

Missouri Ag News

A Publication of University of Missouri Extension - Southeast Region

Volume 3, Issue 12

December 1, 2013

USDA Value Added Producer Grants

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Engineering	Livestock
Forestry	Other



Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the availability of nearly \$10.5 million in U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA) grants to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities designed to give them a competitive business edge.

“U.S. agriculture is responsible for millions of American jobs – both directly and indirectly,” Vilsack said. “Supporting farmers and related businesses strengthens rural economies and helps fuel innovation and product development. It’s also an important part of USDA programs that link farmers to their communities, and it underscores the many benefits of local and regional food systems.”

The funding is being made available through the [Value-Added Producer Grant](#) program. Grants are available to help agricultural producers create new products, expand marketing opportunities, support further processing of existing products or goods, or to develop specialty and niche products. They may be used for working capital and planning activities. The maximum working

capital grant is \$200,000; the maximum planning grant is \$75,000.

Missouri State Director Janie Dunning commented, “Pursuing new markets and expanding product offerings is important in any industry. Obviously, agriculture is no different. The VAPG program offers the opportunity for our state’s agricultural producers to determine the feasibility of new product offerings. Increased economic activity, at any level, is essential for the vitality of our rural communities.”

Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives and agricultural producer groups. Funding priority is given to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers or ranchers, and to small-to medium-size family farms, or farmer/rancher cooperatives.

The Value-Added Producer Grant program is one of many USDA programs that support the development of strong local and regional food systems as part of the *Know Your Farmer, Know*

.....USDA Grants continued

Your Food initiative. Launched in 2009, the initiative strengthens ties between agricultural producers and their local communities, helping meet growing consumer demand and creating opportunities for small business development. Initiatives like this create new income opportunities for farmers, generate wealth that will stay in rural communities, and increase access to healthy, local foods in underserved communities. All of these actions boost local economies.

The announcement comes as more than 1,400 communities nationwide gear up to support [Small Business Saturday](#), a day dedicated to championing small businesses on one of the busiest shopping weekends of the year. This year's Small Business Saturday is Nov. 30.

Rural Development is encouraging applications from Tribal organizations as well as applications that support regional food hubs. Applications supporting value-added activities related to bio-based products are also encouraged.

Since 2009, the Obama Administration has provided agricultural producers with almost \$80 million in Value Added Producer Grant assistance that has supported more than 600 innovative, value-added projects.

In Fiscal Year 2013, for example, the Ozark Mountain Creamery, LLC in Mountain Grove, Mo. received a \$137,611 grant to produce and market bottled cream and butter from the Fry Family dairy farm. The venture will create two (2) new jobs and save an additional three (3) jobs.

Also, in Fiscal Year 2013, Natures Organic Haven LLC in Hermann, Mo. received a

\$24,904 grant to verify the economic, market, technical and feasibility of processing and marketing of elderberry juice and elderberry flour. The elderberries will be harvested on the applicant's 90 acre farm. The venture will create 17 jobs.

Additional examples of how VAPGs assist local and regional food producers are available on the USDA *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Compass*, which is searchable by zip code and key word.

Grant applications are due by Feb. 24, 2014. More information about how to apply is available on page 70260 of the November 25 <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-11-25/pdf/2013-28175.pdf> *Federal Register*, or by contacting any USDA Rural Development state office.

Secretary Vilsack said the announcement is another reminder of the importance of USDA programs such as the Value-Added Producer Grant program for rural America. A comprehensive new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill would further expand the rural economy, Vilsack added, saying that's just one reason why Congress must get a comprehensive Bill done as soon as possible.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

US Rice Outlook Conference

Wednesday to Friday, December 4-6, 2013
Hyatt Regency in St. Louis, MO

- Bring together rice farmers and industry leaders from all six rice-producing states.
- Provides timely information and educational sessions on topics vital to rice farmers
- Features a trade show devoted to rice-related farm equipment, technology, products and services.

To register: Phone - 703-236-1447 or Email - jdavis@usarice.com or Online - www.usarice.com. Early registration ends November 8.

Watermelon Meeting

American Legion in Kennett, MO
Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Market Study by Van Ayers of University of Missouri Extension;
Weed Management by James Heiser, Plant Science, Delta Research Center; **Nutrition** by Erin Taylor of Land-O-Lakes and **Irrigation** by Bob Schultheis of University of Missouri Extension.

