

# AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE DIVERSIFICATION RULES OUR CE



### To Whom It May Concern:

The Sustaining Western Rural Landscapes, Lifestyles and Livelihoods partnership completed the comprehensive agricultural diversification resource guide as a valuable tool in assisting professionals in delivering technical assistance to agricultural producers as they evaluate their current operations and research the feasibility of diversifying.

The information, at first glance, may look overwhelming, but is divided into the following sections:

- Foreword
- Introduction to Agricultural Enterprise Diversification
- Enterprise Assessment
- Enterprise Feasibility
- Enterprise Implementation (Business Planning, Legal, Finance, Marketing, Human Resources, Natural Resources and Community)

If you would like further information on how to best use this guide please don't hesitate to contact me at the following address. In addition we have access to professionals who can assist agricultural producers develop an agricultural diversification strategy, so please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cindy Garretson-Wiibel

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### A. Overview of Section IV

At this point in the planning process, you have assisted your client in understanding the concept and benefits of diversification (Section II), and have helped them collect information relevant to their existing agricultural businesses, land units, and families (Section III). Section IV is dedicated to examining the feasibility of existing enterprises and potential new enterprises. In other words, Section IV contains a framework of forms for evaluating the efficiency and profitability of existing enterprises, and for exploring and selecting optimal new enterprises.

It is at this point your client is ready to utilize the information from the completed assessments and resource inventory to study the feasibility of the existing enterprises. For example, can the Remingtons realize their goals based on the current 300 cow/calf enterprise? Examining the feasibility of existing enterprises may indicate opportunities for changes in management or operations that may negate the need to diversify. However, if the completed feasibility study for existing operations has been completed, and goals cannot be achieved, then the client may desire to continue investigating opportunities to diversify his or her agricultural operation.

A comprehensive list of alternative agricultural enterprises is included to assist your clients with identification of potential new enterprises for their farm or ranch. Each family member is encouraged to review this list and identify those enterprises that are most consistent with their interests, values and goals. The feasibility template will permit the evaluation of each of those potential new enterprises.





Others see things and say, "Why?" while entrepreneurs dream things that never were and say, "Why not?" - George Bernard Shaw

### B. Introduction to feasibility studies

What is a feasibility study, and what is the difference between a feasibility study (also called a feasibility plan) and a business plan? A feasibility study or plan is a shorter version of a business plan. The purpose of a feasibility study is to determine if an agribusiness opportunity is possible, practical, and worth pursuing. It will also indicate if current enterprises make sense economically and logistically. It should be done before selecting or starting a new enterprise, or changing an existing one. It outlines the basic business concepts including the business mission and description, products and services, management, marketing, and financing. A full business plan is a more elaborate plan offering more financial and marketing data, and projections.

A feasibility study or plan includes the following components:

- 1. *Background information:* Assessments, SWOT Analysis, comprehensive resource inventory, and other relevant information specific to the individual current ranching operations.
- 2. Description of products, services, and competition: Detailed description of what the product/service does and what makes it special or unique. Competition is also identified, and potential for profit.
- 3. Enterprise operations: Legal structure, human resource management, production/operation and maintenance, natural resources opportunities and/or improvements, and community considerations. Note: Conservation practice costs can be found in the Natural Resources Sub-section of Section V.
- 4. Enterprise marketing plan: Description of product(s)/services(s), target market(s), promotional and advertising plan; a distribution





process; and the pricing strategy. (Note: distribution process refers to how you will get your product or service to the end user.)

- 5. Enterprise funding plan Funding strategy that includes financing required, and where funding will be obtained (debt and/or equity financing).
- 6. *Profit/loss plan*: Financial strategy that includes projected income and anticipated operating expenses, and net profit or loss for at least three years.
- 7. *Projected balance sheet:* These statements show how the business stands financially at a certain point in time, showing how assets, liabilities, and net worth are distributed.
- 8. *Break-even point:* This is the point at which the total costs equal the net sales.

Your client's goals, assessments, resource inventory data and SWOT information will collectively serve as a basis for studying the feasibility of the existing enterprises, and for selecting the most appropriate alternative enterprises.

NOTE: Forms containing this information that were completed in Section III should be brought forward for use in evaluating feasibility.





### C. Enterprise feasibility study

The feasibility assessment forms will assist the customer in evaluating existing enterprises and each potential alternative agricultural enterprise. The customer should complete separate feasibility worksheets for each existing enterprise or potentially feasible new alternative. Remember to use the needs assessments, resource inventory information, and SWOT analysis in the feasibility studies.

