



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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Date: September 18, 2006
Release Number TX 295.06

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES SOUTHWEST TEXAS GOAT PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE, INC RECEIVES SMALL MINORITY PRODUCER GRANTS

TEMPLE, TEXAS, September 18, 2006 — Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today Southwest Texas Goat Producers Cooperative, Inc. has been awarded a \$99,922 Small Minority Producer Grant. The grant funds will be used to determine the potential for the establishment of a meat and dairy goat cooperative in the Rio Grande-Nueces RC&D Area, which includes Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavala Counties.

“This grant will assist the Southwest Texas Goat Producers Cooperative in helping small minority producers become more profitable through expanded agricultural business opportunities,” said Daniel.

Under the USDA Rural Development Small Minority Producer Grant Program, \$1.5 million is being awarded to cooperatives in 7 states and 2 territories. Funds are provided for cooperatives or associations of cooperatives whose primary focus is to assist small minority producers and whose membership and/or governing board is composed of at least 75 percent minority members. The grantee may use the competitive funding to assist small minority producers with technical assistance such as market research, product or service improvement, legal assistance, feasibility studies, business plan and marketing plan development and training.

The mission of USDA Rural Development is to deliver programs in a way that will increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting the web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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