

What's Developing

Value added programs have been around for quite some time. One that is available from USDA that is a grant program may be of interest to agriculture businesses in the area. Here is a little bit about it:

Program Objective

- To help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of bio-based value-added products.
- To expand markets and increase financial returns to agricultural producers.

Agricultural Producers May Apply

- Independent Producer (IP)
- Farmer or Rancher Cooperative (COOP)
- Agricultural Producer Group (APG)
- Majority-Controlled Producer Business (MAJ)

- ▶ *must produce and own more than 50% of the subject agricultural commodity*
- ▶ *may not produce under contract for another entity that owns the commodity*
- ▶ *may not contract out production of the agricultural commodity*
- ▶ *must maintain ownership through sale of the value-added product (MTVC projects exempt)*
- ▶ *projects must demonstrate entry into an "emerging market" for applicants (does not apply to IP)*

Priority Status

- Beginning Farmer or Rancher
 - Small or Medium Family Farm
 - Socially-Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher
 - Mid-Tier Value Chain Proposals
 - Farmer or Rancher Cooperative
- ▶ *Discretionary priority by Rural Business-Cooperative Service Administrator - geographic diversity*

Value-Added Methods

- Change in Physical State
- Non-Standard Agriculture Production
- Farm- or Ranch-based Renewable Energy
- Product Physical Segregation
- Local Foods Marketing & Distribution

There are several pages of information explaining this Value Added Producer Grant Program. This information has been received by the Eureka Community Development Company and can be forwarded to anyone who would like to see more details on the program. If you would like this information, email the Eureka Development office at ecdc@valleytel.net and request that it be forwarded to you.

Wanda Jundt