



RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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VAA Grant Projects 2006-2007

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- **Sandhills Scentsations, Valentine—\$20,300** to utilize, Yucca, a natural resource that is readily available in the Sandhills area to produce a natural bath and body care product line. Douglas and Kandi Stengel, as well as partners, Jim Broomfield and the Center for Rural Affairs will contribute in-kind matching funds.

- **Country Adventures, Kearney—\$22,500** to the online agri-tourism marketplace to simultaneously help rural residents promote and generate revenue from their existing operations/attractions, and market new country-based tourism experiences to consumers. KAAPA Outdoor Adventures, LLC, Berkley Insurance, and Country-Adventures will provide cash and in-kind matching funds.

- **Burbach Countryside Dairy, Hartington—\$50,000** to Dean Burbach, Lisa Burbach, Ed Hosch and JoAnn Hosch to develop and test innovative value-added milk processing technology that can be replicated on small dairy farms across Nebraska. Dean Burbach, Lisa Burbach, Ed Hosch and JoAnn Hosch will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.

- **Closed Loop System, Kearney—\$30,000** to Renewable Fuel Technology, Inc. to develop and implement a plan for a closed loop processing center which will convert animal waste into an energy source. Progressive Swine Technology and Renewable Fuel Technology, Inc. will contribute match.

- **Syriaca Biomass, Ogallala—\$26,000** to the Nebraska Syriaca Cooperative, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Natural Fibers Corporation to research and develop high-value nutritional supplements from Syriaca Biomass Nebraska Syriaca Cooperative, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and Natural Fibers Cooperation will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.

- **All Natural Nebraska "GROW", Holbrook—\$9,415** to GROW Nebraska an organization representing multiple Nebraska entrepreneurs to establish services to assist natural and organic agricultural producers with market access through a dedicated web site. GROW Nebraska will contribute cash matching funds.

- **Mentoring Co-Species Grazing for Profit and Sustainability, the communities within Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan, Sioux, Arthur, Morrill, Deuel, Keith, Kimball, Garden, Banner, Scotts Bluff, Grant, Cherry, Cheyenne, Brown, Boyd, Custer, Holt, Rock, Blaine, Keya Paha, Logan, Thomas, Hooker, Furnas, Red Willow, Dundy, Hitchcock, Perkins, Hayes, Chase, Frontier, Boone, Valley, Sherman, Wheeler, Antelope, Garfield, Hall, Howard, Greeley, Lincoln, Harlan, Phelps, Webster, Franklin, Clay, Nuckolls, and Gosper Counties—\$32,950** to Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition and the University of Nebraska Extension, Northern Panhandle Livestock Programs for mentored training to implement multi-species grazing for profit, weed control, and utilization of marginal forages while improving rangeland. Sandhills Task Force, Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition and the University of Nebraska Extension at Lincoln will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Wines on the Historic Trails, Lewellen, Mitchell and Ogallala—\$6,824** to Prairie Vine Vineyard, LLC, 17 Ranch Winery, LLC and Southfork Vineyard to expand the Wines on the Historic Trails Promotion Project. Prairie Vine Vineyard, LLC, 17 Ranch Winery, LLC, and Southfork Vineyard, LLC will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **A Safer, High Quality Food Supply = Increased Production, Curtis—\$40,000** to Medicine Valley Economic Development Corporation and Frontier Technologies, LLC to develop a plan for new agricultural-focused technology housed at the University of Nebraska-Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. Medicine Valley Economic Development Corporation and Frontier Technologies, LLC will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Panhandle Processors, Inc., Kearney and Alliance—\$40,000** to Ag Development, Inc. and Renewable Fuel Technology, LLC to develop a plan for food grade oil processing centers in the Nebraska Panhandle, in addition to processing sunflower and canola with sites in Alliance and Chappell. Ag Development, Inc. and Renewable Fuel Technology, LLC will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Value-Added Production of Gourmet Pickled Vegetable Products, Grafton—\$61,000** to Ely Farms, LLC to support the expansion of a proven pickled vegetable business and construct a shared processing facility. Ely Farms, LLC will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Value-Added Dairy Capacity in Nebraska, Martell—\$42,252** to Greenglade Goat Dairy and Greenglade Goat Milk Specialties, LLC to provide support and facilities to enable small dairy farmers to produce and market value-added products. Greenglade Goat Dairy and Greenglade Goat Milk Specialties, LLC. will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Northeast Nebraska Agri-Tourism Partnership, Wisner, Norfolk, West Point and Laurel – \$15,000** to the Northeast Nebraska Agri-Tourism Partnership to inventory, educate and explore ways that heritage stories and central reservations can establish agri-tourism support systems in Northeast Nebraska. Wisner Community Development, Feller & Company, Nebraska Life Magazine, Scott and Patti Knobbe, Bellar Feedlots, Inc., and AgGro, Inc. will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.

