



## Montana Food Economy Initiative

**December 2020 - May 2021**

Create a community food system designed to feed your community with a Montana Food Economy Initiative (MFEI) project. Bring folks from across your community food system sectors into partnerships that have the power to create food systems that serve all Montanans better. Join the MFEI to experience the benefits of diversity, and lead Montana communities to more equitable and resilient food systems.

### MT Food Connections: Helping producers feed their communities

With support from an MFEI mentor and community collaborators, create a pathway for local food from the farm, ranch, or community garden to the pantry, school, or senior center. Develop a local distribution system that pays producers fairly and feeds local folks.

### Expectations

- Accept the reality of Zoom-collaboration for monthly meetings, minimum.
- Embrace opportunities to learn about group facilitation, digital storytelling, coalition building, and project management that MFEI provides.
- Build a team that includes a Montana producer and community food access point (eg. school, pantry, senior center). Consider inviting a consumer, youth, elder, folks of a range of gender identities, and folks from across race and ethnicities. Building a diverse coalition helps us to see the whole picture and allows us to draw strengths from assets across the community to make the most impact.
- Start gathering community resources that can support local food distribution to increase access for a new audience in a system that also pays the producer fairly.

### Outcomes

- Increased local food access
- New connection between MT food production and food access point
- Digital Story presentation at network meeting in late May
- Stories shared on MFEI online Library

**Questions** Reach out to Michal DeChellis, [programs@aeromt.org](mailto:programs@aeromt.org)

### Learn More

[MFEI Projects - Dec 2020](#)

[MFEI Update – Summer 2020](#)

[MFEI Update - June 12, 2020](#)

