

Hi, \_\_\_\_\_ !

Wow. What a start to 2020! Now it's June and summer production is getting into full swing. We trust you are well and have been taking good care of yourselves and your loved ones these past six months.

June is "Membership Month" at AERO, when we ask all our members - current, future and lapsed - to join or renew. We SO appreciate you taking the time to renew/join today, \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you!

We're proud of our successful grant efforts and the programming they support. Still, they only cover a portion of our costs. YOU make the difference. YOUR support is what allows us to pivot and respond to a pandemic, implementing new programs to fill gaps, providing resources and leadership to new efforts. Again, THANK YOU!

We've updated our membership benefits and policies, which we've detailed below. Also, for our business owners, we're offering AERO BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS as a membership option. Check it out!

### Where we are in 2020

#### MORE Wild Dinners

We love the unifying impact of these simple gatherings, where sharing a meal and stories is the backdrop for finding common ground. While the signature dinners currently are on hold, we're holding space for new ways to gather and connect.

#### MFEI 2020

While CV-19 delayed the start date, we're gathering our Advisory Board now to develop the G2S "pick list" projects designed to enhance on-farm resiliency or community engagement. Updates on our community coaching options will follow.

#### Grow MT food policy coalition

Making farmers' markets essential during CV-19 & developing impactful resilient food system policy for this coming legislative session. Updates coming.

#### Cottage Foods

Our program focus is (1) decreasing sanitation material waste and plastic packaging, and (2) helping vendors & their customers be CV-19 responsive and safe.

# Want In?

Ways you can expand AERO's impact

### Co-create the Resilient Food System Task Force

Ensuring Montanans' voices are heard on resilient food system policies in the 2021 legislative session will take all of us. Task Forces keep our community informed & amplify our voices in the sessions. Help make it happen! Contact Robin: rkelson@aeromt.org

### Lead an MFEI project!

Launching in October @ Expo: the MFEI Grassroots to Systems (G2) "Pick List".

Choose a project that fits your farm or community food system's needs and apply for a \$1,000 mini-grant to carry it out. Report back at 2021 MFEI gathering!

Project details coming this summer

### Gather Stories!

Use this easy form to capture story details and send in your food impact story!

Questions? Ask Isabelle: programs@aeromt.org



form: [bit.ly/mtfoodstories](http://bit.ly/mtfoodstories)

### CV-19 Response

#### MT Food Providers Project

Launched April 2nd with MOA and a host of partner orgs, MFPP already has procured and distributed thousands of pounds of organic flour, lentils, safflower oil and grass-fed beef, supporting our producers and food-insecure Montanans. AND, MFPP just got a \$10K CARES grant!

[bit.ly/foodprovidermt](http://bit.ly/foodprovidermt)

#### Abundant MT

CV-19 disrupted market channels for MT producers. Because Abundant MT links consumers and producers state-wide across multiple channels, we are actively pursuing expansion of Abundant as a virtual "local market" for MT food products and vendors, providing a direct to consumer and intermediate retailer market channel that can stabilize, diversify and even increase farm income.

#### MT Food System Story Project

CV-19 highlighted the fragility and inequality in the national, commodity-based food system. With our partners, we're leveraging the moment through stories of the impact on MT's food supply. The goal is a new narrative, embraced by every Montanan who eats, of nourishing food systems that enhance MT communities and keep MT food secure.

#### Resilient Food System Task Force

Grow MT's capacity and vision is critical post CV-19. AERO's Task Forces have been effective in the past at educating our community and building support that has an impact. We're reaching out to co-create a new one for these times.

## AERO Membership

While any contribution qualifies for membership, we recommend \$40 / year for an individual or family (household) membership; \$20/year for students.

### Member Benefits include:

- Discounted registration to our annual Expo
- Our monthly E-News, membership announcements, and the quarterly Sun Times delivered to your inbox
- One vote at member meetings, including AERO's Annual Meeting

### The win-win of Sustaining Members

We REALLY appreciate sustaining (recurring) contributions of \$5/mo or more, with automatic withdrawal and renewal. Sustaining contributions provide a reliable income stream throughout the year, so we can focus more on implementing our programs.

## AERO BUSINESS PARTNER

We want to promote your business state-wide! Our reach is expanding daily and we LOVE elevating MT sustainability businesses. Joining as an AERO Business Partner is a great investment for you and your business. Our tier options below make it simple to choose what works best for you. Also: you can contribute annually or split your contribution into monthly or quarterly contributions.

ALL AERO Business Partners receive member benefits AND, your choice of:

### AERO Business Partner Tiers:

- **Bronze Barley \$125** - Membership benefits + Linked monthly eNews/website logo recognition
- **Silver Chickpea \$250** - All the above + Recognition at AERO-sponsored events
- **Golden Lentil \$500** - All the above + Market table at Expo
- **Platinum Pea Pod \$1,000** - All the above + Feature article in the Sun Times

### The win-win-win of Sustaining Partners

When you participate with a sustaining (recurring) contribution, with automatic withdrawal and renewal, it becomes a line item on your budget, you eliminate a renewal call from us, and we get support in planning out our year, which is SO helpful for our annual budgeting and cash flow. Thank you!


From all of us at AERO, a heart-felt THANK YOU! for your confidence and faith in our efforts, \_\_\_\_\_. We are inspired by your support, in whatever form it takes. We work for you, and together we are building the world we all want to live in. **The future of sustainability is community.**

  
Co-Executive Director  
Development

  
Co-Executive Director  
Programs

  
Office Manager  
Member Services

  
OutReach  
Coordinator

  
Intern/Programs