Additional information on financing, marketing, legal consideration, natural resources, communities, and human resources that can assist with the evaluation of feasibility can be found in the Implementation Section (V).

Personal goals should be reviewed after completing the feasibility studies for the existing farm/ranch enterprises. If progress toward these goals is not satisfactory, then your customer may desire to proceed with the consideration of new, alternative agricultural enterprises.





Worksheets for a feasibility plan - Complete this analysis for the existing enterprise and for each potential enterprise.

- Description of products, services, and competition: Detailed description of what the product/service does and what makes it special or unique, as well as potential markets.
- Enterprise operations: Legal structure, human resource management, production/operation and maintenance, natural resources, and community considerations. 7
- Enterprise marketing plan: Product(s)/service(s), target market(s), promotional and advertising plan; a distribution process; and the pricing strategy. (Note: distribution process refers to how you will get your product or service to the end user.)
- Enterprise funding plan: Funding strategy includes funding required, where financing will be obtained (debt and/or equity financing); and projected financial information.
  - Profit/loss plan: A projected financial plan should be developed for each of the first three years of enterprise 7.0%
    - Projected balance sheet: A snap shot of how the business stands financially at a certain point in time
      - Break-even point: The point at which total costs equal the net sales.

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	Competition	How does it compare with the competition?				
d Competition	r Service	What makes it unique or special?				
1. Description of Product and/or Service and Competition	Product and/or Service	What is it? What does it do?				





Cost Monev(\$\$) Labor (hours)						Hours
Resources	What expertise is needed?	Who will do it?	Where will it come from?	What materials are needed?	Who provides it?	9
Type	What is the formation?	What do you need?	What is needed to produce selected product/service?	What improvements/practices are needed?	What connections are needed?	
2. Enterprise Operations	Legal structure	Labor	Production/operation and maintenances	Natural resources	Community links/partnerships	Enterprise Operations Totals





3. Enterprise Marketing Plan	ting Plan				
Product/service: Prepare an enterprise 1	Product/service:	h service or product.			
Torget morbote	Duioing stuntoger	7	Promotio	Promotion/advertising, frequency, and cost	y, and cost
raiget mai nets	i iicing strategy	DISTLIBUTION	Type	Frequency	Cost
Enterprise Marketing Plan Total	eting Plan Total				8





4. Enterprise Funding Plan	Costs	Sources of funding Where will the money come	For debt financing:	Total Cost
		from?	(Principle & interest) X month	
Enterprise Operations	From # 2 above			
Enterprise Marketing Plan	From # 3 above			
Facilities				
Improvements				
Modifications				
New				
Enterprise Funding Plan Total	al			89





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Projected or Anticipated Income         Projected or Anticipated Operating Expenses           Year         Expected   Cost of service         A selfing product or a selfing product or selfing selfing product or selfing service         A service   Cost of Total A   A cost of Total B   A co	5. Profit/Loss Plan	oss Plan									
Expected   Cock of colline   Cock of colline   Cock of colline   Cock of colline   Cock of c	Pı	rojected or A	Inticipated I	ncome	P	rojected	or Anticipated Op	erating	Expenses		
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	Price per unit (product or each hour of	service) \$		To calculate break-even point (BEP):	CM = P-VC FC = Total fixed costs	$VC = Variable cost per unit$ $BEP = \overline{FC}$ $CM = Contribution margin$	per unit		V = 8		Break-even Point	Number of products/units		JO	Hours of Service
I he point at which total costs equal the net sales	Costs	Variable	Type \$						Variable Cost per Unit \$	Variable costs: Variable costs have a	direct relationship between cost and the number of units sold. These costs change	with the amount of units sold.			
/. Break-even point   The point at w		Fixed	Type \$						Total Fixed Costs \$		relationship between a cost and the number of units sold. They are expenses you have	to pay whether you sell zero, one, or many	unus.		





# D. <u>Potential alternative enterprises</u>

If your client has determined that their goals cannot be achieved through existing enterprises, it is then prudent to examine other enterprise options.

If the decision is to explore opportunities for diversification, how can he/she select the best alternative enterprise(s) for their particular situation or operation? Will the new enterprise complement existing enterprises or be competitive? These questions, and others, can be answered through feasibility studies of potential agricultural enterprises.