- **Olean Energy, Dodge—\$15,000** to Olean Energy, Danny Kluthe, Owner to demonstrate the integration of on-farm soybean processing with swine production. Olean Energy will contribute cash matching funds.
- **Increasing Rural Incomes through Centralized Marketing and Processing of Cooperative Woody Florals, Lincoln—\$47,180** to Nebraska Woody Florals Nonstock Cooperative to expand markets and renovate a building for processing and marketing. Woody Florals will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Bamboo for Nebraska, Springfield and Omaha—\$10,518** to Turtle Creek Farm, Inc., and The Henry Doorly Zoo to construct a green house where five varieties of clumping bamboo will be grown. Turtle Creek Farm, Inc. and The Henry Doorly Zoo will contribute in-kind matching funds.
- **Preferred Popcorn, LLC Warehouse Expansion, Chapman—\$75,000** to Preferred Popcorn LLC, a partnership between four farm families and the Aurora Cooperative, to expand their warehouse. Preferred Popcorn, LLC will contribute cash matching funds.
- **Increasing Rural Income Through Cooperative Nut Processing and Marketing, Valparaiso—\$25,000** to Heartland Nuts N' More, a producer owned cooperative to purchase equipment. Heartland Nuts N' More will contribute in-kind matching funds.
- **Providing Environmental Solutions for Nebraska Farmers, Carleton—\$14,352** to Brad Heinrichs and Landon Heinrichs, Environmental Solutions, a start-up agricultural business that provides grid sampling. Brad Heinrichs and Landon Heinrichs will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **White Bison Winery, Paxton—\$66,679** to White Bison LLC partners John Gamet, Stephen Gamet – Ida's Vitis Vineyard, and Patrick Gamet – White Bison Winery, Paxton, Nebraska, to procure equipment to process and market value-added wine produced from locally grown grapes and small fruit crops. White Bison LLC will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Nebraska Grown Daylilies and Soybean Mulch Project, Bradshaw and Sutton—\$33,380** to Jenni Harrington, Harmony Nursery and Daylily Farm and Abbi Kleinschmidt, Windy Hill Soybean Mulch to support the expanded production and marketing of daylilies and woody floral ornamentals, and the start-up of a soybean mulch business. Harmony Nursery and Daylily Farm and Windy Hill Soybean Mulch will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Opportunities for Ethnic Crops, Lincoln and Auburn—\$10,650** to Community CROPS and Caruso-Rozzano Farms to increase growing opportunities for ethnic crops in the Southeast Nebraska area. Community CROPS, Jim Caruso, and George Myers will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Agritrade Organic/Bioorganic Fertilizer Study, Lincoln and Bertrand—\$10,500** to Agritrade, Inc. to pursue an innovative solution to waste management issues. Agritrade, Inc. will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.

- **Bio-Dry, Osmond—\$25,000** to research the viability of constructing a biomass-driven plant for drying wet distiller grain. Wood Solutions, LLAW Farm, Inc., LBR, LLC, New Frontier Insurance, Big Red Mini-Mart, B&C Industrial Contractors, Inc. Osmond Venture Resources, Inc. Osmond Farm Supply Center, Inc., Titan Farms, LLC, Aschoff Construction, Inc., Security National Bank, and Big John Manufacturing, Inc. will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **E85 Outreach, Lincoln—\$55,000** to Clean Fuels Foundation, Clean Fuels Development Coalition, and the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition to promote direct E-85 marketing from plant to retail. Clean Fuels Foundation, Clean Fuels Development Coalition and the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Installation of a Sawmill to Produce Cedar Shingles, Posts, Lumber, Wood Burning Logs and Pellets, Valentine—\$10,000** to Niobrara Timber to research and market the concept of converting waste pine timber trees into value added lumber, cedar shingles, chipped wood burning logs, and pellets. Niobrara Timber will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Development of Non-Dairy Gluten-Free Yogurt Utilizing Nebraska Grown Crops, Lincoln and Springfield—\$5,500** to Thomas R. Masters – Spring Valley Farms and John Knapp - John Knapp Farm to research and develop non-dairy, gluten free yogurts. Spring Valley Farms and John Knapp Farm will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Building an Innovative Regional Food Manufacturing Community to Enhance Markets for Family Farms, Lincoln—\$50,000** for educational and technical assistance to energize and encourage more small business development and entrepreneurship. The project involves local farmers and ranchers, government entities, local utility providers, economic development agencies, and the University of Nebraska Food Processing Center. Nebraska Municipal Public Power will contribute in-kind matching funds.
- **Central Nebraska Goat Meat Initiative, Litchfield—\$20,000** to goat producers, ranchers, and 4-H organizations to increase production of goat raised for its meat, and to increase local direct markets statewide for the meat products. Eldon Kieborz and T& K Loos will provide in-kind matching funds.
- **Compost Coop, Milford and Wisner—\$67,310** to a partnership made up of a compost marketer and four feedlots from Milford, Neb., and Wisner, Neb., to produce and market bagged compost to an emerging organic lawn and garden-care industry. Organic Nutrient Solutions, Inc., Midwest Feeding Company, Ott Livestock Company, Wisner Feedlot, and Feller & Company Cattle Feeders will contribute in-kind matching funds.
- **Country Adventures, Kearney—\$66,600** to the online agri-tourism marketplace to simultaneously help rural residents promote and generate revenue from their existing operations/attractions, and market new country-based tourism experiences to consumers. KAAPA Outdoor Adventures, LLC, Berkley Insurance, Kent Hubbert and Jan Rodehorst will provide cash and in-kind matching funds.

