

Vol . 001
May
1st,
2025



NEWSLETTER

ITKN

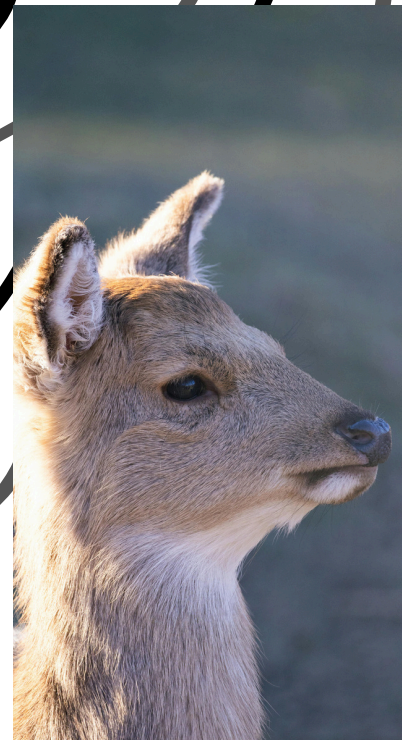
THE SIKA DEER & OUR COMMITMENT TO ANCESTRAL FOODS

The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska continues to embrace innovative ways to promote traditional, healthy food sources for our community. One key initiative is the introduction of Sika deer at Ioway Farms to support our Food as Medicine program and local food boxes.

The Sika deer, a domesticated species originating from Asia, was carefully chosen for its hardiness and ability to thrive in managed environments. While not native to our lands, the Sika deer aligns with our ancestral diet, providing a rich source of lean, nutrient-dense venison. Venison has long been valued by our people for its high protein content and essential nutrients that contribute to overall well-being.

Through this program, we aim to reconnect with traditional dietary practices while ensuring sustainable food options for our members. The introduction of Sika deer reflects our dedication to improving community health and preserving cultural values.

We look forward to sharing more about this initiative as we continue to enhance access to healthy and culturally significant foods.





DEMO DERBY

This Spring's Demo Derby was one for the books! We had an awesome turnout—packed stands and a solid lineup of drivers, including some who came all the way from Colorado!

From Kids Power Wheels to Youth Compact, Powder Puff, MWFA, Throwback, and BoneStock —there was action, excitement, and fun for all ages!



EYE CARE PROGRAM

The White Cloud Health Center is now managing the Eye Care Program for enrolled members of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska who reside in Doniphan, Richardson, Brown, or Jackson counties.

What's Covered?

- Glasses: Adults are eligible for 1 pair per year (up to \$500). Children can receive 2 pairs per year (up to \$500).
- Prescriptions: Must be less than 12 months old. Need an exam? WCHC can help with referrals!
- Contact Lenses: Orders are placed through McPeak Optometry in Hiawatha once prescription requirements are met.
- Appointments: Optical appointments are typically available on Wednesdays (subject to change based on demand).

Schedule your appointment or learn more today!

Call the White Cloud Health Center at 785-595-3450



ITKN INVESTS IN TINY HOMES TO EXPAND HOUSING

The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska has recently purchased several Tiny Homes as part of an ongoing effort to increase housing options for tribal citizens. These homes offer a practical and efficient solution to address the growing need for more housing within the community.

The addition of Tiny Homes helps meet immediate residential needs while supporting the Tribe's long-term goals of self-sufficiency, wellness, and stability for its citizens. By creating more accessible and affordable living spaces, the Tribe is taking important steps toward building a stronger, more sustainable future for all.

GREENHOUSE UPDATE: GROWING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE

Last year, the greenhouse had a strong season—growing fresh food for new programs and helping feed our community. Meeting the food needs of the Tribe was no small task, and we're proud of everyone who helped make it happen.

This year, we're building on that success. In addition to feeding the Tribe, we aim to support members who want to start their own gardens or grow traditional medicines and pollinator plants at home. As we move toward food sovereignty, we also hope to support individual sovereignty by offering seeds, starter plants, compost, and hands-on workshops.

A guiding principle for us and the wider farm team is to do all of this "in a good way"—with care for the land and all living beings, from insects and animals to plants and people. While terms like "regenerative" or "organic" help describe our approach, our focus is on growing with respect to the land.

We're excited to keep providing nourishing food and medicine for our people—and to share what we learn so that future generations can carry this work even further.



IOWAY FARMS INTRODUCES VIRTUAL FENCING TECHNOLOGY

In late March 2025, Ioway Farms took a major step forward in livestock management by introducing Vence Virtual Fencing Collars from Merck Animal Health.

With support from the Farm Journal's Climate-Smart Commodities Grant and Trust in Beef, we've begun testing this innovative system on 40 spring-calving cows and heifers. These lightweight (2.5 lbs) collars feature breakaway safety links and GPS tracking to enhance both animal safety and pasture management.

Virtual fencing offers a smart solution for managing rough, hard-to-maintain pastures on the reservation. It also provides valuable data on grazing patterns, movement, and watering habits—helping us improve herd efficiency and land use.

We're proud to share that Ioway Farms is the first federally recognized tribe in Kansas to implement this cutting-edge technology. If all goes well, we plan to expand to the rest of the herd in 2025!



ALL THE BUZZ

This spring, Keesis Charges At Them Potts, the Ioway Tribe's dedicated beekeeper, is busy installing new bee splits—also known as nucleus colonies, or "NUCs"—to expand the Tribe's Bee Farm. These additions will bring the total number of bee colonies to approximately 100.