Have your client review their goals. Selection of potential alternatives should be based on these goals, as well as any interests that the customer might have. Make sure that the goals and interests of all other affected individuals are also considered. The needs assessments are excellent tools for taking into account the interests and skills of all potentially affected individuals in the agricultural operation. What is the financial goal of the new enterprise? What are the lifestyle goals of the family that can be achieved through the new enterprise? Will personal satisfaction goals be attained?

What aspects of their existing operations and/or resources might the customer capitalize on? Are there special or unique features of their farm/ranch that might be marketable in a new enterprise? The comprehensive resource inventory and summary SWOT analysis should help clarify some of these possibilities.

Remember that each new enterprise is dependent upon and can be based on many farm and ranch attributes: people, heritage, livestock, facilities, wildlife, water, geology, plants, and other natural and cultural resources. Also, keep in mind that there may be opportunities to link with an adjoining landowner to collectively provide the necessary resources for an alternative enterprise.





# 1. Checklist of alternative enterprises

An extensive checklist of potential agricultural enterprises follows. This list is comprised of both agricultural enterprises that are known to be in operation in the western United States as well as others that may have potential in the West.

Proceed through the alternatives checklist with your client, at their discretion. If you are familiar with their operation, point out any alternative that you think has merit for consideration. Encourage the client to have all stakeholders (family, partners, etc.) provide input. When completed, have each stakeholder rank potential new enterprises in order of most preferred to least.

Field Crops	
Feed and Fo	rage:
	Bird seed (sunflower, proso millet, reed canary grass, etc.)
	Forage brassicas – turnips, rutabagas
	Hay production (specialty, weed-free)
	Kochia
	Medics
	Sainfoin
	Switch grass
Fiber, Fuel,	Edible and Industrial Oils:
	Borage
	Broomcorn
	Canola
	Castor beans
	Comfrey
	Corn (for oil)
	Cuphea
	Flax
	Guayule
	Jojoba
	Kenaf
	Lesquerella
	Lupine
	Meadow foam
	Milkweed
	Perilla
	Safflower
	Dutilower





	Sesame
	Sunflowers
<b>*************************************</b>	Vernonia
Food Grains,	Pseudocereals, Legumes, etc.:
***	Adzuki beans
	Amaranth (food and feed)
26(07)	Barley
	Buckwheat
	Dry edible beans (field beans)
	Einkorn
	Emmer
ata (trayi	Field peas (food and feed)
	Garbanzo beans (chickpeas)
	Hops
	Indian corn
	Jerusalem artichokes (food and feed)
Color uses	Kamut
	Lentils
	Malting barley
	Mung beans
	Organically grown grain of all types
	Pearl millet
	Popcorn, white and colored
	Psyllium (medicinal)
	Quinoa
	Seed production – registered and certified seed, turf grass, etc.
	Sesame (seeds)
-	Sorghum (syrup)
-	Soybeans, incl. natto soybeans for tofu and
	Spelt
	Triticale
Zejas i Augus	Wheat grass
	Wild rice
Ci-lt	d Ethnia Wagatahlar
	d Ethnic Vegetables
See also Field	
	Asparagus Paky vagatahlas
	Baby vegetables
	Cabbage
	Carrots
7	Celery Chinese victor chestruits
	Chinese water chestnuts
	Cole crops (broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi)





-	Corn, miniature
	Cucumbers
	Fenugreek
***************************************	Edible flowers
	Garlic
	Gourds, ornamental
	Gourmet vegetables
	Greenhouse production for out-of-season crops
41 - 38	Heirloom varieties of any vegetable
	Herbs – culinary and medicinal
	Horseradish
	Luffa gourds
	Mushrooms – agaricus, shiitake, oyster, morel, etc.
	Onions (transplants, shallots, sweet, early)
	Organically grown vegetables of all types
	Oriental vegetables
	Peas and pea shoots
	Peppers – specialty types (purple, hot, sweet, etc.)
	Pumpkins
	Red beets
	Salad greens – mesclun, lettuce, spinach
	Sprouts (alfalfa, bean, etc.)
	Squash
27	Sweet corn
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Sweet potatoes
	Tomatoes – specialty types
	Truffles
	Wasabi
Fruits and No	uts
	Apples, esp. Heirloom varieties
	Asian pears
	Brambles – blackberries, raspberries, loganberries
	Blueberries
	Cranberries, currants
	Elderberries
	Gooseberries
	Lingonberries
	Melons – specialty types
	Rhubarb products
	Strawberries, day neutral types
	Table grapes, seeded and seedless
	Wine grapes for home wine-making market





