

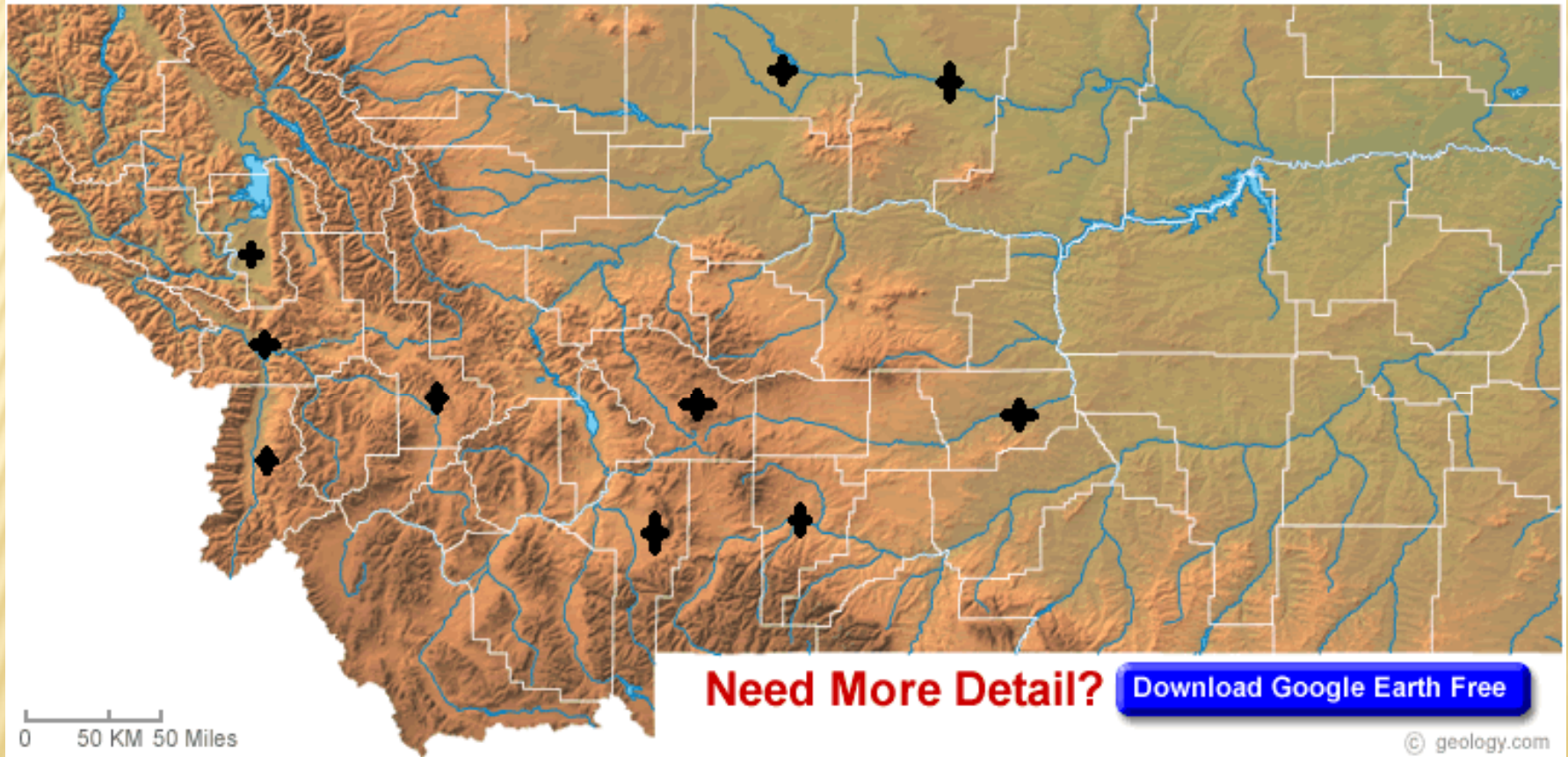
MONTANA POULTRY GROWERS COOPERATIVE MOBILE PROCESSING UNIT



Jan Tusick- Center Director
Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center

