



RFSI

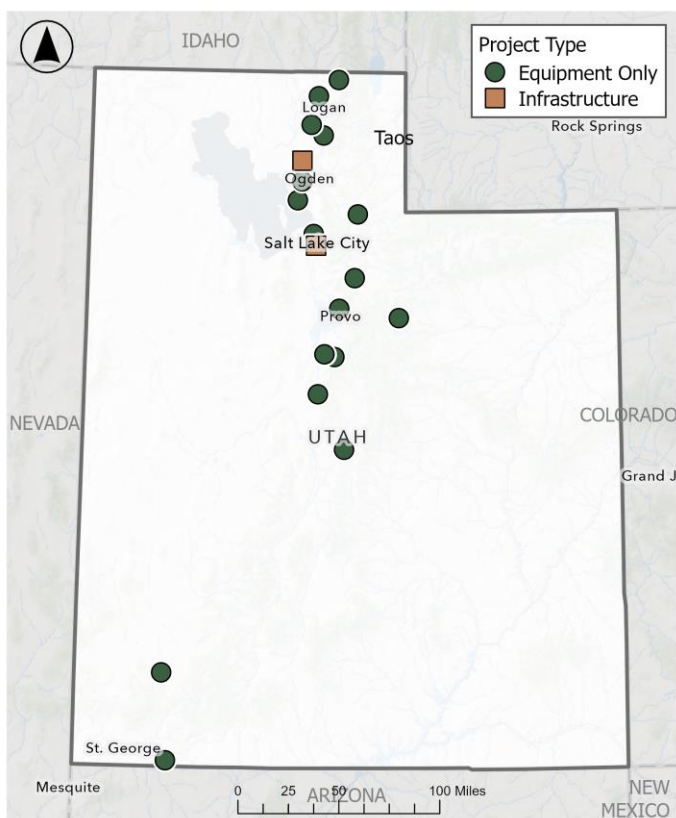
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Utah



State Overview

USDA awarded the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food **\$3 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 Utah infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Install a continuous freeze unit to quadruple ice cream production capacity** and increase sourcing from eight Utah dairy producers.
- **Construct a mobile apple cider press** outfitted with washing, grinding, and pressing equipment and refrigerated storage that will benefit 15 regional apple orchards.
- **Modernize a commercial kitchen** with a dedicated wash and pack area to expand value-added processing for jams, jellies, sauces, and canned and frozen foods, reducing food waste and creating economic opportunity in southern Utah's rural communities.

Anticipated Outcomes*

271

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

280

New Market Outlets
Established

110

New Value-Added
Products Developed

3

New
Facilities
Constructed

87

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

6

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

254

Processing Equipment
Purchased

2

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.

Utah invested more than **\$1.3 million** in 2 Infrastructure projects, benefiting 70 local and regional producers. These projects are:

- Building an aggregation and distribution facility with geothermal cold storage to establish new markets for 30 Utah fruit and produce growers; and
- Constructing on-farm produce packing and cold storage infrastructure to improve food safety and support wholesale market growth.

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.

Utah invested more than **\$1.2 million** across 22 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 121 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including cold storage, specialized dairy and fruit processing equipment, freeze dryers, and distribution vehicles. The state expects 201 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 278 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Utah is investing \$200,000 into dairy processing infrastructure for improved value-added production of products such as cheese, yogurt, cream cheese, butter, and fluid milk in the region.



Nearly 50 percent of Utah's projects strengthen processing and distribution of local tree-grown fruits such as peaches, cherries, and apples.



Utah supports four projects that develop markets for unique local products, including maple and box elder syrup, specialty mushrooms, and fresh berries.