



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES SMALL MINORITY PRODUCER GRANT RECIPIENTS

WASHINGTON, July 15, 2008 – Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Douglas L. Faulkner today announced the selection of eight recipients in five states and the Territory of Guam to receive \$1.3 million through the Small Minority Producer Grant program.

“The grants awarded today will help farmers, cooperative members and business owners better market their products and services and that will ultimately add profit and efficiency to their operations,” Faulkner said.

In Hagatna, Guam, the Farmers Cooperative Association of Guam has been selected to receive \$175,000 to provide training and technical assistance to its members on farming practices and facilities management. The Winston County Self Help Cooperative in Louisville, Miss., will receive \$145,000 to provide business planning services, feasibility analysis, and marketing and business formation assistance to its members. In Barry, Texas, the Navarro County Black Farmers & Ranchers League, Inc. will receive \$174,600 to provide technical assistance for product improvement, marketing and customer service training.

Small Minority Producer Grants are provided to cooperatives or associations of cooperatives to provide technical assistance to small, minority agriculture producers. Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon meeting the conditions of the grant agreement. Below is the complete list of recipients.

Small Minority Producer Grant Recipients

Recipient	State	Grant Amount
Rio Culebra Lucero	CO	\$174,922
Farmers Cooperative Association of Guam	Territory of Guam	\$175,000
Mississippi Association of Cooperatives	MS	\$175,000
Winston County Self Help Cooperative	MS	\$145,000
Native American People Cooperative	ND	\$175,000
InterTribal Bison Cooperative	SD	\$175,000
Southwest Texas Goat Producers, Inc.	TX	\$118,372
Navarro County Black Farmers and Ranchers League, Inc.	TX	\$174,600

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USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$90 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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