



RFSI

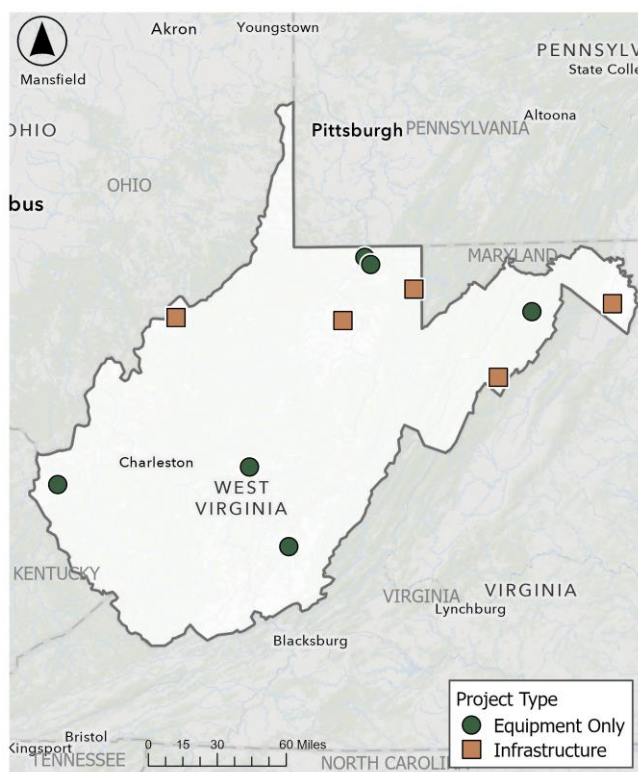
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

West Virginia



State Overview

USDA awarded the West Virginia Department of Agriculture **\$4.6 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 11 West Virginia infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Establish the state's first egg processing facility** to process and grade over 1.5 million eggs monthly sourced from 10 West Virginia farmers.
- **Purchase and install specialized food processing equipment** to expand ready-to-eat meal production using local fruits and vegetables, benefiting 10 local farmers.
- **Install a grain cleaner, bucket elevator, scale, and bagging machine** to improve cleaning of wheat, sorghum, corn, rye, and buckwheat for the production of flour, grits, and sorghum molasses, benefiting five local producers.

Anticipated Outcomes*

286

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

1,032

New Market Outlets
Established

152

New Value-Added
Products Developed

6

New
Facilities
Constructed

31

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

3

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

58

Processing Equipment
Purchased

142

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.

West Virginia invested more than **\$3.2 million** across 5 Infrastructure projects benefiting 184 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Establishing an agricultural food hub with new processing equipment and cold storage facilities to expand produce, dairy, and honey processing for 100 regional producers;
- Increasing cold storage for a cooperative to aggregate, process, and distribute local fruits, vegetables, and value-added products from 19 local producers;
- Building a cold storage facility and purchasing a refrigerated delivery box truck to aggregate, store, and distribute locally grown produce and value-added products such as apple cider vinegar, canned produce, and milled flour from 30 regional producers; and
- Expanding a local distillery to establish a granary to increase the production of West Virginia whiskey, moonshine, and small batch spirits using local grains, cherries, and apples.

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.

West Virginia invested more than **\$400,000** across 6 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 58 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including a grain cleaner, walk-in coolers, a whiskey still system, and a dehydrator. The state expects 102 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 22 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Over 70 percent of West Virginia's RFSI projects focus on the aggregation, cold storage, and distribution of local fruits and vegetables such as broccoli, squash, mushrooms, apples, and blueberries.



Nearly \$1.5 million of West Virginia's RFSI funding supports infrastructure to process and distribute local eggs and value-added egg products.



West Virginia is investing more than \$1 million in projects supporting production of value-added products, including local corn grits, tea, vegetable soups, and moonshine.



A quarter of West Virginia's projects improve the processing of niche products such as dehydrated mushrooms, buckwheat flour, and cherry bounce, to supply regional and wholesale market outlets.