

Problem:

Using a California co-packer no longer feasible after local sourcing discovered a specialty oat crop grown and processed without cross-contamination by gluten grains.

Partners:

- Gluten Free Prairie, Manhattan, MT
- Montana Manufacturing Extension Center
- Growth Through Agriculture, MT Department of Ag

MMEC Fees: \$3,000

Benefits/Impact:

- Enabled 100 percent production in Montana-based operation with considerable capacity to grow with little more capital investment needed
- Reduced management hours for efficient design
- Invested **\$140,000**
- Doubled revenue in the last year; **100% growth**
- Secured early 2015 case orders from a high end distributor, forecasting sales will double again

Solution:

Collaborated with the owners about tradeoffs and wish list items to develop efficient, effective design in more than 100-year-old building. A costing model, equipment research, and useful business tips were provided. Labor requirements and inventory planning based on consumption, lead times and supplier reliability, were part of the planning process.



Gluten Free Prairie, family owned; locally sourced oat-based