



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA Rural Development Value Added Producer Grant Meeting to be Held

HENDERSON, Texas—USDA Rural Development State Director Bryan Daniel announced today that the Agency will hold a seminar to discuss the Value Added Producer Grant Program. The meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on June 24, 2004, at the Rusk County Agriculture Center. The Rusk County Agriculture Center is located at 3303 FM 13 West, Henderson, Texas.

“This grant program will foster the development of value-added projects to help create the opportunity for economic development and job creation in rural areas,” said Daniel. “USDA Rural Development is committed to providing the necessary tools to help rural businesses create jobs and improve the quality of life for their communities.”

Authorized as part of the 2002 Farm Bill, the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grants Program provides an opportunity to refine agricultural commodities and products to increase their value in the marketplace. Grants may be used for planning activities and working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

State Director Daniel encourages individuals interested in USDA Rural Development’s Value Added Producer Grant Program to attend this seminar and to contact their local office. The USDA Rural Development local office that serves this area is located at 1305 South Main, Suite 103, Henderson, Texas. The telephone number is 903-657-8221 ext.4.

USDA Rural Development is the economic development agency for USDA, and the lead federal entity for Rural Development. For additional program information, you may also log onto the State's Rural Development website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx.

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USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and includes Business Programs, Housing Programs, and Utilities Programs. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation’s rural residents.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).