Tracy Baker
Regional Director

Miles City Regional SBDC

Powder River Diesel

Broadus, MT



"SBDC gave us the tools we needed to make our dream of owning a diesel repair shop a reality. Without Tracy Baker at the SBDC and Jim Atchison at SEMDC, we would not have had the right financial timing and would not have launched our business. Their help putting together our business plan and coordinating financial assistance was crucial to put our ideas into action."
Chase and Shanna Talcott, *Owners*

Chase Talcott graduated from WyoTech in 2007. He used his Diesel Mechanic and HVAC certificates across central Alaska and Billings, Mont., before returning to his roots in Powder River County to work on his parent's ranch. After waiting several years for the right time, Chase and Shanna Talcott wanted to bring their dreams of owning a diesel repair shop to life. Powder River County is an active agriculture community that also has a thoroughfare to North and South Dakota's oilfields, and the need for a quality diesel shop was growing. With a reputation in the community for his exceptional mechanical skills, the recommendation from several local ranchers and business owners, and the growing need in the Broadus area, Chase and Shanna decided to take the opportunity to purchase a heated shop and land where the business now resides.

The Talcotts turned to Tracy Baker, the Regional Director at the Miles City SBDC for help in getting their dream off the ground. Tracy worked with Chase and Shanna to complete a business plan and financial projections. The need for their services, their drive and work ethic combined with a complete business plan and financial spreadsheet sent them to the bank for loan financing. Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC) provided the remainder of the loan with gap financing and allowed Chase and Shanna to open Powder River Diesel, LLC, in a newer heated shop with 3.5 acres of land. The spacious shop will enable Chase to reach his full potential as a mechanic, a trade he takes pride in, and will provide their community a much-needed diesel repair option.

Since receiving $114,000 in loan and gap financing, Powder River Diesel has provided a reliable business location for ag producers, private owners, and commercial businesses in Powder River County. The county is home to over 300 farms and ranches, making Powder River Diesel a local option for the agriculture community. Positioned at the junction of Highways 212 and 59, major routes for the trucking industry to the midwest and the Pacific Northwest and those commuting between the Bakken Oilfields of Eastern Montana and the coal mines and oil fields of Wyoming, Powder River Diesel provides superior quality and timely diesel repair from a great location. Powder River Diesel has created one full-time position and one part-time position since opening.