

**AFW-11 Comments**  
**Recommendation 48**  
**Programs to promote local food and fiber**

ARE you kidding again? This is a Free country. You can not build a fence around the State. You will drive up costs for MT people so high. The economic impacts of any legislation must be determined and be a part of the decision.

this fails to take into account montana's production capability, climate and growing season.

Good Luck.

What does this have to do with energy??????

As long as nothing is forced on the Montana consumer...if Montana consumers CHOOSE to consume food grown and processed in MT, that's great.

There should be a cost/benefit analysis required. The benefits do not justify the costs using sound science. More taxes, regulations and red tape is not what will help Montana.

Unattainable - majority of people buy cheap food not quality

Good idea in theory, but the devil will be in the details and in funding.

The marketplace is the place for this.....not government. There is where we probably really part ways. I believe government's role is to guard freedom, not to regulate every detail of everyone's life.

80% of the agricultural products grown in Montana are shipped out-of-state or abroad.(Missoulian,2000)  
20% percent of food consumed in Montana being from Montana Farms is no improvement. I am glad to see local food on the agenda but get with the program.

Yes! At least 20%!

Great idea but hard to do w/ our climate.

Local food money stays in the community and recirculates 7x. Local food is fresher, better for you, reduces fuel/energy needs to transport, keeps communities viable. School system, hospitals, many people don't even cook anymore. Schools also don't use silverware and glass plates. It's all throw away eating materials. We need to bring back the cooks, the dishwashers, the dieticians, etc.

only for crops normally grown in Montana

Live locally. Better knowledge of quality and benefit. For example, locally grown food.

Out-of-scope. Let the market (and the individual) decide. Last I checked Montana was still part of the U.S.A. Why would we want to support spending monies promoting protectionism?  
How are we to economically process and distribute with all this proposed GHG reducing legislation? Less producing acres - More expensive machinery - biofuel demands. You must have more information than I do to make this work. We can't even get the Farm to Table program to take hold in Dawson County.

Remove the subsidies that hinder local food and fiber production and processing. The free market then will further the decisions.

This is a lofty goal, go for it.

Don't force this issue! Rather, embrace it.

The single most important thing that can be done.

This should be at 80%. THIS is vital to reducing our consumption of fossil fuels

.  
Better implement AFW-5 this week

Promote Local!!!(Think globally, act locally)

Sounds good in theory, at least.

I strongly support increased incentives for local food.

Also good for Montana jobs.

Individuals can only do so much with this issue, we need strong and numerous government action of many forms and formats...

What facts support that local production is more efficient than large scale commercial operations? As a northern climate state, it's not very conducive to grow the majority of our society's desirable products (apples, oranges, bananas, pineapples, corn, peas, beans, -we don't even grow our own potatoes). And if we do grow these products, do you intend to mandate that producers can only sell their product in-state?

Forget it. Markets are global.

Yes definitely! Especially the processing, we have very little here now! Help support local farmers.

Critically important.

Food etc. grown locally and not transported are a big saving of energy use.

Nice idea, but State fiat to increase productivity has a very poor track record (former Soviet Union, Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge, etc.). Besides, if this entire package is enacted, there will not be any farmland to spare after expansion of ethanol production [at the expense of food production] and "carbon sequestration".

Also a great idea. Removing food transport GHG while building Montana - win win.

Why stop at 30%?

this is a critically important measure

Not long ago (1950s) the majority of our food was produced and processed in Montana. Every public institution should have an aggressive Farm to Cafeteria program, which has enormous impacts on the necessary processing & distribution infrastructure and subsequently on the larger marketplace. We could also expand a food stamps program to be for fresh local food--which gets at many health issues.

"Promote" locally grown food, yes. "Require" it to be done, no.

This is a really great goal. So much good, healthy food is grown, why import things that can be made here?

Is this realistic? This sounds like an AERO and MEIC pipe dream come true.

Yes!

Local foods should be required in public buildings such as government offices and schools. If we are going to have Made in MT programs, the state should show support by purchasing the products. We would also then have closer monitoring of the quality of food that is available in these institutions, which, at least for public schools, is currently very low.

