

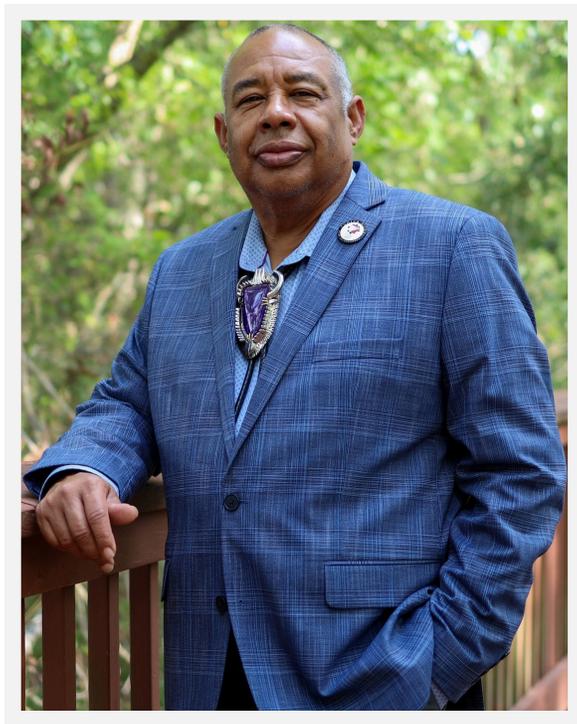
TAHCH'I FARMS

A Vision for Food Sovereignty



Mission, Vision, & Strategic Plan

2026



A Letter From Chairman Marshall Pierite

Agriculture has always been central to our survival and identity. From the earliest days of our ancestors, we have cultivated the land not just to feed our people, but to strengthen our community and pass down traditions of stewardship and resilience. Our Agriculture Department represents our continued commitment to that legacy.

Through the vision of Tahch'i Farms and the dedication of our Tribal leadership and partners, we are taking bold steps to restore food sovereignty and build a thriving agricultural economy. Our work focuses on growing fresh, local produce, teaching sustainable practices, and inspiring future generations to embrace the importance of caring for the land.

This is more than farming. It is an investment in the health, strength, and future of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe. Together, we are planting the seeds for a stronger, healthier, and more prosperous tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marshall Pierite".

Chairman Marshall Pierite



Mission

Tahch'i Farms is committed to advancing the food sovereignty of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe by producing nutrient-rich foods and implementing sustainable, climate-smart agricultural practices. Through education, cultural preservation, and stewardship of our natural resources, we aim to create a resilient, self-sustaining food system that supports economic development, health, and intergenerational knowledge-sharing for our Tribe and surrounding communities.

Vision

Tahch'i Farms is building a thriving, self-sufficient food system that empowers Tribal members and surrounding communities through access to nutrient-rich foods, education, and economic opportunities. We aim to restore the health of our lands, promote environmental sustainability, and inspire a regional movement toward Indigenous food sovereignty that uplifts generations to come.



Core Values

Food Sovereignty

We are committed to reclaiming control of our food systems to ensure healthy, locally grown food for our people and future generations.

Cultural Stewardship

We honor our ancestors by caring for the land, preserving traditional knowledge, and passing on agricultural practices that sustain our identity.

Health & Wellness

We prioritize fresh, nutritious food and programs that strengthen the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of our Tribal citizens and community.

Education & Empowerment

We invest in teaching sustainable farming and life skills, especially to our youth, so they can lead the next era of growth and self-reliance.

Sustainability & Collaboration

We practice regenerative agriculture and work with partners to build a resilient, thriving food system for generations to come.



TAHCH'I FARMS

OVERVIEW

The Tunica-Biloxi Agricultural Department was established in May 2023 with a clear mission: to bring food production back to Tribal land and rebuild a resilient, sovereign food system. From this vision, Tahch'i Farms was born.

Our goal is to establish organic regenerative agriculture on Tunica-Biloxi land, providing fresh, nutrient-dense foods for Tribal citizens and employees. The farm is more than a production site, it is a community hub and cultural classroom. Through programs like the Youth Agriculture Program (YAP), we are sparking interest among Tribal youth, teaching them to grow food, care for the land, and discover career pathways in agriculture, horticulture, and environmental science.

In partnership with the Language and Culture Department, Tahch'i Farms is reintroducing some ancestral heirloom crops and traditional growing methods. Hands-on learning opportunities and seminars will ensure that cultural knowledge is passed to the next generation, keeping alive the traditions that have sustained our people for centuries.

