



United States Department of Agriculture

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# News Release

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## **USDA Announces Notice of Funding Availability for Value-Added Producer Grants**

CARSON CITY, NV, Dec. 10, 2013 – In late November, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack 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.

The funding is being made available through the [Value-Added Producer Grant](#) program, which provides funds 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.

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. In Nevada, the VAPG funded River School Farms in Reno with a \$23,655 grant to develop a strong and effective direct marketing and branding campaign to increase awareness of the River



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School Farm and its products; and to expand its role as a local producer throughout the Truckee River Watershed and Eastern Sierra Nevada region.

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 by contacting Michelle Kelly in the USDA Rural Development Nevada state office at (775) 887-1222, Ext. 118 or David Foster in the USDA Rural Development Las Vegas office at (702) 407-1400 Ext. 103.

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