



MARBIDCO
growing rural ventures™

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

ANNAPOLIS (August 26, 2011).... 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, October 3, 2011 by 4:00 p.m. (Applications received in the mail with a

Saturday, October 1, 2011 postmark will also be accepted). Grant award announcements will be made on or about October 28, 2011. 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/applications.html> . Questions about the MVAPG-Capital Assets Option may also be addressed by contacting Kristen Robinson, MARBIDCO Financial Programs Officer, at (410) 267-6807.

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MARBIDCO is a quasi-public rural 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 as is helping farmers to diversify their business operations. MARBIDCO offers a number of low-cost business investment programs and helps land conservation agencies with preserving productive rural land by serving as a financial intermediary. Since 2007, MARBIDCO has made more than 140 rural business investments in projects located in 22 counties across the State. For more information about MARBIDCO's programs, please visit us on the web at www.marbidco.org.