

RFSI

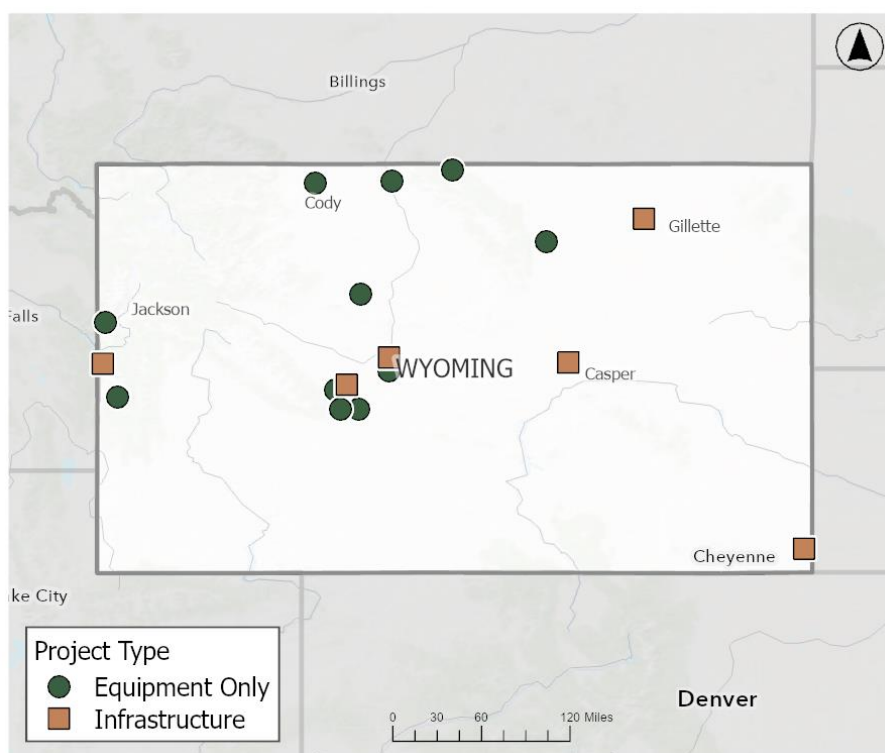
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Wyoming



State Overview

USDA awarded the Wyoming Department of Agriculture **\$2.2 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 17 Wyoming infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Upgrade freeze-drying and packaging equipment** to scale up production of shelf-stable freeze-dried foods such as peas, pumpkin, dairy products, and beans, benefiting Wyoming producers with access to new markets for surplus farm products.
- **Specialized processing and packaging equipment** to more efficiently produce creamed honey products, creating 25 new value-added products such as creamed honey snacks and honeys infused with fruit and spices.
- **Increase production capacity of ice cream and skyr-style yogurt cups** with upgraded dairy processing equipment, benefiting Wyoming producers with increased access to 30 new markets.

Anticipated Outcomes*

208

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

150

New Market Outlets
Established

147

New Value-Added
Products Developed

4

New
Facilities
Constructed

62

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

1

Distribution Vehicle
Purchased

96

Processing Equipment
Purchased

29

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.

Wyoming invested more than **\$1.3 million** across 6 Infrastructure projects benefiting 114 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Constructing a new food manufacturing facility for production of snack foods made with local potatoes and corn;
- Expanding food hub aggregation and distribution infrastructure with new cold storage facilities and delivery vehicles to improve market access for at least 20 producers across rural Wyoming;
- Modernizing a facility with upgraded processing equipment to expand production of granola bars made with regionally grown grains; and
- Building a processing kitchen for production of value-added dairy products such as yogurt, kefir, cottage cheese, ricotta, and ice cream.

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.

Wyoming invested more than **\$400,000** across 11 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 132 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including a blast chiller, cold storage, produce washing equipment, and specialized dairy processing equipment. The state expects 94 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 106 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Thirteen of Wyoming's projects develop 150 new value-added products from raw agricultural ingredients grown in the state.



More than \$300,000 of Wyoming's total funding improves the storage, processing, and distribution of dairy products such as cheese, yogurt, and ice cream.



Wyoming is investing more than \$20,000 into honey projects that provide access to critical processing equipment, benefiting 43 honey producers.