



NEWS RELEASE

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UPCOMING INFORMATIONAL MEETING TO DISCUSS VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE GRANTS

Scottsbluff, Neb., June 22, 2004 -- Farmers and ranchers, groups of agricultural producers, and agribusinesses are invited to learn about the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant (VADG) program on June 30th in Scottsbluff, Neb. The meeting will be held at the University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension Station Blue Stem Room at 4502 Avenue I from 1:30 p.m. till 3:30 p.m. MT.

Cyd Janssen with USDA Rural Development along with Chuck Hibberd with the University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension will conduct a VADG presentation regarding program details; including an overview of both the planning grants and working capital grants, eligibility requirements and how to apply for funds.

Competitive applications are being accepted for \$13.2 million in grants offered through the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant (VADG) program. The VADG program encourages independent producers of agricultural commodities to process their raw products into marketable, value-added goods, thereby increasing farm income.

The VADG program is open to eligible independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. The funds can be used to add value to products or commodities that will expand the customer base and assist producers in realizing greater revenues from the value-added activity.

For more information on the VADG program call Cyd Janssen at 308-432-4616.

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