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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Feb. 15 Deadline for Farmers Markets Grants

February 15 is the application deadline for grant funds designed to support the establishment or improvement of farmers markets in Tennessee communities.

“The new program by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture makes grant funds available to qualified farmers markets in amounts up to \$25,000,” said Rob Holland, a specialist with University of Tennessee Extension’s Center for Profitable Agriculture.

“This new grant opportunity supports various capital projects for community farmers markets such as construction, permanent signage, facility design, central heat and air, parking, restrooms, refrigeration equipment, permanent displays, counters and other improvements,” Holland added.

The Farmers Market Capital Development Grant Program is made possible through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP) which is a \$6 million agricultural initiative proposed by Governor Phil Bredesen and supported by the Tennessee General Assembly.

Applications for grant funding must be submitted to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Marketing, by February 15, 2007. Application packets should consist of the appropriate TAEP application form and up to three additional pages of explanation and description of the proposed capital improvements.

Grant funds must be used for permanent or long-term activities and must serve to assist the creation, establishment or improvement of a farmers market. Grant funds may be used for capital improvements and construction and are available to publicly-owned and operated farmers markets and can only be issued to public entities such as a local Chamber of Commerce or local governments. Applications for grant funds must demonstrate financial/matching support from the community. All projects utilizing grant funds must be completed by June 1, 2008.

Questions regarding the TAEP Farmers Market Capital Development Grant Program should be directed to Laura Fortune, 615-837-5349 or Laura.Fortune@state.tn.us.

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