It's important to create land use planning choices such as Transfer of Development Rights to assist farmers in keeping their farms. Encourage agriculture on small as well as large scales.

Bingo. Local production goal should be 50% by 2020.

great idea.

We need to increase these percentages to 50% minimum, and aim for higher! The more local food we can produce, that is cultivated and processed with high ecological sensitivity, the more stable our state economy will be (and rural agricultural community economies!), and the healthier our agricultural lands and surrounding ecosystems as well!

Definitely. The 100-mile plan must be promoted.

Probably a pretty minor contributor.

We don't grow what we eat. What are we calling for here?

Yes, yes yes! Good for the whole economy and the Earth!

MAYBE.....

think globally, act locally

It should be more.

absolutely...and more!

Encourage this by education. Don't legislate it.

If we adopt Country of Origin Labeling it would help-people can make the choice then.

Transportation of food is one of the more significant problems.

This is good for the Montana economy. And it conserves resources. We subsidize interstate and intercontinental transportaion of food, why not support local?

This should be higher, sooner.

Great idea. Government is wrong vehicle to get this done.

GREAT for MT Ag.

think global - competitive advantage

This will only lead to higher food costs for all because it will limit grocery stores in being able to obtain the cheapest food items in the free market.

Nice idea, but the possibility of real implementation is not really there for many food or fiber items.

How much will such programs cost. Let Montanans decide what products they want to buy. There already is a Made in Montana program that is sufficient for this effort. No additional cost or effort needs to be put in to this. Beyond that, companies can advertise on their own. No new taxpayer dollars need be spent

**MUST BE A MARKET BASED GOAL AND NOT REGULATION**

Good idea.

GREAT!! GREAT!! We can do better than 30% by 2020. Let's shoot for 75% and do whatever it takes to make this possible.

Promote - do not dictate - the market is too complex for gov bureacracy to be meddling - it would be great for all of us to grow and consume locally grown food - do not mess with the great distribution system and consumer choices that exist now -

YES

This is an excellant concept, we should first make Montanans aware of how much we can actually produce locally

I agree with this and would like to see organic foods encouraged. Would a 50% figure be workable by 2020?

Yes, if feasible.

Yes, I firmly support this.

NO increase in Gov't spending.

Provide tax reduction incentives for families growing their own foods and establishing sustainability practices.

With the limited types of foods that can be grown in Montana, this probably unlikely to happen.

again subsidize it!!!

Is this even feasible? Encourage, don't mandate!

With the prices rapidly increasing, conserving natural resources is a matter the free market can handle without government mandates.

We don't have the processing facilities nor the population to sustain such facilities. Make it a goal to use as much as possible.

let folks decide where they buy food from, and keep the State out of it.

I can fully support this as long as the companies owning the farms are truly owned and operated locally and not be corporate conglomerates.

A great economic development incentive.

good luck manipulating that market and at what cost to consumers

what's the point of this one? Really! More govt. pork.

local, yes!

Sounds good but is it feasible?

Yes! Why not more if possible!

The goal should be higher. The state should support systems for distribution of local food. The state should lead by example.

How can you promote these things with the many restrictive proposed actions listed above? Unbelievable!

We live in a global economy - deal with it.

We can't grow bananas. Need I say more.

This Action Plan was not a Montana grassroots Plan. It was the same plan written for California and other states. Sounds impossible to administer.

<http://www.righttalk.com/asx/ggws.aspx>

good luck

Wait...reduce fuel emissions, but somehow create plants (that will need to use fuel!) to process food in less than 2 years time?? Impossible!

Nothing wrong with being self sufficient!

Great Idea, it will save fuel to grow it here, but what will we grow with a growing season of 3-4 months, Hot house tomatoes and strawberries. What native crops do you see on the menu at your favorite restaurant. What about beef. Could we not have a meat processing plant in Montana instead of shipping our beef to Kansas, Nebraska, etc. Work on this and forget global warming.

