"Empowering Native American Farmers and Ranchers in Land, Water, and Agriculture Across Generations"

Conference Program

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SWIAA 39th Annual Conference Program
January 18-20, 2027
Aquarius Hotel & Casino, Laughlin, Nevada

SWIAA IS PLANNING AN IN-PERSON EVENT FOR THIS YEAR'S 39TH ANNUAL SWIAA, INC. CONFERENCE SCHEDULED JANUARY 18-22, 2026, IN AK CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY, AZ. WEARING A MASK OR FACE COVERING THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE IS AT YOUR DISCRETION.

Persons attending and participating in SWIAA events assume all risks including, but not limited to illness, injury, death or property loss and agree not to hold the Southwest Indian Agricultural Association, Inc, its agents, event sponsors, and volunteers liable.

SPONSORED BY: USDA ARPTAI/NIFA, APHIS, Land Access/FSA

MONDAY - JANUARY 19, 2026 (PRE-CONFERENCE)

9:00 am – 1:00 pm	**SWIAA Volunteer Work Session**

MONDAY - JANUARY 19, 2026 – USDA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP

1:15 pm -2:00 pm	**Current Beef Quality and Prices Overview** Clay Parsons, Owner/Operator Marana Stockyard
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	**Updates on ARPTAI** Trent Teegerstrom
2:45 pm- 3:15 pm	**Enhancing Access to Land, Capital, and Market Approaches** Jeff Farr, RVI
3:15 pm - 4:00 pm	**Access to Capital – Grants and Loan** Dr. Jing Luo, PE, Apex Applied Technology, Inc.
4:00 pm – 4:45 pm	**Open Table Discussion**

38th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
TUESDAY - JANUARY 20, 2026
Registration Starts at 8:00 AM
Pastries & Coffee from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM

9:00 am- 9:15 am	**Conference Opening** • Opening Remarks - Andrew Antone, Sr. President, SWIAA, Inc. • Welcome - Gabriel Lopez, Chairman Ak-Chin Indian Community • Invocation- Sally Antone Ak-Chin Indian Community Elder • Posting Colors- Veterans Group Ak-Chin • National Anthem – Neok Ki, Ak-Chin O'odham
9:15 am- 10:00 am	**SWIAA Annual Membership Meeting** • President's Report • Treasurer's Report • Revised Bylaws Membership Vote YES/NO • Election of New Board Members Vacant Positions o Native American Organization (Farm) o Native American Organization (Farm) o Native American Individual (Ranch) o Native American Individual (Small Producer) o Native Serving Corporate/Institutional
10:00 am- 10:15 am	**Refreshment Break**
10:15 am- 11:00 am	**Livestock Diseases Common in the Southwest** Dr. Christina Brownlee, UA CVM
11:00 am- 11:15 am	**Door Prize Drawing #1 – Donated by Marks Family**
11:15 am- 12:00 pm	**Tax Prep for Producers: Maximizing Deductions, Minimize Headaches** Tina Begay - Red Tail Accounting
12:00 pm- 1:30 pm	**Lunch (on your own)**

1:30 pm- 2:25 pm	**Tribal Beef Quality Assurance Overview** Grey Farrell, Jr., Juan Arias, University of Arizona Tribal Extension
2:25 pm- 2:40 pm	**Door Prize Drawing #2 & Refreshment Break**
2:40 pm- 3:30 pm	**Tohono O'odham Natural Resource Department and Range Conservation Management and Program Update** Richard Saunders, TO NR Director or Cie'na Schlaefli, TO Range Conservation & Mgt Program
3:30 pm- 4:15 pm	**APHIS Presentation** Dr. Suzette dePersio, DVM, MS and Dr. Toria Davis-Foster USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
4:15 pm- 4:30 pm	**Door Prize Drawing #3**
4:30 pm	**END OF SESSION**

38th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 21, 2026
Registration Starts at 8:00 AM
Pastries & Coffee from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM

