



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
3833 South Texas Avenue, Suite 117 • Bryan, Texas 77802

Phone: (979) 846-0548 • Fax: (979) 846-2363 • TDD: (254) 742-9700 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

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Contact Name: Sandra Micklitz  
Telephone Number: (979) 846-0548, Ext. 4  
Email: [Sandra.Micklitz@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Sandra.Micklitz@tx.usda.gov)

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR TANGLEWOOD WINE GROUP, LIMITED

**HOUSTON, TEXAS, September 18, 2006**—USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel, today announced Tanglewood Wine Group, Limited received a \$100,000 Value Added Producer Grant to formulate a business and marketing plan to successfully process grapes into wine from the Las Damas Vineyard, near Brenham, Texas. The vineyard currently sells their grapes to other wineries who have won awards at various statewide and national competitions. Their vision is to produce award winning Las Damas Wines, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Merlot, from existing quality grapes and establish a reputation for excellence while offering exceptional personalized service at the winery for event hosting, special events, public tasting rooms, wine clubs and internet sales.

“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 Bryan Local Office at (979) 846-0548, Extension 4, or visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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