



MISSION MOUNTAIN FOOD ENTERPRISE CENTER NEWSLETTER



MISSION WEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Happy Harvest Season!

As cherry season comes to a close, we are remiss to be reminded summer is almost over. But as fall approaches, we can anticipate the coming workshops and funding opportunities to bring connection and new beginnings with the changing season. We have lots of happenings to share with you this season, so take some time to enjoy this edition of MMFEC news and updates, and as always, don't hesitate to call us if you need assistance or have questions.

May your bounty be prosperous and your days be full.

Sincerely,
MMFEC Staff and Management

[Visit MMFEC website](#)

[Processing Facility Calendar](#)

MMFEC News, Updates & Stories

[Mission West Receives 2022 USDA Farm to School Grant](#)

Ronan, MT, August 2, 2022 – The USDA has recently announced awards for the Farm to School grant program, including a \$99,956 award to Mission West Community Development Partners. The two-year grant will support Mission West's Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center and their ongoing partnership with Montana Office of Public Instruction (MT OPI) and Northwest Food Hub Network (NWFHN) to develop and distribute local, value-added products to schools statewide.

[Read the Article](#)

[Montana Marinara Update](#)

MMFEC staff are working hard to prepare for our big run of Montana Marinara this fall! Montana Marinara combines USDA Foods canned tomatoes from MT Office of Public Instruction with Montana-grown butternut squash, onions, carrots, and safflower oil to create a delicious and versatile tomato sauce for K-12 schools across the state. For the 2022-2023 school year, schools ordered 1600 cases of MT Marinara! That's 32,000lbs of sauce that contains over 11,000lbs of local veggies and is enough for over 120,000 servings for students all over Montana! Veggies will be sourced from several farms through the Western Montana Growers Cooperative, including Paradise Gardens, Lowdown Farms, Five Fox Farms, and Harlequin Produce. We are so excited to bring this local product to schools while supporting our hardworking Montana farmers.

[More information](#)

[Food & Ag Development Statewide Survey](#)

MMFEC partnered with the [Food & Agriculture Development Center Network](#) (FADC) and Abundant Montana to launch a statewide survey to assess the needs and circumstances of food and agriculture related businesses in Montana. The results of the survey will help to create a more effective and efficient FADC network to better serve food and agriculture-related businesses across Montana to build a more resilient local food system and food economy.

If you haven't had an opportunity to participate in the survey, please click the link below.

[Take the statewide Food & Ag Development Survey](#)

[Montana Organic Association Announces Annual Conference and Farm Tour](#)

The Montana Organic Association has announced they will reschedule their organic farm tour for September 11th, at Fresh Roots Farm in Polson. The farms hosts a variety of berries that contribute to the Fresh Roots Farm value-added enterprise, Flare Pops. The Montana Organic Association will host their annual conference in Billings on December 8th and 9th.

[More Information](#)

[MMFEC Intern Spotlight](#)

MSU graduate, Dominic Pisaneschi, has been interning at MMFEC this summer to improve a nutrition bar to benefit the women of Senegal, Africa. Click the link below to read about the project and what it means for the women and children of Senegal.

[Read the Article](#)



[Red Shed Brings a New Innovation to MMFEC](#)

MMFEC's latest innovation has a surprise twist. Click the link to find out how one local entrepreneur started a thriving business and a new facility process, all during the

onslaught of the pandemic.

[Read the Article](#)



Funding Opportunities

2022 Growth Through Agriculture Program

The 2022 Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) program is now accepting applications! The GTA program is a grant and loan program established by the Montana Legislature to strengthen and diversify Montana's agricultural industry through the development of new agricultural products and processes. With grants up to \$50,000 and loans up to \$100,000, the GTA program has served as stepping-stone for food and agriculture businesses to prosper.

Click the link below for more information and be sure to check out GTA's *NEW* programs specific to marketing and business development assistance.

[More information about Growth Through Agriculture Programs](#)

NEW GTA Market Development Program

A new program to GTA that will assist businesses with access, development, and expansion of new markets. Funding will be directed towards expanding new markets, overcoming market barriers, technical assistance, and showcasing products in domestically and internationally.

[MDP Info & Application](#)

NEW GTA Business Acceleration Program

Also new to the GTA program, the Business Acceleration Program (BAP) was created to support businesses seeking to grow their business through development of viable agriculture products and technologies. Funding will include business that are in start-up phases as well as established business enterprises.

