



# USDA INVESTS IN MONTANA



At the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we work with thousands of farmers, ranchers and rural communities every day and we know that there is no limit to the economic potential of rural America. Over the past seven years, USDA has invested **more than \$11.4 billion** (fiscal year 2009-2015) in Montana. In 2016, we will continue to build on that investment to support the farmers, ranchers and growers who are driving the rural economy forward, carry out record conservation efforts, facilitate groundbreaking research, promote new markets for rural products, and provide a safe, affordable and nutritious food supply for Montana families.

## INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS FY09-15



### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

USDA invested nearly **\$1.7 billion** to support affordable housing, create jobs and promote economic opportunity for those who live, work and raise their families in rural Montana.



### FARMING AND RANCHING

Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of America's vibrant agricultural economy. USDA has helped support the ongoing success of Montana farmers and ranchers by investing more than **\$3 billion** in programs that provide access to credit, support a strong farm safety net, and promote new markets for farm and ranch products.



### CONSERVATION

Conservation helps farmers and ranchers keep land in production while improving the condition of natural resources. USDA invested more than **\$1.2 billion** in efforts to conserve and protect Montana's land, water and air resources.



### INFRASTRUCTURE

Robust infrastructure development, including electricity, broadband and telecommunications, water and wastewater, and construction of community facilities like fire stations and libraries, is the foundation for rural America's viability. In Montana, USDA has invested more than **\$832 million** in infrastructure development.



### RESEARCH

From adapting to the effects of climate change to ensuring global food security, the challenges facing American agriculture are immense. USDA has invested nearly **\$158 million** in Montana to support research that will secure and improve our food, agricultural and natural resources systems.

### TRADE

In 2014, exports of farm and ranch products contributed more than



**\$1.5 BILLION**

to the Montana economy. USDA continues to pursue strong new trade deals that will expand exports and help Montana's farm and ranch businesses grow and create jobs.

## ABOUT RURAL MONTANA



USDA works each day to strengthen Montana agriculture. Rural Montana is home to **28,008 farms** across **59.7 million acres**.

Montana's top agricultural products include wheat, cattle, hay, barley and sugar beets. All told, sales of farm and ranch products contributed more than **\$4.6 billion** to Montana's economy in 2014.

Montana agriculture contributes to a sector that nationwide supports **one in 11 jobs**, provides American consumers with **more than 80 percent of the food we consume**, ensures that Americans spend less of their paychecks at the grocery store than most people in other countries, and supports markets for homegrown renewable energy and materials.