9:00 am- 9:15 am	• **Call to Order:** Raelene Havatone, Vice-President and acting Secretary, SWIAA, Inc • Invocation: Dorthy Sunna, Member of Gila River Tribe
9:15 am- 9:45 am	**History of Feral Horses and Burros in the US and Management Planning/Strategies** Dr. Tolani Francisco, DVM MPH
9:45 am- 10:15 am	**Akiptan Financial Institute** Dawn E. LeBeau, Senior Program Officer, Akiptan
10:15 am- 10:30 am	**Refreshment Break & Door Prize Drawing #4**
10:30 am- 11:15 am	**Understanding the Wolf Release Program in Arizona and New Mexico** Sisto Hernandez, Western Land Owners Alliance
11:15 am- 12:00 pm	**NAAF/Public Health/ALIRT/Extension Program** Dr. Betsy Greene, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
12:00 pm- 1:45 pm	**Award Luncheon and Premium Raffle Prize** **Luncheon Partially Sponsored by Gila River Resorts & March McLennan Agency** GILA RIVER RESORTS & CASINOS MarshMcLennan

1:45 pm- 2:30 pm	**The Importance of Tribal Agriculture in the Arizona Economy, A Preliminary Update** Dari Duval & Claudia Montania, Dept. of Agriculture and Applied Economics
2:30 pm- 3:15 pm	**Native American Agriculture Fund** Dr. Joe Graham, Senior Program Officer
3:15 pm- 3:30 pm	**Refreshment Break and Door Prize Drawing #5**
3:30 pm- 4:00 pm	**BQA Prep and Exam** **(First 10 participants will have their $10.00 exam fee sponsored by Andy Antone, Sr.)**
4:00 pm- 5:00 pm	**BQA Prep and Exam**
5:00 pm	**End of Session**

38th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY– JANUARY 22, 2026

Registration Starts at 8:00 AM

Pastries & Coffee from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM

9:00 am- 9:15 am	**Call to Order:** Andrew Antone, Sr. President, SWIAA, Inc.
9:15 am- 10:00 am	**Growing Food in Climate Chaos** Darrell Yazzie, Dine' College Extension Agent & Local Grower
10:00 am- 10:45 am	**Access to Capital – Grants and Loan** Dr. Jing Luo, PE, Apex Applied Technology, Inc.
10:45 am- 11:00 am	**Refreshment Break & Door Prize Drawing #6**
11:00 am- 11:30 am	**Agricultural Financial, Tax, and Asset Protection Program (AgFTAP)** Juan Arias, University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension
11:30 am – 11:45 am	**Interactive Showcase – Open Table Discussions with Program Leads** Featuring: • SWIAA • University of Arizona, Tribal Extension, Vet School and Ag Econ • Native American Agriculture Fund • Dine' College Extension • AZ Department of Ag • APHIS • AgFTAP • AATech • Akiptan • TO Natural Resource Department • Red Tail Accounting
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	**Grand Prize Drawing**
12:00 pm	**END OF 2026 SWIAA, INC. 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Southwest Indian Agricultural Association, Inc. Executive Board Post-Conference Debrief

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026 – 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Mr. Andrew Antone/Ms. Raelene Havatone

SPONSORS RECOGNITION

DR. ROE B. LEWIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

Dylane Carlise

Juana Apachito

MARIO K. MARKS TRAVELING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Amira Quiroz

2025 SWIAA RECOGNITION AWARDS

Jody Dean

Harold Lucas

Maclain Quasula

Alberta Ray

Jennifer Smith

Dorothy Sunna

GRAND PRIZES

Wild Horse Pass Stay and Play, Standard R Saddle, All Access Pass Grand Canyon West, Hay (Alfalfa and Grass), Grill, Auger

The SWIAA Board would like to recognize and thank the following individuals for all of their time and effort to make this year's conference so successful:

Andy Antone, Sr.	President	Tohono O'odham Nation
Raelene Havatone	Vice President/Secretary	Hualapai Tribe

Michael Lejero	Treasurer	Tohono O'odham Nation
Agnes Joaquin	Coordinator	Tohono O'odham Nation
Trent Teegerstrom	Executive Director	Consultant
Eleanor Ortega	Associate	Tohono O'odham Nation
TIm Garcia	Native American Organization - Ranch	Tohono O'odham Nation
Harold Lucas	Tribal Entity - Ranch	Tohono O'odham Nation
Brian Davis, Sr.	Native American Individual - Farm	Gila River Indian Community
Delma M. Garcia	Tribal Entity - Farm	Tohono O'odham Nation
Dr. Jing Luo	Consultant	AATECH
Jody Dean	Consultant	AATECH
Peter Zhou	Consultant	AATECH

If we missed anyone who assisted to make the Southwest Indian Agricultural Association Annual Conference a success, we apologize.

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