



More partnerships mean more resources available for YOU.



Simply Kansas is a program through the Department of Commerce Rural Development Division. The program replaced the "From the Land of Kansas" program and emphasizes local agricultural and value added products with an agricultural tie in. So, what does this mean for you? Well, depending on your business type, it could mean grants, loans, marketing assistance or other support.

Membership- Members in the simply Kansas program falls under six different categories: Grower/Producer, Artisan/Crafts, Vendor/Retail, Manufacturer/Processor, Agritourism and Farmer's Markets. Memberships are \$25 per year, and all memberships require the member is in good standing with all applicable regulatory and taxation agencies. So, agricultural producers, wheat weavers, wood workers (that use Kansas wood), coffee makers, food processors, businesses that sell Simply Kansas products and many other business types are eligible for this program. [Click HERE for the Membership Directory.](#)

Basic Member Benefits Include- Inclusion in the Simply Kansas On-line directory, Use of the Simply Kansas Logo in a variety of different ways, Marketing/Technical Assistance and events listing on the Simply Kansas calendar of events. Simply Kansas also holds a series of educational events (Emporia Main Street has presented at one of them) and you can promote your Simply Kansas products at selected Kansas Department of Commerce events. [Click HERE for Membership Benefits.](#)



Would you like a GRANT? Simply Kansas has an Event Planning Grant that encourages the use of at least three Simply Kansas products. The Grant is a 1:1 match of up to \$250 and you must have a minimum of fifty people at the event. [Click HERE for event guidelines and Grant Information.](#)

Would you like a BIGGER GRANT? Simply Kansas has a competitive grant program called the Business Enhancement Grant for "projects that foster business and marketing development". These grants are a 1:1 match for up to \$2,500 per year and \$7,500 over the life of a business. Web site development, consulting, marketing assistance, brochure development and more are covered under this grant program. [The Business Enhancement Grant is one of the Membership Benefits in Simply Kansas.](#)

The Rural Development Division also manages the Agriculture Value Added Loan Program. This program has three basic areas of emphasis: processing to add a "value added" element to agricultural products, Agritourism development and agricultural diversification that adds non-traditional crops or livestock to a farming/ranching operation. These loans are interest free for the first two years of the loan, and then loans charge an interest rate of one point over the Kansas City Prime Rate compounded quarterly. [Click HERE for more information on the Value Added Loan Program.](#)



Mari Tucker from the Kansas Department of Commerce Rural Development Division was one of many speakers in the Kansas Main Street Quarterly Training last Thursday and Friday. These trainings are designed to

provide information that directly benefit our member businesses, communities and organizations. If you have any further questions for Mari, her e-mail address is: mtucker@kansascommerce.com or you can research additional topics on the Department of Commerce site at www.KansasCommerce.com .

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