Horticultura	al/Nursery
	Bedding plants – annual flowers, herbs, etc.
	Field grown cut flowers
	Field grown mums
	Flowers for drying
	Greenhouse production
	Hydroponic production
	Organically grown bedding plants and fruit trees
	Potted annuals
	Native plants/wild flowers and seeds
	Regionally hardy shrubs and perennial flowers
Agro Forest	ry/Forest Products
8	Christmas trees
25	Firewood
	Lumber
	Maple syrup production
	Pine needles
	Tree seed collection
	Wild nuts
Livestock/A	nimals  Animal birthings for county fairs, expositions, etc.  Bull development
	Commercial cow/calf
	Direct marketing or livestock products to consumer
	Goats
	Heifer development
	Horses
1	Pasture-based dairying
	Registered cattle
<u> </u>	Sheep/Lambs for meat, wool, milk (for cheese)
	Starter yard for yearlings
	Stocker operation
Exotic Livesto	ock/Minor Breeds/Special Uses
	Beefalo (hybrid of buffalo and beef)
	Buffalo (American bison)
	Deer – fallow deer, red deer
	Elk (wapiti) for meat and antlers
	Fish bait – worms, minnows
	Pheasant for release/restocking programs and meat
	Alpacas and llamas for pack animals, hair, and pets
	Roar





	Butterflies (for gardeners)
	Fox - red, silver, and blue
	Goats for milk, meat, and hair (Angora)
	Horses – draft horse breeding, miniatures, exotics
8	Mink
-	Mules and donkeys
	Ostriches, rheas, emus
	Rabbits for meat, lab animals, and hair (Angora)
	Reindeer
5	Snails (escargot)
-	Veal, conventional and certified
-	Water buffalo, yak, watusi
	Worms (for composting)
-	worms (for composting)
Poultry:	
	Balut (duck eggs partially incubated)
	Chicken eggs partially developed (for Asian markets)
	Doves
	Duck – meat and pâté
	Free range poultry of all types
	Geese
	Guinea fowl
	Organically raised poultry of all types
	Peafowl/Peacocks (feathers)
(	Pigeons
	Quail/Squab
	Turkey
	Turkey
Aquaculture/	Fishfarming:
224000000000000000000000000000000000000	Aquaponics (combining aquaculture and hydroponic operations)
	Bass, Trout, Catfish, Crayfish, Tilapia
	Watercress and other aquatic plants
-	watereress and other adjusted plants
Pet and medi	cine related:
	Blood products from animals, e.g., rabbits, chinchilla, horse urine
	from pregnant mares
	Dogs (guardian)
-	Guinea pigs
	Pet foods – crickets, meal worms, etc.
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Wildlife-rela	
	Bird watching
7	Camera safari
	Fee fishing ponds/reservoirs





	Fee fishing streams
	Fish cleaning
	Fox hunts
	Game dressing
*	Guiding and outfitting
-	Hunting and fishing club
-	Hunting lodge
	Ice fishing and huts
	Recording animal sounds
	Varmint calling
	Video taping of hunts
	Hunting/trapping enterprises
	Antelope
	Elk
	Deer
	Coyotes
	Fox
-	Beaver
	Mink
	Muskrat
Farm and Ho	ome Enterprises
Services:	
	Direct marketing operations – U-pick, Community Supported
_ = =	Agriculture (CSA), farmstand
	Composting services and products
	Custom machinery work
	Custom planting and care of window boxes and container annuals
	Custom planting and care of vegetable gardens
	Custom slaughter
	Farmer's market
	Feedlot
	Gift shops
	Home for children
	Horse boarding
	Motel units
	Pet motels for large as well as small animals
	Religious services held on farm, e.g. sunrise Easter
	services, weddings
	Restaurant
	Seed and supplies distributor
	Taxidermy





