



Dear Readers,

The recent warmer months have brought packed schedules and extra bustling during Spring quarter at MMFEC. We held a packed and successful workshop season. We hosted more workshops this spring than we have since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, all of which yielded a record numbers of attendees, some of whom were cows!

We have lots of opportunities on the horizon and we encourage you to take full advantage of the resources and opportunities we offer. Check out our [client services](#), [business development](#) and [food enterprise workshops](#), [update your client portal in eCenter](#), or [become a client](#) to access the myriad of services we provide to new and existing businesses.

Thank you for being an integral part of our Food and Agriculture community. Together, we can sow the seeds of change and reap a bountiful harvest.

Wishing you a joyful and prosperous season!

Sincerely,  
MMFEC Staff and Management

[Visit MMFEC website](#)

[Processing Facility Calendar](#)

## MMFEC News

### Montana Marinara Madness

Mission West staff and MT Marinara partners were busy this spring visiting schools during Marinara Madness! The MT Marinara team visited a few of our key school partners when they served the





product to celebrate local food and do taste tests with students. We are thrilled that students continue to give MT Marinara a thumbs up!

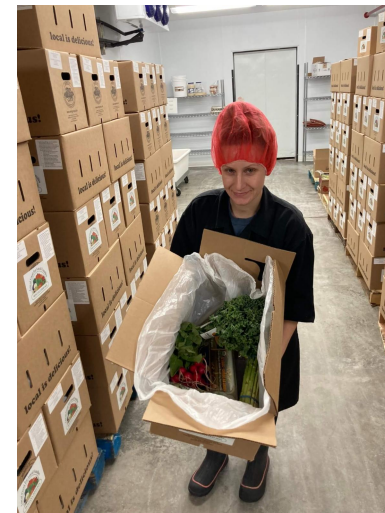
And we are off to prepare for next year! Schools have ordered another 1200 cases of MT Marinara for 2023-2024. Local producers are busy tending to the Montana carrots, onions, butternut squash, and safflower oil that are destined for the next batch of marinara this fall!

[More Info](#)

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### MMFEC Partners with CSKT to Increase Food Sovereignty on the Flathead Reservation

Mission West is launching a new Local Food Procurement Assistance (LFPA) grant project aimed at building food sovereignty and empowering underserved producers within the Flathead Reservation through a partnership with CSKT and expansion of MMFEC's food box program, SKC Extension Victory Garden Program, and assisting tribal beef producers in market development and procurement of ground beef products.



[Read the Article](#)

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### World Food Safety Day is June 7

In light of World Food Safety Day, we want recognize our amazing, well seasoned, and highly trained food safety staff in doing a job well done. MMFEC is Montana's only FDA registered and USDA meat inspected processing facility. Food safety is our jam and we do it well.

MMFEC is offering a second [free online HACCP certification course](#) this year for qualifying businesses. Click the above link for more information.

[More Info on World Food Safety Day](#)

## Workshops, Trainings, & Seminars

We've had some great workshop offerings across the organization this season, and we still have a number of useful workshops and training opportunities scheduled for the summer. Check out our food enterprise and business development offerings at Mission West and other organizations across the state. Don't delay registration, classes are filling quickly!



### Food Enterprise Workshops

Our MMFEC workshop season has been one of the best on the books. We've had record attendance, invaluable discussions, and some amazing speakers.

Our MMFEC workshop season is coming to a close but we still have a few more to look forward to, like our [Poultry Processing](#) workshop and [FREE online HACCP certification](#) course. Click the button below to access a full list of upcoming MMFEC workshops and register today!

MMFEC Workshop  
Portal

### Business Development Training

Our business development workshops and trainings are catered towards providing small businesses of all kinds with the supplemental knowledge they need to excel. The summer quarter has a hefty line up of offerings from our regular Excel and QuickBooks trainings, to HR seminars, government contracting and how to utilize AI in your daily workflow. Click the button below to access a full list of upcoming workshops and register today!

Mission West  
Workshop Portal

**Statewide Workshops** Seminars, workshops, trainings, and networking opportunities from food and ag related organizations across the state.

#### **May 17-Sept. 16: NCAT Free Summer Sustainable Growing Series**

A free workshop series highlighting sustainable growing practices.

#### **June 12-26: Basic Ranch Bookkeeping Webinar Series**

Bookkeeping Basics; Talking the Language of Accountants & Attorneys; Turning Knowledge into Profitability

All events run from 7:30-8:30pm on designated dates.

#### **July 9-Nov. 25: Racial Equity in the Food System**

A 21 week self-learning program that explores how equity in the food systems affects food access, farming business opportunity, diet-related diseases, and what to do about it.

#### **July 17: WARC Field Days**

The Western Ag Research Center's annual field days held in Corvallis. Learn about the various WARC research projects and feast on locally grown and prepared foods. Free and open to the public.

#### **Sept. 17: AERO's Local Food and Sustainability Expo**

Early bird registration opens July 15th.

## Funding Opportunities

#### **Rural Energy for America Program:** Due June 20

Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Loans & Grants in

Montana.

A program for small business and agricultural producers to acquire loan and grant funding to make energy efficiency improvements. New energy efficient equipment and new system loans for ag production and processing.

**Local Meat Capacity Grant:** Due July 19

This USDA program supports independently owned meat and poultry processing businesses with funding to improve processing options for local livestock producers.

**Growth Through Agriculture:** Pre-application release in early fall

The GTA's primary grant and loan program was created to support new jobs and expand small business opportunities through the development of agricultural innovation and commercial expansion. This is an extensive application with a short application submission window. Start considering application requirements now!

Also check out the GTA [Market Development Program](#) and GTA [Business Acceleration Program](#) for other potential grant funding options.

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*Mission West provides funding assistance for food and agriculture businesses as a designated food and agriculture development center through grant writing assistance and their in-house loan program.*

Contact [Liz Hansen](#) for assistance and more information.



Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center | 407 Main St SW, Ronan, MT 59864

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Sent by [liz.hansen@missionwestcdp.org](mailto:liz.hansen@missionwestcdp.org) powered by



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