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urban communities as well as the rural communities. Grants will be allowed up to \$50,000. A recipient of a grant may not receive more than two grants under the act and no project shall receive more than one grant in any calendar year. Applications shall also document matching funds of 50 percent which may be money in-kind or in combination of kind and money. The grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. Grant selection will be made by a committee set up by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic Development. These grants are limited to counties, or counties, or counties, whose average annual labor force is not more than 10,000 individuals by the most recent calendar year as reported by the Department of Labor. Using that most recent calendar year, for example, there currently would be 76 counties in Nebraska that would be allowed under this particular piece of legislation. Grants must specify clearly defined goals and expected outcomes for the project as well as documented match equivalent in money or in-kind to equal the 50 percent that I suggested earlier. I introduced this bill as a tool for rural sectors of Nebraska to have an opportunity to work together and build stronger local communities throughout the state of Nebraska. It's been discussed at length today here on the floor about the plight of rural America. Many of us who live in those rural sectors understand that clearly. To me, this is an opportunity for those people who can take a product that they're now growing or producing and add value to it and, as a result, get a better return from their product. I've had a number of calls from people who are interested in looking into this program and would like to have an opportunity to apply and help get a start in a...in an operation that would benefit them and, as I indicated earlier, the entire state through the added income off the sales and income tax. I'd just like to suggest one example of what I'm talking about. In a town close to where I live, Pawnee City, C.J. Foods was started as a very small entrepreneur type operation and over the years, the last few years it's grown to now where they ship products all over the world. This is what we're talking about--taking products, grain and other products, that are grown on the farms and have turned it into a product that returns more back to the producer because of the added value in that product. I think it's a good program. I think it merits your support and I would hope, with that, you would advance this bill. And, with that, I will close my introduction of the bill.