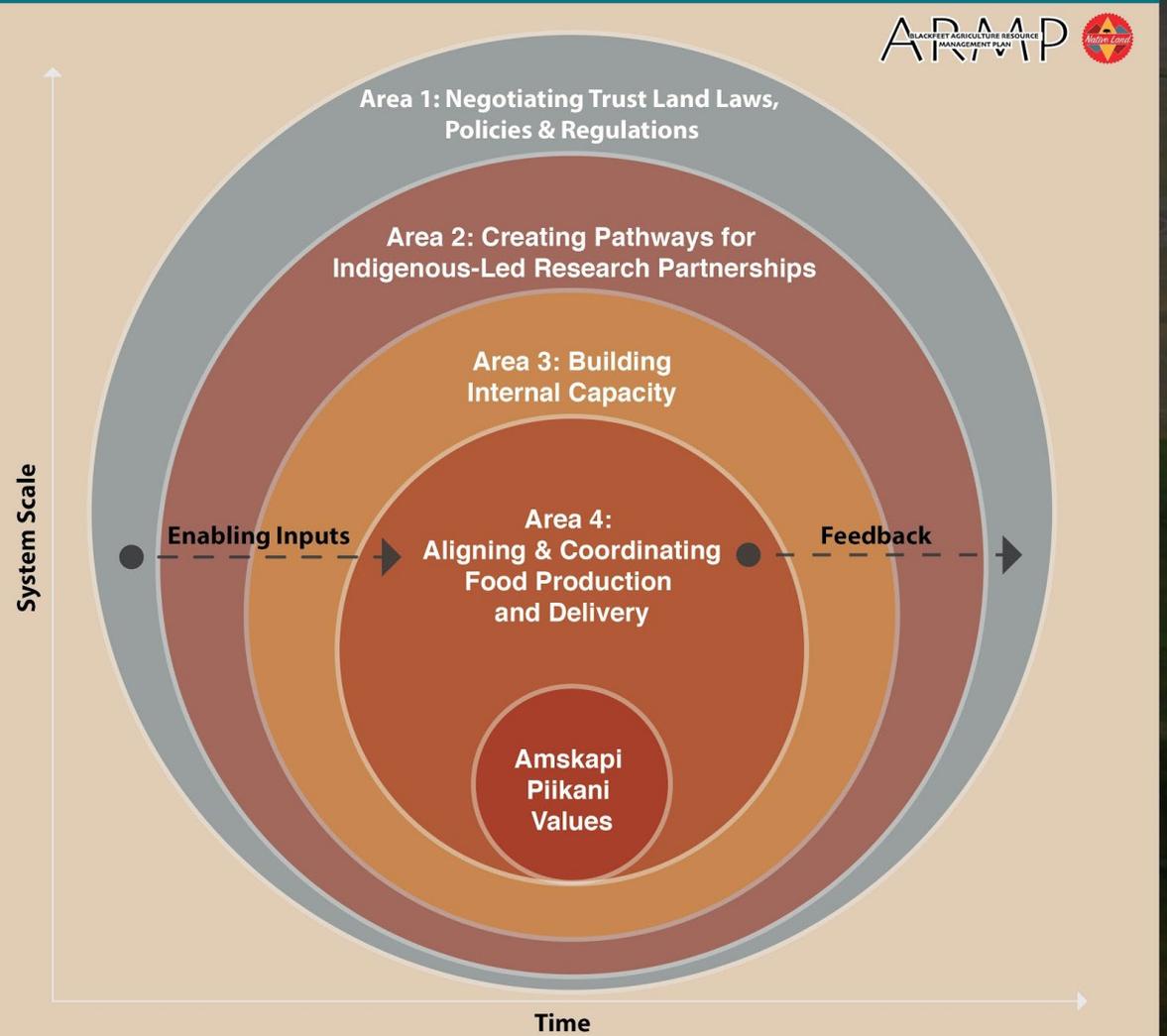


- Sustainable Economic Development
 - Private sector vs. public sector
 - Tribal enterprise or service to people
 - Siyeh Corporation Model
 - Tribal ranches
 - Agriculture enterprises
 - Become Supplier for local food delivery systems
 - Schools, USDA Commodity programs, Medicine Bear Shelter, Food Banks, Blackfeet FAST, Senior Centers, Traditional Food Preparers
- Health and Nutrition – Narrow Health Disparities
 - Agriculture production
 - Re-introduction of traditional foods into our diets
 - Buffalo
 - Wild game
 - Berries
 - Other foods
- Infusion of Institutional Knowledge into our Younger Generations
 - Youth programs
 - 4-H
 - High School, Middle School and BCC Agriculture Programs

