

GROWTH THROUGH AGRICULTURE GRANT/LOAN PROGRAM

Project Summary for Fiscal Year 2015

(July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015)

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 seven members that are appointed by the Governor.

The program also offers Category II Mini Grant funding with application deadlines two times per year and applications for Mini Loan funding 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.

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.

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.

Western Montana Growers Cooperative

A loan and a grant totaling \$73,700 to assist with the development and expansion of a distribution and warehouse facility in Missoula that will support over 40 farms in Western Montana and provide distribution to a wide-range of Montana produced foods and products.

Polebridge Mercantile and Bakery

A grant for \$20,000 to assist with the expansion of bakery operations to a new location in Whitefish, creating a sustainable year-round bakery business that uses Montana grown ingredients.

University of Montana

A grant for \$10,000 to assist with the expansion of the university's dining garden and farm to college program to increase high value food production, educate future farmers, and increase consumer demand for Montana's agricultural products.

Duckworth, Inc.

A loan for \$30,000 to assist with the development of a Montana raised wool sock product line. Duckworth, Inc. sources merino wool from Montana woolgrowers.

Philipsburg Brewing Co.

A loan and a grant totaling \$50,000 to expand the Philipsburg brewery for the development of an aluminum bottling line.

Glacier Sun

A loan and a grant totaling \$24,000 to assist the winery located in Kalispell, Montana with the expansion of the winery utilizing Montana grown cherries, huckleberries, apples, and grapes.

Tizer Meats

A grant for \$50,000 for the purchase of equipment for the expansion of meat processing in Helena, Montana.

Montana State University Extension - Lewis and Clark County

A grant for \$9,932 for the purchase of fruit trees and supplies for the fruit tree variety research project research sites in Lodgepole and Shelby, Montana.

Lake County Community Development Corporation

A grant for \$13,000 for the purchase of food processing equipment to assist the Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center in Ronan provide value-added agriculture food processing facilities to producers and entrepreneurs. This will also assist with the continued growth of the organization's Farm to School and Farm to Institution programs.

Community Food and Agriculture Coalition

A grant for \$15,000 to assist with costs to provide business planning education for new and beginning farmers and ranchers across the state of Montana. This will also provide train-the-trainer training for extension agents, food and agriculture development and small business development staff.

Terry L Boyd Sr.

A grant for \$12,500 to assist the expansion of the organic produce operation in Brockton, Montana.

Hedstrom Dairy

A grant for \$29,713, to purchase a herd monitoring system to expand that will improve herd health and performance for the Kalispell Creamery dairy in Kalispell, Montana.

Cloud Nine Farm

A grant for \$12,500 to purchase a mobile salad greens processing kitchen and vending unit for the certified organic farm near Wilsall, Montana.

Great Falls Development Authority

A grant for \$50,000 to assist in the development of market driven business analysis to attract more investment in agricultural processing operations, business startups, expansion and diversification of existing processors in the Great Falls trade area.

Powder River Meat Company

A grant for \$50,000 to assist with equipment and construction costs to expand the meat processing company in Terry, MT.

Yellowstone River Farm

A grant for \$18,279 for the purchase of equipment, supplies and marketing materials costs associated with the creation of a non-GMO grain milling, mixing, packaging and delivery business.

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).

Sustainable Business Council

A grant of \$2,500 for costs to promote the 10% Local Food Pledge Campaign in Missoula, Montana.

Anaconda Local Development Corporation

A grant of \$800 for deer fencing costs in order to establish a raised bed garden in Anaconda for the Anaconda Food Bank Garden Project.

Cayuse Prairie School

A grant for \$2,500 for greenhouse costs for Cayuse Prairie School located in Kalispell, Montana to integrate education, raising vegetables for a salad bar lunch program and raising flowers, herbs and peppers to sell in the Spring.

The Shovel and Spoon LLC

A grant of \$1,750 for the purchase of new signage for the local foods bakery and café in Sheridan, Montana.

Trade Show Assistance Program

Black Wolf Ranch

A grant of \$2,296.50 for the fleece milling company located in Saint Ignatius, Montana to attend the Vogue Knitting Live trade show in New York, New York.

Nature's Enhancement, Inc.

A grant for \$1,875.00 for the nursery stock business located in Stevensville, Montana to attend the Nevada Landscape Association Trade Show and Conference in Reno, Nevada.