



# Alternative Energy Resources Organization

Linking People, Sustainable Agriculture, and Energy Solutions since 1974

## Growing Food Businesses Online Forum Instructions

### **What is the Growing Food Businesses Online Forum?**

The Growing Food Businesses: Opportunities Under Montana's Food Law online forum is a peer learning network designed to help entrepreneurs and professionals learn from each other's experiences, and standardize food safety practices statewide. These online conversations are one means to ensure that Montana's food laws are accessible as a value-added income source for Montana producers and food businesses.

### **How can I use the Growing Food Businesses Online Forum?**

You can view the forum and see what conversations other participants are having. You can create an account and receive updates on particular topics AND post/answer questions directly to the forum yourself. Please go to this webpage for more information and to access the forum:

<http://mtfoodeconomy.org/forums/>

### **Why would I use the Growing Food Businesses Online Forum?**

**Shortcut!** The online forum is accessible 24/7 and provides a quick way to find answers to questions you may have about your food business.

**Resources!** The forum has links to resources with information about Montana food laws from AERO and state partners. It is also administered by AERO staff who will oversee the forum and make sure site users are connected to the resources they need; AERO also moderates the forum to ensure users are receiving accurate information.

**Connections!** The online forum connects you to other entrepreneurs with similar questions and a variety of experiences implementing Montana's food laws. It is used by professionals in food safety regulations and economic development, as well as those supporting food businesses in Montana.

### **Who can use it?**

Anyone! The Growing Food Businesses Online Forum is free and open to the public. Anyone can engage. Users can also recruit others to use the site, and continuing expanding the network.

*AERO is a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to solutions that promote resource conservation and local economic vitality. AERO nurtures individual and community self-reliance through programs that support sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and environmental quality.*

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How do I use the forum?		
Steps	Instructions	Materials Needed
Step 1. View Forum	Access website	<a href="http://mtfoodeconomy.org/forums/">http://mtfoodeconomy.org/forums/</a>
	View a topic	
	View Forum	
Step 2. Post a topic or question as a Guest	Go to website	<a href="http://mtfoodeconomy.org/forums/">http://mtfoodeconomy.org/forums/</a>
	Click on your topic of choice and read, or post to respond	
	Click on "notify me of follow-up replies via email"	
Step 3. Post a reply	Click on desired topic	
	Post reply in text box	
	Click on "notify me of follow-up replies via email"	

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