Challenges to Planning and Implementation

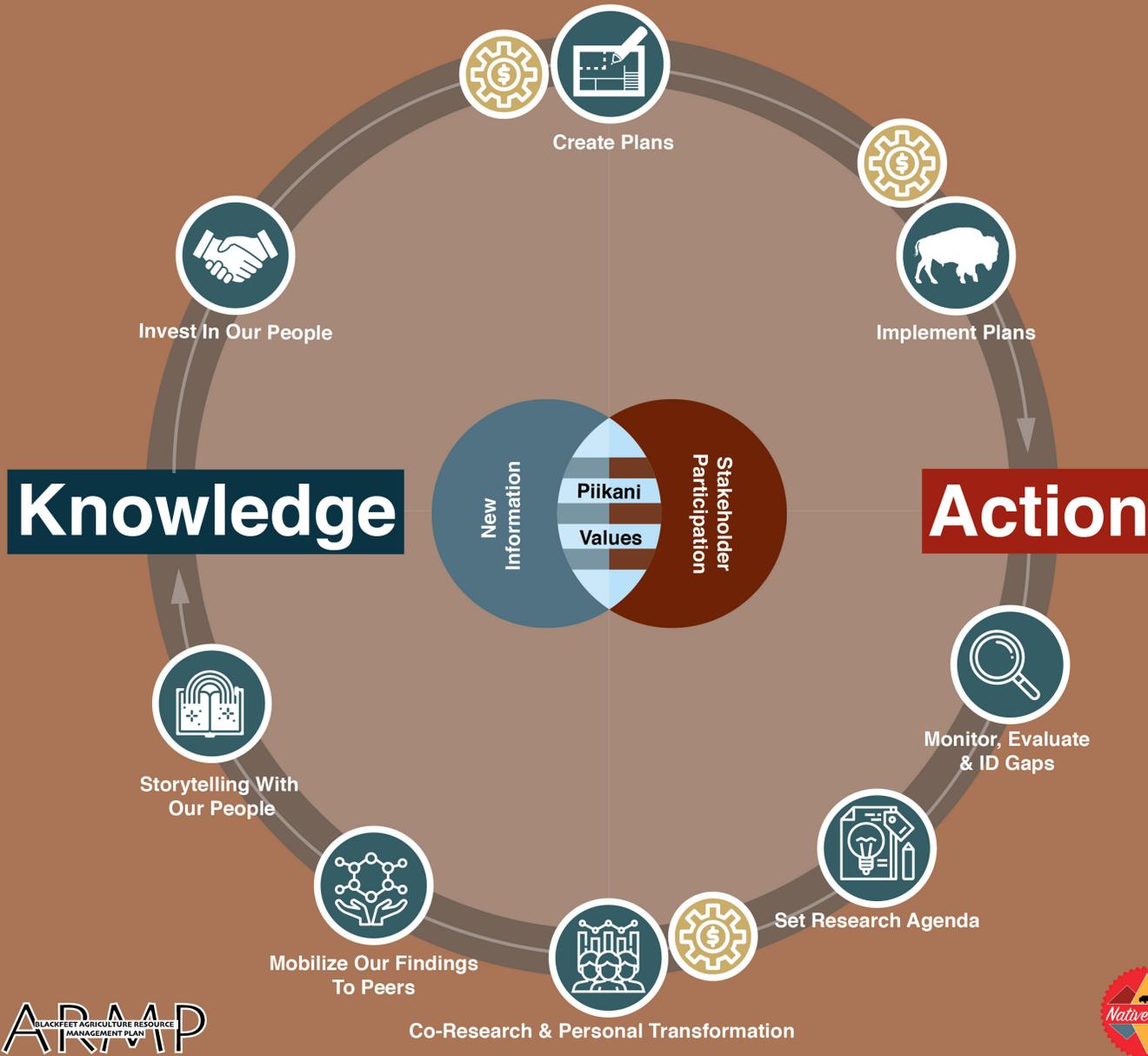
- Produce and Write the Plan (Pro's and Con's)
 - Internal
 - Buy In
 - More control over deliverables
 - External
 - Less Control
 - No buy in
- Implementation
 - Current Stressors to Tribal Governments
 - Measurable Goals
 - Measurable Objectives
 - Ties to Human Capital
 - GIS and limited Access Policy
 - Blackfoot Tribe
 - Other Partners
- Access to Credit

