



Office of Recovery

Office of Recovery Update: 10/12/20 - 10/16/20

More than 180 Kansas businesses to receive grant funds to secure food supply system



Governor Kelly visited the Yoder Meat facility on Wednesday.

This week, Governor Kelly announced over \$9 million has been committed for projects to strengthen the state's food supply system. Yoder Meats is one of 183 Kansas agriculture and food-related businesses across the state awarded funds as part of the Securing Local Food Systems grant program, which was recommended by the SPARK Taskforce and approved by the State Finance Council.

Yoder Meats will use its grant funds to double its refrigerator storage, Chad Bontrager, co-owner of Yoder Meats explained. This will benefit Kansans in three key ways:

- **Reduces the risk of meat shortages.** In a typical year, Yoder Meats inventory is at its lowest point January 2, following the holiday season. "We spend the year slowly building inventory back up for the next holiday season" Bontrager said. However, in 2020, Yoder Meats saw its inventory plummet in April and May to

where they were completely out of some products. “We were hand-to-mouth at that point often selling meat the day of or day after it was processed,” Bontrager said. This increased storage space will allow the facility to increase its production and stockpile more meat to avoid shortages in the future.

- **Keeps prices lower.** By having more storage space, Yoder Meats will be able to buy meat in bulk when prices are favorable to keep prices low for customers.
- **Increases jobs and supports other local businesses too.** Over the long-term, Yoder Meats will be able to increase its production, which will mean hiring more employees. Additionally, because most meat is locally sourced, the increased production will benefit local producers too, by generating a ripple effect across the economy.

A common perception may be if meat processors are out of inventory, they must be earning record profits. However, Bontrager noted that while retail outlets are experiencing increased sales, those are offset by declining wholesale sales to places like restaurants. These investments are needed to stabilize our food supply chain in the short-term and will generate long-term benefits through increased jobs and consumer savings.

[To view all the Securing Local Food Systems grant recipients click here.](#)

Office of Recovery will provide progress report to SPARK Taskforce

A joint SPARK Committee meeting will be held at **10 a.m. on Thursday, October 22**. The Office of Recovery will provide an update on all three rounds of funding to the taskforce.

You can watch the livestream on [Governor Laura Kelly's YouTube Channel](#).

Resources available to you:

We recognize it can be difficult to keep track of all the grant programs available to Kansans. Please visit <https://covid.ks.gov/grant-applications/> to see what programs are currently accepting applications.

Thank you for your interest in our State's recovery efforts.

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