

Montana Agriculture Adaptability Program

Purpose: to aid small and medium-sized food and agriculture businesses in responding to the COVID-19 crisis through business adaptation and diversification. Projects were ranked for funding based on demonstrated need, potential impact to Montana's ag economy, timeline for implementation, and impact on community resilience and food security.

- Total funding available: \$1.1 Million
- Maximum application amount: \$10,000

Program closed June 12, 2020

Uses for Funding:

- Infrastructure
- Equipment
- Certifications
- Storage
- Complying w/ CDC and DPHHS recommendations

Harlequin Produce – Arlee, MT: \$10,000 to purchase a larger refrigerator truck allowing for CSA program expansion and curbside delivery. As the largest produce grower for the Western MT Growers Co-op, reliable delivery helps ensure continued supply and market certainty.

Cooper Creek Ranch Grass Finished Beef – Helmville, MT: \$10,000 to assist with the purchase a walk-in freezer allowing for more processing and a larger, more consistent inventory. Cooper Creek offers retail, wholesale, and a beef and pork share program.

Dry Fork Farms Tribal Corp. – Box Elder, MT: \$10,000 to assist with the purchase of a flatbed truck to pick up supplies, equipment, and materials when delivery services are delayed or unavailable. Dry Fork Farms serves the Chippewa Cree Tribal ag community and its Food Sovereignty Coalition year-round to provide access to food on the Rocky Boy Reservation.

Ridenour Ranch Company – Plentywood, MT: \$10,000 to purchase beef processing equipment from a closed facility nearby and convert an existing building on the Ridenour Ranch for butchering, processing, packing and storage.

Montana Meat Processing Infrastructure Grant

Purpose: to aid small and medium-sized meat processors in responding to the COVID-19 crisis through the adaptation and expansion of meat processing infrastructure and capacity in Montana. In-state meat processing projects should aim to increase community resilience to pandemics and other economic disruptions, while bolstering food security.

- Total funding available: \$2 Million
- Maximum application amount: \$100,000

Application deadline: July 2, 2020

Uses for Funding:

- Infrastructure
- Equipment
- Slaughter Floor Enhancement
- Increasing Cold Storage Capacity
- Mobile Processing Units
- Other business adaptation and diversification activities