

# **OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY**

2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105

November 12, 2008

Ag Enhancement and Diversification Grant and Loan Deadline is January 2<sup>nd</sup>

For More Information Contact: Jack Carson (405) 522-4575

Oklahoma City—State agriculture officials are hoping the coming new year brings increased economic advances for agriculture and rural Oklahoma and remind producers that the grant and loan application deadline for the next Oklahoma Agricultural Enhancement and Diversification program is January 2, 2009.

Agricultural diversification grants of up to \$5,000 are available as well as interest-free loans in three categories: Cooperative Marketing Loans, Marketing and Utilization Loans, and Basic and Applied Research Loans.

Loans may not be used to purchase land, buildings or equipment. Eligible expenses include feasibility studies, business plans, legal expenses, consultant fees, product development and marketing.

“As always we’re anxious to see applications from individuals or groups of producers who have a plan for any form of value-added or marketing program,” said Rick Maloney, Marketing Director for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. “We also look forward to seeing more producers who are interested in diversifying their operations with non-traditional or unique crops or livestock programs.”

Among other things, OAED loans and grants have been used to create a variety of diversified enterprises such as agritourism venues, marketing cooperatives and food processing businesses.

Applications are available online from the ODAFF at [www.oda.state.ok.us](http://www.oda.state.ok.us) by clicking the “Loans” link. For more information contact Jason Harvey at (405) 522-5563. The mailing address is Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, 2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

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