



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR PLANTER'S GRAIN COOPERATIVE

ODEM, TEXAS, September 18, 2006—USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel, today announced Planter's Grain Cooperative received a \$298,180 Value Added Producer Grant to expand the sales of identity preserved feed ingredients including corn, wheat, soybean, cottonseed, distillers dried grains, rice, and cottonseed meal into Central and Southern Mexico. The cooperative is comprised of 300 grain producers/members.

“USDA Rural Development promotes efforts to bring together agricultural producers and rural businesses to spur economic opportunities for rural communities” said Daniel. “During Fiscal Year 2005 Texas USDA Rural Development awarded over \$1 million in Value-Added Producer Grants.”

Since 2001 the Bush Administration has committed over \$115 million to support value-added agricultural investments, including over 110 energy-related projects. Value-Added Producer Grants may be used for planning activities, such as feasibility studies or business plans, or to provide working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and 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.

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 Alice Local Office at (361) 668-0453, Extension 4, or visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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