

# FY-2026 2nd quarter report

## LAND, ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AS MEDICINE DIVISION

### Status report of Outcomes/Goals

1. Which outcome/goal(s) does the Division wish to report on?
2. What metric is being used to measure the outcome/goal?
3. What are the accomplishments (i.e. positives, things for which the Division is proud, brags) have occurred over the reporting period that reflect the Division's progress for reaching the outcome/goal?
4. What can the community expect to see in the future (i.e. 6 months; next year; 18 months) from the Division related to the outcome/ goal?

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### Outcome/Goal # 1

Continuous review and improvement of current programming while also creating new programming based on community demand, provide services to more of the community.

#### **Land Area:**

MEASUREMENT: There were 24 work orders completed, 3 months of uninterrupted service delivery, 1 workflow improvement initiative advanced, and 100% priority seasonal support

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

During the 2nd Quarter, the Land and Conservation Department sustained core service delivery while refining workflows to improve responsiveness and efficiency. Program activities included completion of priority work orders, coordination of seasonal operations, and internal process improvements to better meet community demand.

#### EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The Land and Conservation Department will continue evaluating program delivery methods, streamlining internal processes, and adjusting service offerings to respond to evolving community needs and upcoming seasonal workloads.

#### **Environmental Area:**

MEASUREMENT Promoting positive community relations.



Deven Metoxen and Tony Kuchma presented at the Oneida Health and Wellness Expo

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Env staff assembled Pollinator seed packets that were distributed at the Health and Wellness Expo in February. The Environmental Communications Outreach Specialist “Community Engagement” analysis shows Facebook combined total views reached 35,647, representing a significant increase from 22,324 views in same quarter in 2025 – about a 60% year-over-year increase! This growth reflects expanding outreach efforts and informational content. The higher viewership indicates that updates, program announcements, and educational messaging are reaching a broader audience and strengthening connections between the Division and community. The Land, Environmental, Ag, & Food Division (LEAF) Winter newsletter was published in March, 2026.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Community events upcoming for Env Area are April 20 partnership with Green Earth library Earth Day Clean Up and a May Buckthorn walking stick workshop. LEAF Spring newsletter will be published in May. A new “Services Guide” will be updated in the next half of FY26. The previous one is three names ago, from 2016.

## **Agriculture Area**

MEASUREMENT: The Farm and Orchard completed planning and preparing for spring with seed orders, stock trees orders, and related fertilizer and planting inputs necessary for spring planting. Preparation for spring calving was completed. Work continued on the re-org of the LEAF Division and the blending of Tsyunhehkwa into the Orchard Farm.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Two Community Workshops for “Pruning Your Fruit Trees” were completed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Announcement of the re-org into the LEAF Division was completed and the Agriculture Area was divided into two with a new area added that has become the Food As Medicine Area, and the Ag Area that now has the Orchard reporting to the Farm.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The Ag Area will continue with expanding their re-regenerative growing practices by reducing and replacing practices that could jeopardize soil health or water runoff. The Orchard Farm continues with their organic methods for growing and the ONF continues to add more cover crops and regenerative pastures. Beef and Bison herds will be expanded with new pastures and increased numbers of livestock. Oneida White Corn production will increase to 30 acres, up from 10 acres last year.

**Food As Medicine Area**

MEASUREMENT:

10 community garden families are participating in this long-term project. This includes 5 families from last year, and 5 new families.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

After program evaluation of our community garden group's first season through our WPP program, we kicked off our second year of the group on March 1st, where our garden group participated in its first garden workshop of the season, "Planning our Garden". Our gardening coach provided instructions on how to map out the garden and determine seed-starting dates for everything being planted. This was followed by two hands-on seed-starting workshops on March 11 and March 18th. During these workshops, participants planted seeds they were assigned, learned seed starting techniques including soil preparation, planting depth, spacing, watering, and how to care for their seedlings in the earliest stages. In collaboration with the Orchard to further support our garden group members, "Mending the Disconnect" planned a tree pruning workshop with Orchard staff to expand on group skills from the year prior. Participants learned how to prune the young trees that had been planted the year before.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

"Mending the Disconnect" will continue to evaluate workshops in collaboration with our partnership with GLITEC epidemiologists to ensure we are providing opportunities to our membership aimed at connecting our community to our ways, our community, our land, and our food pathways as a means, to empowering them in their own wellness journeys. These objectives will continue to guide our design and execution of workshops throughout this last period of the grant.

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Outcome/Goal # 2

Expand and enhance best practices to improve the health of the Reservation's environment and community.

