

GROWTH THROUGH AGRICULTURE GRANT/LOAN PROGRAM

Project Summary for Fiscal Year 2021

(July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021)

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

[Ag Processing Solutions](#) – Great Falls

\$50,000 Grant to complete an expanded processing center that will allow for research and development of hemp hearts and pulse proteins as well as provide smaller quantities of processed materials.

[Apple Bar Orchard](#) – Helena

\$4,910 Grant to Expand Haskap orchard by 250 plants.

[Aspen Grove Farm](#) – Pinesdale

\$21,500 Grant to expand Haskap orchard by installing bird netting, inline irrigation, and an 8-ft deer fence.

[Back to the Mother Microbrewed Kombucha](#) – Missoula

\$3,000 Grant to purchase equipment to expand their product offerings into fermented vegetables.

[Beaverhead Meats](#) – Dillon

\$50,000 Grant to purchase and install a Smokehouse for their meat shop to produce high quality, value-added products for local Ag producers.

[Big Sky Orchards & Hops Farm](#) – Bigfork

\$30,208 Grant to assist in purchasing and building a commercial walk-in freezer to maximize efficiency and storage.

[Dr. Casey Solomon from Milk River Reproduction](#) – Havre

\$50,000 Grant to build International export-certified reproductive technology center and veterinary clinic located in North Central Montana.

[Charter Ranch and Livestock](#) – Shepherd

\$14,340 Grant to purchase equipment and supplies to support the growth of vermicast operation.

[Daniels Gourmet Meats](#) – Bozeman

\$13,995 Grant to purchase equipment to assist in packaging more local MT beef and Pork.

[The Montana Department of Commerce](#) – Helena

\$20,000 Grant to provide domestic trade show grants, international marketing grants, and technical assistance to Montana agriculture companies through the ExportMontana program.

[Farmented Foods](#) – Kalispell

\$11,908 Grant to convert a commercial space into a fully functional specialized fermentation commercial kitchen in Kalispell, MT.

[FireRoot Spirits](#) – Florence

\$7,000 Grant to expand production of spirits distilled from apples with a fermentation tank purchase.

[Good Mama Farm](#) – Harrison

\$9,500 Grant to install additional water well, upgraded irrigation and cold storage area for a market garden, and to create an online sales platform to serve rural communities in the Madison.

[Green Ridge Biosolutions US Inc](#) – Ronan

\$50,000 Loan to purchase equipment for a Gummy Machine and Hemp Protein and Hemp Heart Packaging Machine.

[High Horizon Gardens](#) – Havre

\$37,750 Grant to establish Hi-Line Hydroponics Urban Market in downtown Havre, Montana.

[Lame Jones Meats](#) – Plevna

\$20,000 Grant to purchase specialty meat processing equipment including a smoker and a sausage stuffer to expand and diversify business.

[Lone Mountain Cattle Feeders](#) – Toston

\$40,000 Grant to purchase equipment for feedlot development and business startup needs.

[The Missoula Grain and Vegetable Co.](#) – Stevensville

\$17,496 Grant to expand winter crop production with the purchase of a new greenhouse.

[Montana Craft Malt](#) – Butte

\$50,000 Grant to procure processing automation software and installation.

[Cool Earth Creamery](#) – Missoula

\$50,000 Grant to assist with the costs associated with purchasing plant-based milk production and distribution equipment to create high quality plant-based milk produced from Montana grown crops.

[Moon River Ranch](#) – Clinton

\$14,821 Grant to start up a new commercial produce greenhouse and garden.

[M&S Meats](#) – Rollins

\$23,492 Grant to purchase equipment for a new meat processing plant, retail store, and cold storage facility in Kalispell, MT.

[Plan-It Hemp](#) – Helena

\$25,000 Grant to purchase equipment to expand Montana's 1st Industrial Hemp Fiber Processing Center.

[Ray Holes Leather Care Products](#) – Butte

\$5,895.00 Grant to upgrade equipment to improve the current manufacturing process. Funds will be used to purchase fill gun dispensing systems and two melting tanks.

[Resurrection Ranch](#) – Cascade, MT

\$35,281 Grant to convert soil based, certified organic farm into a turnkey, certified organic, hydroponic farm.

[Stricks Ag LLC](#) – Chester

\$50,000 Grant and \$50,000 Loan to expand their value-added chickpea sizing project with the purchase of bins and a tower.

[Swanky Roots](#) – Billings

\$32,550 Grant to purchase LED grow lights to increase energy and growth efficiency of the aquaponic greenhouse.

[Wickens Ranch](#) – Hilger

\$6,000 in GTA funds to execute an online advertising campaign for the direct-to-consumer arm of Wickens Ranch LLC.

Willow Mountain Estate Vineyard/Winery – Corvallis

\$20,000 Grant to complete the final 10-acre planting of their 20-acre vineyard. Funds will be used to purchase and install plants and trellis.

Yellowstone Valley Food Hub – Billings

\$20,000 Grant to expand aggregation and distribution capacity for agricultural products from 10 new member producers.