Bees may be small, but their impact is anything but. As Keesis works to grow and maintain healthy colonies, these honeybees play a critical role in supporting the health of Tribal lands. By pollinating plants, they help native vegetation thrive, support local food systems, and contribute to the overall balance of the ecosystem.

Beekeeping is more than just honey—it's a powerful way to protect the environment, strengthen food sovereignty, and preserve traditional knowledge. With each new split installed, the Ioway Bee Farm continues to be a source of growth, resilience, and renewal for the Tribe.



GREY SNOW IN ACTION

Grey Snow Management Solutions was proud to participate in the 2025 Reservation Economic Summit (RES), joining over 5,000 attendees in celebrating Native culture, strengthening business partnerships, and advancing Tribal sovereignty. We launched our Fiber and Solar Academies to support workforce development in broadband and energy infrastructure, connected with Tribal leaders and Native-owned companies, and co-hosted a well-attended mixer with TEPA. Supporting vendors like the Ioway Bee Farm and CERNA, we helped spotlight sustainable, Native-led initiatives. RES 2025 reaffirmed our mission to empower Native communities through innovation, collaboration, and self-determination.

Read the full recap: greysnow.com/news/res-recap

DEVELOPMENTS IN TRIBAL HOUSING

The Housing Department is proud to share exciting updates and upcoming projects that reflect our ongoing commitment to providing safe, innovative, and accessible housing for our community.

Current Housing Inventory

Our programs continue to grow and serve more tribal members every year. As of this spring, we manage:

- 33 homes through the Homeownership Program
- 5 rental units purchased by the Housing Authority
- 46 apartment units

These resources provide a wide range of housing options for individuals and families across our community.

New Funding Secured

We are excited to announce that we've recently been awarded three major grants to support new housing development:

- 2023 IHBG Competitive Grant – \$3,000,000
- 2024 IHBG Competitive Grant – \$5,000,000
- Federal Home Loan Initiative (FHLI) – \$500,000

These funds will allow us to expand our housing offerings and address the diverse needs of our citizens.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TRIBAL HOUSING CONT.

Upcoming Construction Plans

We are currently in the early stages of development, beginning with environmental reviews. Planned construction includes:

- 6 duplexes for Elder Housing (location to be determined)
- 2–3 market value homes
- 6–8 single-family units

Construction is expected to begin in late spring or early summer.

This project also brings a first-of-its-kind innovation to Indian Country. These new homes will be 3D-printed using concrete, making our tribe the first to implement this groundbreaking construction method. The homes will be all-electric and solar-powered, designed with long-term sustainability and energy efficiency in mind.

Welcome to the Board

We extend a warm welcome to Brooke Herbal, our newest member of the Housing Board of Commissioners. Brooke fills the vacancy left by the late Lance Foster, who passed away last winter. We honor his service and legacy and look forward to the knowledge and business experience Brooke brings to the Board.

Continuing Programs

- HUD 184 Home Loan Program
- This ongoing program continues to provide mortgage options tailored to Native American communities. For details, visit www.hud184loans.com.
- Homeownership Assistance Program
- In August 2022, the tribe received \$410,000 from the Department of Treasury to support homeowners affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds helped with:
 - Home repairs
 - Delinquent mortgage payments
 - Property taxes, utility bills, and insurance
- Each participant was eligible for up to \$15,000 in assistance. While most funds have been distributed, limited funding remains.

The Housing Department remains committed to meeting the needs of our citizens through innovative solutions, responsible planning, and community-centered development. For more information, contact our office—we're here to help!

WHAT FOOD BOX IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

COMPARING FOOD BOXES

FOOD AS MEDICINE

Provides medically tailored food boxes to individuals with specific health conditions. These boxes support better health outcomes and are often prescribed or recommended by a healthcare provider. Must be an Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska or Sac & Fox citizen.

LFPA

(Local Food Purchase Assistance)
Distributes food boxes filled with fresh, locally grown produce and goods. The goal is to support local farmers and provide healthy, culturally appropriate food to tribal and underserved communities. Must be an ITKN citizen.

COMMODITIES

A USDA program that offers monthly food boxes with shelf-stable items like canned goods, pasta, and frozen meats to eligible Native American households in our service area (Doniphan, Brown, and Richardson counties).

IOWAY FARMS HITS THE GROUND GROWING

Ioway Farms is off to a strong start this season, making excellent progress on our spring row crops. As of now, we've successfully completed 1,950 acres of pre-emergent chemical application, all applied internally by our dedicated farm team.

Planting began in early April, and we're proud to share the following milestones:

- 560 acres of yellow #2 corn were planted between April 7–12
- 1,350 acres of soybeans were planted from April 9–16

The first fields planted are showing great results, with both soybeans and corn successfully emerging.

Looking ahead, we plan to plant 30 acres each of red and blue corn in the next week or two, weather permitting. We're also piloting 11 acres of popcorn, which will be planted in the coming weeks.

Later this spring, we'll move forward with:

- 200 acres of Milo, expected to be planted in late May or early June
- 70 acres of sunflowers, also scheduled for late May or early June

This year marks the earliest completion of our corn and soybean planting, setting a new benchmark for Ioway Farms. We extend a sincere thank you to our farm crew for their outstanding work and commitment. Their efforts continue to support food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture for our tribal community.



Are You an Enrolled ITKN Citizen?

Help us stay connected! Please email your updated contact information—name, email, mailing address, and phone number—to communications@iowas.org. Keeping your information current ensures you receive important updates and news from the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.

We honor our past while building a healthy future—thank you for staying connected.

Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska 3345 B Thrasher Rd.
White Cloud KS 66094