



NAPI's Harvest Expands Nationally as Navajo Nation Strengthens Agricultural Foundations



*Autumn means it's time to visit look at some pumpkins.
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WASHINGTON, D.C. – This season, churches across the country are celebrating autumn while supporting Navajo farmers. The First Congregational Church of Whitman in Massachusetts, St. Luke's United Methodist Church in New Hampshire, and Zabriskie Chapel in Virginia are hosting their annual "Pumpkin Patch" events featuring hundreds of Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) pumpkins of all shapes and sizes. The proceeds will go back to Navajo Nation farmers and support local church missions under the initiative, Pumpkin Patch USA.

Members of the Navajo Nation Washington Office (NNWO) learned of the effort during a recent meeting with Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville PC, who invited them to visit the local patch at Zabriskie Chapel in Alexandria, Virginia. The discussion focused on efforts to advance agricultural infrastructure and resource delivery across the Navajo Nation. At the heart of these efforts is NAPI's continued growth and stability. NAPI operates on nearly 110,000 acres of farmland in northwestern New Mexico, making it the largest contiguous Native-owned agricultural enterprise in the United States and one of the largest employers of Navajo people on the Nation.

The Navajo Nation has prioritized advocating for the completion of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP), which is essential to providing water and infrastructure to NAPI's large-scale farming approach. Completing NIIP would help NAPI utilize water to improve crop yields and strengthen year-round operations that sustain families across the Navajo Nation and beyond.

The Navajo Nation Washington Office continues to work closely with NAPI and its partners to strengthen the foundation of Navajo agriculture. These collaborations support essential programs like the Local Food Purchase Assistance grant, which brings NAPI-grown corn, melons, and squash directly to chapter houses across the Nation.

In the spirit of this partnership, the NNWO also plans to visit the Zabriskie Chapel in Virginia, stay tuned for more details!