

Grants Available to Local Food Producers

May 1, 2012

The Northeast Iowa Food & Farm Coalition is pleased to offer mini-grants to local food producers and food entrepreneurs in Allamakee, Clayton, Chickasaw, Fayette, Howard or Winneshiek counties.

Local farmers interested in starting or expanding local food production, processing, marketing or distribution in northeast Iowa are eligible to apply. Only one project per farm/business/family will be funded. Farmers should visit www.iowafreshfood.com or contact their local economic development office for an application.

The grant funds may be used for start-up or expansion costs related to growing or marketing local food. Funds must be used on projects that will build the long-term capacity of the farm to produce food.

Each county will give out \$1500 in mini-grants. The maximum grant amount is \$500. In 2011, \$12,000 was awarded to 25 producers. The grant money was used as capital to leverage an additional \$115,000 in investment in food system infrastructure.

This grant opportunity is part of the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative, a W.K. Kellogg Foundation Food & Community project. All interested producers are encouraged to apply. Additional information about the NIFF Coalition and Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative can be found at www.iowafreshfood.com and www.iowafoodandfitness.org.

Grant Guidelines:

- Applications are open to any producer or business in Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard or Winneshiek counties.
- Applications are due to the Economic Development office by June 1, 2012.
- Amount requested may range from \$100 - \$500. Amount requested should be no more than 25% of the project cost. (ie. \$250 grant request requires a \$1,000 project);
- Estimated match may include dollar amount contributed to project cost, supplies, in-kind labor, other funds, etc., committed to complete the project.
- Upon selection, 75% of the award will be sent directly to the grantee by Economic Development.
- Upon completion of the project and the final report, the final 25% will be sent to the grantee by Economic Development.
- Final reports are due September 1, 2012. The reports and photos should be mailed to Allamakee Co. Extension, 21 Allamakee Street, Waukon, IA 52172 or emailed to wiemer@iastate.edu. Reports may also be submitted online at www.iowafreshfood.com. Copies of receipts of expenses up to the grant amount are required.

Examples of eligible projects:

- Build or renovate hoophouses, packing houses or farm stands.
- Build or renovate structures for livestock production. Livestock must be direct marketed (pasture poultry, hoop buildings, egg washers, etc)
- Purchase equipment for production of local food (tillers, harvesters, etc)
- Purchase equipment for processing or storage of local food.
- Projects related to the marketing or transportation of local food (signage, trailers)
- Planting perennial food crops, such as grapes, nuts, fruits or vegetables.
- Projects to increase food safety (packing tables, coolers, etc)

Additional Food Safety Incentive in 2012

Food safety requirements for farms continues to be a barrier for many local food producers. For 2012, the NIFF Coalition is offering a special incentive to encourage farmers to implement good agricultural practices (GAPs).

Producers may include in their grant proposal the cost of planning or training time (up to \$200 or 11 hours @\$18/hr) to implement GAP on their farm. Other grant requirements apply (i.e. maximum grant amount and match).

Examples of projects that are not eligible (short-term impact):

- Purchase of seeds or transplants of annual crops.
- Purchase of livestock.
- Costs related to memberships into farmers markets or coops.
- Purchases of crop inputs (i.e fertilizer, compost, feed)
- Costs related to land clearing or seeding
- Projects related to personal production of food.

Northeast Iowa Food & Farm Coalition

2012 Producer Mini-Grant Project Application

Applicant information

Applicant Name: _____
Org/Farm Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone numbers: _____
E-mail: _____

Legal status (check):

Individual
 Unincorporated group
 For-profit corporation
 Nonprofit corporation
 Unit of government
 School or youth group (i.e.4-H, FFA)
 Other (please describe): _____

Type of local food project
(check all that apply):

New Production
 Expanding Production
 New processing
 Expanded processing
 New Market or farm stand
 Existing Market or farm stand
 Marketing
 Distribution
 Food Safety

Using less than two pages of paper, please answer the following questions.

1. **Project Budget:** The maximum grant request is \$500.

Amount Requested: _____
Estimated total cost of project: _____
Estimated starting date: _____

List project expenses. Describe matching funds/labor. Amount requested cannot be more than one quarter of the total project. For example, a \$250 mini-grant requires a \$1000 project. Match may be cash, materials or labor. Please use \$18/hr to calculate labor costs.

2. Farm Description. Briefly describe your farm, the products you produce and how you market your products.

3. Description of Proposed Project. Describe how the funds would be used.

4. Expected Benefits of Proposed Project. Describe how this project will increase the long-term capacity of your farm to increase production and/or consumption of local foods in northeast Iowa.

5. Food Access: The funder for the mini-grant program is the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Their focus is to increase access of local, healthy foods to children and their families through direct marketing, farmers marketing, schools, stores, etc. Write a brief statement on how funding your project will increase access of local food for children and their families in our region.

Applicant Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if applicant is under age 18): _____