



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

World Wide Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>

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VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANT INFORMATION MEETING SCHEDULED IN CHICO

DAVIS, Calif., February 15, 2008 – USDA Rural Development announced today they will host an informational meeting in Chico to discuss opportunities available via the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program on February 29.

USDA Rural Development will host the meeting in conjunction with the Oroville Enterprise Zone Program at the Chico State University Farm Pavilion at 311 Nicholas C. Schouten Lane in Chico. The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Attendance is highly recommended for agricultural producers, agricultural producer groups, farm and ranch cooperatives and majority-controlled, producer-based business ventures. Attendees will become familiar with the value-added program eligibility requirements and will be guided through the application process.

Value-Added Producer Grants may be used for planning activities, such as feasibility studies, marketing and business plans needed to establish a viable value-added marketing opportunity for an agricultural product, or to provide working capital for operating a value-added business venture, marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects.

Details on application procedures are published in the January 29, 2008 *Federal Register* as well as online at www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm. The application is also available online at www.grants.gov. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 31. For more information or questions, contact Karen Firestein at karen.firestein@ca.usda.gov.

Additional informational meetings will be held on February 22 at the Cypress Room in Auburn and on February 27 at the Biola Community Services District Community Center.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$91 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. As a result, over 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at one of California's 18 local USDA Rural Development offices or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>.

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