

Montana Agriculture Resiliency Grant Program

Department of Agriculture (\$50,000,000)

During the pandemic, food production and supply chain disruptions resulted in shortages, waste, and inflated costs. Illnesses at centralized meat processing plants, border closures, and stay-at-home orders changed the way crops and livestock are distributed, processed, and stored.

The requested funding will support grant programs targeting expanded production and distribution of fresh food and livestock, added processing capacity to finish more raw goods in Montana, and on-farm storage to help producers weather market volatility.



Tier A: Local Produce and Protein Production and Distribution

Tier A of the MARP is meant to increase capacity of local food producers and distributors. Special attention will be paid to those projects that demonstrate the ability to broaden a service area and increase the number of consumers in underserved food areas of the state.

Tier B: On Farm Storage

Tier B of the MARP is meant to address on-farm storage capabilities, including grain bins, feed bunks, and pasture improvements allowing producers the ability to better weather market volatilities.



Tier C: Resilient Supply Chain Infrastructure

Tier C of the MARP is meant to address major supply chain infrastructure hurdles that will enable Montana producers and ag businesses to navigate significant market disruptions and be more competitive on a global scale. Examples include but are not limited to: infrastructure upgrades at loading facilities, feedlot expansions, slaughter facilities, pulse processing facilities, grain elevator enhancements, potato processing facilities, rendering plants and more.

Required Resources:

MT Dept of Ag will require funding to deliver to grant applicants through a competitive selection process. To ensure effective delivery and follow-up of funds, MT Dept of Ag requests 1 temporary staff person and AmpliFund software licensing fees.

Objective and Measurable Outcomes:

The primary objective of this project is to address ongoing COVID impacts to Montana's agricultural industry. To measure this objective MT Dept of Ag will track and report the awarded dollars including entity, location, jobs added, and other project details. MT Dept of Ag will conduct site visits and take enforcement action against non-compliant grant recipients.