**Land Area:**

MEASUREMENT: Completed 24 Hazard Mitigation/Cleanup work orders, 136 total wood loads delivered, 4 wood chip deliveries, \$20,023 cost savings, 104 hunting surveys completed.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Conservation efforts focused on community safety, environmental stewardship, and direct support to Elders. Activities included hazard mitigation, cleanup and debris management, and consistent delivery of wood resources for Elder, supplemental heating, and ceremonial use.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Future efforts will emphasize proactive environmental management, sustained elder support services, and preparation for peak operational seasons to ensure continued protection of community health and natural resources.

**Environmental Area:**

MEASUREMENT: Direct environmental improvements and community engagement



Top L: Mowing non-native phragmites at Health Center with remote mower.

Top R: Env Health Sanitarians completed Oneida Playgrounds safety inspections in March.

Bottom L to R Environmental staff Deven Metoxen, William Pocan, Alaina Noll, Wesley Johnson, Sylvia Cornelius, Eric McLester, Maureen Zeise, James Snitgen, Nathan Pelky.

Missing from photo: Amber Powless, Mike Arce Jon Habeck, Jennifer Jordan, Brittany Nicholas, and Victoria Flowers.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Invasive Species total acres treated this quarter is 2.5 Acres. Treatments included cutting with Remote Control Mower and brush cutter. Locations where Phragmites were cut included: HWY 172 Silver Creek Bridge, behind Health Center and HWY 172 Across from Health Center. Along HWY 54 Duck Creek Bridge, Buckthorn and Honeysuckle were cut and along Freedom Rd. staff cut invasive grasses. At Norbert Hill Center, Oneida Lake, and Osnuhsa Lake, cut and treated Buckthorn. Along HWY 54 storage shed, cut Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed. Environmental Health issued 10 Food Handler safety certificates, completed 4 Food Service Establishment routine inspections and 7 follow-up food service inspections, processed 1 Food Service Establishment License Renewal, inspected 3 temporary food service establishments; issued 27 Pet Licenses, followed up on 2 Food Service Establishment Complaints, completed 1 Food Service Establishment Pre-operational inspections, issued 1 New Food Service Establishment License. Sanitarians also conducted 4 health and safety inspections for Oneida Comprehensive Housing Division and 12 Public Playground safety assessments for Parks and Recreation; and did 2 dog bite investigations. Nonpoint program performed 6 acres of Stream Maintenance and 13 acres of Buffer maintenance. Nonpoint technician, Jaryd passed his Drone License exam. In March the Environmental Area received the NEW Water - NEW Watershed Champion 2026 Award for conservation work in the watershed.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Continued protection and restoration of Reservation habitats, stocking of clean healthy fish, encourage and assist with outdoor recreational activities, health and safety inspections for permanent and temporary food vendors, consistent community outreach on work being done by staff with our communications specialist. 2 staff are in BIA Wildfire safety training and will complete in Q3, to assist BIA with prescribed burnings in Oneida.

**Agriculture Area**

MEASUREMENT:

The Ag Area will continue with the best practice of merging the former Tsyunhehkwá Farm with the Oneida Orchard Farm to increase efficiencies with staff and equipment. The most cost effective and healthiest approaches will be taken to grow more of our own food for this community that include fruits, vegetables, chickens, beef, and bison.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Provided 2 Orchard Workshops on "Pruning Fruit Trees" and offered a joint Orchard/Cannery Valentines Day Event to bring community members out to the Orchard. The ONF continued to provide Beef and Bison to the Oneida Food Distribution Center as part of our ongoing work to support the 638 Farm Bill. The Farm also provided approximately 15,000 pounds of finished Oneida white corn for the Oneida Cannery to meet community demand.

#### EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The ONF and Orchard Farm will continue with the organic and regenerative growing practices over past seasons. Chickens will again be used in the Orchard as natural pest control and fertilizer, while also providing eggs for the Oneida Food Pantry. ONF expanded beef pastures by 45 acres last fall that will be available for grazing this summer. Expanded bison pasture of 150 acres was approved and funded by a

#### **Food As Medicine Area**

##### MEASUREMENT:

Through a demonstration project for a proposed school food policy change that will focus on providing nutrient-dense meals incorporating local and culturally relevant foods. \$26,000 was requested and approved for this pilot project from our WPP grant. All monies will go towards organic and local high-quality food to provide breakfast, snacks, and lunch for all 70 plus Oneida nation high school students for 5 weeks.

##### ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

A meaningful and exciting partnership agreement has been finalized with the Oneida Nation School District and the WPP program to being a School Food Pilot Program this year. This pilot project is set to be implemented in May for the remainder of the school year at the high school. This month-long demonstration will be modeled on a proposed school food policy that will focus on providing nutrient-dense, minimally processed meals, incorporating local and culturally relevant foods, prioritizing organic foods, and will eliminate the use of ultra processed ingredients/foods during the pilot period. Together with school nutrition kitchen staff and the Nation's nutritionist, WPP staff will work daily in the high school kitchen to prepare and serve this menu.

In addition, a parent-focused presentation with meal is being planned in April to introduce the pilot, share its purpose, and build understanding around the role food plays in shaping health, culture, and community well-being, supporting long-term change at both the school and household level.

##### EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

This effort represents one strategy to prevent and address chronic health disease in the Oneida Community. In partnership with GLITEC, surveys are being developed, and evaluation will be conducted to assess program impact from the standpoint of the students, parents, and teachers. Our goal will be to advocate for this food policy to be implemented in youth nutrition programs across the Nation.

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## Outcome/Goal # 3

### Exercising Sovereignty

#### **Land Area:**

MEASUREMENT: Land Management continues an aggressive approach to new land purchases and applications for land into trust.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The Land and Conservation Department advanced sovereign responsibilities through coordination of land-related activities, operational planning, and collaboration with internal and external partners. Work completed this quarter strengthened land stewardship, regulatory coordination, and organizational readiness.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Efforts will continue to support sovereignty through effective land management, interdepartmental coordination, and strategic planning that align operations with long-term Nation priorities.

#### **Environmental Area:**

MEASUREMENT: Number of compliance assistance and regulatory activities carried out for the nation as regulators. See table.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

See above for NEPA, Phase I numbers completed in quarter 2. To facilitate compliance with the LANDBAC process, the Environmental Compliance Coordinator has been working with Land Management, DTS, GIS and Community Development to create connections with GIS parcel data, acquisition data and subject matter expert data. Completed numerous stormwater compliance activities and renewed credential and Alaina and Maureen nearing completion of Inspector requirements. NRCS liaison submitted one application on behalf of ONF to place 400 acres in cover crop and no till annually for a 5 year contract.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

NEPAs, Phase 1s, Construction Site Stormwater compliance and inspections, Water quality threats investigated, Underground Storage Tanks compliance and inspections and Brownfields remediation will continue to take place.

#### **Agriculture Area**

MEASUREMENT:

Continuing to provide meat for Farm Bill 638, for MITW and Oneida Food Distribution.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Have been able to provide requested meat deliveries to the Oneida Food Distribution. Also have been successful with getting ONF meat into 6 of the Retail One Stops.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The Oneida Nation Farm will grow it's livestock herd to meet more of the community demand for healthy quality meat.

**Food As Medicine Area**

MEASUREMENT:

Oneida Nation Farm was able to provide 1459 pounds of ground beef, 504 pounds of beef roasts, and 551 pounds of bison to the Oneida Nation Food Distribution Program in February to fill their backlog demand from the gap in funding. They have provided 800 pounds of beef, 150 roasts, and 300 pounds of bison each month to maintain consistent orders. ONF has added 30 breeding cows to their herd, and an additional 70 bison to an already addition of 35 Animals to increase their herd, to meet the growing demand of our assistance programming that continues to exercise our sovereignty through programs like 638 that utilizes federal funding to put back into our own food system rather than the usual USDA vendor list.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The FDIPR 638 Demonstration Project funding was released in January after a hold relating to the government shutdown. With this, Oneida Food Distribution is now resuming utilizing these funds to incorporate Oneida beef and bison into their program for Oneida community households that participate in the assistance program.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

As demand for Oneida Beef and Bison has increased with this demonstration project, this has been a catalyst for the Oneida agriculture operations to increase our food production to be self-sustaining on our programs. Oneida Nation Farms has begun to increase both their beef and bison herds and add acreage of white corn production to their operations. The Oneida Orchard Farm will also be increasing berry production and other root crop production for our programs.

**Contact Info**

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**Photos (optional):**



Storm Damage efforts and Picture of Crew/Staff conducting Hazard Tree abatement efforts, of an infested Ash tree, result of the Emerald Ash Bore.



Picture of the work to stabilize and level the piers at Oneida Lake, for the Membership's and Community enjoyment and safety.



L: Nathan presented purple loosestrife biocontrol at TEPM in Chicago in March



R: Environmental staff that constructed mallard nesting tubes for installation at wetland areas