



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

NOVEMBER 14, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President

The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

PRESIDENT BEGAYE AND VICE PRESIDENT NEZ THANK FORMER NAPI CEO TSOSIE LEWIS FOR HIS SERVICE

NAPI-Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) announced that Friday, Nov. 13, 2015 was NAPI Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tsosie Lewis's last day of employment.

Lionel Haskie has since accepted the position of Interim NAPI CEO.

"Both Vice President and I were surprised to hear that Tsosie Lewis' last day was yesterday," said President Russell Begaye. "We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to him for the years of service he has put into building NAPI into what it is today."

Lewis worked with NAPI for over forty years. Having come aboard as a Livestock Manager, Lewis held multiple positions with NAPI before becoming the CEO.

While serving in this capacity, NAPI credits Lewis with modernizing their communications technology, overhauling their marketing structure and turning annual losses into profits.

"The Navajo Nation is well known for NAPI. It's the largest farm owned by an Indian Nation and Tsosie Lewis had a huge role in making it possible," President Begaye said.

The farming enterprise encompasses 72,573 acres of Navajo Nation land. NAPI grows and sells produce under the Navajo Pride brand name.

As NAPI transitions into interim leadership, President Begaye encourages all NAPI employees to stay focused on building the success of the farming enterprise. He also calls upon members of Congress to help the Nation build the farm to its fullest potential.

President Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez would like to express their deep appreciation to Lewis and his family, as well as the all NAPI employees at the farm.

"Lewis was a true pioneer and the Navajo Nation was privileged to have him. We wish him well in his next endeavor," said President Begaye. "We know he will be successful in whatever he does."

###