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Agriculture Finance Roundtable Brings Together Diverse Group

Discussion Aimed at Increasing Access to Capital for Native American Farmers and Ranchers

Rapid City, South Dakota – November 5, 2018 – On Friday, October 26, 2018 over 50 people gathered for an Indian Agriculture Finance Roundtable in Rapid City, South Dakota. The event was hosted by the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance, a group of community partners committed to growing Indian business in South Dakota, and focused on three main topics related to ag finance:

- The Keepseagle vs. Vilsack settlement resulting in the formation of the Native American Agriculture Fund
- Resolving financial disputes in the tribal and local courts
- How to make successful loans to Native American farmers and ranchers

Attendees included representatives from state and federal agencies, tribes, tribal enterprises, community development financial institutions (CDFIs), lenders, nonprofit organizations, regulatory agencies, educational institutions, and farmers and ranchers.

What Attendees Thought...

Through an event evaluation, attendees reported that they learned the most about the Keepseagle vs. Vilsack Settlement, the Native American Agriculture Fund, and how they can benefit Native American farmers and ranchers. In addition to the three sessions delivered throughout the day, people also had the opportunity to make connections that would help them further their work in the agricultural field. Ninety-one percent of attendees benefitted from the networking opportunities at the event.

Here's what some of the event attendees said...

- Great roundtable - very dedicated presenters and passionate audience.
- My first time attending SDIBA. Looking forward to attending more.
- I am going to use the information and connections I gained to create wealth and assets for clients we work with.
- This was a learning experience; will use information to build knowledge of South Dakota Native lending opportunities.
- The most valuable takeaway was hearing Native American concerns and objectives related to ag finance and as farmers and ranchers.
- More access to capital for reservation-based businesses, especially ag businesses, is becoming possible through the increase of lenders and loan programs in South Dakota.



On the Horizon...

The South Dakota Indian Business Alliance is busy planning out how we will continue to build on the momentum created by this successful event. We received a lot of great feedback from panelists and attendees on what other topics they'd like to address. Be on the lookout for announcements of upcoming events.

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About the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance

The South Dakota Indian Business Alliance (SDIBA) was formed in 2007 to cultivate effective and efficient business environments in South Dakota's Indian Country. By utilizing a comprehensive business development model that addresses four key sectors – governance, infrastructure, finance, and resources – SDIBA is able to achieve its mission of leveraging resources through diverse partnerships to strengthen Native entrepreneurship development and build wealth in Native communities. More information can be found on SDIBA's website at www.sdibaonline.org.