



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
209 East Mulberry • Suite 500 • Angleton, Texas 77515

Phone: (979) 849-5251, Ext. 4 • Fax: (979) 849-7190 • TDD: (254) 742-9712 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

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Contact Name: Deborah Wright
Phone Number: 979-849-5251, Ext. 4
Email: Deborah.Wright@tx.usda.gov

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS TEXAS BEST ORGANICS, LLC \$150,000

CHINA, TEXAS, March 16, 2005 – Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today that Texas Best Organics, LLC, was awarded \$150,000 through USDA Rural Development's Value Added Producer Grant program. To highlight this event, a ceremonial check will be presented to Mr. Cecil Slack, President of Texas Best Organics, LLC. The funds will be used for working capital to market organic rice flour.

“This program is designed to bring new uses to farm products and increase the economic opportunities in the agriculture sector,” said Daniel. “USDA Rural Development is committed to helping agricultural producers become more profitable through value-added agricultural business opportunities.”

The VAPG program is designed to provide agricultural producers or rural businesses with grant funds to further refine agricultural commodities and increase their value to consumers. The grant also provides capital to allow producers to better market their products so that they can compete in domestic and international markets. Recipients are required to obtain matching funds, which will double the impact of the USDA grant. Funding of individual recipients will be contingent upon meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

Authorized as part of the 2002 Farm Bill, the Value-Added Producer Grant may be used for feasibility studies, developing business plans, or working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmers and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and with a mission to use the resources of USDA to help enhance the quality of life for the nation's rural residents. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, please contact the Angleton Local Office at (979) 849-5251, Ext. 4.

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