

GROWTH THROUGH AGRICULTURE GRANT/LOAN PROGRAM

Project Summary for Fiscal Year 2014

(July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014)

The Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) program is a grant and loan program established by the Montana Legislature to strengthen and diversify Montana's agriculture industry through development of new agricultural products and processes.

The GTA program offers Category I funding in the form of a grant or loan or both and funding is determined by a seven member Agriculture Development Council (Council) during scheduled meetings two to three times a year. The Council is comprised of the Directors of the Montana Department of Commerce and Montana Department of Agriculture and five Montanans appointed by the Governor who are active in agriculture production.

The program also offers Category II Mini Grant/Loan funding with applications that are accepted on an open-cycle basis until all available funds are committed to approved projects. Project awards are determined administratively by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Both types of funding require the investment of at least a \$1 in matching funds for every \$1 in program grant or loan assistance received.

Category I: Economic Development Projects

Category I projects may potentially be funded in a single application for a total amount of \$150,000 in the form of grant funding up to \$50,000 and loan funding up to \$100,000. Examples of project activities involve equipment purchases, advertising and promotion, and consultant services such as engineering costs and feasibility studies.

Great Harvest Franchising, Inc.

A grant for \$7,430 to fund the development of a film that will promote Montana grown wheat as well as the company's products in Dillon, Montana.

Ranchland Packing Company

A grant for \$35,000 for equipment, construction and installation of a rendering pit to assist with the expansion of the meat processing company in Butte, Montana.

Western Feedstock Technologies, Inc.

A \$14,350 loan for malt analysis equipment in Belgrade, Montana.

Mr. McGregor's Garden, LLC

A grant for \$6,000 for food processing equipment, including a steam kettle for canning and a convection steamer, to assist in the expansion of a food company in Bozeman, Montana.

One Montana

A grant for \$12,500 to expand and detail sales and marketing analysis information to be included in a Montana meat processing feasibility study.

406 Brewing Company

A grant for \$12,500 for the purchase of lab analysis equipment to assist with the development of the Montana Fermentation Research Center project in Bozeman, Montana.

Chalet Market, Inc.

A grant for \$33,600 for the purchase of a sausage stuffer and other meat processing equipment costs in Belgrade, Montana.

Cream of the West, LLC

A loan for \$13,500 for co-packing equipment to assist in the expansion of the company's operations in Harlowton, Montana.

Billingsley Cider Orchard, LLC

A grant for \$10,000 for a walk-in cooler to assist with the expansion of an apple orchard to supply cider producers in Stevensville, Montana.

Fort Peck Water Users Association

A grant for \$32,982 for irrigation turnouts and installations as proposed to assist the agricultural producers of the Fort Peck Irrigation Project in Fort Peck, Montana.

Powder River Meat Company

A grant for \$24,500 for meat processing equipment and construction costs to assist with the expansion of the company in Terry, Montana.

Root Cellar Foods

A grant for \$38,550 for the purchase of a commercial food washer to assist the produce processing company in Bozeman, Montana.

Thomas Britz dba Britz Ranch

A grant for \$42,000 for the purchase of a commercial hops harvester to assist with the second phase of the Montana hops research project near Kalispell, Montana.

Sweet Peaks Ice Cream

A grant for \$15,200 for the purchase of a refrigerated trailer to transport Montana made ice cream using milk and other locally grown ingredients.

Anderson Orchards of Rudyard Montana, LLC

A grant for \$7,744 for the purchase of countertops and three-compartment sink to assist with the expansion of the value-added fruit processing project in Rudyard, Montana.

Montana Meat Company

A grant for \$10,748 for the purchase of a meat processing product dicer in Bozeman, Montana.

Montana Horizons Food Company

A grant for \$16,800 for the purchase of a vertical form fill packaging machine for an organic Kamut® snack, similar to corn nuts, grown and made in Big Sandy, Montana.

Bausch Potatoes, Inc.

