



NORTH AMERICAN
**FOOD SYSTEMS
NETWORK**

ON LEVEL GROUND:

PROGRESSIVE MODELS IN FARMLAND TENURE & WORKING WATERWAYS

A WEBINAR SERIES HOSTED BY NAFSN

MEET FEATURED SPEAKER

from the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI)
at the University of Arkansas



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

MARY BELLE ZOOK

Mary Belle will speak on IFAI's mission to enhance the health and wellness of Tribal communities by advancing healthy food systems, diversified economic development, and cultural food traditions. She will discuss how IFAI provides strategic legal analysis, policy research, and educational resources to empower Indian Country through food sovereignty, agriculture, and economic development.

Tune in to learn about IFAI's Model Tribal Food and Agriculture Code, which serves as a resource for Tribal governments, providing a comprehensive set of model laws for review, adoption, and implementation. Some of the model codes include protections for traditional foods and seeds, water, food processing and more, and were designed to facilitate agricultural production, support food systems development, and improve health outcomes in Indian Country.

Mary Belle will also discuss the IFAI's work as the research and policy partner for the Native Farm Bill Coalition — Indian Country's largest joint agriculture and nutrition policy effort — as well as how Tribal land and farmland loss impacts Indian Country's overall health and wellness.

**EPISODE #2:
WED, SEPT 14
1 PM-2PM ET**

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ABOUT THE SERIES:

NAFSN's "On Level Ground" 2022 webinar series features organizations with **innovative responses to farmland ownership and waterway access challenges in the U.S.**

Each 60-min. webinar illuminates the work of one organization in a conversation-style, virtual setting with the host. Questions from the audience are highly encouraged and curated.

ABOUT THE HOST:

Laura Lauffer is the Extension associate & project director for **EmPOWERing Mountain Food Systems at North Carolina State University & the Center for Environmental Farming Systems.** As Chair of the NAFSN Productions Circle for 2020- 2022, Laura is committed to amplifying the voices of community-based innovators who are improving economic and social equity in rural communities.