Guided by the Tribal motto "Cherishing Our

Past, Building For Our Future," we view Tahch'i Farms as both a restoration project and a bold step forward. The farm's focus is not only on cultivating food but on revitalizing food sovereignty, restoring health and wellness to our community, and serving as a model for other Indigenous nations who wish to reclaim their agricultural heritage.

Located in Marksville, Louisiana, Tahch'i Farms is owned and operated by the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe and currently provides monthly distributions of organic produce to Tribal households. As we expand, the farm will serve as a pilot for large-scale food sovereignty efforts with plans to grow into a cultural education center, commercial supplier, and eventually, a tribally owned grocery store.

The name Tahch'i means "sun" in the Tunica language, and the sun holds sacred significance in both Tunica and Biloxi cultures. It represents life, growth, healing, and renewal, the very principles at the heart of our agricultural work. Our logo reflects this meaning, featuring a radiant sun flanked by two alligators: one blue for winter and one red for summer, symbolizing the cycles of nature that guide our planting and harvest seasons.



The farm is located on the Tunica-Biloxi Reservation,
the address is 644 Melaccon Rd, Marksville, LA 71351.

LOCATION



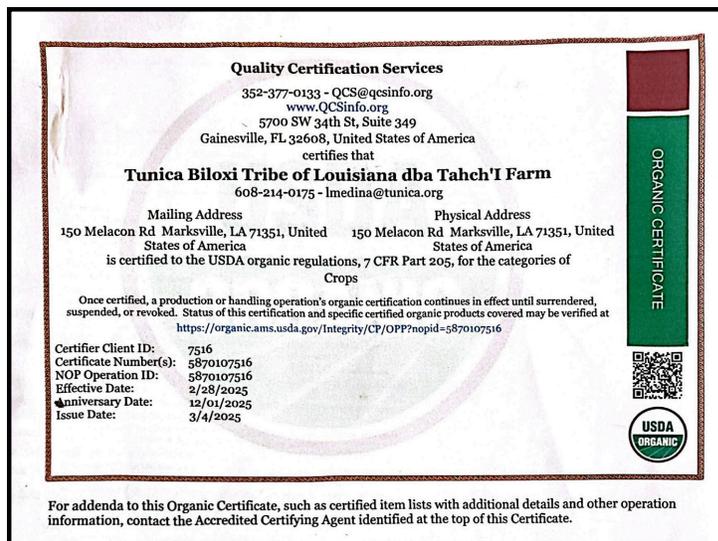
Tahch'i Farms is located within the Tunica-Biloxi Tribal lands just south of Marksville in east-central Louisiana. The reservation spans approximately 1,717 acres of trust and fee lands in Avoyelles and Rapides Parishes.

Nestled in this region of rich soils and a humid subtropical climate, the land is well-suited to diverse cropping and gives our farmers an opportunity to grow year-round. The farm is anchored in ancestral territory, land our people have known, cared for, and relied on through generations.

Certified Organic Farm

We're Officially USDA Certified Organic!

This certification means our farm meets the highest standards for organic growing. No synthetic pesticides, no GMOs, and a commitment to protecting soil health and biodiversity. Every crop we grow is nurtured with care, ensuring you get fresh, wholesome produce you can trust.



And..Real Organic Certified!

Real Organic Project is a farmer-led grassroots movement and add-on food label that distinguishes soil-grown and pasture-raised food. They only certify farms that are already USDA certified organic and we are one of the 1000+ farms across the country that have this certification.



Farm Team



Louis Medina
Director of Agriculture



Samuel Velasquez
Agriculture Coordinator

SE TOPP Beginner Organic Farmers

Sammy Velasquez recently participated in a program called SE TOPP, which connects beginner organic farmers with experienced organic farmers in their respective regions of the U.S. Through this program, I had the opportunity to work with Daphne Snow, the farm manager at Choctaw Fresh.

Choctaw Fresh is a nonprofit organization located on the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Reservation. Its mission is to provide the community with healthy, USDA-certified organic food grown on Choctaw land and harvested by Choctaw hands.

During his time with their organic program, Sammy learned a great deal, especially about the use of high tunnel systems, workforce management, and the importance of documenting organic compliance reports.



2024 Harvest

Crops Planted in 2024:

- Cucumbers
- Tomatoes
- Summer Squash
- Turnips
- Mustard Greens
- Collards
- Cantaloupe
- Watermelon

Harvest Results:

Cucumbers: 1,010 lbs.

Watermelons: 815 lbs. (122 heads)

Zucchini: 107 lbs.