A grant and a loan totaling \$88,388 to assist with the purchase of equipment in order to expand the processing capacity of the potato hash brown and specialty potato product processor near Whitehall, Montana.

Montana Gluten Free Prairie, LLC

A grant for \$50,000 to assist the gluten-free food company based in Manhattan, Montana with the purchase of processing equipment.

Montana Fish Company

A grant for \$26,000 to assist the Bozeman based company with the purchase of warehouse equipment in order to expand the company's Montana local foods distribution network.

Mountain View Gardens Incorporated

A loan for \$50,000 to assist with structural improvements in order to increase the production capacity of the hydroponic vegetable greenhouse in Kalispell, Montana.

Whistling Andy, Inc.

A grant for \$5,440 for equipment purchases to assist with expansion costs of the micro distillery in Bigfork, Montana.

Global Agro Commodities, LLC

A grant and a loan totaling \$63,300 for equipment to assist with the expansion of pulse crop processing at the company's Chester, Montana elevator.

Category II: Mini Grant/Loan Projects

Category II projects may potentially be funded in a single application for a total amount of \$7,500 in the form of a grant up to \$2,500 and a loan up to \$5,000.

The Mini Grant program was developed to encourage economic and agricultural development through educational, promotional, marketing, travel and other business activities.

The Mini Loan program was developed to support costs for small processing equipment, construction, infrastructure costs and inventory/working capital costs (excluding payroll).

Manning Farms LLC

A loan of \$5,000 for the purchase of deer fencing materials and installation costs for the vegetable farm and fruit orchard in Cascade, MT.

Triple Divide Spirits

A loan of \$5,000 for the purchase of production equipment to assist the Helena, MT business meet the increased demand for their vodka and gin products.

A Land of Grass

A grant of \$750 for the grass fed beef and lamb business located in Conrad, MT to attend the 2014 Northwest Regional Agvocacy Conference in Portland, OR and for website redesign and updates to enhance direct marketing of the business's meat products.

Future Agricultural Resources for Montana

A grant for \$2,500 was awarded for solar panel costs to utilize acreage of farmland for irrigation to train new farmers and establish a community garden in Missoula, MT.

RiverStone Health

A grant for \$1,440 was awarded for costs to implement and promote the SNAP program at Healthy by Design Gardners' Market located in Billings, MT.

Lewis and Clark County Extension

A grant for \$2,000 was awarded for travel costs to take extension agents and producers to the University of Saskatchewan in order to learn about the university's fruit breeding program.

Market Day Foods, Inc.

A grant for \$780 was awarded to the local foods distribution company located in Bozeman, Montana to attend the 2014 National Food HUB Conference in North Carolina to learn about other local food distribution operations and key topics affecting these companies.

Philipsburg Brewing Company

A grant for \$2,000 was awarded toward website development and implementation for the brewing company located in Philipsburg, Montana.

Kalispell Creamery, Inc.

A grant for \$1,900 was awarded for advertising and promotion of new product lines for the business located in Kalispell, Montana.

Dell Center, Inc.

A grant for \$2,500 was awarded for the purchase of signage and advertising for the new meat processing facility in Dell, Montana and a loan for \$5,000 was awarded for the purchase of a vacuum packaging machine.

Boja Farms

A grant for \$250 was awarded to develop signage to assist the fruit orchard and produce farm near Bridger, Montana with agri-tourism and on farm sales opportunities.

MSU-Missoula County Extension

A grant for \$2,500 was awarded for equipment to integrate a frost monitoring study associated with lengthening the growing season for vegetables.

Botanie Natural Soap, Inc.

A grant for \$2,500 was awarded for website development and upgrades in order to improve and expand the Missoula, Montana company's online marketing and sales.

Great Northern Pasta Company, LLC

A \$1,500 grant was awarded for redesign and print product labels to increase product sales for the pasta company in Whitefish, Montana.

MSU-Missoula County Extension

A \$1,250 grant was awarded for costs to hold "Lunch on the Farm" events in order to increase direct and retail sales for local producers.