

# Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Agriculture



Hinu Smith  
Executive Director





# Ho-Chunk Nation

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- Four branches of government
  - General Council - the People – delegated authority to other branches
  - Legislative – 13 Representatives and Vice-President –appropriate funding, create law
  - Executive – President – implement law, create policy
  - Judicial - Chief Judge – interpret law

# The Executive Branch

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- President – elected
- Cabinet – appointed
- 13 Departments – Administration, Agriculture, Business, Education, Health, Heritage Preservation, Housing, Justice, Labor, Natural Resources, Personnel, Social Services, and Treasury



# Department of Agriculture

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- → General Council Resolution
- → Legislative Establishment Act 2016
  - Division of Agriculture under Department of Natural Resources
- → Department of Agriculture became operational July 1, 2023

# Department of Agriculture

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- Establishment Act

The vision of the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Agriculture is to promote a healthy tribal population and environment through the revitalization and restoration of traditional agricultural and land management practices, which includes the reassertion of control over Ho-Chunk Nation food systems.



# Department of Agriculture

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- **Health, Tradition, Sovereignty**



# Food Systems

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- Pre-contact
  - Hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, tapping
  - Followed the seasons
  - Large gardens, raised beds
  - Selective breeding, sand to clay
  - Traditional land management



# Food Systems

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- Post-contact
  - Food systems attacked
    - Extermination Era
    - Warfare tactics – food sources killed, burned, taken
  - Food systems used to assimilate
    - Removal and Reservation Era
    - Assimilation
      - Allotment and Relocation Era
    - Self-Determination Era

# Food Systems

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- Modernity
  - Reasserting control
    - Creating land and food laws, codes, ordinances, policies
    - Reacquiring land
    - Food production
  - Reaffirming traditional practices
    - Hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, tapping
  - Revitalizing
    - Traditional foods
    - Health, wellness, holistic



# Food Sovereignty

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- Ceremonies traditional hunting and gathering
- Land management practices
- Food production
  - Tribal and collaborations
  - Community gardens
- Recruitment and training
- Knowledge and traditional ecological knowledge
- Community events

# Food Sovereignty

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Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

Indigenous food sovereignty is the right of Indigenous peoples to produce their own traditional foods on their own lands to sustain themselves, their families and their communities.











## Resources

Ho-Chunk Nation

<https://ho-chunknation.com/government/>

Intertribal Agriculture Council

<https://www.indianag.org/>

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

<http://wtcac.org/>

Great Lakes Intertribal Coalition

<https://www.glitc.org/>

Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition

<https://greatlakesintertribalfood.org/>

USDA Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative

<https://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations/usda-programs-and-services/usda-indigenous-food-sovereignty-initiative>

United States Department of Agriculture

<https://usdasearch.usda.gov/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=usda&query=native+american+&commit=Search>

Natural Resources Conservation Service

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Homepage.aspx>

Grants.gov

<https://www.grants.gov/>