Blackfeet Innovation Pathways to Food Sovereignty



Indigenous Planning & Applied Research

Amskapi Pikani (Blackfeet Nation)



“By 2029, we envision the Blackfeet Nation fully engaged, informed, and actively involved in the development of holistic agriculture resource management for the economy, the environment, and the health of the people, land, flora, fauna, and water. Together, we will work to embrace our natural laws, values, and relationships based on respect, trust, and healing. The ARMP will provide a means for establishing reciprocal partnerships among producers, businesses, and landowners to increase international access and availability of quality Blackfeet agriculture products. Our Blackfeet youth will have mentoring opportunities to learn from elders, producers, and leaders to contribute their voice to a quality Blackfeet way of life.”

IMPLEMENTING OUR VISION

Active Projects & Initiatives at the Confederacy Level

1. linnii Initiative

Buffalo reintroduction & cultural revitalization

2. Blackfoot Prime

Ag. Co-op & Confederacy Wide Beef Label

3. Multi-Species Processing Facility

For Beef & Buffalo

4. Local Food Delivery System

Local & traditional foods to the people

5. International Market Access

For ag. products and development of our own border crossing

6. Indigenous Led Conservation

Indigenous planning of conservation areas, parks & resource mgmt

7. GIS Inventory & Mapping

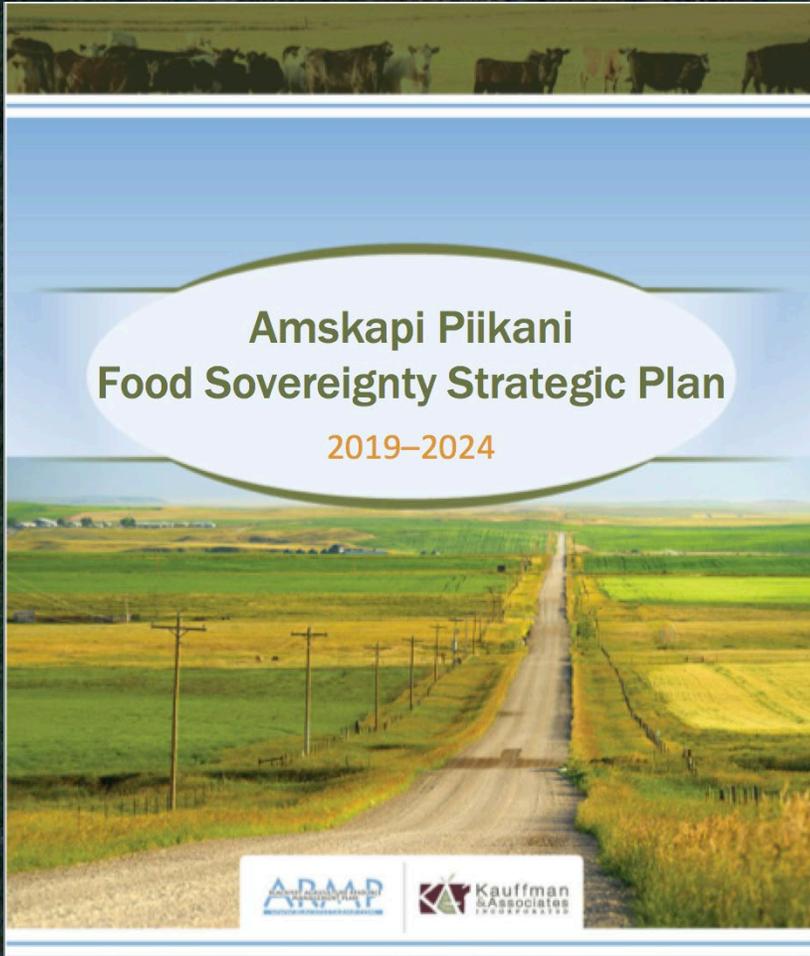
Traditional Foods, Use & Occupancy

IMPLEMENTING OUR VISION

Active Projects & Initiatives at the Confederacy Level

4. Local Food Delivery System

Local & traditional foods to the people



By 2024, we will improve access to affordable, nourishing foods within our local food delivery systems to promote healthy living by leveraging natural biodiversity; Amskapi Piikani ecological knowledge; local agriculture production; hunting, fishing, and gathering practices through teaching youth; honoring our first foods; and establishing effective policy and partnerships.

