

# RFSI

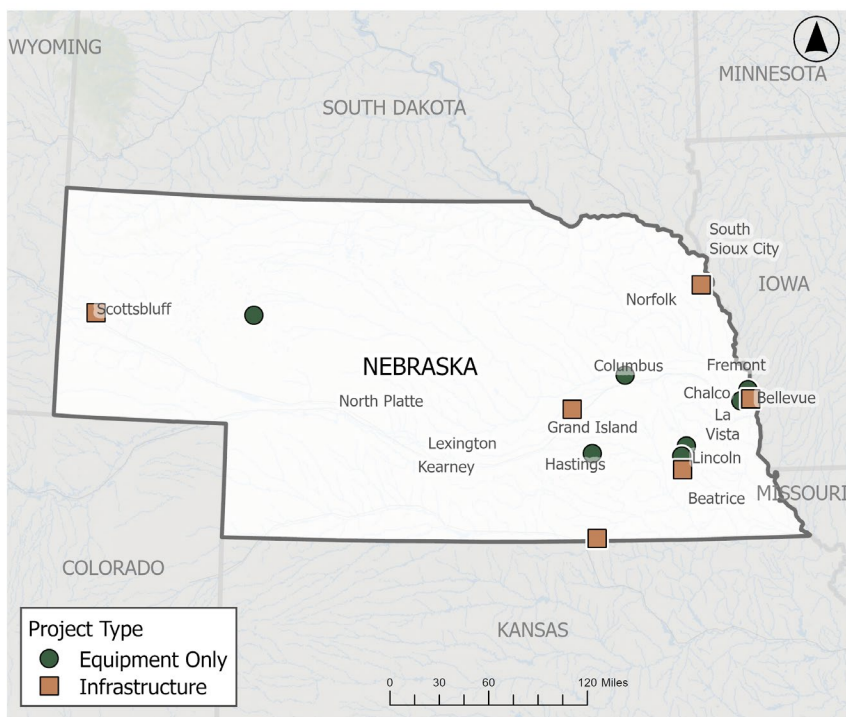
Resilient Food Systems  
Infrastructure Program

# Nebraska



## State Overview

USDA awarded the Nebraska Department of Agriculture **\$3.4 million** through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program. The objective of RFSI is to expand capacity for aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced agricultural food products. These federal funds will support 14 Nebraska infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



## Project Highlights

- **Expand storage for fresh, local products for farm-to-school** by purchasing reach-in refrigerators and freezers, supporting increased sourcing from 15 local producers of potatoes, carrots, peppers, melons, and eggs.
- **Outfit a shared-use kitchen with processing equipment** to develop 3 value-added products, including vegetable stocks and baked goods made from local fresh produce, fruit, dairy, eggs, grains, and dry beans sourced from 35 farmers across eastern Nebraska.
- **Modernize a winery's value-added production facility** with carbonation equipment, brite tanks, a crossflow filter, and a flash pasteurizer to process wine grapes, apples, raspberries, and rhubarb, benefiting at least 15 local growers with increased product sourcing.

## Anticipated Outcomes\*

**219**

Local/Regional  
Producers Benefited

**114**

New Market Outlets  
Established

**57**

New Value-Added  
Products Developed

**2**

New  
Facilities  
Constructed

**51**

Storage/Aggregation  
Units Purchased

**5**

Distribution  
Vehicles Purchased

**42**

Processing Equipment  
Purchased

**30**

Jobs Created

\*These numbers are reported by states and subawardees.

RFSI was awarded to the 56 States and Territories in May 2023. Each state conducted a competitive grant review and selection process. States identified their funding priorities through extensive outreach with key industry stakeholders, which guided their selection process to ensure a robust state and local food system representation. Selected projects fund locally and regionally produced food products, including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry.

# Infrastructure Projects: Snapshot

**Infrastructure Grant projects can involve facility and equipment expansion and upgrades, new construction, and modernized information technology systems.**

Nebraska invested more than **\$2.1 million** across 6 Infrastructure projects benefiting 105 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Upgrading a shared facility for washing, packing, and processing produce to enhance post-harvest handling of leafy greens, tomatoes, peppers, onions, squash, and expand distribution into institutional and community markets;
- Expanding the aggregation of local grain products with a grain bin, grain-monitoring systems, a semi-truck and grain trailer, and value-added processing using an automated bagging machine to store, package, and distribute products such as popcorn, dry beans, wheat, and oats;
- Modernizing a food hub with a refrigerated delivery vehicle, walk-in freezer, generators, processing equipment, and inventory management system to store and distribute local leafy greens, root vegetables, and both frozen and fermented value-added products; and
- Constructing a cereal grain processing facility to mill, clean, and store local products, such as wheat, oats, barley, and rye, enabling improved post-harvest handling and expanded distribution to regional retail and wholesale markets.

# Equipment Only Projects: Snapshot

**Equipment Only projects are intended to purchase special purpose equipment such as cold/dry storage, distribution vehicles, and processing and packaging equipment.**

Nebraska invested more than **\$365,000** across 8 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 50 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including freezers, commercial dehydrators, a glycol chiller, and refrigerated trucks. The state expects 114 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 58 new markets.

# Statewide Standouts



More than \$1.4 million of Nebraska's RFSI funding invests in local grain projects developing value-added products, such as flours, popcorn, and dehulled oats for specialty milling, flaking, brewing.



More than 45 percent of Nebraska's projects support processing local produce into frozen diced vegetables, dehydrated herbs, jams, jellies, wine, and other value-added products.



Nebraska is investing in projects that expand local food storage and aggregation capabilities, benefiting at least 197 producers with improved access to schools, universities, and farmers markets.



Nebraska's state-led supply chain coordination initiatives support the development of a website to facilitate connections between producers and market outlets and to provide technical assistance to producers and food businesses.