



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES TEXAS VALUE ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS

**TEMPLE, TEXAS, October 3, 2005**— State Director Bryan Daniel today announced the selection of 11 applications to receive \$1,074,896 in USDA Rural Development grant assistance under the Value Added Producer Grant program.

“USDA Rural Development promotes efforts to bring together agricultural producers and rural businesses to spur economic opportunities for rural communities,” said Daniel.

Since 2001 the Bush Administration has committed \$115 million to support value-added agricultural investments. Value Added Producer Grants may be used for planning, working capital, marketing, or for farm-based renewable energy projects. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

Value added products are created when a producer takes an agricultural commodity and prepares it in a way that increases value to the customers. Examples receiving funding include:

- Affordable Building Systems received \$100,000 to study the viability of incorporating wheat straw into a “universal house structure”.
- Apispedigree, LP received \$150,000 to produce, market, and sell pre-determined gender embryos in the beef industry.
- GSC Chipotle Texas, Ltd received \$150,000 to offset the initial expense of producing and marketing a value-added chipotle and smoked chile processing facility.
- Ingran, LP received \$150,000 to support their efforts to market and sell gender-sorted semen in the beef industry.
- Leaning Oaks Vineyards, JV received \$49,944 to serve as working capital to produce commercial wines and wine grape jellies.
- Preferred Bird of Texas received \$30,500 to determine the value of producing natural grass-fed poultry.
- Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. received \$100,000 to determine the value of sugarcane bi-products as a source of renewable energy.
- Texas Citrus Mutual received \$91,416 to investigate the development of a fresh cut citrus product.
- Texas Hair Sheep Producers Association received \$94,836 to assist in the establishment of high-value niche markets for meat and leather.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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- Turffalo, Ltd received \$75,000 to market and expand their dealer network to promote turf-type buffalograss.
- White Egret Farm received \$83,200 to determine the feasibility of producing and marketing a unique yogurt culture.

USDA Rural Development strives to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, call the State Office at 254-742-9700 or visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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