



Cassius Spears Sr. (Narragansett) is Founder and Director of the Narragansett Food Sovereignty Initiative, President of Rhode Island Association Conservation District (RIACD) and Farm Manager for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe's Agriculture Department. Spears has dedicated his life to the preservation of Narragansett culture and is active in ethnobotany, traditional home building, and has demonstrated eastern woodlands culture at powwows, museums, college campuses, and in film. Spears' passion for healthy traditional lifeways led to the establishment of the Narragansett Food Sovereignty Initiative that currently resides at Ashawaug Farm that strives to maintain and restore indigenous agricultural knowledge and practices. Cassius also worked with the USDA's Department of Natural Resource Conservation Services to facilitate supportive Tribal-USDA projects keeping with tribal values and priorities. Cassius is known for his traditional knowledge of the land and shares indigenous knowledge with his community.