CEU's are available

Lunch is provided through our sponsors. For more information or to let us know you will attend call: 573-686-8064

2013 Regional Corn Meeting

**Wednesday, December 11, 2013
Miner Convention Center, Miner, Missouri**

(Next to the Drury Inn – E. Malone & I-55)

Registration: 7:30 a.m. Program: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Topics:

Weed Resistance Update - Jim Heiser, University of Missouri Weed Science, Fisher Delta Research Center

Corn Disease Identification and Fungicide Results – Heather Kelly,
University of Tennessee Plant Pathologist

Corn Insects and Emerging Pests – Scott Stewart, University of Tennessee Entomologist

Profitable Corn Production Practices – Brent Myers, Cereal Crops Management, University of Missouri Columbia

Corn Nitrogen Management in Wet vs. Dry Season – Peter Scharf , Soil Fertility Specialist, University of Missouri Columbia

Nitrogen Management with Stalk Nitrate – David Dunn, Fisher Delta Research Center, Soils Lab Supervisor

Environmental and Water Quality Issues -Darrick Steen, Missouri Corn and Barr Engineering

Grain Marketing Outlook and Strategies – Marketing Panel: John Bondurant, Bondurant Futures - Memphis, Tennessee; Jacquie Voeks, Stewart Peterson - Champaign, Illinois; Dan Zwicker, CGB Enterprises - Mandeville, Louisiana

Industry Representatives on hand to answer questions about their products.

Sponsored Lunch. CEU's will be applied for.

Pre-registration is requested for meals and handouts by contacting Anthony Ohmes (573-243- 3581) or David Reinbott (573-545-3516).

Soybean Conference / Meeting

**Soybean Crop Management Conference
District 7 Missouri Soybean Association Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2014
Miner Convention Center, Miner, Missouri**

(Next to the Drury Inn – E. Malone & I-55)

Registration: 7:30 a.m. Program: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Topics:

- Weed Control Strategies for Resistance Weeds – Anthony Ohmes, MU Extension
- Soybean Production and Management – Bill Wiebold, University of Missouri Columbia
- Soybean Variety Update – Dr. Grover Shannon, MU Delta Center
- Cover Crop Economics - Ray Massey, University of Missouri
- Soybean Response to Maximum Yield Environment – Ryan J. Van Roekel, Soybean Researcher University of Arkansas
- Sudden Death Syndrome Update (SDS) – Jason Bond, University of Illinois Carbondale, Plant Pathologist
- Soybean Frog Eye Leaf Spot and Fungicide Resistance - Heather Kelly, University of Tennessee Plant Pathologist
- Grain Marketing Outlook and Strategies – David Reinbott, MU Extension
- Soybean Association Update – JP Dunn, MO Soybean Assoc.

PLUS

Industry Representatives on hand to answer questions about their products.
Sponsored Lunch. CEU's will be applied for.

Pre-registration is requested for meals and handouts by contacting Anthony Ohmes (573-243- 3581) or David Reinbott (573-545-3516).

Ag Expo 2014

Friday and Saturday, January 24 and 25, 2014

Private Applicator Training

Kids Tractor Pull

Portable USDA Certified Kitchen

Petting Zoo

Kids Garden Adventure

Child Safety Scavenger Hunt

Cow Milking Demonstrations

Educational Sessions

Exhibit Space is Available

For more information call: 573-686-8064

Thank You for A Great Year

Although the December issue always seems to be short on articles it is full of educational possibilities for growers and producers.

Please attend and take advantage of these local opportunities. Each meeting is put together for you, as a producer, to increase your sustainability, to inform you of new innovations and in some cases to give you a heads up of what the future may have in store.

Extension thanks you for all you do for the agricultural community and for

Missouri. We look forward to helping you in 2014.

Keep us in mind when you have a question or if you are looking for an opportunity. We are here to provide answers or to help find them for you.

Thank you again. Enjoy the rest of 2013 before you begin to gear up for a new season in 2014.

Happy Holidays!



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Future Meetings & Events -

Watermelon Meeting: Wednesday, December 4, 2013. American Legion in Kennett, MO beginning at 8:30 a.m. Contact Sarah Denkler or Chris Waite to register 573-686-8064.

U.S. Rice Outlook Conference - Wednesday to Friday, December 4-6, 2013. Hyatt Regency in St. Louis, MO. Phone: 703-236-1447 / Email: jdavis@usarice.com / Online: www.usarice.com.

Regional Corn Meeting – Wednesday, December 11, 2013. The Miner Convention Center in Miner, MO beginning at 8 a.m.. For more information contact Anthony Ohmes at 573-243-3581 or (ohmesg@missouri.edu) or David Reinbott (reinbottd@missouri.edu) or 573-545-3516.

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Ag Expo: Friday and Saturday, January 24 and 25, 2014 at the Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff, MO. Admission is free. PAT training will be at 1:00 p.m. on January 24.

Commodities and markets - <http://extension.missouri.edu/sereion/fmmkt.htm>