Recreation a	nd Education:
10.00	Archery range or course
	ATV track
	Banquet facilities
	Barn dances
	Barn raising
	Bed and bale (customers and their horses stay)
	Bed and breakfast
	Biking trails
	Boating
-	Bonfires
	Branding
	Breeding and training hunting dogs
	Bunkhouse stays and mess hall
	Business convention center
	Campground
	Canoeing, kayaking, tubing
	Cattle drives
	Caving
	Center for research (lodging, classrooms, labs, etc.)
-	Chuck wagon
	Conservation practices lectures
	Cooking, canning, smoking demonstrations or schools Cowboy and Indian re-enactments
	Crops country ski trails
	Cross-country ski trails
<del></del>	Cutting horse events
	Dog kennels
	Downhill skiing
	Environmentally sensitive agriculture (e.g. recycling of farm
	waste)
	Equestrian center
	Exhibition of newborn farm animals
	Fall color tours
	Farm and ranch building tours
	Farm and ranch stands (antiques, etc.)
	Farm and ranch vacations
	Festivals during peak harvest season
	Fiddling
	Fly fishing and tying clinics
	Food processing plant tours
	Games (horseshoes, etc.)
	Golf driving range
	Grandparent/grandchild experiences





	Hay rides
	Herbal medicine
·	Hiking trails
	Historical museum on site
-	Hot air ballooning
	Ice sculpturing
	Ice skating
	Jeep tours
	Laser or paintball tag
	Lectures on herbs, gardening at farm
	Lumberjack skills
	Milking technologies
	Museum of old farm equipment on working farm
	Nature hike guides
	Obstacle course
	Orchard tours
	Pack trips
	Painting
	Petting zoo
	Photography
	Picnicking
7	Professional workshops
	Pumpkin carving
	Ranch rodeo
	Ranch work (roundup, haying, fencing)
·	Recreation activities for physically/mentally challenged
	Retreats (church groups, scouts, corporate, etc.)
	Rifle or skeet shooting
(	Rock collecting
	Rock climbing
	RV park
	Sand or gravel pit
	Silhouette range (rifle and pistol)
	Sledding
-	Sleigh rides with work horses
	Snowmobiling
	Snowshoeing
	Special Olympics events
***************************************	Sporting clays
	Sports camps
	Square dancing
	Star gazing
	Storytelling, poetry
	Survival training
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	Swimming
	Tennis
	Theatrical productions
	Tours for public, school children
	Tractor rides
	Trail rides
	Vacations on farm
	Vintage farming (old tractors, steam engines, teams of oxen)
	Wagon trains
	War games, paint ball
	Wilderness experiences
	Wildflower tours
Value-added	Products/On-farm Processing:
-	Cheese
	Cider and other apple products
	Confections and candles
	Corn snack foods
	Crafts
	Dried flowers, cultivated arid wild
	Dried fruits
	Fresh or stone ground grains
	Furniture, e.g. outdoor chairs, picnic tables
	Honey and beeswax products
	Meat processing, e.g. jerky
	Sawmill
1.56	Soap making
	Tanning hides
	Toys from wood
	Wheat weaving
	Winemaking
-	Wool processing and spinning





2. 1	ssible Enterprise Diversification Options (Rank/Priority)	
	(Ivalik/Triority)	
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### E. Selecting appropriate enterprises

If the feasibility examination of existing enterprises indicates goals cannot be achieved, the feasibility study forms will assist the customer in evaluating each potential alternative agricultural enterprise. The customer should complete a **feasibility form** for each alternative that has been listed and prioritized. These completed studies will enable the customer to compare each alternative and select the most appropriate one or ones for their situation.

Many people then choose to write a feasibility plan and use it as their start-up planning and implementation tool if they do not have to seek outside funding through a third party such as a commercial lending institution, a venture capital organization, or sell their stock to the public. For example, a vegetable stand for direct marketing a client's produce, or a goose pit that is leased for fee hunting in the winter, can be relatively easy to add to existing enterprises at very low start-up costs to the producer. The feasibility plan is their agricultural enterprise business plan. The comprehensive agricultural business plan (see Implementation – Section V) provides more in-depth detail and is packaged to promote both the business idea and borrower. The client may want to consider the agricultural business plan for more complex enterprises such as a large-scale ranch recreation or year-round fee hunting/fishing operation that may require infrastructure modifications and substantial new financing.



# Remington diversification options



2.	Possible Enterprise Diversification	<b>Options</b>
	(Rank/Priority)	_

THE TAXABLE PROPERTY OF THE PR
1. Guest ranch - working ranch stays
2. Fee hunting / fishing
3. Rough log furniture
4. Bus tours for lunch

Note: The Remingtons jotted down the above-listed enterprises that they were interested in investigating. The following pages contain a sample set of feasibility worksheets used in the evaluation of one alternative enterprise.

