Kentucky State University—College of Agriculture, Food Science and Sustainable Systems (KSU-CFSSS) will be accepting applications from small scale farmers that are motivated to improve their farming operations or improve the marketability of their products with a value-added enterprise.

Who is funding these grants?
The KSU-CFSSS has been developing the resources to provide educational assistance to small scale farmers for quite some time. Under the leadership of the new Dean of the CAFSSS, Dr. Tefari Tsegaye, grant funds from the Agricultural Development Fund were obtained.

The Agricultural Development Board is excited about the opportunity for KSU-CFSSS to make these grants available to small scale farmers.
Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Small Scale Farmers in aquaculture farming & marketing, certified organic farming & marketing, and value-added enterprise development.

Small scale farmers qualify to apply for these grants. According to the USDA, a small scale farmer is one that sells less than $250,000 of agricultural products each year. Farmers that are motivated to improve their business and can demonstrate the ability to document their success will be considered.

Do some farm operations have priority over others?
Yes. There are three priority areas for these grants:
- Aquaculture farming and marketing.
- Certified organic farming and marketing. This includes certified organic farmers and those officially transitioning to organic status with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.
- Value-added enterprise development. Many small farmers are looking to improve the marketability of their products through value-added enterprises.

What can the money be used for?
How the money is used is based on the demonstration of need. Most all production and marketing expenses can be covered by grant funds. Guidelines will be attached to the application. No motorized equipment or vehicles can be purchased, and you cannot be paid for your work.

What do I have to do to get a grant?
Applications will be available on the KSU-CAFSSS website beginning August 2012. To have an application mailed to you, email Mac.Stone@kysu.edu or call Mac at 502.597.6831. In the application you will need to describe your plans for improving your business. Your plan should include more than what it will cost. You need to describe who will do what, when it will be done, and what you expect to happen. You will also be required to submit receipts of purchases and a detailed report of the results of the project.

What if I know what I want to do, but don’t know how to do it?
All the capabilities of the University and our partners will be made available to you, within reason. We can help you develop a cost effective project and with drafting the grant proposal. We will be with you every step of the way helping you find the information you need, know who to call for timely information, or advice in tricky decision making. If one of us cannot answer your question, we will find someone that can.

How much money can I get?
The maximum per farm or business is $5,000. Non-profit groups and organized business that support groups of farmers may qualify for up to $15,000. You may apply for funds in each of the two years of the grant cycle.