

## Presentations of Action Plans

Group 1 : **Coordinated system of development centers -- virtually accessible. - Technical and financial assistance**

### Strategies:

1. Identify resources and gaps
2. Identify potential partners
  - a. Public and private
3. Create business plan for the incubators
4. Identify funding model
5. Legislation/funding for ag innovation centers
6. Create a crowdfunding/micro investing model to fund clients

**Lead org:** Ag innovation network with:

- Montana University System
- MT COOP development Cneter

### Timeline:

- Immediately: Working group thru ag center/initial funding
- 3 mos:
  - Inventory resources/identify gaps
  - Define structure (pub/private)
  - INterview/assess existing models
  - Request funding for ag centers (legis. session)
- 6 mos: Rank/integrate resources -- Create structure and marketing center
- 9-12 mos: Operational!

**People involved:** Kristie McGuire, Quality Food Distributing and Sara Andrews  
(sara@bumbleroofoods.com)

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### Group 2: **More FoodCorps in more schools**

1. **Goal:** Perpetuate & expand cooking & nutrition education in Pre-k-12 schools and support farm to school in cafeteria.
2. **What major strategies will we use?**
  - a. Inventory of what's already being done -- to share case studies (Kay Anne and Mary). Include schools, reservations, organizations.
  - b. Reach teachers
    - i. Present at MEAMFT--third week of October. INtroduce it there
    - ii. Outreach education
    - iii. Work through OPI
  - c. Network to connect community volunteers with teachers
    - i. Regional chapters of : Chefs, farmers, school lunch program, distributors
    - ii. Use distributors to communicate: USF (Seth) & FSA (Kay Ann) and recruit volunteers
    - iii. FoodCorps help share this network with local ag teachers, FFA, FCS teachers.

4. Who will be or could be at the table to help lead and make this happen?

Patti Armiburster (sp?)

6. What are three (or more) important steps to take in the next 3-12 months and who will do it?

- d. Start by building a chapter in Flathead Valley and (Havre?) to test model.
- e. After one year, share with MEAMFT and Farm to School and then encourage other chapters to start. Present these case studies
- f. Work to create more chapters across state
- g. Mary to create "community guide" for Flathead with Seth's support

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Group 3: Local Montana food and ag industry directory

**2026 goal:** To have an interactive web and hard copy directory, to collaborate, network, share stories & grow

**Sub-initiative:** Organize biannual event (& more frequent regional events) for local food networking & community building

**Action steps:**

1. Create committee drawing on existing state, nonprofit & for-profit entities (those with existing info & directory resources) by about Jan. 15, 2017
2. Identify support & funding sources (eg labor such as student interns, grants, co-op partnerships) by about June 2017
3. Launch website w/ searchability & interactive map by early 2018

**People involved:** Jamie, Bill, Naomi, Maggie

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Group 4: Co-op

**Long term goal:** Develop an agricultural cooperative(s) that can best serve growers, brand owners, distributors, retail outlets and others in defined regions of Montana

1. Identify marketing, processing, fulfillment, distribution needs across MT
2. Create the links/networks to serve potential owner-members & explore best methods

**Major strategies:**

- Identify potential member-owners in each class (use ag marketing, statute definition for producers)
  - +coop association statute for store purchasing co-op
- Collect/share examples from elsewhere (state, fed)

**Resources we have:**

- Food Industry Directory
- Two funded co-op development Centers (statewide and lake co. mission mtn.)
- Big SKy planning grants to fund feasibility study
- Food + Ag Network
- Back to Basics Summit 2 -- Feb 28-Mar 1 (Initial mtg)

**Who?**

- Jan/Brianna w/ Summit organizers
- Amy-looking at other models - what is advantageous to producers? Their CSA

- Mariann/AMy-

**Also Involve:**

- MSU Extension
- FoodCorps members
- NCAT-Andy
- Alberta, CN (ACCA)

**Possible Needs of Co-op Member-owners**

Producers:

- Direct marketing fulfillment
- Value added assistance
- Bulk purchasing
- Processing services/distribution

Brand Owners:

- Branding, package design
- Professional marketer
- Coordinated marketing, trade shows

Distributors:

- Cross-docking hubs
- Cold/Dry storage
- Networked food hubs

\_\_\_\_\_END NOTES ON SPECIFIC GROUP ACTION PLANS\_\_\_\_\_

**Themes/How do we Move Forward?**

- We Need to inventory and identify:research/needs
  - Where is it? How is it housed? How is it shared? Who is doing what?  
Research/needs?
- Cross fertilization/continued communication
  - Technology
  - Webinars--host some
  - Regional meetings
    - Attend existing ones...AERO Notherrn Plains Resource Council, MOA, etc
  - Sectors
- Sharing Stories
- Coalitions working together
- Cross-sector collaborations
- More inclusive--get the word out
- Private sector engagement