Purple Top Turnips: 30 lbs.



Planting



Growing



Thanks to the USDA & Tahch'i Farms, in 2024 we were able to give Tunica-Biloxi families locally sourced, fresh food for their dinner tables .



Distributing

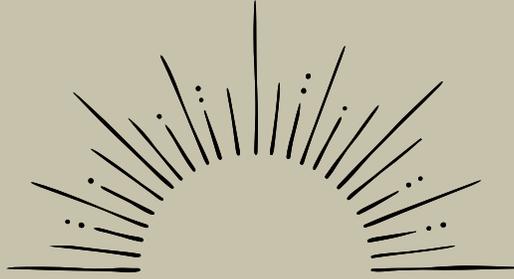
Our First Harvest in 2023

In 2023, we:

- Participated in the Intertribal Agriculture Committee (IAC) conference in December, held in Las Vegas.
- Attended the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) conference in New Orleans.
- Participated in the REZ conference in Las Vegas.
- Established partnerships and secured contracts to initiate food drives for LFPA.
- Contributed to the establishment and maintenance of the inaugural Tunica Biloxi-owned farm field.
- Assisted in the cultivation and distribution of produce from Tahch'i Farms, marking a significant milestone.



In 2024, Secretary Deb Haaland visited Tahch'i Farms for a tour and to discuss our upcoming plans.



TAHCH'I FARMS
Strategic Plan

Executive Summary

Tahch'i Farms is an initiative of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana dedicated to food sovereignty, wellness, and sustainable economic growth.

This five-year plan (2026–2030) establishes the roadmap for Tahch'i Farms to evolve from an organized community-centered operation into a self-sustaining Tribal agribusiness.

2026 (Phase 1) focuses solely on organization, infrastructure completion, and community food supply.

2027–2029 (Phase 2) transitions into expansion, processing, and local market readiness.

2030 (Phase 3) positions the farm for full sustainability and long-term growth through Tribal grocery/farm market initiatives, renewable systems, and new product diversification.

By the end of 2030, Tahch'i Farms will provide reliable, locally grown food for Tribal citizens and the surrounding region, while serving as a cornerstone of Tribal food sovereignty and economic independence.

I. Purpose

To guide the structured development of Tahch'i Farms as a long-term agricultural enterprise that enhances food access, supports Tribal citizens, and contributes to the Tribe's economic resilience.



Today is your opportunity to build the
tomorrow you want

II. Strategic Phases

01

Organization & Community Focus

Establish Tahch'i Farms as a fully organized, functional agricultural operation providing consistent produce to Tribal citizens while gathering data and preparing for larger expansion in 2027 and beyond.

02

Expansion & Commercialization

Transition Tahch'i Farms into a self-sustaining agribusiness and expand its community and commercial footprint.

03

Sustainability & Long-Term Growth

Transition Tahch'i Farms into a self-sustaining agribusiness and expand its community and commercial footprint.

Phase 1: Organization & Community Focus

BUILD THE FOUNDATION

Purpose: Get organized, operational, and consistent in serving the Tribal community while beginning to build brand visibility.

Overview: During 2026, Tahch'i Farms will focus on internal organization and foundational infrastructure, including completing fencing, installing high tunnels, and setting up a small office/restroom building. The year's emphasis will be on feeding Tribal citizens, strengthening workflows, and collecting performance data for future expansion.

At the same time, Tahch'i Farms will begin introducing its brand to the wider community by participating in local farmers' markets, sharing its story, and establishing recognition for Tribal-grown, high-quality produce.

Key Outcomes

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Secure, fully fenced and organized farm site | ■ Baseline data on yields, costs, and operations |
| ■ High-tunnel production system active | ■ Small office/restroom building installed |
| ■ Visible community presence through local farmers' markets | ■ Reliable produce distribution to Tribal citizens |

Equipment Needed

Hydrostatic Tractor	Raised Bed Mulch Layer
Side-by-Side ATV	Rain Flow Water Wheel Planter
Irrigation System	Small Trailer
Buckeye Bed Shaper	

Key Goals & Actions

Infrastructure & Land Management

- Complete full perimeter fencing to protect crops from hogs and wildlife.
- Install high tunnels for controlled seasonal growing.
- Conduct soil testing and implement a soil-health improvement plan.

Production, Community Distribution & Branding

- Focus on providing fresh produce to Tribal citizens and programs.
- Establish weekly or bi-weekly produce delivery schedule.
- Prioritize high-performing staple crops suitable for local climate.
- Begin introducing the Tahch'i Farms brand to the public by participating in local farmers' markets, sharing the farm's mission of food sovereignty and community wellness.

