

Advancing Markets for Producers

Official project title: “Climate Smart Commodities and Market Development within the Chickasaw Nation: Restoring Power to Small Farmers and Communities Through Pecan and Specialty Crop Engagement.”

The award

Award ID	NR243A750004G001 (USDA NRCS Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities)
Total approved budget	\$4,996,126.25 — \$4,977,367.40 federal, \$18,758.85 non-federal
Producer incentives	\$2,400,000.00 paid directly to producers
Period of performance	Executed 16 November 2023 — ends 31 October 2028
Programme lead	Chickasaw Nation Office of Natural Resources
Principal investigator	Kristopher Patton, ONR — (580) 399-8975 · kristopher.patton@chickasaw.net

Why this region

Within the Chickasaw Nation treaty territory there are **2,363 underserved farmers** and **5,608 new and beginning farmers** (NASS 2017). **92%** of farmers in the territory meet USDA's definition of a small farmer, and Oklahoma is the **second largest state in the country for First American farmers**.

The territory holds more than **23,000 acres of native pecan farms**. The Chickasaw Nation itself contributes **364 acres** of its own pecan production to the programme.

Where the money goes

Producer incentives	\$2.4M — paid to pecan and specialty-crop producers
Marketing	\$475,000 to market climate-smart produce
Education	45 Murray State College scholarships at \$5,000 each
Degree pathways	Three new AAS programmes: Agriculture IT, Farm & Ranch Business Technology, Horticulture

Partners

Chickasaw Nation Office of Natural Resources · Murray State College (Tishomingo and Ardmore) · Oklahoma Conservation Commission · Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts · Arbuckle Conservation District · Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association · Oka’ Institute at East Central University · Lake of the Arbuckles Watershed Association · Blue River Foundation of Oklahoma · City of Ada · local NRCS field staff · Bedré Fine Chocolate.

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