



## STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

### USDA Seeks Applications for Grants to Help Agricultural Producers and Small Rural Businesses Develop New Products

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30, 2017 – Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett today announced that USDA is accepting applications for grants to help farmers, ranchers and producer-based businesses nationwide develop new product lines.

The funding is being provided through the [Value-Added Producer Grant](#) (VAPG) program. VAPG grants can be used to develop new products from raw agricultural products or promote new markets for established products. Veterans, socially-disadvantaged groups, beginning farmers and ranchers, operators of small- and medium-sized family farms and ranches, and farmer and rancher cooperatives are given special priority.

For information on how to apply for these grants, see page 40987 of the August 29 [Federal Register](#). The deadline to submit paper applications is January 31, 2018. Electronic applications submitted through [grants.gov](#) are due January 24, 2018. For additional information and assistance, contact the [USDA Rural Development Office](#) serving your county.

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