- **Ethanol Curriculum, Norfolk**—\$60,000 to Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Neb., to develop curriculum and courses that lead to an associate degree or certificate in Biofuels Production. The program addresses economic and personnel needs of area Schools, Elkhorn Valley Economic Development Council, Aquila, Nebraska Ethanol Board, Elkhorn Valley Ethanol, Siouxland Ethanol, LLC, Nebraska Public Power District, Husker Ag Processing, LLC, Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District, and LP Gill Landfill will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Extreme Entrepreneurs, Sutton**—\$75,000 to continue supporting the work of two young farming entrepreneurs to establish a year-round operation that processes and markets specialty pumpkins and high-end flowers. Country Pumpkin and Blossom Barn will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **George Paul Vinegar, Cody**—\$47,750 to George Paul Vinegar to develop a gourmet vinegar processing facility in Cody, Nebraska. The facility will support both commercially grown fruits by farmers and ranchers, and production and harvest of native wild fruits. Rolling Hills Vineyard and Kimmel Orchard will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Growing Nebraska's Winery and Grape Industry, Lexington**—\$38,000 to the Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association to work with the state's 80 vineyards and 18 wineries in developing an economically viable and sustainable Nebraska winery and grape industry. The Nebraska Wine and Grape Growers Association will provide cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Hunting & Recreation Development, Hayes Center**—\$35,577 to Blackwood Hunting & Recreation, LLC, a business that offers several hunting adventures on 30,000 acres of prime southwest Nebraska real estate owned and managed by the business' creators. Blackwood Hunting & Recreation will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Little Blue Energy, LLC, Roseland**—\$50,000 to Little Blue Energy, LLC and Eagle Capital Group, comprised of local farmers and other individuals interested in agriculture, who are proposing to build an ethanol plant near Roseland, Neb., that produces 50 million gallons per year. Little Blue Energy, LLC, and Eagle Capital Group will provide matching cash funds.
- **Local Food Marketing and Distribution Initiative, West Point**—\$25,900 to the Nebraska Food Cooperative to expand its operations resulting in increased sales of local food products to restaurants, retailers and institutions. The Nebraska Food Marketing Board of Directors will contribute in-kind matching funds.
- **Midwest Agri-Services: Quality Beef Production, Plattsmouth**—\$500 to the Cass-Otoe County Cattlemen's Association and others connected with the beef industry to develop new ideas and solutions for improving the efficiency and profitability of cowherds. Cass-Otoe County Cattlemen's Association will provide matching funds.

