



MARBIDCO
growing rural ventures™

1410 Forest Drive, Suite 28 ~ Annapolis, MD 21403
Office: 410-267-6807 ~ Fax: 410-267-6809
E-mail: smchenry@marbidco.org

Phyllis E. Kilby, *Chair*

Stephen R. McHenry, *Executive Director*

For Immediate Release
Contact:
Stephen McHenry, Executive Director
(410) 267-6807

Maryland Value Added Producer Grants for Capital Assets Now Available From MARBIDCO

ANNAPOLIS (June 30, 2010) – The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) has announced a grant funding opportunity to encourage Maryland's agricultural producers to expand or diversify their business operations by installing capital assets to make a product that is value added. Eligible applicants must be a crop or livestock producer or processor, agricultural cooperative, seafood processor, or timber products processor, and have been in business for a minimum of two years.

Applicants can receive up to \$20,000 for projects such as production buildings and major fixtures, livestock or seafood processing facilities, fruit or vegetable processing facilities, timber or wood products facilities, and manure digesters. Cash matching funds are required, and must be at least equal to the amount of grant funds requested.

The submission deadline for applicants seeking to receive MVAPG-Capital Assets Option grants from MARBIDCO is Monday, August 16, 2010. Grant award announcements will be made on or about September 15th. Late applications will not be accepted.

Please visit the MARBIDCO website for more information and to download the MVAPG application form: <http://www.marbidco.org>. Questions about the MVAPG-Capital Assets Option may also be addressed by contacting Kristen Robinson, MARBIDCO Financial Programs Officer, at (410) 267-6807.

- 30 ó

MARBIDCO is an agricultural economic development authority established in 2007 with a statewide mission to help Maryland's farm, forestry, seafood businesses achieve sustainability and profitability, and thereby help preserve rural working lands in the process. MARBIDCO offers assistance to qualifying rural businesses in securing affordable capital and credit for farmland purchases and other business projects (often by partnering with commercial lenders). MARBIDCO also offers specialized help and referral with rural business planning and technical assistance needs, and assists with rural working land preservation facilitation (by serving as a financial intermediary for Maryland land conservation organizations). MARBIDCO is particularly focused on promoting rural entrepreneurship and farm energy efficiency, as well as, helping young and beginning farmers to start or expand their business enterprises. MARBIDCO is headquartered in Annapolis.