

**Summary of Montana DPHHS-Food & Consumer Safety HB 630 Survey of County Sanitarians
Regarding the Availability of Community-based Commercial Kitchens**

HB 630, also known as the “Food Study Bill,” requires an assessment of **“the relative availability of the community-based commercial kitchens and their use.”** To perform this assessment, DPHHS asked county sanitarians to respond to four questions. This report summarizes the county health departments’ answers.

Data for this report was compiled using submissions from 50 of 56 counties, one reservation and one city for a total of 52 responding jurisdictions. See the attached map for details about regulatory authorities that submitted information.

Question 1: “Are there any community based commercial kitchens available for food production (i.e. senior centers, schools, churches, hospitals, fairgrounds, etc.) that can be used/rented/leased by members of the general public?”

39 of 52 reporting jurisdictions indicated that they have at least one community-based commercial kitchen available for food production within their jurisdiction.

Question 2: “Please list all of the counties in your jurisdiction and the approximate number of these facilities in each that are licensed.”

The table below reports the number of licensed community-based commercial kitchens per reporting county. The left hand column is the number of licensed commercial kitchens per jurisdiction, and the right hand column is the number of counties that reported having a licensed commercial kitchen in that range. Example: There are 22 counties that reported having between 1 and 4 licensed facilities.

Range of Licensed Facilities/County	Number of Counties in that Range
0	8
1- 4	22
5 - 10	6
11 - 20	8
21 - 30	2
Total Licensed Facilities: 266	

Question 3: “Please list all of the counties in your jurisdiction and the approximate number of these facilities in each that are NOT licensed. We are not asking you to take an inventory, just a rough estimate based on your experience and knowledge.”

The following table reports the number of unlicensed community based commercial kitchens reported for each county. Example: 9 counties reported that they have no unlicensed community based commercial kitchens.

Range of Unlicensed Facilities/County	Number of Counties in that Range
Unknown	11
0	9
1 - 5	19
6 - 10	6
11 - 15	0
> 15	1
Total Unlicensed Facilities: 128	

Question 4: “How many of these kitchens, either licensed or unlicensed, have been inspected in the past year?”

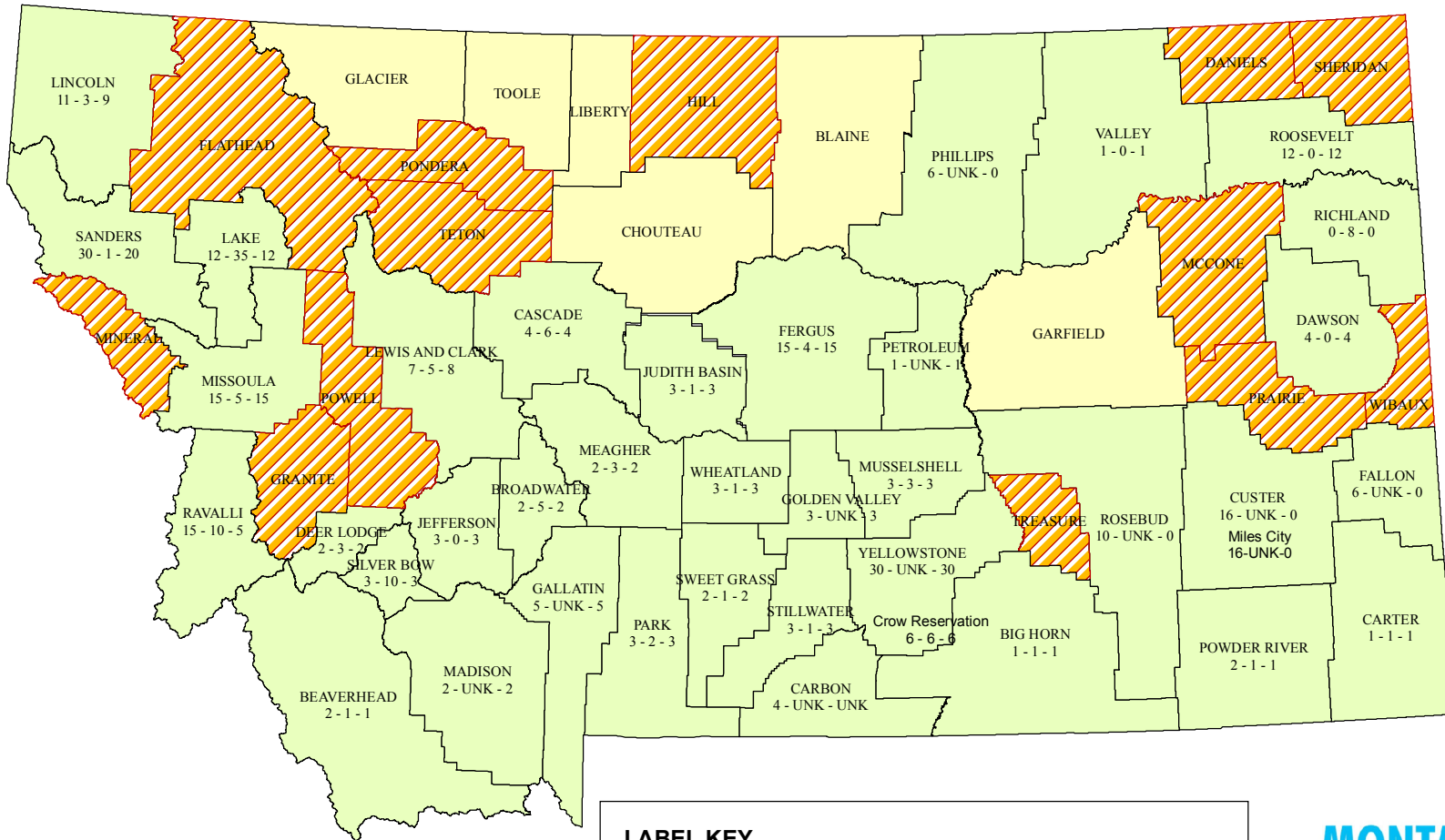
There are approximately **185 inspected** community based commercial kitchens in the reporting jurisdictions.

Summary: One of the requirements of HB 630 is to assess the current availability of community-based commercial kitchens. These kitchens may be used under existing statutes and rules to produce food items for sale. This survey did not address “cottage food” kitchens specifically, but does identify sources that may be available to entrepreneurs who are interested in expanding their operation.

This survey identified 394 community-based commercial kitchens throughout the state, including 266 that are currently licensed (requiring inspections). Some counties were not able to determine how many existed in their areas or did not respond to survey questions. These kitchens may be available to individuals for use in food manufacturing.

DPHHS recognizes the interest by entrepreneurs who are in need of a facility to rent or lease. There are also facilities that may be interested in making their operation available for rent or lease. DPHSS will work with owners of licensed establishments to make this information readily available to entrepreneurs via the DPHHS website.

Potentially Available Community Based Commercial Kitchens in Montana



LABEL KEY

County
Licensed-Unlicensed-Inspected (e.g. 2-3-2)

- Have Community Based Commercial Kitchens
- Do Not Have Community Based Com. Kitchens Available
- No Information Provided