By 2024, we will improve access to affordable, nourishing foods within our local food delivery system

IMPLEMENTING OUR VISION

Active Projects & Initiatives at the Confederacy Level

4. Local Food Delivery System

Local & traditional foods to the people

- In 2016, FAST (Food Access Sustainability Team) Blackfeet conducted a community food sovereignty assessment (CFSA)
- The CFSA identified four major food sovereignty challenges
 - There is minimal access to fresh, and locally produced nutritious food
 - Different food delivery programs duplicate efforts reservation-wide
 - The Amskapi Piikani do not have consistent access to the foods they traditionally gathered and consumed
 - The tribe depends on the available federal food assistance programs

IMPLEMENTING OUR VISION

Active Projects & Initiatives at the Confederacy Level

4. Local Food Delivery System

Local & traditional foods to the people

Strategic Pillars

- Develop a tribal and local food sovereignty policy
- Invest in practices that promote food sovereignty self-sufficiency
- Engage youth and the community in food sovereignty education initiatives.
- Build and align local and regional partnerships in support of food sovereignty

IMPLEMENTING OUR VISION

Active Projects & Initiatives at the Confederacy Level

6. Indigenous Led Conservation

Indigenous planning of conservation areas, parks & resource mgmt

- Economic/Tourism development – A formal Blackfoot Conservation Area adjacent to Glacier National Park will greatly spur economic development opportunities from tourism through gate entrances fees, toll roads (turnpikes), and tourism services (campgrounds, trails, guides, cultural interpretation centers).
- Large landscape connectivity - Conservation lands would link in with the existing international conservation network of Glacier National Park, Waterton Lakes National Park, U.S. Forestry, and the Blood Timber Reserve creating better connectivity and a larger protected landscape, as well as possibilities for linnii habitat.
- Prairie land designation – Prairie land designation can protect working lands which contribute directly to local grassland and wetland systems. Healthy grasslands also support healthy grazers (cattle and bison) which in turn support healthy people. By supporting prairie grass we can help overcome the health disparities of our people through the holistic conservation of the lands our animals depend upon. Cattle and Bison provide much needed nutritional components such as Omega 3s.
- Access to trails and open space - Trail systems and open spaces promote public health. They provide places for physical activity and community gathering combating some of the most pressing health challenges of today.
- Protection of culturally important landscapes - The rocky mountain front and many of its physical attributes such as Chief Mountain are important cultural landscapes and could be further protected.

A Proposed Blackfeet Conservation Area

6. Indigenous Led Conservation

Indigenous planning of conservation areas, parks & resource mgmt

• Objectives:

- Cultural Impact
- Ecological Impact
- Environmental Impact
- Economic Impact



Where does your Food Code fit in to your efforts?

United States
Government

State
Governments

Tribal
Governments



Where does your Food Code fit in to your efforts?

Montana Code Annotated 2017

TITLE 50. HEALTH AND SAFETY

[CHAPTER 1. ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS](#)

[CHAPTER 2. LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH](#)

[CHAPTER 3. STATE FIRE PREVENTION AND INVESTIGATION PROGRAM](#)

[CHAPTER 4. HEALTH CARE POLICY](#)

[CHAPTER 5. HOSPITALS AND RELATED FACILITIES](#)

[CHAPTER 6. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES](#)

[CHAPTER 7. HOME HEALTH AGENCIES \(Repealed\)](#)

[CHAPTER 8. ONE-STEP FACILITY LICENSING](#)

[CHAPTER 9. RIGHTS OF THE TERMINALLY ILL ACT](#)

[CHAPTER 10. DO NOT RESUSCITATE -- NOTIFICATION](#)

[CHAPTER 11. BAN ON REPRODUCTIVE HUMAN CLONING](#)

[CHAPTER 12. TREATMENTS FOR CHRONIC OR TERMINAL ILLNESS](#)

CHAPTERS 13 AND 14 RESERVED

[CHAPTER 15. VITAL STATISTICS](#)

[CHAPTER 16. HEALTH CARE INFORMATION](#)

[CHAPTER 17. DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL](#)

[CHAPTER 18. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES](#)

[CHAPTER 19. PREGNANT WOMEN AND NEWBORN INFANTS](#)

[CHAPTER 20. ABORTION](#)

[CHAPTER 21. CADAVERS AND AUTOPSIES](#)

[CHAPTER 22. DETERMINATION OF DEATH](#)

