

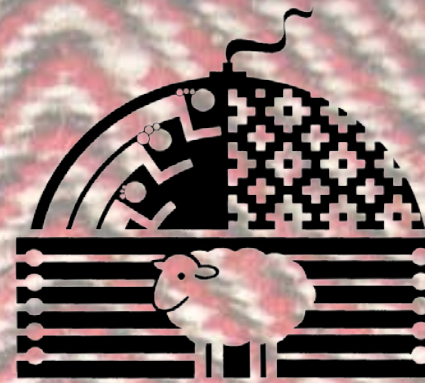
20th Annual Sheep is Life Celebration

Sunday-Sunday, June 12th-19th, 2016
Diné College, Tsailé, Navajo Nation

Sheep is Life is a gathering for all those who love sheep, wool, fiber arts, and the diverse cultures that have maintained these lifeways for thousands of years. Everyone is welcomed. Bring weaving tools, spindles, sheep, wool, art, and creativity to share. Co-sponsored with Diné College and the Land Grant Office.

Sheep is Life activities include:

- Navajo Lifeway and Fiber Arts Workshops
- Youth Activities
- Seminars on Sheep and Cultures
- Sheep to Loom Demonstrations
- Juried Navajo Fiber Arts Show and Sale
- Celebration Banquet
- Fleece Shows, Sheep Shows, Vendors, and more.



Diné Be' liná, Inc.
The Navajo Lifeway

The Sun put down all the wild animals, and when the sheep were placed, this is what was said:

“Their faces will be dawn their eyes will be rock crystal, their ears will be plants, their wool will be white fog.”

-- from the Navajo Blessing Ceremony



Diné be' liná's activities provide leadership, economic development, and support for traditional lifeways of Diné shepherds and fiber artists.

DBI features Navajo-Churro products made by Diné shepherds and fiber artists from sheep sustainably raised in the Navajo Nation.

Contact Aretta Begay, Project Director

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www.navajolifeway.org

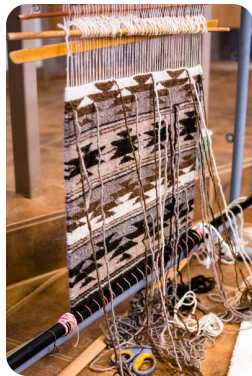
Diné be' liná's mission is to restore the balance between Diné culture, life, and land. While serving all sheep producers, DBI is dedicated to conserving the traditional Navajo-Churro sheep breed as well as to educating the community and the public about the importance of Diné Sheep Culture and spirituality.

DBI's programs, marketing, and technical assistance help Diné shepherds and weavers regain their economic self-sufficiency by:

1) marketing value-added Diné sheep and wool products; 2) increasing income earned by Diné shepherds and weavers from their work; and 3) revitalizing our communities through culturally-relevant local enterprise.

Diné land management and wool processing techniques are predicated on the special qualities of the Navajo-Churro sheep, a breed developed by Diné shepherds and weavers in collaboration with the Southwest environment. DBI was founded in 1991 to work with the Navajo Sheep Project for restoring the Navajo-Churro sheep to the Navajo Nation. In 2002, Navajo-Churro sheep were elected to the Slow Food Ark of Taste.

DBI is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the Navajo Nation and is a federally tax-exempt 501c3 corporation. It is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors and assisted by many individuals who generously contribute time and resources. We collaborate with the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, Navajo-Churro Sheep Association, Diné College Land Grant Program, and others to promote the breed and ensure its continuation.



Spin Off Groups

Dine Be' iiná is dedicated in promoting economic self-sufficiency with sheep wool and sheep culture. Seasonally, across the Navajo Nation small communities gather to share fiber projects and create value added wool pieces. Spin offs are informal groups of sheep herders and wool/fiber enthusiasts that meet monthly to exchange knowledge about shepherding, hands on learning of new fiber art techniques and anything that connects to the Navajo pastoral lifeway. Communities learn various topics of involving wool, hand carding, wool spinning, felting, wool dyeing, to Navajo weaving and many more.

Navajo Churro Lamb Presidium (NCLP)

The NCLP was officially founded in 2006 under the Presidia, a branch of the Slow Foods International/Slow Meat. The group is composed of a collective of Navajo shepherds/ ranchers. The presidium focuses on the Navajo-Churro sheep breed and bridging the Navajo shepherds/ranchers to restaurant/catering businesses and other food markets. The Presidium established its shepherds to follow protocols with the Navajo-Churro Sheep Association and the USDA to ensure good, clean, fair quality meats to market. It continues to advocate for the Navajo-Churro sheep breed, quality meat and sustainable and fair practices. The NCLP continues to actively seek new members. For more information call 928-656-3498.

Sheep is Life

The Sheep is Life Celebration is an annual event held to focus on the continuing the interest of the Navajo sheep culture. Everyone is welcomed to our summer event held every year in the 3rd week of June. Participants attend workshop series and gain knowledge in sheep production practices, traditional shepherding practices, proper grazing management and benefits of raising Navajo Churro Sheep. DBI works with other organizations to foster the return the Navajo-Churro sheep, providing new economic opportunities for Navajos.