- **Nebraska Turkey Growers Cooperative Market Development, Gibbon**—\$56,000 to the Nebraska Turkey Growers Cooperative, a processing and marketing entity in Gibbon, Neb., to hire a market development specialist who is charged with coordinating the expansion of turkey production in Nebraska. Nebraska Turkey Growers Cooperative will contribute in-kind matching funds.
- **Nebraska Value Added Partnership Web Site, Holdrege**—\$5,000 to the Nebraska Value Added Partnership to develop a one-stop web site that features partnership resources aimed at developing value-added agricultural businesses in Nebraska. Nebraska Farm Bureau, Center for Rural Affairs, and the Nebraska Cooperative Council will provide in-kind matching funds.
- **Organic Blue Corn Production and Marketing, Gothenburg**—\$75,000 to Organic Blue Corn Producers to develop and implement a plan for increasing blue corn production, processing and marketing in Nebraska. Platte Valley Blue Corn Growers will contribute a matching cash funds.
- **Renewable Fuel Technology, Bertrand**—\$30,000 to Renewable Fuel Technology Incorporated, a research and development company involved in discovering potential agricultural applications for a growing renewable energy technology market. Phil High Farms, Kent Sturgis Farms, and Orthman Manufacturing will provide cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Republican River Organic Produce, Cambridge**—\$2,600 to Republican River Organic Produce to establish an organic fruit and vegetable production and marketing company in southwest Nebraska. Prairie Sunset Farm and Hilton Farm EcoRetreat will contribute in-kind matching funds.
- **Republican Valley Bio-Fuels, Kearney**—\$70,000 to Republican Valley Bio-Fuels, a joint venture designed to educate Republican River Valley farmers about planting low water use crops for use as profitable bio-fuel alternatives. Ag Valley COOP and Ag Development Inc. will provide cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Research the Development Biomass Butanol Fermentation for Alternative Fuel, Lincoln**—\$12,000 to BEC Corporation, Spring Valley Farm, John Knapp Farm and Martin Farms to research the viability of the biomass butanol fermentation process as an alternative fuel. BEC Corporation, Spring Valley Farm, John Knapp Farm and Martin Farms will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Sandhills Commercial Honey & Food Processing Operation, Anselmo**—\$75,000 to Patrick Chandler, Racheal Chandler, Calvin Kelly, Benjamin Chandler and Eric Evanson to build a commercial honey processing, bottling/packing and kitchen facility in Anselmo, Neb. that helps meet the needs of beekeeping operations in Nebraska's Sandhills. Patrick Chandler, Racheal Chandler, Calvin Kelly, Benjamin Chandler and Eric Evanson will provide in-kind matching funds.
- **Schilling Bridge Winery & Microbrewery, Pawnee City**—\$5,600 to Schilling Bridge Winery & Microbrewery to create a strategic partnership with Plum Creek Farms, Inc., with the goal of increasing income, economic and tourism opportunities for both facilities, and surrounding venues in southeast Nebraska. Schilling Bridge Winery and Microbrewery and Plum Creek Farms will contribute cash and in-kind matching funds.

- **Value-Added Products From Syriaca, Ogallala**—A New Crop for Nebraska Farmers—\$27,500 to the Nebraska Syriaca Cooperative to increase production of value-added Syriaca (milkweed) oil from Syriaca pods grown and harvested by farmers in southeast Nebraska. Ogallala Comfort Company and Nebraska Syriaca Cooperative will provide cash and in-kind matching funds.
- **Assistance with Capitalization, DeWeese and Fairfield** - will use \$41,000 to help provide a biofuels operation with capital assistance and tax-increment financing for researching the potential to market corn syrup ash as a fertilizer. DeWeese BioFuels will contribute matching funds, along with the City of Fairfield.
- **Control of Salt Cedar, Cambridge** - will receive \$7,580 to increase its educational efforts on alternative solutions for noxious weed management and share that information with other producers. Southwest Nebraska Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) of Cambridge will provide matching funds, along with local investors in Milburn and Brewster.
- **CountrySide Soybean & Biodiesel, Firth** - will receive \$75,000 to provide start-up funds and working capital for a soybean and biodiesel processing plant. CountrySide Cooperative of Firth of will contribute matching funds for the project.
- **The Distillers' Grain Research project, Plainview** - will receive \$6,100 to research and analyze a by-product of ethanol production in an effort to help make distillers' grains a more marketable product of consistent high quality. Northeast Nebraska RC&D of Plainview will provide matching funds, along with Husker Ag.
- **Extreme Entrepreneurs, Sutton** - will use \$44,100 to build a greenhouse for year-round production of produce, in addition to developing a Web site and curriculum for workshop presentations. Country Pumpkin and Blossom Barn of Sutton will contribute matching funds.
- **Freeze & Vacuum Drying Soybeans, Popcorn & Jerusalem Artichokes, Lincoln** - will receive \$22,130 to research freeze-drying of several nontraditional food products. BEC Corporation and Spring Valley Farm of Lincoln, M&M Acres Farm of Syracuse, and John Knapp Farm of Springfield will contribute matching funds.
- **FOOI-Food Processing Plant Proposal, Eustis** - will receive \$25,000 to conduct a feasibility study on plans to build and operate a food processing plant. The Wurst Haus, JBWC Accounting, Eustis Body Shop, Grabenstein Insurance Agency, FOOI, Inc., First Bank and Trust, and WNK, Inc., along with local investors in Eustis, will contribute matching funds for the project.
- **George Paul Vinegar, Cody** - will use \$70,000 to help establish a new, value-added industry in the state, marketing gourmet vinegar made with Nebraska-grown fruits. Rolling Hills Vineyard of Cody will contribute matching funds, along with Kimmel Orchard of Nebraska City.
- **Goat & Sheep Producers Marketing Alliance, Randolph** - will receive \$20,000 to conduct a feasibility study and develop a strategic business plan for marketing its products. The Center for Rural Affairs, College of St. Mary and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension will contribute matching funds.

