

AMENDMENTS TO LB 232

Introduced by Hudkins, 21

1 1. Strike original section 3 and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. Section 2-5415, Revised Statutes Cumulative
4 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

5 2-5415 For purposes of the Agricultural Opportunities and
6 Value-Added Partnerships Act:

7 (1) Farming or ranching operation means the active use,
8 management, and operation of real and personal property for the
9 production of crops or raising of livestock;

10 (2) Project means any agricultural or value-added
11 agricultural product activity in the areas specified in section
12 2-5419 designed to promote the purposes specified in section
13 2-5416. Project does not mean, and grant funds shall not be used
14 for, any activity primarily designed to contribute to a single
15 business, enterprise, or individual or designed to subsidize an
16 existing farming or ranching operation; ~~and~~

17 (3) Specialty crop means fruits, vegetables, tree nuts,
18 dried fruits, and nursery crops, including floriculture; and

19 ~~(3)~~ (4) Value-added means increasing the net worth of
20 food or nonfood agricultural products by processing, alternative
21 production and handling methods, collective marketing, or other
22 innovative practices.

23 Sec. 2. Section 2-5416, Revised Statutes Cumulative

1 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

2 2-5416 The purposes of the Agricultural Opportunities and
3 Value-Added Partnerships Act are to:

4 (1) Support small enterprise formation in the
5 agricultural sector of Nebraska's rural economy, including
6 innovative cooperative efforts for value-added enterprises;

7 (2) Support the development of agricultural communities
8 and economic opportunity through innovative partnerships among
9 farming and ranching operations, rural communities, and businesses
10 for the development of value-added agricultural products;

11 (3) Encourage collaboration between farming and ranching
12 operations and between farming and ranching operations and
13 communities, government, and businesses as well as between
14 communities and regions;

15 (4) Strengthen the value-added production industry by
16 promoting strategic partnerships and networks through multigroup
17 cooperation for the creation of employment opportunities in the
18 value-added agriculture industry;

19 (5) Enhance the income and opportunity for farming and
20 ranching operations in Nebraska in order to stem the decline in
21 their numbers;

22 (6) Increase the farming and ranching operations' share
23 of the food-system profit; ~~and~~

24 (7) Enhance opportunities for farming and ranching
25 operations to participate in electronic commerce and new and
26 emerging markets that strengthen rural economic opportunities; and

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1 (8) Encourage the production and marketing of specialty
2 crops in Nebraska and to support the creation and development of
3 agricultural enterprises and businesses that produce and market
4 specialty crops in Nebraska.

5 Sec. 3. Section 2-5417, Revised Statutes Cumulative
6 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

7 2-5417 (1) The Department of Agriculture and the
8 Department of Economic Development shall establish a competitive
9 grant process to provide grants for projects under the Agricultural
10 Opportunities and Value-Added Partnerships Act to eligible
11 entities. The Department of Economic Development shall administer
12 the act. Grants may be made for up to seventy-five thousand
13 dollars annually to eligible entities under section 2-5418 that
14 directly address one or more of the purposes specified in section
15 2-5416 in the areas specified in section 2-5419 and which meet
16 the requirements of this section and section 2-5420. At least
17 twenty-five percent of grant dollars awarded in a year shall be
18 used for funding grants for specialty crops.

19 (2) Priority for the awarding of grants within the
20 parameters of this section shall be given to projects that make
21 the greatest contribution in increasing the number and quality of
22 self-employment opportunities for farming or ranching operations.
23 Grants shall also be awarded to pilot cooperative efforts for the
24 promotion of value-added products. Projects may be recommended for
25 recognition by the Governor.

26 (3) A recipient of a grant shall not receive more than
27 one grant in any one calendar year for the same project.

1 (4) Grants shall be awarded on a one-year basis but
2 may be renewed on an annual basis for no more than three years.
3 The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic
4 Development shall develop an annual performance review process and
5 a program for grant renewal of approved projects determined to have
6 continued necessary statewide application and success.

7 (5) Grant funds shall not be used to replace other
8 funding for the administrative support of the recipient or the
9 administrative support of the project or for administrative costs
10 relating to the planning of the project or for any activity
11 primarily designed to contribute to a single business, enterprise,
12 or individual.

13 Sec. 4. Section 2-5418, Revised Statutes Cumulative
14 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

15 2-5418 Eligible entities for grants under the
16 Agricultural Opportunities and Value-Added Partnerships Act include
17 communities, counties, agencies, educational institutions, economic
18 development providers, nonprofit corporations, agricultural
19 cooperatives, agricultural associations, agricultural marketing
20 associations or entities, resource conservation organizations,
21 development districts, and farming or ranching operations ~~in~~
22 ~~collaborative arrangements with other operations, entities, or~~
23 ~~organizations~~ that meet the purposes specified in section 2-5416.

24 Sec. 7. Original sections 2-5415, 2-5416, 2-5417, 2-5418,
25 81-12,126, and 81-12,127, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
26 2006, are repealed.

27 2. Renumber the remaining sections accordingly.