[BAP Info & Application](#)

FREE Mission West Business Development

Trainings

QuickBooks Level I: September 15th from 9 AM to 2:30 PM

- Introduction to QuickBooks Desktop basic uses and features. [*Register for QuickBooks Level 1 on 9/15/22 HERE*](#)

Excel Essentials Level I: September 22nd from 9 AM to 2:30 PM

- Microsoft Excel is an essential tool for managing your company's data. In this workshop, you'll learn how to: enter and modify data in a worksheet, format worksheets, move and copy data, create formulas, work with ranges, navigate the worksheet, use the fill handle, and use time-saving keyboard shortcuts. This class covers the basic features and functions of Excel. [*Register for Excel Essentials Level 1 on 9/22/22 HERE*](#)

QuickBooks Level I: October 20th from 9 AM to 2:30 PM

- Introduction to QuickBooks Desktop basic uses and features. [*Register for QuickBooks Level 1 on 10/20/22 HERE*](#)

Excel Essentials Level I: October 27th from 9 AM to 2:30 PM

- Microsoft Excel is an essential tool for managing your company's data. In this workshop, you'll learn how to: enter and modify data in a worksheet, format worksheets, move and copy data, create formulas, work with ranges, navigate the worksheet, use the fill handle, and use time-saving keyboard shortcuts. This class covers the basic features and functions of Excel. [*Register for Excel Essentials Level 1 on 10/27/22 HERE*](#)

QuickBooks Level II: November 10th from 9 AM – 3:00 PM

- Keep your company's financial data complete and up to date with QuickBooks Pro 2020 for Windows. You'll learn transaction entries, work with balance sheets, understand other current liabilities, fixed assets, and depreciation, and set up long-term liabilities, equity, and petty cash accounts. We'll also discuss budgeting and cash flow, custom fields, and integrating with MS Office. [*Register for QuickBooks Level 2 on 11/10/22 HERE*](#)

Excel Essentials Level II: November 17th from 9 AM -2:30 PM

- This is an intermediate class for students who have a basic knowledge of Excel. In this workshop, you'll learn how to: work with lists, work with freeze panes and split panes, use the sort and auto filter functions, use the insert function command to create IF functions, use the automatic subtotals and grouping functions, and create and work with charts. [*Register for Excel Essentials Level 2 on 11/17/22 HERE*](#)

Social Media Marketing: December 7th from 9 AM to 3:00 PM

- An effective marketing strategy is essential for business success. In this workshop, you'll learn Ideal Customer; Marketing Analytics; Social Media; Creating Successful content; Providing Value to your audience; Embrace Community with Customers; Ads; Branding -Bring it all Together. [*Register for Social Media Marketing on 12/7/22 HERE*](#)

Training & Business Development Workshops

Sept. 14 & 16:

**AERO Raw Milk
Producer Training**

AERO in partnership with the Raw Milk Institute will be hosting raw milk producer trainings to help build a network of informed Montana farmers committed to the production of low-risk raw milk.

Registration &
Information

**Sept. 15, 22, &
30:**

**Farm to School
Producer Training**

Diversify your revenue and support Montana kids. Get your products onto school menus with this specialized training series.

Registration &
Information

November 7:

**Liability Workshops
for Value-Added
Products**

Learn about the Montana Local Food Choice Act and how it changes the limitations and regulations of value-added products.

Registration &
Information

Networking & Marketing Events

September 11:

**Montana Organic Association Farm
Tour**

Montana Organic Association announces a re-scheduled farm tour and invites participants to visit the Fresh Roots Farm in Polson.

Registration & Information

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2:

**AERO Expo 2022
Cultivating Resiliency**

This year's expo will be at Arrow Peak Lodge in Great Falls, MT. Featuring legendary speakers, intriguing farm tours, local sourced meals, paneled discussion sessions, and more!

Registration & Information

October 19:

Crunch Time

Help our state win the Mountain Plains CRUNCH OFF! Each year Montana competes with 7 other states to win and every vote counts! Register your crunch to gain access to local food sources, classroom activities, and more!

Registration & Information

November 7:

Food and Bev Show

REGISTER BY Sept. 29!

This event is exclusive to vendors and buyers only! Showcase and sample your product to buyers from restaurants, distributors, bars, hotels, and more!

