

Our vision

Partners for Rural Food Systems will keep the power and economy of local foods in the hands of our growers, producers and processors, creating a resilient community.



Partners for Rural Food Systems

Where North Coast Food
Businesses Grow and Succeed

Our mission

Partners for Rural Food Systems will create economic opportunity for local food entrepreneurs by offering services, facilities and resources that do not currently exist.

Tillamook County is known for regional and national food brands: Tillamook Creamery, Pacific Seafood, Tillamook Country Smoker, Pelican Brewing, and many more that are up and coming.

But there's another story, too: the creativity, adaptability, resilience, hard work and guts it takes to be a small food producer in a region with little to no support. And there are 200-plus small businesses on Oregon's north coast.

The farmer who grows niche produce on one acre and a greenhouse and becomes in demand by national steak houses. The beer maker who starts brewing in a closet and then develops an international following for wild fermentation beer. The salt maker who tested waters in 25 bays before developing a now much-coveted brand from Netarts Bay. Or the oyster harvester who checks on his aquafarm every day, no matter the weather.



And yet these startups – successful as they are as niche products – are without the support of local infrastructure, mentorship, training, workforce support and often, access to capital. They must travel miles away for packaging and canning services, equipment to process their seafood or value-added items, and then deliver by any means possible.

That's the void Partners for Rural Food Systems seeks to fill.

As a 501c3, Partners for Rural Food Systems will seek funding from various programs: regional, state, federal and foundations. These monies will support our small food businesses with infrastructure needs, food safety training, business development, workforce training, and market outreach, all part of the development of a farm-based food processing center, and a seafood processing center.

**For more information, contact Nan Devlin, executive director
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