



# Value Added Producer Grants

**Funds and Deadline:** The application deadline in FY09 will be published in the Federal Register soon.



**Description:** The VAPG program was funded in 2001 for the first time and was made available to individual producers and groups of producers who add value to their agricultural product through further processing.

The 2008 Farm Bill continued legislation to fund the program for five years. From this program, over \$18 million was awarded in FY '08.

**Who May Apply?** There are four eligible entities that can apply for the funds. Those are: independent producers; farmer or rancher cooperatives; agricultural producer groups; and majority controlled producer based business ventures.

**Grant Purposes:** The Value-Added Producer Grants program is designed to encourage independent producers of agricultural commodities to process their raw products into marketable goods, thereby increasing farm income. A Value-Added Product must expand the customer base for the product or commodity.

**What Can Grant Funds Be Used For?** Funds are divided into two areas, planning and working capital. Planning is a defined program of economic activities to determine the viability of a potential value added venture including feasibility studies, marketing plans, business plans and legal evaluations. Working capital funds are used to operate the venture and pay the normal expenses associated with the operation of the venture.

**How Do You Apply?** An original and one copy of the proposal, with all required forms and documentation, must be submitted in one package to: Craig Scroggs, USDA, Rural Development, 111 E. Spring St., Monroe, GA 30655 (770-267-1413, ext. 113) cell (404-229-5720) [craig.scroggs@ga.usda.gov](mailto:craig.scroggs@ga.usda.gov)

More information is available at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga/vadg.htm>.

**Will Harris White Oak Pastures, Bluffton, Ga.- \$300,000 – To fund operating expenses for his grass-fed beef processing and marketing. The beef is being carried in Publix SuperMarkets.**



**Tifton Quality Peanuts, Tifton, GA - \$150,000 – To pay for annual operating expenses in a state-of-the-art peanut shelling facility.**

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