

69 responses

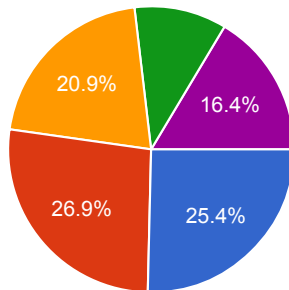
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Summary

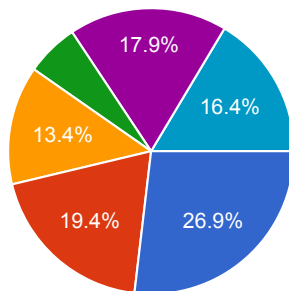
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Which workshop did you attend?



Bozeman, April 5	17	25.4%
Billings, April 7	18	26.9%
Arlee, April 13	14	20.9%
Great Falls, April 15	7	10.4%
Kalispell, May 12	11	16.4%

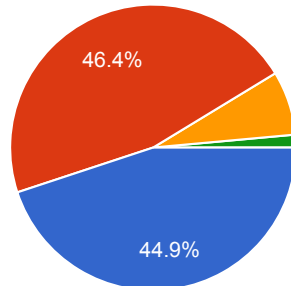
Which category best describes you?



Direct Market Farmer	18	26.9%
Food Entrepreneur	13	19.4%
State/Local Health Official	9	13.4%

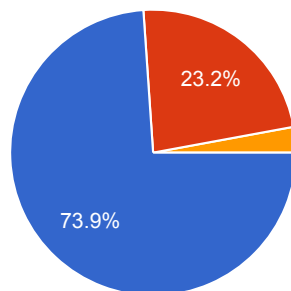
Business and Economic Development Educator	4	6%
Local Food Non-Profit	12	17.9%
Other	11	16.4%

The workshop gave me a good understanding of Montana’s new food law.



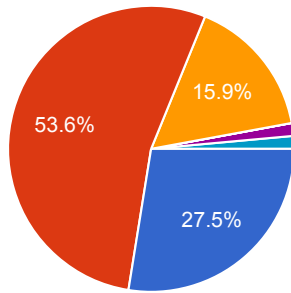
Strongly Agree	31	44.9%
Agree	32	46.4%
Neutral	5	7.2%
Disagree	1	1.4%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%

I felt welcomed, included, and enjoyed working with other workshop participants.



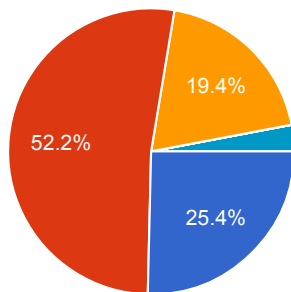
Strongly Agree	51	73.9%
Agree	16	23.2%
Neutral	2	2.9%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Other	0	0%

The workshop helped me to see new opportunities for food business development.



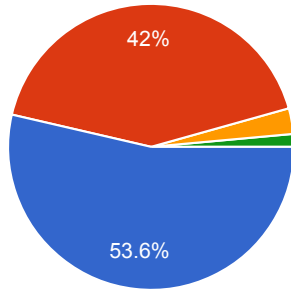
Strongly Agree	19	27.5%
Agree	37	53.6%
Neutral	11	15.9%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	1	1.4%
Other	1	1.4%

I learned from other workshop participants and anticipate using the on-line Peer Learning Network.



Strongly Agree	17	25.4%
Agree	35	52.2%
Neutral	13	19.4%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Other	2	3%

The speakers, resource people, and facilitators were helpful.



Strongly Disagree 0 0%

Other 0 0%

What aspects of this workshop were most helpful/useful and why?

Networking

Putting a face to the names of people who will be administering these rules is very helpful to me, along with the fact that they all seem to be willing to work with the the people navigating them.

meeting people and learning about the law

Good understanding of law & how it applies to my business - networking was great

Understanding the new food code, dialog with local and state sanitarians and experts, networking with other like minded people. Keeping up to date and developing new relationships

Really liked the small group break out session.

farmer's market ideas/ networking with people

Hearing the perspectives of DPHHS and local sanitarians.