Excellent idea. I think we ought to increase those percentages to at least 40% and 50%.

Again, why mandate this. Set the opportunity for seller and buy in Montana to be very efficient and productive but do not mandate.

Will people have to account for how much food they have eaten that is grown in MT?

The grocery stores will all go out of business because to be honest, Montana doesn't produce a lot of the essentials that we need.

Again, putting absolute values on requirements is not a good idea; who's going to enforce, monitor, etc? This sounds very "big brother" like to me.

Keep and create jobs and money in Montana. Great idea

HOW AND IN WHAT MANNER?

Only if they are comparably priced.

This is very important for the future viability of Montana.

I think it should be supported and promoted but not required.

Montana grown food should have labels identifying it as Montanan.

Its hard to imagine how we can make this happen. Education, encouragement, and incentives may help this, but setting a hard % seems like it will force things and result in increased costs.

Great idea, but don't know that you can't quantify something like that.

Let the market decide this issue. Mandating where food is grown will not help low income families

Really! Who are the Food Cops? Please do not give them guns.

how would you enforce that?

Exotic (out-of-state) food is so energy-wasteful!

50% of beef cattle grown in Montana should be consumed in MT. Why should Montana have to contend with the CO2 from the cows that go elsewhere. Gradually change so as not to bankrupt the ranchers or cause them to subdivide their land.

With outreach to Montanans encouraging them to buy locally.

The answer to the environmental problem, the economy, and the general health of the people!!!!

Too much government intervention.

This will both reduce energy costs from transporting food that is not locally grown/processed while keeping money in Montana.

yes but be more ambitious, including expansion of backyard and neighborhood/community gardens that not only produce vegetables but also native fruit trees such as chokecherry, serviceberry, and wild plum

give up oranges, bananas, coconuts, pinnapple, coffee, coco,halibut, cod, flounder, crab, clams, oysters, and cotton? how bland.

more with local distribution allowed including sale by food chains who always say no.

What new bureaucracy will oversee this grand plan. No!

I am glad we are making some progress here. This is good for our ag producers and good for consumers. A no loose proposition.

Eating locally is a great way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, while supporting the local economy.

Mandate organic production of locally produced food.... organic standards are not only lower in fossil fuel use they greatly increase soil productivity and health which in turn is a carbon sequesterer

Goals too low; in 1960 we were way better than this. We can and should return to a 1960 level.

The numeric goals are too low--we can do better than that with some investment in food processing capacity and intra-state,intermodal distribution networks.

Absolutely

Only communists have state mandated economies like this.

yes! support local! dramatically reduce transportation costs.

Set higher goals.

The EQC should work with the University of Montana-Missoula PEAS farm to expand their operations and create a model for implementation in other areas of the state.

Are we looking at a very, very limited and expensive food supply?

Yes, we should be able to put food on the table that is from Montana and that also meets high quality standards. e.g. organic, hormone free.

Absolutely! This is a subject near and dear to my heart. It makes no sense to grow the crops or livestock, ship it out of state for processing, then ship it back for consumption. Montana grows some of the best produce and livestock in the country, and it makes sense through restructuring of the system and promotion of local foods to keep it within the state. It will save on fossil fuel usage, as well as providing a better income for Montana farmers and ranchers. Part of what we need are mobile processing units for poultry, and more certified packing plants for larger animals.

Excellent!! Let's make that 60% by 2010.

This can be easily increased and made effective before 2010.

Will this raise food costs? Sounds like it!

Mandate Mother Nature grow whatever you want. That's going to work!

A resounding YES! I hope this includes beef.

Promote the most efficient use of resources, if someone outside Montana can do it better for less we need to support it.

We already have a Made in Montana program that is funded with state tax dollars.

YES!

Why aren't we pushing MT beef and dairy products? Why don't farmers produce more locally grown produce and such? I hate buying stuff from out of state and country!!

The average mouthful of food travels over 2,000 miles - before being consumed. We need to enhance our local farming/marketing to grow more locally!! Some being done much more is possible for incentives to farmers and consumers!

buy local.

