

Value-Added Producer Grant Workshops

USDA Rural Development in Washington State will host a series of workshops around the state to provide an overview of the Value Added Producer Grant program (VAPG). Value added products are created when a producer increases the consumer value of an agricultural commodity in the production or processing stage.

Value Added Producer Grants may be used for feasibility studies or business plans, working capital or marketing value added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects.

In addition to supporting local and regional food networks, the program provides funding opportunities to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers, as well as independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups.

The workshop will include discussions on grant eligibility, application process, application scoring, and in-depth application assistance for those intending to apply.

Workshops will be held at the following dates and locations:

Mt. Vernon on January 26, 2016

8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Skagit County Fairgrounds-Virginia Street Entrance, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
Hosted by Northwest Agriculture Business Center.
Workshop Registration Fee is \$25.00. Please register at <http://www.agbizcenter.org/private-classes-workshops/event/124/USDA-Value-Added-Producer-Grant-Boot-Camp>.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Scholarships are available for those in need. Please contact Jeff Voltz, jeff@agbizcenter.org.

Scholarships are provided by THE THREAD FUND.

Vancouver on February 4, 2016

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Heritage Farm -
1919 NE 78th St., Vancouver, WA

Hosted by WSU Clark County Extension. Pre-registration is

required. Space is limited. To register, go to <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2476087>. For registration questions email Doug Stienbarger at stiendm@wsu.edu or call him at 360-397-6060 x5742. Workshop is free.

Olympia on February 9, 2016

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
U.S. Forest Service Center,
1835 Black Lake Blvd, Olympia, WA 98512

Hosted by USDA Rural Development To register for the Olympia workshop, please contact Greg York at 360-704-7729 or gregory.york@wa.usda.gov. This workshop is free.

For more information about the Value Added Producer Grant Program, please go to the web at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants> or contact Greg York by calling 360-704-7729 or email him at gregory.york@wa.usda.gov.



USDA Rural Development awarded a \$76,842 Value-added Producer Grant to Bluebird Grain Farms in Okanogan County to prepare a feasibility study and business plan to evaluate the direct marketing of organic heirloom grain and value added milled products.