Explaining the new Food Law with all of its intricacies, although the questions that were answered ONLY seemed to prompt further questions and the attempted clarification was often confusing.

Learning the actual food laws in Montana and being able to speak with people who are already doing what I am planning to start.

I learned a lot by just talking/listening to the other participants

The resource people. They knew the answers to most questions. The groups that were set up with the resource people to discuss questions were most helpful and should have lasted longer than the lecture.

Going over the different levels of registration requirements.

Connecting and learning from others in the same field was very helpful. Talking to people who know about what help is available for growing my business was very helpful. I feel like I know who to talk to for additional help with my business.

small group discussions and sitting with a mixed group

Discussions/question/answer /presentations

Discussions

the mix of voices represented- great to hear different perspectives

It was extremely helpful to have a representative from RiverStone even though they are not our county sanitarian.

The interactive nature of the workshop illuminated many facets of the new Cottage Food industry law which I would not have questioned otherwise. the conversations led to a much greater understanding of each sector affected by the law. Yet, the entire workshop was seamlessly facilitated which is no small feat with the interactive nature of the day.

I liked the encouragement to talk to the other participants and share advice/resources.

The specific answers to specific questions from presenters were very helpful.

Sharing points of view and the solution-based attitude (geturdun).

Explanations of which foods are allowed as cottage foods and why they have to be low-risk

Having the experts in the room to answer questions/muddle through meeting people

The entire morning was helpful and useful.

Networking and some one on one with sanitarians and food safety specialists

The attendee interaction and questions.

I really appreciated having the people responsible for writing and enforcing the law right there in the room!

The small group discussions and lunchtime networking.

I couldn't attend the second half of the workshop, but the first half was wonderful.

Being in the same room with people from all parts of the process (funding, Health Dept, business planning, process, farming, etc.).

diverse mix of folks doing their ag thing. The various questions/responses from the sanitarians, and AERO people were useful in considering my own "thing."

The Grants that may be available

Clarification on samples for customers, food storage rules, etc

Definitions of the program will be helpful in educating vendors

group discussions, interacting with participants

The laws pertaining to what I would like to sell at the farmers market

Networking with the other people

I liked the small group discussions where we could ask questions of the experts. It helped me to find other potential avenues for my food business idea.

having local health officials present to answer our questions. also lunch was amazing!

And it was worth it for networking alone.

The discussions with the local sanitarians and seeing how they are more specific than the state sanitarians. I attended the Kalispell meeting which is not listed above.

Having the state and local food law experts there to meet in person and get questions

answered was very helpful.

All aspects of Cottage Food Licenses and their uses

?

Ed's lecture and questions answered in the small group session

Having health officials on hand.

The presence of the county sanitation workers because I had very specific questions for them.

networking w/state and county officials. they were reassuringly encouraging about wanting more value added businesses in Montana.

Great time for questions

a lot questions were answered. networking with like minded folks

I thought it was great to have DPHHS, local jurisdiction and public in the same room together. I think it was eye opening for the public to understand all the regulations that Santarians have to enforce and to realize we are here as a resource.

group discussions and interactions were helpful in answering individualized questions.

Loved having access to state authorities.

I thought coming together in an open discussion kind of way was very helpful. It seemed that many of the questions people had regarding the regulations were answered.

the small group session because ideas could grow and develop from others' input

What aspects of this workshop could be improved? Any specific suggestions for improvement?

It seemed like the explanation about the law could be done by 1 person instead of 2.

Many times Ed said, "I think Nancy already talked about that."

The end section where we broke off into groups was too structured. We did not follow the structure but had an incredibly productive discussion that answered a lot of questions.

