

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 69

FINAL READING

Introduced by Hudkins, 21

Read first time January 5, 2007

Committee: Agriculture

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to agriculture; to amend sections 2-5415,
2 2-5416, and 2-5418, Revised Statutes Cumulative
3 Supplement, 2006; to modify provisions of the
4 Agricultural Opportunities and Value-Added Partnerships
5 Act; to authorize grants for specialty crops; to
6 harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original
7 sections.

8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 2-5415, Revised Statutes Cumulative
2 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

3 2-5415 For purposes of the Agricultural Opportunities and
4 Value-Added Partnerships Act:

5 (1) Farming or ranching operation means the active use,
6 management, and operation of real and personal property for the
7 production of crops or raising of livestock;

8 (2) Project means any agricultural or value-added
9 agricultural product activity in the areas specified in section
10 2-5419 designed to promote the purposes specified in section
11 2-5416. Project does not mean, and grant funds shall not be used
12 for, any activity primarily designed to contribute to a single
13 business, enterprise, or individual or designed to subsidize an
14 existing farming or ranching operation; and

15 (3) Specialty crop means fruits, vegetables, tree nuts,
16 dried fruits, and nursery crops, including floriculture; and

17 ~~(3)~~ (4) Value-added means increasing the net worth of
18 food or nonfood agricultural products by processing, alternative
19 production and handling methods, collective marketing, or other
20 innovative practices.

21 Sec. 2. Section 2-5416, Revised Statutes Cumulative
22 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

23 2-5416 The purposes of the Agricultural Opportunities and
24 Value-Added Partnerships Act are to:

25 (1) Support small enterprise formation in the

1 agricultural sector of Nebraska's rural economy, including
2 innovative cooperative efforts for value-added enterprises;

3 (2) Support the development of agricultural communities
4 and economic opportunity through innovative partnerships among
5 farming and ranching operations, rural communities, and businesses
6 for the development of value-added agricultural products;

7 (3) Encourage collaboration between farming and ranching
8 operations and between farming and ranching operations and
9 communities, government, and businesses as well as between
10 communities and regions;

11 (4) Strengthen the value-added production industry by
12 promoting strategic partnerships and networks through multigroup
13 cooperation for the creation of employment opportunities in the
14 value-added agriculture industry;

15 (5) Enhance the income and opportunity for farming and
16 ranching operations in Nebraska in order to stem the decline in
17 their numbers;

18 (6) Increase the farming and ranching operations' share
19 of the food-system profit; and

20 (7) Enhance opportunities for farming and ranching
21 operations to participate in electronic commerce and new and
22 emerging markets that strengthen rural economic opportunities; and

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24 (8) Encourage the production and marketing of specialty
25 crops in Nebraska and to support the creation and development of

1 agricultural enterprises and businesses that produce and market
2 specialty crops in Nebraska.

3 Sec. 3. Section 2-5418, Revised Statutes Cumulative
4 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

5 2-5418 Eligible entities for grants under the
6 Agricultural Opportunities and Value-Added Partnerships Act include
7 communities, counties, agencies, educational institutions, economic
8 development providers, nonprofit corporations, agricultural
9 cooperatives, agricultural associations, agricultural marketing
10 associations or entities, resource conservation organizations,
11 development districts, and farming or ranching operations ~~in~~
12 ~~collaborative arrangements with other operations, entities, or~~
13 ~~organizations~~ that meet the purposes specified in section 2-5416.

14 Sec. 4. Original sections 2-5415, 2-5416, and 2-5418,
15 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006, are repealed.