

Wyoming Team Updates

January 2025

Wyoming Food Coalition Conference- November 2024

The Wyoming Food Coalition held their annual conference in Casper in November. Click on flyers below for those session recordings, and visit [Wyoming Food Coalition's YouTube channel](#) for other conference recordings. Visit the [2024 Conference recap page](#) for photos and testimonials.

**WYOMING FOOD COALITION
2024 FALL CONFERENCE**

**MEAT BYPRODUCT
COMPOSTING
PANEL
DISCUSSION
AND
AUDIENCE Q&A**

Dr. Caitlin Youngquist
Composting Expert, Dirtworks

PANELISTS

 Craig McOmle WY DEQ	 Timothy Reed WY DEQ	 Brie Hashem Sybille Canyon CWD Research, WY Game and Fish	 Mike Ragsdale Eastern Laramie County Landfill	 Mihall Kennedy B Bar Livestock, Big Timber, MT
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DISPOSAL OF OFFAL IS A COSTLY AND PROHIBITIVE BARRIER FOR WYOMING MEAT PROCESSORS. ONE PROMINENT WY LOCAL PROCESSOR CITES AN AVERAGE MINIMUM COST OF \$900 PER WEEK IN DISPOSAL FEES TO THEIR LOCAL LANDFILL. COMPOSTING MEAT PROCESSING BYPRODUCTS IS A PROMISING ALTERNATIVE, BUT HAS ITS OWN LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES.

JOIN US IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY TO HEAR FROM A VARIETY OF STAKEHOLDERS AT OUR FALL 2024 WYOMING FOOD COALITION ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

REGISTER HERE **15 NOV, 2:45-4:30PM,
CASPER COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

FALL CONFERENCE 2024
Wy Food Coalition
**HARVESTING EXPERIENCES:
Wy Tourism in Action**
PANEL DISCUSSION

**Facilitated by
Hailey Sorg**
UW EXTENSION &
WORTH INITIATIVE

CASPER COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NOV 15TH, 12-1:30PM

The Bloomery, Casper
FLOWER FARM AND SPECIAL EVENTS, SUMMER CONCERT
SERIES
CATHY BECKER

Mustang Mountain Vineyards, Lovell
MURDER MYSTERIES, TOURS, TASTINGS,
HARVEST HOST
NICOLLE LAFFIN

TA Guest Ranch, Buffalo
HOMESTEAD ACCOMMODATIONS, CATTLE RANCH
EXPERIENCES, FARM TO TABLE
KAITLIN GILES AND KRISTEN MADSEN GILES

Sanharvest Seasons, Riverton
PUMPKIN PATCH, RASPBERRY PATCH, CORN
MAZE, ART
KIM AND BRIAN PEIL

LOCAL-LUNCH INCLUDED,
CATERED BY: *Harvest Bloom*
NATIVE

**REGISTER HERE
FOR ALL OF FRIDAY'S SESSIONS**

The final conference day ended at the [Bloomery](#) and Melissa Hemken presented on Marketing to Build Your Brand and hosted a premiere of the [PBS video short](#) featuring WY Local Foods Markets



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Wyoming Startup Business Builder Grant and Required Market Course: A Guide to Selling WY Local Foods](#)

An exciting funding opportunity for local food producers and food businesses is launching in Fall 2024. The Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center (NWRMRFC) is distributing funds to eligible entities, with a special focus on supporting historically underserved farmers and food businesses. Wyoming is one of six states in this region and, in partnership with the University of Wyoming Extension, has designed a six-part course as part of the application process for [Wyoming's Startup Business Builder Grants](#).

