



Contact

Madison Bodine
Ag Development Specialist
701-955-0181
mbodine@nd.gov



Agriculture Commissioner
Doug Goehring

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Products Utilization Commission

600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 602

Bismarck, ND 58505-0020

(701) 328-2231

(800) 242-7535

FAX: (701) 328-4567

www.ndda.nd.gov/apuc

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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS UTILIZATION COMMISSION



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Adding Value to North Dakota Agriculture

The Agricultural Products Utilization Committee (APUC) was established in 1979 with the mission of adding value to agricultural products through the promotion of ethanol. APUC has broadened its mission to create new wealth through the development of new and expanded uses for all North Dakota agricultural products.

APUC Grant Programs

Basic and Applied Research: Grants should focus on the use and processing of agriculture products and by-products, result in a marketable product with a reasonable opportunity for commercialization and benefit private industry in rural North Dakota.

Marketing and Utilization: Grants are used for the development or implementation of a sound marketing plan for North Dakota agricultural products or by-products. Money may be used for marketing products or to formulate or implement a marketing plan on behalf of a group to organize a cooperative.

Technical Assistance: Grants are designed to help North Dakota's existing value-added businesses become more competitive, productive and profitable by:

- Assessing their needs;
- Developing plans for improvements;
- Implementing improvements; and
- Measuring the benefits of the improvements.



Farm Diversification: Grants are given to projects dealing with the diversification of a family farm with non-traditional crops, livestock, or on-farm, value-added processing of agricultural commodities with the potential to create additional income.

Prototypes and Technology: Grants are used for the development of new technology or invention improving the operation of food processing or agricultural equipment. Funds can be used for product design, prototype test assembly, patents, evaluation of redesign or market assessment.

Nature Based Agri-Tourism: Grants are used for enterprises designed to bring people to rural North Dakota to engage in recreational, sport, educational or labor-assisted sales activity. These activities must be fee-based and provide primary or secondary sources of economic activity.

Application Process

- Contact a local financial institution, economic developer, or APUC to determine whether the business project is eligible. An early joint meeting between

- appropriate parties is recommended.
- Submit all information and include sufficient detail for APUC to effectively evaluate the request.
- APUC conducts due diligence and may use outside sources to analyze the project as well as site visits.
- Present your project. APUC meets once a quarter to review all eligible projects.
- Receive notice of project approval or denial on grant documents.

The Commission must receive one original copy of the application prior to the deadline. Deadlines are July 1, October 1, January 1 and April 1. Prototype and technical assistance grant deadlines are June 1, September 1, December 1, and March 1. **Application forms may be found at www.ndapuc.com.**

Project Criteria

- Demonstration of a high level of probability for jobs and wealth creation.
- Scientific and technical merit of any research, as well as the qualifications of the project's principals.
- Demonstration of a high level of profitability of rapid commercialization.
- Demonstration of a shared commitment for funds from other sources.
- Merit of overall project.
- Geographical considerations.

Commission members individually score each application following the project presentation. The scores are compiled and ranked accordingly.