

USDA's Rural Development Introduces Value Added Producer Grants

The Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income.

As a Producer applying for a grant you may receive priority if you are a beginning farmer or rancher, a socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative or are proposing a mid-tier value chain.

Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the Federal Register and through an announcement posted on [Grants.gov](https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants).

Electronic applications are due to be submitted by March 5, 2020 with paper applications mailed on or before March 10 or hand delivered to the local USDA office.

If you are interested in more information about the grant or applying for a VAPG the link to the web site is <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>.

As with any increase in value, there is an increase in risk. The USDA's Risk Management Agency offers many tools that can be used to minimize the risk associated with your farm's production, including the Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program. If you are interested in risk management tools, please consult the RMA: <https://www.rma.usda.gov/>, or you can directly reach out to a qualified here: [Crop Insurance Agent](#).



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