



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
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## **Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation Secures Grant from USDA Rural Development**

**Loveland, Colo., September 22, 2009**— The United State Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Development State Director Jim Isgar was in Loveland today to present representatives from the Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation (NCEDC) with a Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) for \$12,500. “The funding will be used to provide technical assistance in the form of a marketing and business plan for Fat Bottom Farm in Berthoud, Colorado,” said Isgar.

Fat Bottom Farm is exploring the distilling of herbs grown on their property and from other producers for essential, medicinal and ceremonial oils. Herbs being investigated include but not limited to Stevia sweetener, Lavender, Lilac, Hyssop and Sacred Sage. NCEDC applied for the grant on behalf of the company and will pass through the funding to help them explore expansion opportunities and create jobs in the community. Currently the company has 2 employees and plan to add up top 20 more in production and distilling after full implementation of the business plan.

The USDA’s RBEG Program funding can help finance new and existing businesses as well as employment-related adult education programs. Funds can also be used for start-up and working capital loans, building and plant renovations, transportation improvements, project planning and other business needs.

“The NCEDC has been working with Fat Bottom Farm since late 2008 and we are thrilled we found a program with the USDA to benefit their company” said Stacy Johnson, NCEDC’s Director of Business Retention & Expansion. “This grant is just another example of how strong strategic partnerships in the region benefit our community.”

“One of our core competencies is getting entities to work side-by-side to help businesses expand and relocate to Northern Colorado.” said Mark Driscoll, Vice Chair of NCEDC’s Board of Directors. “This as been a great partnership between Fat Bottom Farm, the USDA and NCEDC.”

## **About USDA Rural Development**

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development provides investment and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs available in Northeast Colorado contact the Wray USDA Rural Development office at (970) 332-3107, ext. 4 or by visiting the web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/co>

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## **About NCEDC**

NCEDC is a non-profit organization and the primary resource in Larimer County to assist with business attraction & business retention & expansion of Primary Employers. Year to date, NCEDC staff has assisted with the creation of 463 primary jobs with a total payroll of nearly \$26 million.

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