



**MARBIDCO**  
*growing rural ventures™*

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For Immediate Release  
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## **MARBIDCO Announces Recipients for the Maryland Value Added Producer Grant Program**

Annapolis (October 14, 2010) – The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) announced today the recipients of a total of \$198,599 in grant awards that will help a number of agricultural businesses with implementing value-added projects located in ten counties around Maryland. Some twenty-two project requests were submitted in a competitive process and thirteen were able to be funded.

The new Maryland Value Added Producer Grant – Capital Assets Option (MVAPG-CAO) program was launched for the first time early in the summer of 2010. The MVAPG-CAO program was established to encourage Maryland's agricultural producers to expand or diversify their business operations by installing capital assets to make or support a product that is "value-added". A by-product of this effort will help to spur job creation and retention in rural and urban-edge communities. Eligible applicants must be a crop or livestock producer or processor, agricultural cooperative, seafood processor, or timber products processor. Selected applicants may receive up to \$20,000 to assist with purchasing or installing farm structures and major fixtures, livestock or seafood processing facilities, fruit or vegetable processing facilities, timber or wood products facilities, or manure digesters. Each recipient must also provide a 100% cash match.

"MARBIDCO is truly delighted to be able to assist these small and typically family-run enterprises with matching funds to help further their entrepreneurial business development aspirations," said Steve McHenry, MARBIDCO Executive Director. "It can be quite a lot of work, but value-added processing is a viable way for farmers to find new markets for their products, increase farm-gate revenues, expand local job opportunities, and help sustain agricultural operations for the next generation."

"As exemplified through the grants announced today, MARBIDCO plays an important role in helping farmers innovate for the future and supports the health and vitality of Maryland's traditional rural businesses," said Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance.

The following is a brief overview of the thirteen projects selected to receive grants under the MVAPG-CAO program:

- Alice Ferguson Foundation (\$3,998) – Matching funds to renovate an outbuilding to process chickens and build a chicken tractor in Prince George’s County.
- Amoss Mill (\$20,000) – Matching funds to restore a 1790 gristmill and bring it back into production to grind cornmeal and flour in Harford County.
- Black Ankle Vineyards (\$20,000) – Matching funds to build a 5,000 square foot barrel aging and case storage building for the winery in Frederick County.
- Cedar Hill Farm (\$20,000) – Matching funds to purchase equipment to process raw milk cheese on a dairy farm in Harford County.
- Clemonsville Christmas Tree Farm (\$2,500) – Matching funds to purchase a wreath-making machine and construct a warming hut and nature walk on a Christmas Tree farm in Frederick County.
- Costa Ventosa (\$8,364) – Matching funds to purchase wine processing equipment at a commercial winery enterprise in Worcester County.
- Fiore Winery (\$15,000) – Matching funds to purchase new distillation equipment to assist in wine processing at a winery in Harford County.
- Friday’s Creek Winery (\$18,287) – Matching funds to purchase a wine tank and a special destemmer to assist with wine production at a facility located in Calvert County.
- Misty Meadow Farm (\$20,000) – Matching funds to construct an on-farm creamery and retail facility for ice cream production and sales in Washington County.
- Red Rock Enterprises (\$20,000) – Matching funds to purchase a state-of-the-art processing equipment to facilitate firewood production in Garrett County.
- Schauber’s Lumber and Sawmill (\$17,000) – Matching funds to purchase a chemical dip tank for timber processing in Queen Anne’s County.
- Shepherd’s Manor Creamery (\$20,000) – Matching funds to purchase a pasteurizer and pasteurizer/incubator to assist in raw milk cheese production at a sheep dairy and creamery in Carroll County.
- Terrapin Station Winery (\$13,450) – Matching funds to purchase a destemmer crusher and stainless steel air pump to assist with wine production at their vineyard in Cecil County.

*MARBIDCO is a quasi-public economic development organization chartered by the State of Maryland. Its mission is to help Maryland's farm, forestry, and seafood businesses to prosper through the provision of targeted financial and other services that helps to retain existing resource-based industry production and commerce, promotes rural entrepreneurship, and nurtures emerging food/feed/fiber businesses. Helping young and beginning farmers are of special interest to MARBIDCO. In addition to the MVAPG program, MARBIDCO offers a number of low-cost business loan programs and helps land conservation agencies with preserving productive rural land by serving as a financial intermediary. Since 2007, MARBIDCO has made more than 100 rural business investments in projects located in 20 counties across the State. For more information about MARBIDCO's programs, please visit us on the web at [www.marbidco.org](http://www.marbidco.org).*