

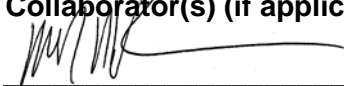


Eastern District Innovative Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2006/2007 Application Form

Completed application form should not exceed (3) pages, using a minimum font size of 11 point, and no less than 1-inch margins. Submit completed application electronically to karen.smiley@ces.uwex.edu, and fax signature page (if electronic signature not available), by **Friday, March 30, 2007**.

Project must be completed by December 31, 2007, unless prior approval received for extended timeline.

1. **Project Title: HMONG FARMER LIAISON PROJECT**
2. **Funding Requested: \$ 4,878.00**
3. **Project Lead/Grant Applicant (Name & County): Mark Hagedorn Brown County**
 - a) **Project Collaborator(s) (if applicable)**
4. **Signature:** 
_____ **Grant Applicant/Lead**

5. **Project Description**

a) Situation Statement - As a result of work done with the Hmong community through a USDA Food Security grant, Brown County UW-Extension staff has identified over 20 Hmong land owners/farmers that are currently engaged in animal husbandry projects or who would like to start raising animals for sale. There is particular interest in this population to start veal and beef operations. In speaking with these farmers and doing several on-farm visits it is evident that this is a new audience for UW-Extension and that there is a need for a Hmong individual to assist in providing educational assessment and educational delivery assistance.

Several focus areas for this proposal are included in the Agriculture Educators Plan of Work; they include Premise ID Education, Land Stewardship and, assisting (Hmong) farmers in developing relationships with USDA and NRCS for financial and technical assistance. In addition, this project would do a needs assessment to determine specifically what education and services are needed to assist these farmers in the development and maintenance of viable farm operations.

The United Hmong Community Center has been fielding numerous requests to assist with farm operation start-ups and expansions. The Center's Operations Manager, Blong Vang, has worked extensively with WNEP staff in food business development and food safety education and Blong realizes that the Hmong community is aware of the resources UW- Extension has available. Their difficulty in accessing the services is often the language barrier and the difficulty in understanding complex topics with limited English language skills.

This project would utilize Blong's relationships with these landowners and farmers to assist in service and education delivery to this emerging audience. The farmers are very eager to

receive assistance and it is felt that this project would allow an education needs assessment to be done and then a Hmong Liaison (Blong Vang) could assist the Agriculture Educator in delivering the needed services and education to the Hmong audience. Blong is also the perfect candidate for employment with UW Extension and this project could give him a feel for the services Extension Educators are able to provide in the field.

Once a needs assessment is completed, the Agriculture Educators in other adjacent counties may be involved in the project as it is currently not known where some of the farmers own land. The United Hmong Community Center would continue to be a central location for training, on an as needed basis. Blong would be a referral point as he is now in addition to working with the Ag Educator to provide direct services. Any educational materials that would be developed for this audience would certainly be shared with Extension colleagues and collaboration would be fostered with USDA and FSCS to assist them in providing services to additional Hmong farmers as well.

b) Project Objectives

- 1) Existing Hmong landowners/farmers will be identified and a list compiled of farmers names, contact information, location of farms, acreage owned/leased and current farming operations underway.
- 2) This list will be used to contact farmers/landowners to conduct a needs assessment and will be compiled to include a plan of work. The results of the assessment will be used for planning educational and printed materials in response to the needs identified.
- 3) Two (2) Educational sessions on Premise ID, Land Stewardship issues and farm finance will be conducted through a combination of classroom and site-specific visits for at least 5-10 farmer/landowners.
- 4) A service directory and referral sheet as well as basic education materials in Hmong will be developed and distributed to interested farmers and shared with Extension colleagues at District meeting and through e-mailed attachments.
- 5) On-site visits will be made on a regular basis as needs dictate to assist individual farmers in developing plans and obtaining resource contacts and relationships.

c) Project Timeline/Expected Outcomes

The project will begin in May and the inventory of land/farm owners and needs assessment will be completed by the end of June 2007. Educational offerings and on-site visits will commence in late June and early July and continue through October 2007. Educational materials and the resource directory will be developed through out the project period and be completed for distribution by October 2007

d) Evaluation Plan

The needs assessment will be used as a pre-test for evaluation purposes. An individual service plan will be prepared for each participating farmer/landowner and a post-service evaluation questionnaire will be used to gauge satisfaction and skills/knowledge obtained through project participation. These results will be shared with district colleagues at District meeting and through report dissemination at the project's completion.

6. Detailed budget breakdown (specifying the amount and purpose of funds requested from District Resource Management funds, and clarifying the source and amounts from other funds):

Wages for Hmong Liaison (\$14/hr x 10 hours/week x 24 weeks)	\$ 3360.00
Fringe (15% x \$14/hr x 10 hours/week x 24 weeks)	\$ 504.00
Mileage Reimbursement (100 mi/week x \$.4225/mi x 24 weeks)	<u>\$ 1014.00</u>
Total	\$ 4878.00

Other funds for the project include contributed wages for time from United Hmong Community Center staff and volunteers to answer phones, provide office space for instruction and referral services. Brown County UW Extension and WNEP will provide technical assistance and office support for the project as needed as well as the Ag Educator's time and expertise.

7. If you have received Resource Management funds for a similar/related project, in the past, include the following information:

- a) 2006 – Hmong Quantity Cooking – provided quantity cooking and food safety education
Funding received was approximately \$4950.00
2005 – Hmong Food-Related Business Development
- b) Why is this project new or different? This project is our first collaborative effort between WNEP and “production agriculture”. The Ag Agent is in a position to utilize an established relationship via WNEP and the Hmong community to implement needed programming.