Cody Circle C Market

Bringing groceries to a food desert.

ANLAN CHENEY
Former GRIT member and CKHS alumni

The Community.

- *Rural* North Central Nebraska
- Highway 20

Cody, pop. 149
Kilgore, pop. 99
Nenzel, pop. 13

The School.

Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools

High School & Junior High | Cody, NE Elementary | Kilgore, NE

The Need.

- Declining enrollment
- Dwindling & aging population
- Little economic opportunity
- “Food desert”

The Solution.

A.Student-Run Grocery Store

A.Necessary service, accessibility

B.Fosters student involvement

B.Business Incubator

A.Stimulates economic growth

B.Entrepreneurial education

The Project.

Circle C Market & Business Incubator

The Idea.

- C-K Public Relations Committee
- Arthur, NE, "Wolf Den Market"
- Nebraska Center for Rural Affairs

The Funding.

- Federal Grants
  - USDA R-BEG $75,000 in 2009
  - USDA $95,000 in 2010
- Local fundraising

The Leadership.

- Cowboy GRIT, Inc.
  - Student Steering Committee
  - Adult Advisory Board
- Village of Cody Board

The Location.

- Real life = Real setbacks
  - Nebraska Game & Parks
    - Rail Bank system
    - Building-Free Law
    - 99-year property lease
- New building grant

The Building.

- Straw-bale building
  - Environmentally Friendly
  - More Efficient, less expensive option
- George Paul Vinegary
- Construction began Spring 2012

What's Next?

- Hire Manager
- Finish Construction
- Finalize Inventory
  - Scotty's Ranchland Foods, Valentine, NE
- Open For Business
  - Fall 2012

How to bring groceries to your ‘food desert’:

- Dream it
- Ask questions and follow through
- Network
- Befriend the community
  - Youth and press

A special thanks to:

- Nebraska Center for Rural Affairs
- Scotty's Ranchland Foods (Valentine, NE)
- George Paul Vinegary (Cody, NE)
- Nebraska Cooperative Development Center
- Cherry County Economic Development Board
- Southeast Community College (Lincoln, NE)
- UNK Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE)
- And more!

Questions?
Thanks for listening!