

RFSI

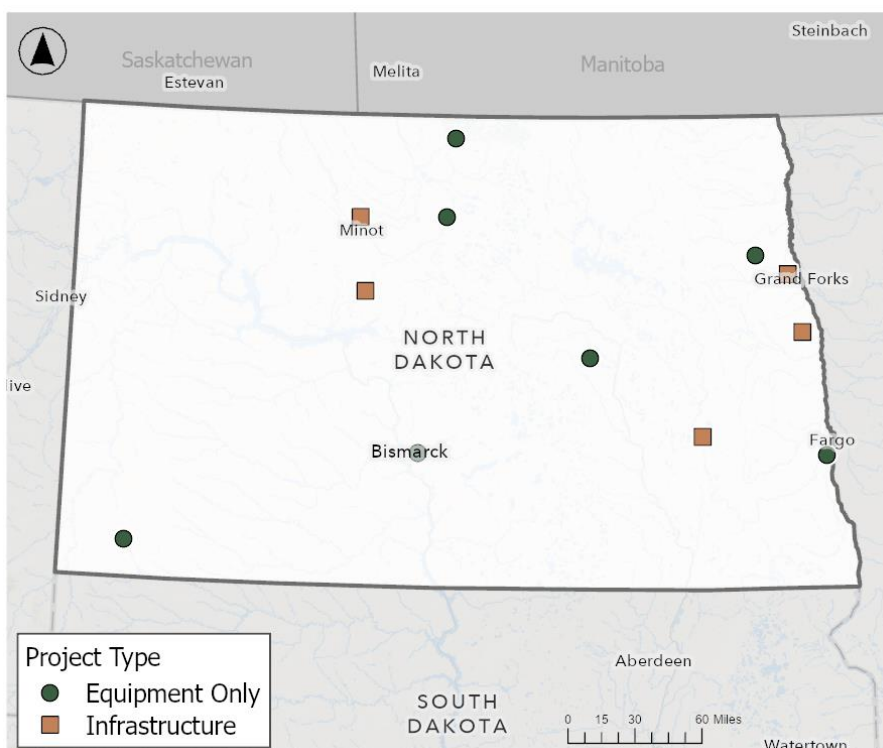
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

North Dakota



State Overview

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded the North Dakota Department of Agriculture **\$4.7 million** through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program. The objective of RFSI is to expand capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced agricultural food products. These federal funds will support 12 North Dakota infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Purchase and install a semi-automatic packaging line** for a dry seasoning company to increase quantities of onion, garlic, peppers, and herbs purchased from 210 producers.
- **Improve a grain pasteurizing facility** through the installation of bulk holding bins and a grain tempering system to halve the time needed to process sunflower kernels, buckwheat, millet, chickpeas, flax, and field peas, while expanding retail opportunities.
- **Increase loading and shipping capacity at a rail terminal facility** to increase the loading capacity of soybeans, wheat, corn, lentils, pulse, canola, and rape seed into trains by 50 percent.

Anticipated Outcomes*

1,293

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

139

New Market
Outlets
Established

35

New Value-Added
Products Developed

1

New Facility
Constructed

43

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

31

Processing Equipment
Purchased

9

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.

North Dakota invested more than **\$3.3 million** across 5 Infrastructure projects benefiting 565 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Updating and expanding a warehouse to accommodate automated bagging and palletizing equipment to meet demand for smaller bag sizes of edible beans, benefiting 450 regional agricultural producers;
- Upgrading a facility and installing advanced cleaning, handling, and preservation equipment to process heritage grains and eggs sourced from local growers to expand their reach to 10 new market outlets;
- Expanding and enhancing an inland port to double its rail shipping capabilities for grains for human consumption; and
- Constructing a climate-controlled, food-grade facility for co-packing, warehousing, and creating five value-added products such as short and long pastas made with local wheat.

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.

North Dakota invested nearly **\$500,000** across 7 Equipment Only projects purchasing 22 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment. Equipment types include bottling equipment, semi-automated packing lines, freezers, and storage tanks. With this equipment, 728 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, increased product quality and shelf life, and access to 110 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Five of North Dakota's projects increase processing or packaging capacity for grains such as wheat, rolled oats, and barley.



North Dakota invested over \$200,000 in projects focusing on dairy processing, bottling, or transportation.



Approximately 35 percent of North Dakota's projects feature processing equipment for beans and legumes, including pinto beans, black beans, chickpeas, and peas.



Two of North Dakota's projects focus on uniquely sweet products: honey and ice cream.