



## Native Youth Graduates to FSA Micro-Loans

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### IAC Northwest (Washington) Region

Wyatt Wiltse is a 21 yr. old American Indian, he is enrolled with the Yakama Nation Tribe of Eastern Washington. Wyatt is a graduate of White Swan Senior High and lives with his family located in White Swan, WA. The family is active in raising livestock that includes hogs, goats and cattle along with alfalfa hay.

Several Years ago Wyatt became interested raising livestock and decided to seek an FSA youth loan that he heard of through the outreach of the Intertribal Agricultural Council. Wyatt has secured several FSA youth loans in the past and recently has graduated to the FSA Micro-Loan and has built his cattle herd to 50 cows and calves. Wyatt has incorporated his cattle herd into the family operation and is very active in the management of the herd.



Wyatt at his local 4-H fair

Wyatt was also active in showing hogs at local events including the Central Washington Jr. Livestock Show in May of 2013 and the Central Washington State Fair. Wyatt won best of show for his hogs. Wyatt states “FFA was very valuable in teaching me about animal husbandry”

Wyatt obtained several youth scholarships to the annual Intertribal Agricultural Council Membership Meeting. He hopes to attend the meeting representing the Yakama Indian Nation and his family’s livestock operation. Wyatt has stated that he is interested in slowly building his cattle herd to a self-sustaining source of income.

Wyatt is a prime example of what can occur when a combination of resources are utilized in a positive manner. The Intertribal Agricultural Council, Farm Service Agency, White Swan FFA chapter, and his family have all contributed to this youth’s great success.



# The Innovative Sockeye Suzy

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Suzy Lumley aka “Sockeye Suzy” is an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation. Her ancestors have been fishing the Columbia River for centuries. Suzy and her family have been following that tradition for as long as she can remember.

Suzy has started her own business “Sockeye Suzy’s” to capitalize on the abundant Salmon Runs that the Columbia River normally provides. She sells fresh Chinook, Coho and Sockeye Salmon during their perspective runs. Suzy also adds value to this product by having her salmon canned with many different flavor varieties.



Suzy at Seafood EX Hong Kong

Back in 2012, Suzy met with the NW IAC Washington State USDA Technical Assistant Specialist concerning the Intertribal Agriculture Councils American Indian Food Program, which is funded by USDA Foreign Ag Service. This program provides technical assistance, business training, and access to numerous trade shows. Suzy completed all the required training and began attending many domestic and international trade shows.

Over the course of several years, Suzy’s business sales began to increase. Suzy has stated that many of those sales were directly related to attending these trade shows and making contacts that purchased her products. Unfortunately, the salmon runs are cyclical and recently they have begun to decline causing Suzy to look to other means to supplement her income. Suzy bought some real estate along the Columbia River and opened a small shop. Suzy stocks this shop with her Salmon, Huckleberries, Native American Jewelry and other works of art. Suzy is now in the process of adding other American Indian Food Products to carry in her store.



Suzy Lumley aka “Sockeye Suzy” is a prime example of what can be accomplished if an individual is willing to use the resources available and hard work. Suzy is a steadfast person that has a vision that benefits her family, community and the American Indian Foods Program. IAC’s longstanding relationship with Suzy continues to enable her visions to become realities.