

Value-Added Producer Grants.

USDA Rural Development is offering Value-Added Producer Grants. Grants may be used for planning activities and for working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. Applications are now being accepted for 2008 and the deadline is March 31, 2008. The Value Added Producers Grant Notice has been published in the federal register. **There is only a two month window for this application which is a time consuming process.**

As a **clarification of some finer points**, among several definitions of an eligible producer, someone **removing timber from public lands** and owning the product after removal, is considered an agricultural producer. **Renewable energy**, i.e. wind, solar, geothermal, etc., is considered a value added product on agriculture lands. Planning for **Agri-Tourism** might be considered market differentiation.

Webb Dairy in Olathe was a recipient of the working capital grant last year, and we look forward to their successful grand opening of Rocking W Cheese in the coming months.

For more information, visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm> or contact USDA Rural Development at (720) 544-2903.