

GROWTH THROUGH AGRICULTURE GRANT/LOAN PROGRAM

Project Summary for Fiscal Year 2020

(July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020)

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 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. The Council is comprised of seven members that are appointed by the Governor.

Growth Through Agriculture funding requires the investment of at least a \$1 in matching funds for every \$1 in program grant or loan assistance received.

Projects Funded

[Big Sandy Organics](#) – Big Sandy

Grant for \$40,000 to increase storage space, grow production capabilities with the purchase of a second jacketed steam kettle, and advance its national online marketing.

[Big Sky Orchards](#) – Big Fork

Grant for \$40,000 to expand the processing and packaging of family-grown Montana hops and enable year-round hops availability.

[Caroline Point Farm](#) - Missoula

Grant and Loan for \$30,000 to help expand ecommerce and wholesale markets for Mountain Meadow Bone Broth.

[Crawford Distillery](#) – Havre

Grant for \$5,362 to assist with the purchase of distilling equipment that will increase production capability from 50 gallons to 300 gallons.

[Crescent Ridge Farm](#) – Alberton

Grant for \$25,250 to assist with a processing and cold storage facility and expansion of the produce and flower farm.

[Crooked Yard Hops](#) – Bozeman

Loan for \$13,500 to help with the expansion of hops harvesting and packaging line to meet the Montana market demand for hops and hops processing.

[Dry Hills Distillery](#) – Bozeman

Grant for \$10,900 to assist with the purchase and installation of an electric hammer-mill to respond to the emergency need for hand sanitizer during the COVID pandemic.

Farmented Foods – Kalispell

Grant for \$14,052 to assist with business expansion and larger-scale processing and fermentation equipment purchases, consultant services, advertising and promotion.

Flathead Lake Cherry Growers – Polson

Grant for \$50,000 to replace its cold-storage cooling system with a non-hazardous, freon-based system.

Go Roam Free – Hot Springs

Grant for \$5,000 to help expand the production of grass-fed bison products through improvements to infrastructure and marketing.

Green Ridge Biosolutions – Ronan

Grant for \$45,000 to purchase a 50kg per hour extraction unit and expand Green Ridge's capacity to extract Montana-grown hemp ten-fold.

Hamilton Pack – Hamilton

Grant for \$46,000 to assist with the purchase of a vacuum tumbler and new hamburger grinder and mixer to expand product offerings and sell an additional 700 lbs of meat per week.

Hi Country Snack Foods – Lincoln

Grant and Loan for \$75,000 to assist with the purchase and installation of packaging equipment for the local jerky operation so it can co-package for other Montana companies.

Lifeline Produce – Victor

Grant for \$16,990 to build and equip a commissary kitchen for prepping and washing ready-to-eat vegetables.

Milk River Joint Board of Control – Havre

Grant for \$50,000 for supplies and materials to support emergency repair of Drop 5 of the St. Mary Project, helping to provide a continued water supply to the Milk River Basin while preserving the Basin's natural resources.

Montana Branded – Westby

Grant for \$27,000 to assist with the purchase of a walk-in freezer to expand retail beef sales.

Montana Premier Protein – Billings

Grant for \$50,000 to help fund an engineering study, site evaluation consultation, and market analysis for its pulse protein processing facility.

Project Meats – Billings

Grant and Loan for \$150,000 to assist with the purchase of packaging and processing equipment to accommodate growth at a new facility, provide new hire training and acquire a delivery vehicle.

SporeAttic – Bozeman

Grant for \$11,290 to assist with infrastructure development, startup costs and mushroom cultivation equipment purchases for a commercial mushroom farm.

St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group – Malta

Grant for \$43,388 to repair and replace the most severely failed expansion joints and concrete saddle supports of the St. Mary River Siphon.

Willow Mountain Winery – Corvallis

Grant for \$25,000 to assist with vineyard expansion, maintenance, and winery production including the development of sparkling wines.