If we weren't trying to make biofuel we could grow all our food needs!

It is hard to believe that we do not grow 20% of our food here in Montana. However, if we could grow more food and less biodiesel products, that is a great idea.

This is a recommendation that truly contributes to sustainability.

This is likely going to happen anyway, not getting behind it would be foolish, but so would spending excess money and time on it.

Promote. The beginning of a new law or regulation.

Where are those bananas going to come from? Who will we sell our grain and beef to if everyone just ate locally? Our will we set an example of being greedy selfish pigs who don't care about the rest of the world?

One can tell this is one thought up by people who have no concept of farming. The problem is caused by State and Fed. laws already on the books, More laws will not help.

Hemp is an amazing fiber, food, and oil-seed crop.

All of these are 'feel good' expensive bulls\*\*t legislation. Global warming is NOT a fact (cold records set last winter in the southern hemisphere) so it might be Northern hemisphere warming, but not global. Secondly, latest studies of the sun spots (that control global temperatures more than humans) indicate that within 20 years we will be back in a 'mini-ice age'. Not politically correct, but MUCH more accurate.

If ag is allowed to produce and markets promote it, programs and legislation wouldn't be needed.

No goals. Let the market place determine, but be sure global market does not drive us out of business.

That's a great idea! Trade barriers. Its always worked before. Remember 1929?

esp. re. food

Too little too late. 80% by 2020. Move NOW before we're forced to.

GOOD, under a free market system.

**THIS IS BETTER THEN MAKING MT ABIG STATE PARK**

This is against the present market trends. What would be available for sale in MT in January under this scenerio?

MT can feed itself. Support locally grown food.

The wood should not be from deforestation.



how do you plan on doing this with all the incentives the grower are going to get for not growing anything? they'd lose money if they had to plant, water and harvest instead of just going from their mail box to the bank.

Highly agree! And it should all be labeled GROWN IN MONTANA!

Especially encourage school/large consumer access to affordable and healthy local produce...we could greatly increase our local producers with enough demand, esp. in Western Montana.

Yes Yes Yes- bring back the Victory Garden vision! BUY LOCAL it can work!

Amen!!!

This is very important to reduce pollution by trucking.

I don't know enough about the economics of this.

This is fine idea as long as Montana grown can compete without of state grown and have the same quality. So what does a Montana grown orange look like?

Government support and implementation of community gardens would be great!

Great idea.

I like bananas and apples and shrimp and Tabasco ... maybe not all together, but I like each of them. Restricting our diet in this manner goes against some of the very tenets on which our country was founded. Free trade, the right to have choices, these aren't things that should be cast aside. What are we supposed to do with all of the wheat produced in Montana if everyone thought like this?

Sure, I want free money, don't you? So stupid it boggles my mind.... Stop federal incentives like NAIS and these goals will be reached automatically with in a year or two.

How achieved?

Good idea on paper - is it feasible? Would it work? Can Montana produce and process 20% of the food to consumes?

Where did this come from? Sounds good, but is unrealistic in Montana's short growing season.

Mixed emotions on this. I can see the carbon reduction plan by not shipping so much in but then I can see escalated pricing too.

Pease don't try to tell us what to eat and where it must come from. You ever tried to grow avocados or pineapple here? Get real.

More aggressive - 30% by 2012 and 50% by 2016.

Excellent.

We could do much better than this!!

At one point in history this was the norm. It should again be the norm. There are many benefits to this including GHG reduction as well as supporting family farming in rural areas of the state.

No Position

There is too much government control already.

Social engineering hooley.

Local food security and sustainability a long-term benefit for MT.

I couldn't find the current percentage.

More absurd statism.

Free market conditions should determine where things come from.

More would be better. How about 40% by 2020?

Great idea!

Wow, this would be wonderful.

Not sure the goals are realistic.

Percentage should be higher for 2020

This is an excellent goal, but not sure what state government can do about it.?

If done by penalty and regulation this is a bad idea

Yes, although I think we need to do much better than this. Locally grown food is extremely important, and I think we need to be more ambitious and set higher goals, and sooner.

