

Food & Agriculture Development Centers



The Montana Food and Agricultural Development Center (FADC) Network helps Montanans innovate and grow businesses that produce and commercialize food, agricultural and renewable energy products and processes, creating wealth in our communities and on our farms and ranches. The centers - located in communities throughout Montana - operate as a statewide network serving community-based businesses.

The centers support economic development by ensuring that more of the state's food, agricultural and energy dollars circulate in Montana. The network provides training, coaching and technical assistance, including: product development, testing and analysis, regulatory compliance training, food processing, business planning and development, market research, business networking, access to financing, cooperative development and education on industry dynamics and technologies.

Currently, the State of Montana is served by eight FADCs, including: Bear Paw Development Corporation in Havre, Beartooth Resource Conservation & Development in Red Lodge, Great Falls Development Authority in Great Falls, Great Northern Development Corporation in Wolf Point, Headwaters Resource Conservation & Development in Butte, Lake County Community Development Corporation in Ronan, Prospera Business Network in Bozeman, and Ravalli County Economic Development Authority in Hamilton.

Prior to the passage of HB 52, state law limited the number of FADCs to four. HB 52 removed the limit on the number of centers, allowing for the current make up of eight centers and a more equitable distribution of services throughout the state. Additionally, HB 52 moved FADCs under the decision making authority of the Agriculture Development Council. With the new grant structure, Montana Department of Agriculture staff monitor these grants from award to close-out for compliance. Additionally, the Department's Marketing staff works with FADCs to collaborate on projects that promote and expand Montana's food and agriculture industries.

FADC Center Performance Summary	
Jobs Retained	344
Jobs Created	43.5
Leveraged Funds	\$6,643,000
New Clients	50
Businesses Assisted	91
Counseling Sessions - Hours Paid Time	522
New Products	26

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Bear Paw Development Center - Havre

The Bear Paw Development Center, based in Havre, is operated by Bear Paw Development Corporation and focuses on renewable energy in partnership with Montana State University-Northern.

Successful projects include food processing, biofuels and biolubricants, timber processing, wind energy, high-value crop production, greenhouse construction, and other value-added industries.

Bear Paw Development Corporation is committed to making northern Montana a better place to raise a family and make a living by focusing our resources on business financing, entrepreneurial training, infrastructure development and community planning.

Beartooth Food and Agricultural Development Center - Joliet

The Beartooth Food and Agricultural Development Center, based in Joliet, is operated by Beartooth Resource Conservation & Development Area. They offer assistance with value-added businesses including farm-derived energy and food projects and efficiency testing of seedstock cattle.

Established in 1969, the Beartooth RC&D serves as a regional entity for the cooperative efforts of five counties in Southcentral Montana in rural and economic development. Leadership is composed of elected officials and community leaders from the counties, incorporated towns and cities, conservation districts and tribal reservations in the region.

Great Falls Food and Agricultural Development Center - Great Falls

The Great Falls Food and Agricultural Development Center focuses on agri-processing and bringing new jobs to the state through the recruitment and expansion of businesses that add value to the agricultural products grown in Montana. Incorporated in 1992, the organization is a public-private partnership whose mission is to lead Great Falls and its 13-county trade area in economic development efforts to promote growth, diversification, and the creation of high wage jobs.

Great Northern Development Corporation - Wolf Point

The eastern Montana FADC focuses on providing technical assistance to producers who are diversifying their operations to include value-added agriculture production, and increase access to locally grown food products. The center is operated by Great Northern Development Corporation in Wolf Point and through a partnership with Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation serves the 12 most eastern counties of the State. A full time FADC Director will oversee the FADC and provide one-on-one business development, webinars, and training to producers. The FADC will also work closely with communities to develop farmer's markets in the region where new products can be sold, and will establish a mentorship program between existing value-added ag producers and emerging producers.

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Headwaters Food and Agricultural Development Center - Butte

As a Food & Agricultural Development Center, Headwaters is part of a statewide network that provides assistance in food and value-added agricultural product development, marketing, and farm-based energy development. With centers in Joliet, Havre, Ronan and Butte, the network focuses on adding value to existing agricultural resources within Montana.

Headwaters works to support economic development by ensuring that more of the state's food, agricultural and energy dollars circulate in Montana by keeping more agricultural products within the state by processing them locally.

Lake County Community Development Corporation - Ronan

The Food and Agricultural Development Center in Ronan operates as a division of Lake County Community Development Corporation under Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center.

The center, which includes food processing facilities, serves as a multi-dimensional local, regional and statewide development resource that has influenced changes in the value chain from farm and ranch production, to food innovation processing, to distribution of local food and finally to the consumers' plates.

Prospera Business Network - Bozeman

The Food and Ag Development Center at Prospera Business Network in Bozeman primarily serves those in Park and Gallatin counties. Prospera has a 35-year history of helping people start and grow their business – and the FADC supports emerging businesses in the value-added supply chain with no-cost business counseling and technical support, business development grants, loan financing, and targeted professional trainings with our partners at the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center.

Ravalli County Economic Development Authority - Hamilton

The purpose of the Ravalli County Economic Development Authority (RCEDA) is to promote, stimulate, develop and advance the general welfare, commerce, economic development and prosperity of local citizens, Ravalli County, and the State of Montana.

A primary goal of the RCEDA is to create the foundation and infrastructure for knowledge-based businesses in the Bitterroot Valley to thrive. RCEDA provides cost-free business and financial planning and entrepreneurial support services which include grants, loans, technical expertise, relocation assistance, quality workforce and more.