

Options for addressing value-added agriculture under SJR 13

May 1, 2008

Issue	Cost	Purpose
Increase number of food innovation centers	Depends on approach	1) Build on Montana's agricultural strength by providing incentives for community regional development corporations to devote a portion of funding to value-added agriculture, for example by lowering matching funds needed in proportion to CRDC funding of value-added agricultural production or programs or changing the matching fund requirements for refrigerator trucks or mobile equipment owned by value-added agriculture cooperatives. 2) Enhance use of Growth Through Agriculture programs by requiring certain ratio of funding to be spent on food innovation centers.
Encourage in-state collaboration for value-added agricultural production	Depends on approach, could include tax credits	1) Add to purposes of Big Sky Economic Development Program (90-1-202) to include the development of value-added agricultural production and expand economic development organization (90-1-201) to mean a cooperative intended to develop value-added agriculture. The priorities for funding under 90-1-204 could also be changed to recognize not just industrial but value-added agricultural production. 2) Tax credits for in-state companies that collaborate to add value
Increase funding for meat inspector	\$120,000 - or the cost of an additional meat inspector/operating expenses	1) Local production and use requires local inspection.
Increase vocational technical college budgets to respond to local value-added agricultural production needs	To be estimated	1) Value-added agricultural producers expressed concern about lack of a trained work force in various elements of production. Some of these programs be short-term at one college but could rotate at vo-tech colleges around the state. The state may need to help with equipment purchases for training.
Other?		