

# CENTRAL OREGON FOOD HUB

Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC)  
High Desert Food and Farm Alliance (HDIFFA)

## What is the Central Oregon Food Hub?

A facility that will connect supply and demand in the food sector by providing the following services: aggregation of food from multiple suppliers, food storage, and food processing. The Food Hub will tie into existing distribution systems to improve purchasing and export of regionally grown, raised and produced food products from small-medium sized farms, ranches and food businesses.

## What will it provide?

A one-stop space for sellers and *wholesale* buyers (i.e. restaurants, school cafeterias, grocery stores, etc.) to purchase local products and access the following services:

- Dry, cold and freezer storage
- Washing, cutting, bagging for distribution
- Market intelligence and a broker system
- Aggregation of raw and processed products
- Consolidated marketing
- Food safety standards

## What are the priorities?

- a) Purchase from Central Oregon producers first and Oregon second in order to reach the total volumes required by larger accounts
- b) Tie into existing regional assets (such as distributors, farmers, and wholesale buyers)
- c) Operate on a competitive basis with other regional food wholesalers to leverage local products.
- d) Ensure wholesale compliance with food safety regulations

## Why does Central Oregon need a Food Hub?

An infrastructure gap exists which prevents small to mid-sized farmers and food businesses from increasing production to provide consistent, competitively-priced local food to local wholesale buyers, and is limited in the ability to export products. Additionally, Central Oregon is dependent on imported food and areas of the region are considered a food desert, meaning access to food is difficult or limited in certain areas.

## How will the Food Hub impact our region?

The Food Hub will provide economic, social, and environmental benefits to Central Oregon:

- Increase the number of jobs in the farm and food sector
- Retain 76¢ of every dollar for locally grown food versus 28¢ per dollar of imported foods
- Improve land stewardship of small to mid-sized farms
- Improve food security and equal opportunity to access food regardless of socioeconomic status

