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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **REGISTER NOW FOR WORKSHOP ON USDA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VALUE-ADDED AG VENTURES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY/ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS**

**Hosted in Winnsboro – Available Statewide by Distance Learning**

ALEXANDRIA, April 17, 2007 – USDA Rural Development and the LSU AgCenter are offering a statewide workshop on May 2, 2007, for farmers, ranchers, and rural businesses interested in learning more about grant and loan funding through two of USDA Rural Development’s most popular programs – the Value-Added Producer Grant Program and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program.

“The application window is currently open for both of these programs, but it will not stay open for long,” said Clyde C. Holloway, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Louisiana. “Thanks to assistance from the LSU AgCenter, we are reaching out statewide on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to offer information on how to apply for this funding.”

The host site for the workshop will be the LSU AgCenter Scott Research and Extension Education Center in Winnsboro, Louisiana, at 212 B Macon Ridge Road. Additional workshop sites are available through distance learning in your area upon request. The workshop will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

To register to attend the workshop in Winnsboro, or to request a distance learning site in your community, contact: Kay Lynn Tettleton, [ktettleton@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:ktettleton@agcenter.lsu.edu), (318) 267-6721, or Mollie Johnston, [mjohnston@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:mjohnston@agcenter.lsu.edu), (318) 435-2903, by April 27, 2007.

The Value-Added Producer Grants Program can help independent producers and producer groups fund planning activities, and it can help provide working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products. In addition, farm-based renewable energy projects may be eligible for value-added funding.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program can help farmers and small businesses finance renewable energy systems or make energy improvements.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The USDA Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, telephone (318) 473-7921. For more information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs, visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

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