Ed and the presenter before him repeated each other in several areas and hand outs did the same

present real life scenerios of people and how they made it happen

A little more content about people interesting in selling beef or other kinds of meat would be good.

Doing away with the lengthy introduction of the participants. Asking the participants what changes could be made in the Food Law to make it easier for them to conduct their business. I still have questions about what can and cannot be done and am debating my continued participation in a market with even more rules and regulations imposed.

I thought everything went well.

I would have liked more specific examples and less " you need to talk to your sanitarian"

The facilitators. They did not have the answer to most questions people were asking. Too

much time spent going over how to use the online peer network. It would have been more helpful to use that time to be in small groups with resource people. We were only allowed to meet with one group, however all 3 groups would have benefited me and I missed out on some information because I had to choose one. The groups were for grants, farmer's market, and licenses.

more government official representation for specific questions (i know they tried to get more sanitarians to show up)

I like the idea of having a flowchart or some other visual way to work through the licensing maze.

I know this is the most valuable answer for you in order to improve, but I have no suggestions.

I actually had trouble finding the location once I got to Arlee. Maybe a map in an e-mail ahead of time or a sign on the road on the highway would have helped.

Noticed very few men attended - why?

The new Retail Food law was not discussed at all. I think it should have been mentioned so attendees could better understand the leniency of the Cottage Food and Farmer's Markets

Maybe because it was only the second event, but Nancy and Barbara didn't seem quite as well prepared as I've seen them in other venues in the past. They are both very, very good but just seem a bit off their game in the early goin of the event.

No specific suggestions

The folks from the State Gov't seemed to not be prepared for some of the questions.

I did not feel that questions were answered. It seems like we needed the Environmental Health Departments from each county to attend since a lot of issues are different in each county. It felt like no one wanted to answer direct questions and the information given was vague.

I think the workshop could be expanded to cover different types of licensing. After the first hour, it was clear to me that all of my ideas did not fall under the Cottage Food Law, so I needed more information about producing products in a commercial kitchen.

No. It was pretty good.

Liked the interaction with the producers and the small group of people that allowed that process.

Who am I to say? Less accronyms!

nothing specific

generalities changed over to more specific detail info

The beginning with the circle I wasn't comfortable with but I get what the point of it was.

more speakers

No snow?

Only that it would be nice to have an annual follow-up meeting or one as needed to

address any additional updates or changes. It could be shorter, maybe 2 hrs.

Next year it would be nice to hear from people who have launched cottage food and other farm-related businesses successfully, especially about their experiences.

?

Would have liked a little more in depth information

Nancy, the first speaker, while very informed, needs some public speaking training.

Slow start and extra time taken to catch up. I understand it is the nature of this sort of workshop, but maybe more streamlining of speakers to stay on track.

Having regional potluck after training was a bit tough. I did not realize regional meetings had agenda. Because I don't sit all day very often, it was very difficult for me to stay focused and physically still for so many hours. (more of a personal problem, I would say...)

None

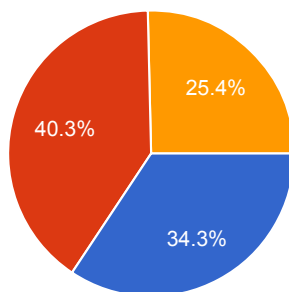
I would like a workshop in Hot Springs. To better reach the Sanders county population.

None.

none so far. Very well done and organized workshop.

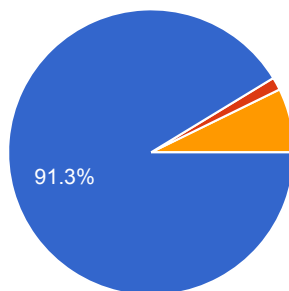
More time.

Do you plan to pursue a new product or business opportunity as a result of the workshop?



Yes	23	34.3%
No	27	40.3%
Other	17	25.4%

Would you recommend this workshop to others?



Yes	63	91.3%
No	1	1.4%
Other	5	7.2%

Number of daily responses

