



Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Program

IDAHO

Through the Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program, Business Programs provides grants to independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures for either planning activities or working capital. The VAPG program investment enables viable agricultural producers to develop businesses that produce and market value added agricultural products, thereby expanding markets for, and increase financial return to, the agricultural producers and strengthening the rural economy.

VAPG partnered with Koenig Vineyards, Inc., to provide working capital to assist with processing and marketing costs tied to producing and selling premium reserve red wines from their estate vineyard in Idaho's Snake River Valley region. Funds were used to purchase yeast and yeast nutrients as well as new oak barrels for the aging of red wine which is necessary for the production of premium reserved red wines. VAPG funds allowed Koenig to expand production to further pursue exports into the Asian Markets, primarily Taipei, Taiwan, and mainland China. The current interest in Koenig red wines in Asia exceeds their production but VAPG funding will allow fulfillment of future orders. Koenig has commitments to purchase these wines for the next 5 years. Without VAPG funding, Koenig would not have been able to pursue these opportunities and sign long term distribution agreements.