



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA Rural Development Solicits Ohio Value Added Grant Program Applications

**COLUMBUS, OHIO, Apr. 18, 2007** – United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development has authorized \$19.3 million in Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant Program funding for fiscal year 2007. Applications are being accepted through May 16, 2007.

“We’ve been talking about this funding becoming available so prospective applicants could prepare,” said Ohio’s Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt. “It’s time to finalize project submissions, and with this relatively short application window it’s extremely important for interested parties to contact our office if they need assistance fine-tuning their application.”

The funding may be used for planning activities or for working capital expenses, but not for both. The maximum grant amount for a planning grant is \$100,000 and the maximum funding for a working capital grant is \$300,000.

Value-Added is defined as any activity that expands the customer base for products resulting in greater on-farm revenues for agricultural producers. Examples might include processing corn into ethanol, slaughtering livestock or poultry, collecting and converting methane from animal waste to generate energy, aquaculture, fish harvesting and more. Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer or rancher cooperatives, agriculture producer groups and producer-owned corporations.

Funding for the Value-Added Grant Program comes from the 2002 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act. Last year Ohio had seven successful applicants who received \$630,471 in funding.

For additional information on the Value-Added program please contact Rural Development Specialist, Deborah Rausch at 614-255-2425 or email at [Deborah.Rausch@usda.gov](mailto:Deborah.Rausch@usda.gov) .

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