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First Southwest Community Fund Awards Stagecoach Organics the 2019 Rural Business Development Grant

Stagecoach Organics to receive \$25,000 through the First Southwest Community Fund's Rural Business Development

ALAMOSA, COLO. (July 22nd, 2019) – First Southwest Community Fund (FSWCF) was recently awarded \$25,000 on behalf of Stagecoach Organics through a Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) for small business innovation in rural Colorado.

“Stagecoach Organics is a family run farm here in the San Luis Valley,” says David Toews, founder. “We’re proud to call the valley our home and eager to pioneer more economic opportunity for our region.”

An egg producing facility headquartered in Saguache County – one of Colorado’s three persistent poverty counties and a USDA StrikeForce County – Stagecoach Organics presently transports approximately 24,000 dozen eggs – or 48,000 pounds – 200 miles to Denver. Here they are washed and packaged under a national co-op brand, Organic Valley (OV). Stagecoach Organics is part of a producer pool with five other local egg producers.

Because of this long haul, Stagecoach Organics would like to bring egg packaging capabilities to the San Luis Valley – in order to focus on quality control and selling under their own label, locally and regionally. Overall the increased egg demand and new packaging plant will create more local jobs and enliven the already rich local agriculture economy in the San Luis Valley.

While Stagecoach Organics has experience in egg producing, they are less familiar with egg packaging. For this reason, they need a Feasibility Study to provide them with a blueprint as to whether this is feasible and how to best move forward.

Through the USDA’s RBDG, FSWCF will be able to pay up to \$25,000 for the Feasibility Study.

“A vibrant agriculture community, we’re excited to continue to fuel the San Luis Valley’s small businesses,” says Jeni-Jack Goodwin, First Southwest Bank President. “Innovation and economic growth are vital parts of the farming heritage that is rooted here in the valley.”

For more information on the Rural Business Development Grant and potential 2020 grant opportunities for your rural Colorado business, please contact First Southwest Bank’s Community Development Director, Roxanne DeMarco, roxanne.demarco@fswb.com. As always, grants are subject to Congressional approval.

About First Southwest Community Fund

As a 501c3, First Southwest Community Fund supports the dedicated entrepreneurial spirit of rural Colorado, by investing in the people, culture, and ideas that fuel innovation and financial knowledge in our community, with an emphasis on areas of greatest need. First Southwest Community Fund achieves this by providing



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low-cost business and agricultural lending, supporting educational programs that prepare people to participate in the mainstream economy, enhancing early learning and development opportunities, and augmenting technology and other public amenities. Please find more information about First Southwest Community Fund at fswcf.org.

About First Southwest Bank

Serving the San Luis Valley and rural Colorado for more than 100 years, First Southwest Bank offers personal and business banking at their seven branches, with an emphasis on businesses supporting rural communities. First Southwest Bank and their employees actively live-in and give back to our communities, volunteering with more than 40 local organizations, and donating to 115. As a CDFI bank, First Southwest Bank is focused on cultivating valuable relationships, investing in economic and social doers, and fostering a well-lived rural culture. More information about First Southwest Bank is available at fswb.com. Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender

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