

RFSI

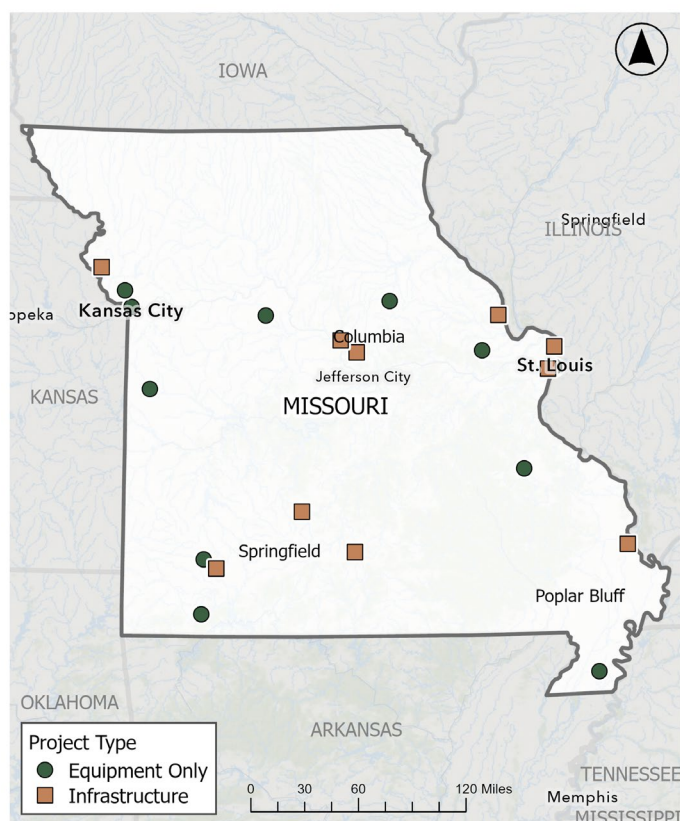
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Missouri



State Overview

USDA awarded the Missouri Department of Agriculture **\$8.1 million** through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program. The objective of RFSI is to expand capacity for aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced agricultural food products. These federal funds will support 23 Missouri infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Expand a commercial cidery to increase processing capacity** of apples and other fruit crops for cider and related products, supporting more than 30 growers in Missouri and neighboring states.
- **Install 2 custom-designed walk-in coolers** to store elderberries from 20 local and regional producers, extending shelf life and reducing waste.
- **Purchase specialized equipment for the processing, distribution, and value-added production** of ice cream products made from local ingredients including milk, cream, fruits, and herbs, benefiting 45 local and regional producers.

Anticipated Outcomes*

703

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

381

New Market Outlets
Established

173

New Value-Added
Products Developed

5

New
Facilities
Constructed

51

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

3

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

81

Processing Equipment
Purchased

38

Jobs Created

**These numbers are reported by states and subawardees.*

RFSI was awarded to the 56 States and Territories in May 2023. Each state conducted a competitive grant review and selection process. States identified their funding priorities through extensive outreach with key industry stakeholders, which guided their selection process to ensure a robust state and local food system representation. Selected projects fund locally and regionally produced food products, including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry.

Infrastructure Projects: Snapshot

Infrastructure Grant projects can involve facility and equipment expansion and upgrades, new construction, and modernized information technology systems.

Missouri invested more than **\$5.2 million** across 10 Infrastructure projects. These projects include:

- Constructing a processing, storage, and distribution facility for farmed saltwater shrimp to improve market access for local aquaculture products;
- Enhancing a milling facility with new equipment, storage silos, and related operational equipment to process grains, such as rice, oats, teff, flax, and quinoa sourced from more than 200 regional farmers; and
- Expanding on-farm cheese processing and aging rooms to increase artisan cheese production, developing five new market outlets.

Equipment Only Projects: Snapshot

Equipment Only projects are intended to purchase special purpose equipment such as cold/dry storage, distribution vehicles, and processing and packaging equipment.

Missouri invested more than **\$900,000** across 13 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 132 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including commercial food processors, convection ovens, processing lines, and a hops dryer. The state expects 329 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 326 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Missouri is investing more than \$1.5 million in infrastructure to expand processing, storage, and distribution of local rice.



Over \$1 million in Missouri funding improves processing milk into ice cream, artisanal cheese, eggnog, butter, and yogurt.



Fifty percent of Missouri's RFSI projects strengthen aggregation, storage and processing of elderberries, chestnuts, mushrooms, apples, and other specialty crops.