MONTANA FOOD & AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

The Food & Agriculture Development Center Program, authorized by the 2009 Montana Legislature, is a statewide network of four centers which are located in Havre, Joliet, Butte/ Dillon, and Ronan.

Program Purpose

1) Increase Montanan's capacity to produce food, farm-derived renewable energy, and other value-added agricultural products;
2) Retain in the state's local communities a greater share of consumers expenditures for food, energy and other value-added agricultural products; and
3) Increase the accessibility of end products of Montana agriculture.

Need for the Program

- Food manufacturing is the **#1 manufacturing sector for potential job growth** and capital investment, according to a 2013 Montana Manufacturing Extension Center and MSU Extension survey.
- Growing **demand for locally grown and processed products** offers an unprecedented opportunity for Montana food and agricultural businesses.
- Montana companies face new food safety regulations, labor force and transportation challenges, and limited access to capital.
- Food and Agriculture Development Centers provide technical assistance and the necessary resources for success.

The Four Food and Agriculture Development Centers will continue to:

- Provide facilities and technical expertise for product development, testing, analysis, and labeling;
- Offer training in regulatory compliance, safety planning, and implementation;
- Provide affordable pilot plant and food processing options;
- Analyze industry dynamics, technologies, and changing markets; and
- Offer information and access to financing and business planning.

Food & Agriculture Development Centers

Statistics from State FY 2014 and FY 2015 YTD

Current Level Funding	Leveraged Funds Invested in Projects	Businesses Counseled	Counties Served	Jobs Created	Jobs Retained	Business Expansions	New Business Start-ups	New Products Introduced to Market
$600,000	$3,509,015	225	43	165	70	29	25	42

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