[CHAPTER 23. RABIES CONTROL](#)

CHAPTERS 24 THROUGH 29 RESERVED

[CHAPTER 30. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ACT](#)

[CHAPTER 31. MONTANA FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT](#)

[CHAPTER 32. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES](#)

[CHAPTER 33. BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS](#)

[CHAPTER 34. FLOUR AND BREAD \(Repealed\)](#)

[CHAPTER 35. IMPORTED MEATS \(Repealed\)](#)

[CHAPTER 36. MATTRESSES -- SHODDY CONTROL \(Repealed\)](#)

[CHAPTER 37. FIREWORKS](#)

[CHAPTER 38. EXPLOSIVES \(Repealed\)](#)

[CHAPTER 39. FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT](#)

[CHAPTER 40. SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES](#)

[CHAPTER 41. LAETRILE \(Repealed\)](#)

[CHAPTER 42. DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE \(DMSO\)](#)

[CHAPTER 43. CALCIUM FAP, HARNOSAL, AND PHOSETAMIN](#)

[CHAPTER 44. TREATMENT OF CHRONIC RENAL DISEASE \(Repealed\)](#)

CHAPTER 45 RESERVED

[CHAPTER 46. USE OF MARIJUANA FOR DEBILITATING MEDICAL CONDITIONS](#)

CHAPTER 47 RESERVED

[CHAPTER 48. LICENSURE AND REGULATION OF TATTOOING AND BODY-PIERCING ESTABLISHMENTS](#)

[CHAPTER 49. FOOD AND NUTRITION](#)

[CHAPTER 50. RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS](#)

[CHAPTER 51. HOTELS, MOTELS, AND ROOMINGHOUSES](#)

[CHAPTER 52. TOURIST CAMPGROUNDS AND TRAILER COURTS](#)

[CHAPTER 53. PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND SWIMMING AREAS](#)

CHAPTERS 54 THROUGH 56 RESERVED

Where does your Food Code fit in to your efforts?

ORDINANCE NO. 4

ORDINANCE OF THE BLACKFEET INDIAN TRIBE

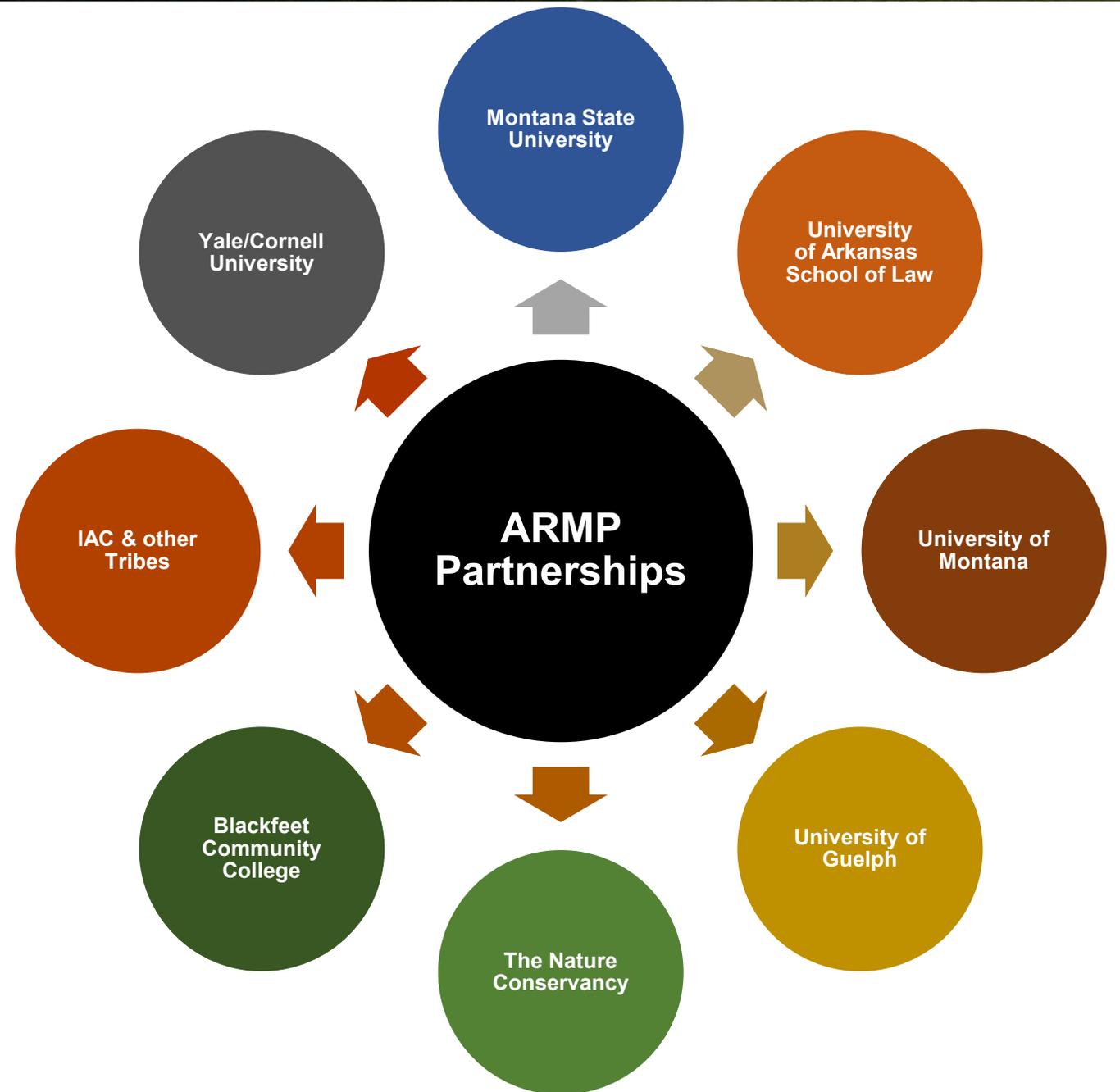
Any Indian who shall slaughter livestock for sale or use shall be required upon demand to produce hide to cover said carcass or give satisfactory proof as to where meat was obtained.

