

Recently the Nebraska Department of Economic Development announced that Sept. 25 is the deadline for submitting applications for the next round of grants available through the Agricultural Innovation and Value-Added Act.

For both value-added grants and Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act (BECA) grants, there is a combined total of one million dollars available. The maximum grant request for a value-added grant is \$75,000.

The grants are for Nebraskans and designed to support collaborative development among farmers and ranchers; the start-up and growth of value-added agricultural enterprises; and growth of rural communities and regions.

“Any producer needing planning or working capital funds to move their value-added ideas forward should check out the state of Nebraska Agricultural Opportunities And Value-Added Partnership Act grant,” commented Kathie Starkweather, Rural Opportunities and Stewardship Program Director at the Center for Rural Affairs. The application form can be found at: [www.ruralnebraska.info](http://www.ruralnebraska.info). Anyone with question can contact Kathie at the Center for Rural Affairs, at (402) 438-8496, or [kathies@cfra.org](mailto:kathies@cfra.org).

In 2008, staff from the Center for Rural Affairs assisted four entrepreneurs in preparing a proposal and all four of them received some funding: Nebraska’s Finest Meats (Wausa and Randolph, NE); Burbach Countryside Dairy (Hartington, NE); Sandhills Creations (Geneva, NE) and Nebraska Waters (Plainview, NE).

For more information on the State of Nebraska Agricultural Opportunities And Value-Added Partnership Act Grant and how to apply, visit: [www.ruralnebraska.info](http://www.ruralnebraska.info).