



# FCA Board Meeting November 2024



## Report on Indian Country Capital Access Initiative November 14, 2024

**Tyler Fish**  
**Sr. Advisor and Assistant to the Director**  
**OEEOI**



# Introduction



## ▶ Tyler Fish

- Muscogee (Creek) Nation / Cherokee Nation
- Juris doctor, University of Oklahoma
- Sr. Advisor and Assistant to the Director, OEEOI
- Subject Matter:
  - Federal Indian Law and Policy;
  - Trust and Natural Resources;
  - Tribal Governance;
  - Economic Development



# Indian Country Capital Access Initiative



## ▶ Purpose statement:

- Increase Awareness in Indian Country
- Support Mission Focus of a System Accessible to All Creditworthy Borrowers
- Importance:
  - Severely limited lending infrastructure in Indian Country
  - High demand for agricultural commodities and products in Indian Country
  - Tribal sovereignty and determination among native nations to pursue food sovereignty, sustainability, and economic independence



# Internal Collaborations and Support

---

- ▶ The Office of the Chief of Staff
  - Outreach Support
  
- ▶ The Office of Regulatory Policy
  - Policy Support/Outreach Support
  
- ▶ The Office of Data Analytics and Economics
  - Collaborative Engagement Support





# External Collaborations

---



- ▶ White House Council on Native American Affairs
- ▶ Minneapolis Federal Reserve - Center for Indian Country Development
- ▶ Intertribal Agriculture Council
- ▶ Native CDFI Network
- ▶ Native American Agriculture Fund
- ▶ Tribal Self Governance Communication and Education Consortium



# Action Items



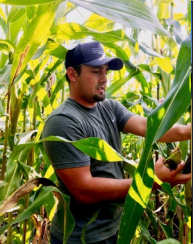
- ▶ WHCNAA – Economic Development, Energy, & Infrastructure Committee
- ▶ NCN – Annual Policy & Capacity Building Summit
- ▶ NCAIED – Reservation Economic Summit
- ▶ NAAF – Indian Country Agriculture Underwriting Course
- ▶ TSGCEC – Tribal Self Governance Conference
- ▶ USET – SPF Impact Week
- ▶ IAC – Northwest Regional Summit; Technical Assistance Network



# Observations

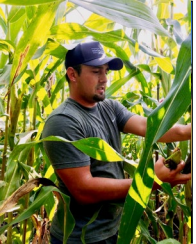
---

- ▶ Significant Challenge: Overcoming Unfamiliarity
- ▶ Solutions are Available for Many of the Common Financing Needs in Indian Country
- ▶ YBS Authority Can and Should Play a Prominent Role to Address Capital Access Needs in Indian Country





# YBS Authority



▶ Demographics and agriculture trends in Indian Country suggest many prospective borrowers will fit into YBS plans

- Small scale, regenerative models of agriculture are becoming more prominent
- Anecdotal suggest that startup capital is widely in demand
- Tribal and federal-supported youth-to-ag initiatives are being implemented nationwide



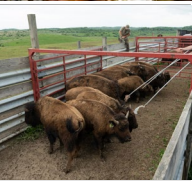


# Progress

---

## ▶ System-led developments

- Infrastructure Focus - Electrification
- Increased hiring for positions designed to engage with tribal governments and tribal producers
- Increased interest in Mission Related Investments related to Indian Country





# Upcoming



- ▶ Continued Engagement with Indian Country Stakeholders
  - Intertribal Agriculture Council
  - White House Tribal Nations Summit
  - National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development
- ▶ Tribal Ag Departments
  - Increased engagement at specific tribal agriculture departments
- ▶ Symposium Fall 2025
  - Oklahoma State University



# Summary

---

- ▶ Concluding Message on the System and Indian Country:
  - A Powerful Resource
  - Expanding Access
  - Building Familiarity





---

**Thank you  
Mvto  
Wado**