

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** Terry Marasco <tmarascomontana@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015 8:38 AM  
**To:** Jeff Burrows; Glenda Wiles; Doug Schallenberger; Greg Chilcott; J.R. Iman; Ray Hawk  
**Subject:** Rural economies

All, was wondering what the county is doing to engage this initiative. Note addressing recreation

<http://cjonline.com/news/2015-03-16/usda-secretary-touts-moves-boost-rural-economies>

**Part of his department's rural strategy is using conservation efforts that create markets and support industries such as outdoor recreation.** One is developing local and regional food systems where smaller-sized operators can be profitable by selling in farmers markets, to schools and other local markets. Another piece is developing rural manufacturing facilities such as bioprocessing plants that create good paying jobs.

Farmers markets are among the fastest growing aspect of farming today, with 200,000 producers involved in the multi-billion-dollar industry, he said. There are more than 82,000 farmers markets operating around the United States, and USDA has made it easier for people to use their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, commonly known as food stamps, to buy fresh, locally grown produce at them.

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