



# Nature Based Agri-Tourism Grant Guidelines

## Agricultural Products Utilization Commission

### Definition

The North Dakota Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC) is pleased to issue an invitation to apply for a Nature Based Agri-Tourism Grant. Nature Based Agri-Tourism is a segment of rural tourism sometimes referred to as ecotourism, for APUC purposes an eligible business is defined as one which seeks to attract visitors to a working farm or any agricultural, horticultural or agribusiness operation to enjoy, be educated or be involved in activities. Eligible candidates for this grant are companies<sup>1</sup> registered with the North Dakota Secretary of State (SOS), higher education agencies, groups, and individuals that add value to North Dakota agriculture.

Nature Based Agri-Tourism enterprises are designed to bring people to rural North Dakota to engage in a recreational, sport, educational or labor assisted sales (self-harvesting) activity. Eligible facilities must provide restroom facilities, fresh water for sanitation, and other appropriate accommodations. These activities must be fee based and provide primary or secondary sources of economic activity. APUC realizes that these activities may be sporadic, seasonal, or fairly small in scope.

### Examples of Eligible Projects

Eligible projects under the Nature Based Agri-Tourism Grant include but are not limited to the following:

- farm or ranch tours,
- hands-on chores
- self-harvesting of produce
- hunting operations
- fishing operations (located on applicant's land)
- bird watching
- trail rides
- corn mazes

### Examples of Non-Eligible Projects

Non-eligible projects under the Nature Based Agri-Tourism Grant include but are not limited to the following:

- overnight stays in a bed and breakfast
- visiting city, state, or national parks
- community festivals
- non-profit organizations (e.g. 4H clubs, Chamber of Commerce's, etc.)

### Guidelines

1. Generally, proposals are not limited to a specific dollar amount. However, APUC's grant monies are finite, and as a mechanism to optimize opportunities, some categories of grants may have limitations on allowable costs that may be included in the project budget.

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<sup>1</sup> A Corporate registration number (for in-state owned companies) or a Corporate Certificate of Authority registration number (for out-of-state companies) is provided by the North Dakota Secretary of State (ND SOS). It is required of all companies who are doing business in North Dakota. The Corporate Division of ND SOS can be reached at 701-328-4284 or at 1-800-352-0867, Extension 8-4284.

- Grant requests may include an additional fiscal agent administrative fee up to 5 percent of the amount requested, not to exceed \$5,000 for their services.
2. Generally, grant applicants must commit a minimum match dollar investment of 25 percent of the total amount requested from APUC, exclusive of the fiscal agent administrative fee. In-kind support must not exceed 50 percent of the total match funding.
  3. APUC will not fund salaries or ongoing operational expenses for existing operations.
  4. Applicants are only eligible for one grant per project.
  5. Peer reviews from individuals in the Tourism Division of the ND Department of Commerce may be obtained.
  6. Projects are encouraged to work together and apply for grant dollars to promote an entire region, thus, multiple businesses are given high priority.
  7. **Applications will be considered on a quarterly basis with submission deadlines of January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.**

**Please thoroughly review the [APUC Grant Guidelines](#) for a complete understanding of all program requirements.**

**The Commission reserves the right to accept, reject, or partially fund any grant application.**