December 10th & 14th

Business Planning/Licensing

January 21st & 25th

Marketing: Using Storytelling to Build Your Brand

January 28th & February 1st

Food Safety Fundamentals

February 11th & 15th

Secret Sauce to Packaging, Labeling, & Pricing

February 18th & 22nd

Improving Product Photography and Building a Website

March 4th & 8th

Taxes, Liability Insurance, and Online Sales Channels

**We have recently closed registration for this offering.
Classes are going well, with almost 70 people registered.**

RFBC WY Team to present at the [Grant and Grow Workshop](#) on recently Business Builder Opportunities as well as GYRM, FFS, and sponsored attendance to [Farm Stop Conference](#) and [Northwest Food Hub Summit](#)

Wyoming Food Coalition

GRANT & GROW WY

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP GROW YOUR FARM/RANCH PRODUCTION AND BUSINESS!

Topics Covered

- FORWARD CONTRACTS AND FOOD PURCHASING AGREEMENTS GRANTS**
 - Food Bank of Wyoming
 - Food Works Group ARPA Pilot Program
 - Farm to School Program
- ON-FARM RESEARCH GRANTS**
 - Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
- FARM BUSINESS GRANTS**
 - Regional Food Business Center Funding
 - USDA- VAPG and Rural Development
 - WY Dept of AG- Specialty Crop
- FOOD SYSTEM EXPANSION GRANTS**
 - Feeding Laramie Valley Specialty Crop
 - Wyoming Hunger Initiative- Infrastructure

PLUS, GRANT WRITING FOR PRODUCERS WORKSHOP WITH DR. CAITLIN YOUNGQUIST !!!

Free to Attend

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JAN 31ST
(INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS, SNACKS AND LUNCH)

9:00AM - 3:30 PM

THE BARN IN BIG HORN
1228 JOHNSON ST, BIG HORN, WY 82833

FEB 15TH, 2025
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31ST

TOURS FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT LUMINOUS BREWHOUSE

In Partnership with

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
REGIONAL FOOD BUSINESS CENTERS NORTHWEST & ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NCAAT
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY
Dixie Mountain Farmers Union
WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

FOOD BANK OF WYOMING
Food Works Group
FEEDING LARAMIE VALLEY
WDE

QR CODE
WYFOODCOALITION.ORG
OR SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA



Fall 2023 Wyoming GYRM Student:

Alma Law: [Law of the Homestead](#): Sourdough Bread
[Small Food Business: Feed More with Alma Law](#)

Spring 2024 Wyoming GYRM Students:

Dirk and Sue Gosnell: [Lakeview Gardens](#)
Susan Frost: Queens of Goodness
Leah Burbach: [Heirloom and Native](#)

Fall 2024 GYRM Student:

Cheryl Pape: Quinoa Bars
Bryan Thoman: [Holy Smokes](#)

Las Vegas Winter 2024 FFS WY Participants

Daniel Stewart: [High Country Fungus](#)
[HCF in the News](#)
Richard Rhoades: [Red Pony Salsa](#)
[RPS in the News](#)

NYC Summer 2024 FFS WY Participants

Daniel Stewart: [High Country Fungus](#)
Jean Joseph : [Mr. Joe's Hot Sauce](#)

Las Vegas Winter 2025 FFS WY Participants

Scout Fauth Yellowstone Spice Co.
Jean Joseph : [Mr. Joe's Hot Sauce](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Grant Eligibility

The NWRM Business Builder grants are designed for businesses incorporated or based in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, or Washington whooperating shared use kitchens, food hubs, or food processing facilities that provide multiple food businesses with access to commercial kitchen space and other "incubation" services, for example: advanced food manufacturing services, business development support.

For full eligibility criteria, visit our website.

Application Details

Applications open from January 8th - April 1st

Awardees will be announced by June 1st, 2025

Questions?

Upon reviewing the grant guidelines, if you have any additional questions, please reach out to the NWRM Regional Team here.



<https://nwrfmc.org/>

Business Builder Grants

Focus on Theme:

Connecting and Scaling Food Entrepreneurs

The Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center is offering grants between \$20,000-\$30,000 to operations who incubate and support multiple small, value-added food businesses.

The program is designed for operating shared use kitchens, food hubs, or food processing facilities that provide multiple food businesses with access to commercial kitchen space and other "incubation" services, for example: advanced food manufacturing services, business development support.

