



EDC grants go to two ag operations

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Staff

Two local agricultural operations recently received funding through the Wilkes Economic Development Corp.'s annual Entrepreneurial Grant Competition.

Red Rose Trading Co. in the Brushy Mountain community and Olivia's Legacy Meats in the Roaring River community were awarded grants of \$5,000 each.

Red Rose Trading Co., owned by Jane Leichter, won in the existing business category. Olivia's Legacy Meats, owned by Ricky and Jennifer Anderson, won in the new business category.

"Given the importance of agriculture in Wilkes County, the EDC chose to target this group for assistance," said Robin Hamby, Wilkes EDC vice president.

All entrants submitted applications in April as new or existing businesses. Applicants then completed business plans, which were delivered to a panel of judges for review.

The top vote-getters were interviewed by judges on June 24 and winners were named at the end of the day.

Red Rose Trading Company plans to expand its current operations by growing hops and selling them to area craft beer breweries. It will use the grant funds to buy hops plants and fencing and then begin production, said Hamby.

Olivia's Legacy Meats produces meat locally from pasture-fed hogs, lambs, cattle and chickens.

The business will use its grants proceeds to buy a freezer and a cooler for its new retail outlet on the farm, said Hamby. The retail outlet, on North Plum Ridge Road, is in a converted barn and also sells locally produced produce, honey, jams, jellies and other products.

Other businesses that applied for the grants and received lesser amounts of financial assistance were Kennedy Cabin Critters in Traphill, Goddard Family Farms in Wilkesboro and Three B Farms in the Maple Springs community in western Wilkes.

This year's judges were retirees David Deal and "B" Townes, Chilton Rogers of the N.C. Rural Center, Town of Wilkesboro Finance Director Bob Urness, Wilkes Cooperative Extension Director Bill Hanlin and Laurie Brintle, director of the Wilkes Community College Small Business Center.

"Small business and entrepreneurialism is alive and well in Wilkes and they all need everyone's encouragement and patronage," said Dan Little, Wilkes EDC president.

"The Wilkes EDC is happy to offer assistance and support to all these new and existing small business owners," he said.

The EDC will have another grant cycle for businesses in Wilkes later this year. For more details, call 336-838-1501.