



Intertribal Food Summit Success

IAC Great Lakes Region

The Great Lakes Intertribal Food Summit at the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians drew over 700 people for 5 days of education and networking on key issues and opportunities within the Great Lakes Region, although participants came from across the country and Canada. At 712 registrations, the event was double the size of past summits, although promotions were decreased due to a high level of interest early in the months preceding the event.

Among the 30+ workshops was a session on "Strategies and Programs to Advance Community Food Systems" that brought together high ranking staff from FSA, NRCS, RD, RMA, APHIS, and NASS along with presentations on Tribal success stories and community food assessments and the University of Arkansas's IFAI.



One challenge is that Pokagon doesn't currently have any production agriculture, so a couple workshops focused on success from other Tribes and then featured an equipment demo and planting. The summit also included both a concurrent youth summit and activities for younger youth, including the Tribe's headstart program. Notably, all meals were prepared onsite from a team of 70+ Native chefs who used a large amount of American Indian-produced items. Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive & a snowstorm didn't even put too much of a damper on the event.