Uses of grant funds are intended to be used to allow businesses produce more product, more quickly, at a lower cost without reduced quality, and to expand services to more businesses.



Want to learn more?
Visit our webpage at
nwrockymountainregionalfoodbusiness.com/biz-builder/

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<https://www.usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement>

Meat Supply Chain Business Builder Grant Program

Grant Eligibility

The Meat Supply Chain Business Builder grant program is designed for:

- Meat and/or poultry or seafood producers
- Processors
- Distributors
- Wholesalers
- Brands
- Aggregators
- Retail butcher shops
- Value-added meat businesses
- Food hubs that sell meat
- Grocery stores with butcher counter
- Farm stands with meat sales

For full eligibility criteria, scan the QR code below



Application Deadline:
March 7, 2025 (11:59pm Mountain Time)

Request for Applications

Enhancing Local and Regional Meat Supply Chains Business Builder



The Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center is offering grants between \$3,000 and \$50,000 that are designed to expand the capacity of meat, seafood, and poultry businesses that provide important services to small or mid-scale producers and brands. Priority will be given to applicants that serve and enhance multiple small- or mid-scale producers. This grant is exclusive to businesses in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming.

Types of projects that are eligible for this grant include:

- Business planning
- Value chain coordination
- Brand development
- Trade shows
- New products and packaging
- Improving product handling and sales
- Legal support
- Food safety
- Worker safety
- Farm-direct sales



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Diverse Markets Business Builder Grant Program

December '24 - March '25

Grant Eligibility

Businesses must be growing, producing, processing and/or supporting the aggregation, distribution and marketing of grain, pulse and/or pseudocereal products. Farms must be in our six-state region (CO, ID, OR, MT, WA, WY). Non-farm food businesses must be (1) located in our six-state region and (2) sourcing from local or regional producers, defined as within our six-state region or 450 miles of their business.

Businesses must have been operating for a minimum of two years. Funds are not for the development of new businesses.

For full eligibility details, please visit our webpage.

Funding Opportunity:

Farm and Food Businesses working with Grains, Pulses and Pseudocereals

The NWRM RFBC Diverse Markets for Climate Resilient Agriculture team is offering grants between \$3,000 and \$50,000 that are designed to support small- to mid-scale farms and non-farm food businesses growing, producing, processing and/or supporting the aggregation, distribution and marketing of grain, pulse and/or pseudocereal products within local and regional value chains.

This is the first of two rounds in the Diverse Markets Business Builder grant program. A total of \$120,000 will be awarded in this round, with an anticipated 12 to 30 awards being granted.

Application Details

Grant deadline March 1st, 2025

Awardees will be announced in April 2025

Additional Information

(541) 737-8337

businessbuilder@nwrm-rfbc.com

nwrockymountainregionalfoodbusiness.com/biz-builder/



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Farm Stop Conference Call for Letters of Interest



Northwest Food Hub Summit Call for Letters of Interest





- WY Team developing a WY Handbook for Local Foods Markets such as the [Farm Stop Handbook](#) developed in the mid-west
- RFSI applications have undergone initial review
- WY Food Coalition hired a new Communications Director
- WY RFBC Team still working to get subaward for Rooted in WY part time Market Coordinator position
- Discussions with WY Business Council and Silicon Couloir around [Farm2Food Accelerator](#)
- Project proposals recently submitted to Center for WY Technical Assistance funding available through the Theme Teams
 - Diverse Markets: two workshops (Teton Slow Food & WY Heritage Grains) and another PBS short on Regenerative Grains in WY
 - Connecting and Scaling: WY local foods trade show/ Start-up Challenge; WY Farm Stop Handbook; one on coaching sessions for food businesses and stakeholders; continued expansion of WY Table as a WY Local Foods branding campaign
 - Meat Supply Chains: cooperative efforts between CWC meat lab; Slow Food Wind River; and Fremont Local Market to form Wind River Local Meat Network Program → short courses on butchering by CWC; distribution by the Markets
 - Right Sized Investing (seeking nominations for Advisory Council): One on one coaching with [Food Finance Institute](#)