

# USDA Rural Development

- 500 offices
- 6,000 professionals
- 40 loan and grant programs



12 Rural Development loan and grant programs that can be used to support local food initiatives

- Business/Cooperative
- Community Facilities

# Business Programs

- **Loan Guarantees:** to business and cooperative ventures for locally-grown agricultural products
  - For acquisition, conversion, enlargement, repair, modernization, or development.
  - Purchase and development of land, easements, rights-of-way, buildings, or facilities.
  - Purchase of equipment, leasehold improvements, machinery, supplies, or inventory.
- **Grants:** towns, communities, State agencies, and authorities, Indian tribes and rural private non-profit corporations.
  - Revolving loan funds and development of physical infrastructure and facilities
  - Training and technical assistance for business development (including food processing, marketing and distribution business ventures for locally-grown agricultural products).

## **Business Programs: Renewable Energy/ Energy Efficiency**

Loans and grants to farmers, ranchers, and rural businesses.

- To purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements with renewable energy efficiency.

## **Cooperative Programs: Value-Added**

Grants to independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural

producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures

- For planning activities and for working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products



# Community Facilities Loan and Grant programs

Eligible applicants are municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as to non-profit corporations and tribal governments.

- Supports facilities such as food banks, nutrition centers, farmers' markets, etc.)



# Making a Difference

## South Dakota

The Small Socially Disadvantaged Producer Grant (SSDPG) program: USDA Rural Development provided funding for the **Intertribal Bison Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D.**



The co-op is using grant funds to help Native American tribes develop farmers market stores to help provide economic sustainability and jobs in Native American communities. These stores will give local residents better access to fresh, locally grown foods as well as provide badly needed jobs. Many Native American communities have unemployment rates that are several times higher than the state average.

# Making a Difference

## Virginia/West Virginia

- \$480,000 Rural Economic Development Loan at zero interest to **Alleghany Highland Agriculture Center**, through the local Highland Telephone Coop., to build a direct marketing facility for the counties of Highland and Bath in Virginia and Pendleton and Pocahontas counties in West Virginia.
- With over 1200 livestock farmers operating in these counties and before this facility was available, they all trucked their cattle outside the area to sell.
- Now with the USDA certified inspection, slaughter and processing facility, local beef farmers can sell, butcher and direct market their cattle right to the consumers living in this region.
- Direct marketing allows for increased profit margins and provides local residents with fresh locally-grown beef for consumption. The facility also provides jobs for the area as well.



# Click, Call or Come on in

- For more information on any of USDA Rural Development programs:

[www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov)

or

**1 800-670-6553**

or

**Visit your nearest USDA Rural Development Office**

