



MARBIDCO
growing rural ventures™

Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation
Maryland Farm and Producer Viability Program
Rural Business Planning Project Application

Program Description

The Maryland Farm and Producer Viability Program has been established by MARBIDCO to help:

- Improve economic competitiveness, diversity and adaptability of agricultural operations and other resource-based businesses, and help make such enterprises eligible for financial assistance from commercial lenders and other providers of capital and credit.
- Increase start-up and growth rates, while reducing failure rates, of agricultural operations and other resource-based businesses and thereby help sustain and create jobs in both rural and non-rural areas of Maryland.
- Increase the profitability of agricultural operations and other resource-based businesses which should contribute to the retention of rural working lands throughout the State of Maryland.

The Maryland Farm and Producer Viability Program is offered on an annual basis. Business projects may be located anywhere in the State of Maryland. Up to four business projects will be selected by a review panel for assistance under this MARBIDCO program. The assistance offered under this program may be provided by academic experts, State or local agency professionals, and/or private consultants, as may be appropriate.

Instructions

The applicant should provide as much information as possible concerning the project idea. Use additional pages if necessary. Applicants should also submit a written business if one is available (for a template go to: <http://www.marbidco.org/BusinessPlanningGuide.pdf>.) Please feel free to contact your county/regional agricultural marketing specialist and/or your county Cooperative Extension Office for assistance in completing this application. The deadline for MARBIDCO to receive this application is Thursday, September 18, 2008.

(Please print clearly or type)

Applicant Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

County in which project is located: _____

As part of MARBIDCO's routine application follow-up, we may want to communicate with your county/regional agricultural marketing professional/specialist and/or your county Cooperative Extension office. Have you been in contact with your county/regional agricultural marketing professional/specialist and/or your county Cooperative Extension office regarding this project?

Yes _____ **No** _____ **If Yes, please provide contact name:** _____

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

d. What is the scope of your planned market area (i.e., local area, multi-county, statewide, regional, national, or international)?

e. Who are your targeted customers? Please describe them.

6. Do you have a written business plan? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please attach a copy with this application.

7. What are your business and personal goals for this idea?

8. Please explain how you have or plan to explore obtaining the financing necessary to begin commercial operation of this product or service.

9. How much funding do you estimate it will take to get your project started? Please explain.

10. What are the major risks for the project?

11. Will this project create jobs and increase income in Maryland? Describe the potential.

12. It is critical that we know what assistance you need from MARBIDCO. Please indicate how MARBIDCO can be of assistance to your business enterprise. Please be specific. (For example: Cost analysis, market research, break-even analysis, marketing plan, product analysis, etc.)

13. Feel free to attach any additional supporting information relevant to your project (i.e., draft business plan, revenue and cost estimates, sources of supply, value-added potential, market potential, etc.)

NOTE: Please submit this completed form and all supporting materials by September 18, 2008 to:

MARBIDCO
Farm/Rural Business Viability Program
1410 Forest Drive
Suite 28
Annapolis, MD 21403

For office use only: Date Received _____ County Code _____ MARBIDCO Project Number: _____

PROJECT TYPE

- Value-Added Food Processing
- Agri-Tourism/Rural Recreation
- Timber Growing or Harvesting
- Primary/Secondary Wood Processing

- Biomass/Energy Production
- Niche Market Farm Production
- Aquaculture or Fishing
- Seafood Processing
- Other