Workforce Development & Training

- Engage Tribal citizens through part-time and volunteer opportunities.
- Offer hands-on agricultural and food safety training.
- Work with ITC Internships during the Summertime
- Build the Youth Agriculture Program and hold consistent meetings with interactive activities

Facilities & Organization

- Continue using the gym as a temporary wash/pack and storage area.
- Purchase and install a small modular building (restroom + office).
- Create a centralized workflow layout for efficiency.

Infrastructure & Land Management

- Track yields, crop performance, labor hours, and expenses.
- Monitor soil health, pest patterns, and seasonal outcomes.
- Produce an end-of-year "State of the Farm" report summarizing results.

Planning & Preparation

- Develop a detailed business plan and budget for 2027-2030 expansion.
- Identify grant and partnership funding for facility upgrades and livestock projects.
- Conduct feasibility review for future grocery or farm-stand initiative.

Phase 2: Expansion & Commercialization

EXPANSION

Purpose: Scale production, expand facilities, and develop market readiness through infrastructure growth, workforce expansion, and community partnerships.

Overview: From 2027 through 2029, Tahch'i Farms will move from community-scale production to a larger operational model focused on growth, diversification, and market development.

This phase includes construction of a new wash/pack facility, expansion of staff, and introduction of value-added product lines such as organic fertilizer, mulch, poultry, and honey.

During this time, the farm will begin selling produce to Paragon Casino Resort, local grocers, and regional markets, all while maintaining its mission of feeding Tribal citizens first.

Key Outcomes

- Refine crop selection and sales strategies using 2026 data.
- Test produce sales to Paragon Casino and local markets.
- Establish partnerships with restaurants, co-ops, and grocers.
- Introduce the possibility of culturally significant crops
- Host community workshops and educational farm tours.
- Construct a new wash/pack barn with cold storage.
- Expand workforce to fit growing needs

Phase 2

Key Goals & Actions

Infrastructure & Facilities Development

- Construct a new wash/pack barn with food-safe processing, cold storage, and workspace separate from the gym.
- Purchase upgraded tools, tables, and sanitization systems for efficient packing and storage.
- Install new coolers/freezers to support expanded harvest volumes.
- Enhance road access and signage to prepare for public and vendor visits.
- Add shaded outdoor work areas for safety and comfort during harvest season.

Product Diversification & Value-Added Initiatives

- Begin mulch and bedding production using organic plant waste and wood chips.
- Confirm the feasibility of other expansion projects, such as beekeeping, poultry and eggs, etc.

Workforce Development & Training

- Expand staff to fit growing needs.
- Offer formal internships and job-training partnerships with local schools and colleges.
- Develop clear job descriptions, safety procedures, and training manuals.
- Introduce cross-training opportunities in planting, harvesting, sales, and processing.
- Provide ongoing workshops on business management and farm entrepreneurship.

Production, Community Distribution & Branding

- Increase production capacity and diversity of crops to meet community and commercial demand.
- Identify and refine 4–6 high-value crops for market focus.
- Pilot commercial sales with Paragon Casino Resort, local restaurants, and community markets.
- Establish distribution logistics and pricing systems for retail and wholesale sales.
- Continue participation in local farmers' markets and expand to regional events.

Financial Growth & Planning

- Monitor profit/loss per crop and refine pricing strategy.
- Create financial forecasts for long-term growth and sustainability.
- Reinforce the farm's financial foundation to support Phase 3 initiatives.

Phase 3 : Sustainability & Long-Term Growth

SUSTAINABILITY

Purpose: Transition Tahch'i Farms into a self-sustaining agribusiness and expand its community and commercial footprint.

Overview: By 2030, Tahch'i Farms will achieve operational independence as a self-sustaining agribusiness.

This phase includes launching the Tribal farm market or grocery, creating a branded retail line, integrating renewable energy and hydroponic systems, and formalizing a long-term governance and advisory structure.

Phase 3 focuses on profitability, sustainability, and legacy-building, ensuring Tahch'i Farms continues to serve as a model for Tribal agriculture and self-reliance.

Key Outcomes

- Tahch'i Farm Stand or grocery store operational and profitable
- Documented five-year report and sustainability roadmap
- Branded products available in regional markets
- Tahch'i Farms recognized as a model for Tribal agriculture and entrepreneurship
- Renewable and hydroponic systems fully implemented



- TAHCH'I FARMS -

