

USDA/Rural Development

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News Release

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$27.7 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING

Temple Texas, September 4, 2003, Bryan Daniel, Texas State Director, USDA Rural Development announced today \$27.7 million in grant funding to strengthen rural communities in Texas, as part of President Bush's ongoing commitment to invest and bolster programs for rural America.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant Program (VADG) has competitive grant funds to help agricultural producers or rural businesses to further refine agricultural commodities to increase their value to consumers. The grants will also provide capital to allow producers to better market their products to domestic and international markets.

"These grants will bring new economic opportunities and job creation for rural Texas," said Daniel. "These grants will give rural residents the opportunity to expand and improve local businesses and economies."

The maximum award per grant is \$500,000. Applications must be completed and submitted to USDA Rural Development State Office in Temple, Texas, as soon as possible, but no later than October 20, 2003. For information on FY 2003 funding availability and applications, please contact Billy Curb, Rural Business-Cooperative Specialist, (254) 742-9775.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service. Additional information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>.

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For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at
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