- **The Good, Fresh, Local Program, Lincoln** - will use \$35,000 to help expand the number of producers and food manufacturers involved in providing Nebraska-grown products at University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Dining Halls. The University Dining Service will provide matching funds, along with the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society.
- **Heartland Nuts N' More Cooperative, Valparaiso** - will receive \$63,000 to remodel an existing processing facility, purchase equipment and expand product development and marketing efforts. Co-op members will provide matching funds.
- **Livestock Marketing Co-op, Oakland** - will receive \$11,500 to develop an animal identification system. Oakland's FFARM Cooperative members will contribute matching funds.
- **Local Food Marketing & Distribution Initiative, Lincoln** - will use \$29,100 to develop a Web site and other marketing tools along with food educational events. Nebraska Food Cooperative of West Point will provide matching funds, along with the Buy Fresh, Buy Local program.
- **The Nuckolls County Ethanol Plant Capitalization Plan, Nelson** - will receive \$50,000 to develop a business development and capital-raising plan. The Nebraska Kansas Rural Development Authority of Nelson will provide matching funds, along with the Superior Chamber of Commerce.
- **On-Farm Value-Added Processing, Central City** - will receive \$74,500 to build a multipurpose processing unit that also includes a retail store. Erickson Pork of Central City will administer the grant and provide matching funds, along with RLE Pork and Prairie Creek Vineyards.
- **Panhandle Producers Marketing Cooperative, Scottsbluff** - will receive \$25,000 to involve Future Farmers of America and DECA/Delta Epsilon Chi students in developing a business and marketing plan for the coop. Twin Cities Development of Scottsbluff will provide matching funds, along with UNL Extension and the Western Nebraska Community College Entrepreneurship Program.
- **Portable Milking Parlor Feasibility & Marketability Studies, DeWeese** - will receive \$4,500 to conduct a market study and to help develop a cooperative of local producers. Joe Svoboda of DeWeese will administer the grant and contribute matching funds, along with Brad Hinrichs.
- **Prairieland Dairy Project, Lincoln** - will use \$45,000 to market milk bottled in corn-based plastic bottles for high-end health food stores. The Original Foods Company based in Lincoln will administer the grant and provide matching funds, along with GeneSeek.
- **The Real Life on the Ranch Program, Valentine** - will receive \$20,000 to involve youth in the day-to-day operations of several local ranches. The Valentine-Cherry County Economic Development Board will contribute matching funds, along with The Minnechaduzza Foundation.

- **The Renewable Energy Intern Program, Oakland** - will receive \$60,000 to help provide prospective workers in Nebraska's renewable energy sector with hands on training and internships. Wayne State College will provide matching funds, along with Robert Byrnes of Oakland.

- **The Rural Revitalization Through Value-Added Business Development, Lyons-** project will receive \$60,000 to provide producers with access to operational assistance. The Center for Rural Affairs will administer the grant and provide matching funds, along with the College of St. Mary.

- **Sustainable Incubator Farm, Lincoln** - will use \$16,100 to help teach immigrants and refugees involved in growing and marketing produce about sustainable agriculture. Community CROPS of Lincoln will contribute matching funds, along with Sunset Community Farms and Harmonia Gardens.

- **Syriaca, Ogallala** - will receive \$33,400 to educate farmers about uses for the alternative crop syriaca, better known as milkweed. The Nebraska Syriaca Cooperative of Ogallala will provide matching funds, along with Natural Fibers Corporation, Southeast Community College and several producers.

- **Treasures of Nebraska, Holbrook** - will use \$7,500 to conduct a feasibility study and develop a business plan for an e-commerce Web site featuring Nebraska products including gift baskets from GROW Nebraska and the Nebraska Wineries and Grape Growers Association, both of which will contribute matching funds for the project.

- **Wines on the Historic Trails, Lewellen** - will receive \$4,230 to promote the role local wineries play in encouraging tourism and local economic development. Prairie Vine Vineyard of Mitchell, Last Chance Winery in Crawford, 17 Ranch Winery in Lewellen, and Southfork Winery in Ogallala will contribute matching funds.