



REZ CHICKS FRESH EGGS COOPERATIVE
UMATILLA RESERVATION
PENDLETON OREGON

REZ CHICKS FRESH EGGS COOPERATIVE SPRING 2020



- Ordered 28 chicks online April 2020
- Purchased 12 chicks at local feedstore May 2020
- Mortality rate on chicks is very high, purchased some to learn how to care for chicks
- Goal was to teach our children how to produce food to sustain themselves, they had already produced four steers, marketed, processed
- WE WERE BETTER THAN WE THOUGHT WE WOULD BE.....ALL CHICKS SURVIVED!!

REZ CHICKS FRESH EGGS COOPERATIVE



- Began building needed equipment

REZ CHICKS FRESH EGGS COOPERATIVE SUMMER 2020



- Began purchasing needed equipment

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- August 2020 chickens are grown and starting to lay their eggs, small pullet eggs
- IAC participating in ZOOM meetings due to COVID-19 pandemic
- USDA – FNS – FDPIR consulting with tribes for addition of locally sourced traditional foods, ie; bison, wild rice, salmon.....also when they added FRESH EGGS

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FARM TO GATE
FALL 2020



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WINTER 2020-2021



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- December 2020 was in contact with Northwest Cooperative Development Center and asked about formation of an egg producers cooperative
 - January 11, 2021 – Rachelle, Deborah, Paula, Katherine met Diane Gasaway, NWCDC, online in a ZOOM meeting and discussed the idea of formally developing a cooperative.
 - Meetings began the second Monday of January 2021 and continue to meet every Monday 1:30-3:00

REZ CHICKS FRESH EGGS COOPERATIVE SPRING 2021



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- March 29, 2021 filed with the State of Oregon and Rez Chicks Fresh Eggs Cooperative was recognized as a legitimate cooperative. Tribe didn't have regulations in place for formation.
 - Rez Chicks filed /received EIN number
 - Rez Chicks filed/received DUNS number
 - Rez Chicks filed/received SAMS number
 - Opened Bank Account at First Community Credit Union (also a co-op)

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- USDA Rural Development – Value Added Producer Grant submitted an application with a request for \$25,000.00 which will be utilized for:
 - Labeling
 - Advertising
 - Egg Cartons
 - Insurance
 - Refrigeration

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- VAPG grant application has a component to provide employment for an egg processing assistant at \$12.00/hour
 - Rez Chicks partnered with Pendleton High School FFA
 - Rez Chicks partnered with Umatilla Tribes
 - Rez Chicks partnered with Nixyawaii CDFI
 - Commitment from Moe Pho Café for purchase of eggs
 - Commitment from Mission Market for purchase of eggs

REZ CHICKS FRESH EGGS COOPERATIVE SUMMER 2021



Oregon Food Bank

2021 Grower Support Pilot Mini Grant \$5,000 (specific to Indian Country)

– Applications closed, however application deadline has been extended due to limited applications from Indian Country – request for equipment to make production uniform across the cooperative ie; feeders, nesting boxes, watering containers, water tank heaters

REZ CHICKS FRESH EGGS COOPERATIVE



(l-r)

Deborah Harris, Founding Member

Katherine Minthorn, Founding Member

Rachelle Morrison, Founding Member

Diane Gasaway, Director, NWCDC

Paula Wallis, Founding member (absent)