BACKGROUND- MONTANA POULTRY GROWERS

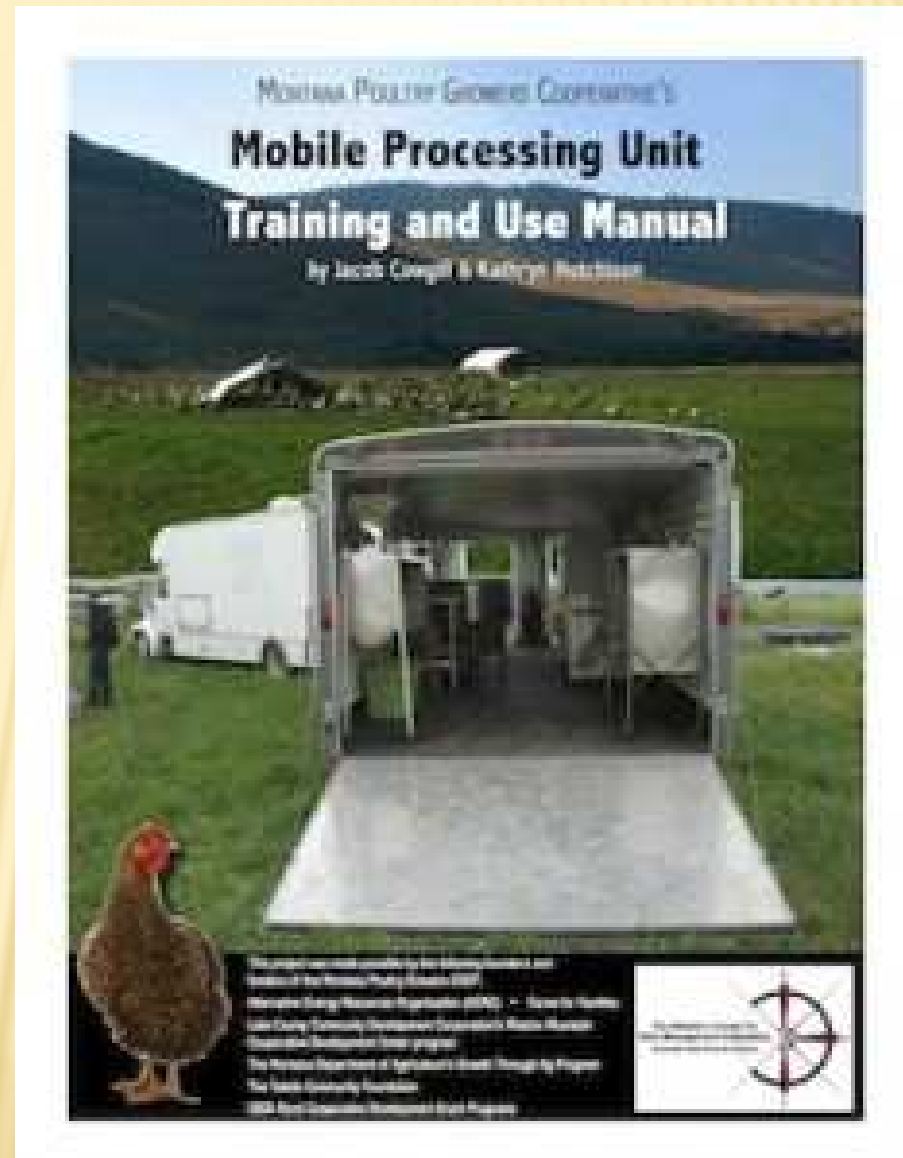
- ✘ Incorporated in 2006- organized to provide an avenue for producers to collaboratively meet their processing needs
- ✘ Statewide, open membership cooperative- 21 members
- ✘ Coop purchased 2 sets of processing equipment (scalding/plucker) for members
- ✘ Members interested in retail markets and needed inspection and increased production



MOBILE PROCESSING UNIT- 2009-2010

- ✘ Developed in collaboration with Farms for Families, Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center and AERO
- ✘ Funding partners included; USDA RBEG, Toledo Foundation, USDA Risk Management, MT Dept. of Agriculture
- ✘ State Inspected under the 20,000 bird federal exemption
- ✘ Training program launched in 2010- held five statewide trainings

<http://www.chicken.coop/mobile-processing-unit/manual/>



MOBILE PROCESSING UNIT ASSESSMENT-2011

- ✘ Approximately 3000 birds processed in 2011-
serving 4 producers
- ✘ The four members developed on-farm
processing plans after undergoing training
- ✘ The unit traveled approximately 500 miles per
farm @ \$3.50 per gal
- ✘ Challenges- damage occurred during travel,
insurance cost to cooperative- not producer

MPU COST ASSESSMENT

- ✘ MPU Cost
 - + Truck \$18,000.00
 - + Trailer \$7,000.00
 - + Equipment \$20,000.00
 - + Custom Fabrication \$1,000.00
- ✘ Variable Costs
 - + Insurance \$2,000.00
 - + Licensing \$100.00
 - + Supplies \$200.00
 - + Repairs \$3,000.00
- ✘ Annual Overhead- \$5,300.00
- ✘ Annual Revenue- \$5,250.00- (3000 birds @Charge per bird- \$1.75)

MPU CHALLENGES

- ✘ Members are small scale production- ave 100 birds- minimum usage for MPU was 250 birds
- ✘ High feed costs- average cost per bird is \$2.30/lb
- ✘ Large distance and high cost to travel in MT
- ✘ Damage to unit
- ✘ Regulation still a barrier
 - + Every local county sanitarian has their own rules
 - + Two agencies to comply with – MT Dept of Livestock and MT Dept of Health and Human Services

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

- ✘ Clarify Regulation- MT Dept. of Livestock will have sole jurisdiction
 - + Address lack of understanding of federal exemptions at local level
- ✘ Explore 1000 bird federal exemption
- ✘ Expand small scale equipment usage- purchase 2 more sets
- ✘ Explore cooperative purchasing of feed and chicks
- ✘ Continue education opportunities for members
 - + Collaboration with NCAT on education workshops in 2013

QUESTIONS?

Jan Tusick- Director

Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center

407 Main Street, Ronan, MT

406-676-0676, jt@ronan.net

www.mmfec.org