



University of Tennessee Extension  
*Center for Profitable Agriculture*  
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## Press Release

This news release was developed for use only in identified areas.

### **Cost Share Applications Available**

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has announced the second round of the Tennessee Producer Diversity Cost Share Program. The program seeks to build farm income in Tennessee through production of diversified agricultural products. In its first year, the program funded 152 projects totaling more than \$645,000.

Tennessee farmers can apply for reimbursement of 35 percent cost share for activities or items within several funding categories. A farmer may be eligible for cost share assistance in more than one category to a maximum of \$10,000 for the fiscal year. Funds will benefit farmers who wish to install farm infrastructure, purchase specialty equipment, and/or market their diversified farm products.

Applications are available online from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Market Development office at [www.picktnproducts.org](http://www.picktnproducts.org) and from county University of Tennessee Extension offices. Applications will be accepted from July 1 – September 30 and evaluated on a competitive basis.

To assist farmers with their applications, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture has partnered with UT Extension to host a series of Producer Diversification Program workshops. The workshops will contain two sections. The first section will give an overview and explanation of the Producer Diversification Cost Share Program, including eligible activities and items. The second section will focus on the application process, tips and strategies for applying, and how to compile a strong application.

“This workshop will be valuable to anyone applying for cost share dollars,” says Benjamin Sanders of the UT Center for Profitable Agriculture. “We plan to not only inform farmers about the Tennessee Ag Growth Initiative opportunities, but also to assist them in compiling a strong and competitive application.”

The \_\_\_\_\_ County workshop will be held on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_. The session will begin with a complimentary meal followed by the program. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

This workshop is a part of the Center for Profitable Agriculture’s focused delivery of value-added educational programs in a 19-county region of Tennessee. This program, “Developing Rural Businesses,” is funded in part through USDA Rural Development.

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