Is this achievable? Especially when it comes to fresh fruits and vegetables during the winter?

AGREE WITH THIS, BUT FAVOR SOMETHING LIKE 30% BY 2010 AND WELL OVER 50% BY 2020

Should be market based not government mandated.

Sounds silly. Where are we going to get fruits and vegetables all winter? I guess we could just eat meat and bread.

With enough global warming, we might be able to grow oranges, bananas, and coffee trees in Montana.

We cannot continue to depend on oil based food distribution.

promotion good, requirement bad

These standards are too little too late

don't prohibit the processing of the ag products though. Currently there are very few "total" packages in the state.

This policy would increase rather than decrease aggregate greenhouse gas emissions. It would be an inefficient use of resources, because food can be grown less expensively and with fewer resource inputs elsewhere. The actual transport of food makes a comparatively small contribution to overall carbon emissions, especially when compared to this proposition. Moreover, it would be hypocritical because it would create the opposite effect intended, thereby nullifying many of the other policies considered here.

This is regulation interfering with economics. If it is economical to grow food here, farmers will. If it is economical for consumers to get what they want here, they will.

Without the dangerous chemicals or being genetically modified?

provide more extension service outreach on local (small producer) and personal food production and encourage local distribution/farmers markets of organically grown food. Put in place local/regional certification program for organically produced food. Emphasis on education.

Any incentives to reduce the need for interstate transportation of foods is beneficial both to the environment and to the local economy and to the health of the people..

Need higher percentages sooner.

YES!!!!

LIKE ALL THE BEEF SHIPPED IN FROM ARGENTINA, ECT TOMATOES FROM MEXICO, ECT--- AS LONG AS THE FREE MARKET EXISTS, YOU AIN'T GONNA DO IT!!!

More. Again, we can do this.

Reduced transportation costs and enhanced local economies seem like a good combination.

Respondent does not have sufficient information or knowledge to rank this recommendation.

Higher percentage necessary.

waste of time and money

Support concept, but try education and outreach, not mandates. Could be that fuel costs may drive this without telling people what they can eat.

How do you intend to mandate what people eat?

Do the math for this "feel good" idea. I would like to eat fresh vegis all year - not just in July and August. If we can only count foods that are entirely grown and processed in Montana there will not be all that many. If there are even 50 food items that fit - then doing the math says that a store would only carry a total of 250 items in 2010 and 166 items in 2020. I guess we order groceries off the internet too.

strongly support

No more government

Oh yes this is a good one. Has something to do with the weather in Montana. Not too many oranges etc grown here.

Good concept but no rigid timelines or % requirements.

No, do not limit to Montana, think regionally. Expand to regional production, and I would support it.

75% by 2020

Buy locally.

Tomatoes, lettuce, corn, ... We certainly will not have a balanced year-round diet.

Increase those numbers sooner. 50% by 2010, 70% by 2015. I know so many people who order food and products from out of state and have it trucked here. Azure is 1 company, I am sure there are more.

Modest goals, but a start.

This is a very, very sticky area, extremely difficult to determine how much energy/pesticides/water used in food production/procurement locally vs. non-local. What is non-local? who decides the distance and why? what relevance in a large state like ours vs. Connecticut?

would be very tough, mandated diets, not good

we are in an interdependent economy, like it or not.

This is a great idea but I believe that the percentage of local food consumed by 2010 could be even greater.

We must become dependent locally on all products and give tax incentives to locals.

yes, yes yes- Working in Bozeman on farm to school program. Lets keep our resources in our state and provide for our farmers/ ranchers

need more information. What are number of irrigated acres in Montana? What is the carbon intensity of irrigated acres in arid Montana, with a short growing season, vs. carbon intensity of transporting foodstuffs from high rainfall, long growing season region? Are there increased food costs to Montana consumers? Are there acres sufficient to support this goal and biofuels, ethanol, RPS standard goals?

Support food production by Montana producer but against mandates for doing so.