

## Local Food Production and Food Security

Bryce Townsend, Black Mesa Farm, Pueblo of San Felipe;

Produce Prescription Program Farmer

- Owner of Black Mesa Farm (BMF), created LLC in 2022
- 8-acre farm located in San Felipe Pueblo, 4 generations
- Full-time farmer in 2012, Specialty crops in 2016
- In 2022, began work with NMFMA FreshRx program on a 16-week program
- Year 1 –150 produce packages served 8 Pueblo communities (Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Nambe, Pojoaque, Cochiti, Kewa, and San Felipe Pueblo)
- Year 2 – 330 produce packages served 10 Pueblo communities (added Isleta and Laguna), 1 Navajo comm. (Tohajiilee) and 1 Native urban center (First Nations Community Healthsource (FNCH))
- System logistics 2023: BMF with 2 other farms (Farm of Song and Rodriguez S & J) and 1 orchard (Rancho de Santa Fe) provided all the local grown fruits and vegetables; BMF aggregated and packaged all shares at the Roadrunner Food Bank (RRFB), which provided both cold storage and floor space for packaging; MoGro Mobile Grocery (operating at RRFB) provided delivery services for FreshRx to FNCH and 3 drop-off sites on a northern route, while the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) provided delivery service to the southern communities. Health programs in each community distributed the produce package to the recipients.
- Current year – 4 Pueblo communities with cost-match (Ohkay Owingeh, Nambe, Laguna, 1 pending) and 1 Native urban center (FNCH); MoGro and IPCC will continue providing delivery services on similar routes. BMF will utilize IPCC's new Entrepreneurial Complex for cold storage, processing and packaging. BMF will aggregate from the same 2 farms and 1 orchard.
- Along with providing Native communities access to local grown, fresh produce, utilizing agricultural lands and exercising water rights is a priority in optimizing the overall health and wealth of the people.