

**Michigan Federally-Recognized Tribal Extension Program**  
A Michigan State University – Bay Mills Community College – Tribal  
Extension Collaboration

Following a recent award supporting the development of a new Federally-Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP), Michigan State University Extension will create a new FRTEP servicing four federally-recognized tribes in the Eastern Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. The project seeks to improve the health, well-being and financial independence of these four Michigan Indian tribes through the creation of a full-time Extension Educator position that will assist the tribes in advancing their horticulture, small-scale sustainable agriculture, and small-business development programs. Michigan State University Extension will administer the FRTEP in collaboration with Bay Mills Community College, and the four Michigan FRTEP tribes (Bay Mills Indian Community, Hannahville Indian Community, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.)

The Michigan FRTEP will work to build tribal capacity in horticulture, small-scale sustainable agriculture and small business development. Agricultural and horticultural program activities will focus on enhancing the production and profitability of small-scale tribal agriculture projects and improving tribal member wellness. The new FRTEP educator will not only develop and deliver educational programs, but they will importantly serve as an organizer, network builder, convener and cheerleader on the path toward horticultural and health revitalization in Michigan Indian Country. Initial program partners include Michigan State University Extension, Bay Mills Community College, the four partner tribes listed above, the Native American Institute, C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems, Michigan Food and Farming Systems and MSU Department of Horticulture.