Anyone who shall violate this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable by not to exceed \$180.00 or three months or both such fine and imprisonment.

The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council on October 11, 1937 duly adopted the foregoing ordinance which will be in effect when approved by the Superintendent of the Blackfeet Indian Agency or by the Secretary of the Interior.

Current Research Projects through Partnerships

- Montana State University – CTRP – Food Sovereignty, The Native Land Project (Native American Studies) O’komi Survey, Process Mapping, Economic Analysis, Indigenous Research Initiative, Reconsideration for Valuation Methodology for Indian Trust Lands
- University of Arkansas School of Law and Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative – Food Safety Modernization Act, Tribal Food and Agriculture Code, Free Trade Zone, 2018 Farm Bill
- University of Montana School of Law – Blackfeet Uniform Commercial Code, Probate Code, Tribally owned National Parks
- National Center for Appropriate Technology – Beef/Bison Processing Plant, International Market Study
- Piikani Lodge Institute – Cultural Reclamation, Environmental Protection, Community Priority Research
- University of Guelph – Indigenous Conservation and linnii/Beef Production Challenges
- Cornell University – Biodiversity and Watershed Management Plan
- Yale University – Bison/Beef Conversion
- Clark University/BCC (Wildlife Conservation Society) – Blackfeet Wetlands and Range Health Mapping Project



What are the roles of NGO's and Nonprofit Organizations?



The Council for Nonprofits

- **How do you turn passion into power?**
 - Hopa Mountain Strengthening the Circle
 - Western Native Voice 2012 Voter Turnout
 - Montana Legislature Advocacy
 - Tribal government policy development
- **Data Gaps in Indian Country**
 - Government Data
 - Tribal Data
 - Assisting Tribes in creating and securing their own Data
- **Filling the necessary voids**
 - Providing services that augment Tribal government efforts
 - Building and investing in local established institutions
 - Informing policy development process
 - Writing policy through resolutions, ordinances and codes
- **Equitable Partnerships**
 - Build Capacity in Tribal Communities
 - Employ Native People in Native Communities

What are the roles of Funders?

phi·lan·thro·py

/fəˈlanθrəpē/

noun

the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.

- Support equitable partnerships that build capacity in Indian Country
 - Budget Equity
 - Support for FTE's based in Indian Country
- Require non-Native organizations to have real partnerships with on-the-ground efforts in Indian Country
- Support efforts that are community led and community developed
- Support efforts that have a translational model
- Support efforts that work across governments and organizations to leverage resources

**STRAIGHT
OUTTA
BROWNING**



THANK YOU SEEDS OF NATIVE HEALTH

Find Us @ www.blackfeetarmy.com + www.montana.edu/nativeland

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