USDA Rural Development and United States Senators Announce Funding To Create Jobs Throughout the Garden State

MT. LAUREL, NJ - February 9, 2012 – USDA, Rural Development State Director Howard Henderson and U.S. Senators announce 6 recipients in New Jersey have been selected to receive over $431,000 in business development assistance through the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program. Among the 298 recipients chosen in the 44 states and Puerto Rico are listed below.

- Landisville Cooperative Association, Inc.  $49,975  Landisville, Atlantic County
- Outer Coastal Plain Vineyard Association  $33,332  Bridgeton, Cumberland County
- Salem Oak Vineyards, LLC  $20,000  Pedricktown, Salem County
- Garden State Goat Farm, LLC  $36,500  Woodstown, Salem County
- First Field, LLC  $32,000  Princeton, Mercer County
- Peppadew Fresh, LLC  $259,625  Morganville, Monmouth County

The VAPG program is designed to assist eligible producers develop strategies to create marketing opportunities and technical assistance for their agriculture products. These grants help independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives and agricultural producer groups produce new products and secure new markets. “These projects help support President Obama’s goal to strengthen rural economies and create jobs for agricultural producers, businesses and families in several rural communities throughout New Jersey,” said Howard Henderson.

“These funds will help strengthen our rural New Jersey communities by helping agricultural producers grow and prosper,” said Senator Menendez. “Local agricultural small businesses and families will have access to the financial resources, technical assistance and markets they need to expand, grow, and promote local economic growth. This is particularly important for the Garden State where agriculture plays a key role in our economy.”

"Small businesses make up the engine that keeps New Jersey's economy moving," said Senator Lautenberg, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which funds the Department of Agriculture. "These grants will help small agricultural businesses throughout our state increase their sales and create jobs. I will continue to fight for federal funding that expands job opportunities, supports small businesses, and strengthens our state's economy."

Further information on our programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting our website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/nj.