



## *Maryland FSA Participates in Annual Pow Wow*

*By Patrick Goode, Farm Loan Officer Trainee, Calvert FSA Office, Prince Frederick, Md.*

Southern Maryland Farm Service Agency (FSA) employees recently participated in the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual American Indian Festival and Pow Wow located in Waldorf, Md.

Sponsored by the Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians, participants were introduced to American Indian dancing, music, food, jewelry, paintings and clothing. American Indian tribes throughout the country attended the special event.

To educate the more than 500 participants about its farm programs, Maryland FSA brought an exciting exhibit. FSA staff answered questions and provided brochures on topics like eServices, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and farm loan opportunities. Moreover, children who stopped by were provided FSA coloring books, FSA farm scene tattoos, pencils and crayons. For adults, FSA distributed packages of sunflower seeds for planting, mugs, hats, rain gauges and other items. FSA was invited to attend by Mrs. Natalie Proctor of Maryland's Piscataway Tribe.



**The stars and stripes wave during the Pledge of Allegiance at the annual festival.**

According to the Cedarville Band, the Piscataway greeted early Marylanders to the New World. Their relationship with the colonists was peaceful and

beneficial as they taught colonists survival skills. The Piscataway co-existed with early settlers until around 1700. After this period, English settlements flourished and forced the Piscataway to flee their lands. During this time, some Piscataway moved west to join neighboring tribes, while others stayed and adopted English culture. To learn more about the Piscataway visit <http://www.piscatawayindians.org/>.

The event was held June 3.



**From left to right are Eliza Menchaca, Student Educational Experience Program Trainee, St. Mary's County FSA; Anna Rauch, program technician (PT), Prince George/Anne Arundel FSA; American Indian dancers; Tina Rice, PT, Charles County FSA; Patrick Goode, farm loan officer training, Calvert County FSA.**



**FSA staff distributed coloring books, tattoos, crayons and pencils to kids attending the festival.**

*(The photos in this article were taken by FSA's Tina Rice and Carol Gordon, Charles County NRCS office.)*

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