USDA/Rural Development

101 S. Main Street, Suite 102, Temple, TX 76501 Scooter.Brockette@tx.usda.gov
voice: (254) 742-9710 • fax: (254) 742-9709 • TDD: 254-742-9712 - Web Site: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/

News Release

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For More Information Contact:
Scooter Brockette

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO HOLD A MEETING ON THE VALUE-ADDED DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Temple, Texas, September 10, 2003, Bryan Daniel, Texas State Director, USDA Rural Development announces a series of meetings throughout Texas to discuss the Value-Added Development Grant (VADG) program. The meeting is designed to inform rural Texans of the availability of grant funds, eligibility requirements, eligible uses of the grant funds, and how to apply.

On Thursday, September 18, 2003, at 8:30 a.m., a meeting will be held at Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. on 4517 West Loop 289 in Lubbock, Texas. There is no fee to attend this meeting and all interested parties are encouraged to come.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Value-Added Development Grant Program (VADG) has $27.7 million competitive grant funds available 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. The VADG grant will help bring new economic opportunities and job creation to rural Texas and will give rural Texans the opportunity to expand and improve local businesses and economies.

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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