



RFSI

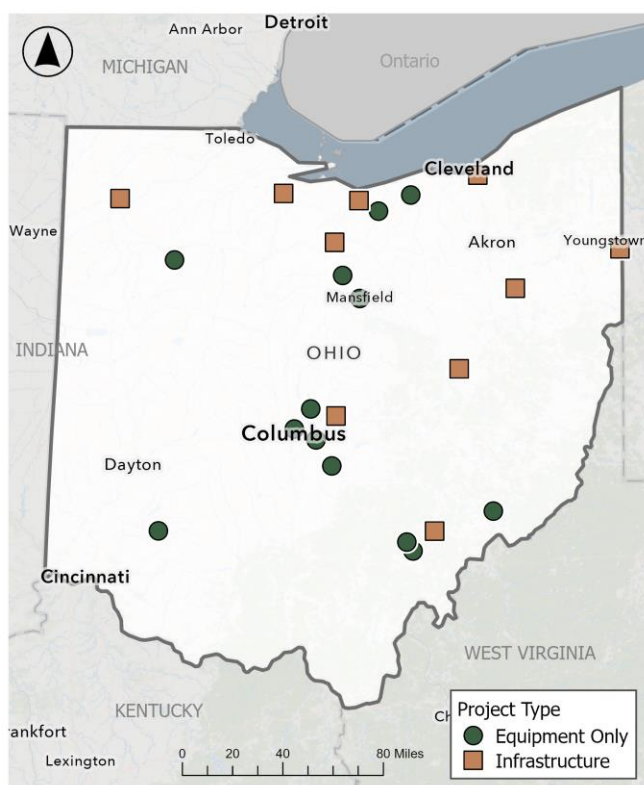
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Ohio



State Overview

USDA awarded the Ohio Department of Agriculture **\$12.7 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 24 Ohio infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Install a new cheese brining system** to increase processing capacity, improve product quality, and enhance food safety systems, benefiting 35 local and regional producers.
- **Construct a new facility which includes a value-added processing line to develop sauerkraut** and fermented and pickled vegetables, benefiting at least 12 producers.
- **Purchase an apple sorter** to improve processing efficiency and enhance product quality, benefiting 44 local and regional producers.

Anticipated Outcomes*

773

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

242

New Market Outlets
Established

89

New Value-Added
Products Developed

4

New
Facilities
Constructed

18

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

5

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

41

Processing Equipment
Purchased

92

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.

Ohio invested more than **\$10.4 million** across 10 Infrastructure projects benefiting 265 local and regional producers. These projects are:

- Outfitting a new dairy processing facility to increase mozzarella cheese production from 28 million pounds to 40 million pounds per year;
- Constructing a new processing facility on a maple farm to improve bottling and packaging systems, developing two new value-added products; and
- Modernizing a produce processing facility with a wet end tank flume, dunk tank, and pick-out-station equipment for local apples, benefiting 14 local and regional producers.

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.

Ohio invested more than **\$1.1 million** across 14 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 39 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including an apple sorter, blast chiller, produce wash lines, and canning equipment. The state expects 508 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 190 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Ohio is investing \$4.1 million in supply chain solutions for fresh fruit and vegetable farmers, increasing capacity for grapes, apples, cabbage, berries, squash, and other produce to reach new markets.



More than half of Ohio's RFSI funding supports local dairy farms to improve storage, processing, and distribution of fluid milk and value-added dairy products, such as custard mix and buttermilk.



At least \$725,000 of Ohio's RFSI funding improves the value-added production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages made from local grains and apples.