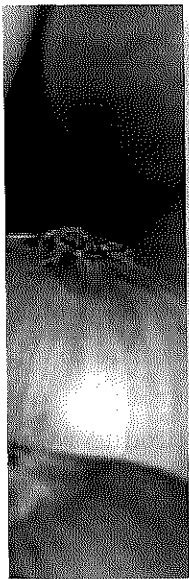


Guidelines

- Grant award amounts will be determined on the basis of a competitive review and evaluation of each proposal.
- Funds will be released to the applicant through the reimbursement of documented expenses incurred after the contract effective date.
- Reimbursement of expenses will be contingent upon compliance with program guidelines as set forth by CDA.
- Claims for reimbursement may not be made more often than monthly.
- Grants will be made in support of specialty crops grown in the State of Colorado and are intended to supplement private, state, or third party participant funding.
- Funds may not be utilized for paying down current debt, purchasing equipment, construction/building costs, or for indirect institutional overhead costs.



Criteria

CDA may contact applicants for purposes of clarifying information contained in the proposal or to address questions about the proposed project. Criteria utilized by CDA to evaluate proposals may include:

- completeness, eligibility and presentation of the proposal;
- project merit and potential for success;
- the extent to which the project is part of a longer-term strategy rather than a stand alone project;
- the project's potential to enhance the competitiveness of the identified specialty crop;
- projected economic benefit to Colorado's agricultural community;
- applicable experience and qualifications of the project principals; and
- the level and sources of matching funds.

Matching Funds - We consider the levels and sources of matching funds to be a key criterion for evaluating proposals. A matching contribution of cash and/or in-kind resources equal to at least 25 percent of the total project budget is required. We endeavor to make the best use of available resources and will give preference to proposals that demonstrate applicant commitment to the project in terms of cash contribution and that maximize the leveraging of funds.



Colorado Specialty Crop Block Grant

Program Guidelines



www.colorado.gov/ag/specialtycropgrant

• Definition

Specialty crops are defined as:



- fruits and vegetables,
- tree nuts,
- dried fruits, and
- nursery crops (including floriculture and sod).

Crops excluded from the program as defined by USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service

include: cotton, cottonseed, feed crops (such as barley, corn, hay, oats, sorghum grain, and millet), flaxseed, food grains (such as quinoa, rice, rye, and wheat), livestock and dairy products

Fruits, vegetables and nursery crops qualify as specialty crops.

(including eggs), marine aquaculture, oil crops (such as peanut, soybean, sunflower, safflower, rapeseed, canola, and mustard seed), peanuts, range grasses, sugar beets, sugarcane, and tobacco.

For a complete list of eligible products, visit www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp.

• Background

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) authorized the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to partner with State Depts. of Agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of growers of fruits, vegetables, and other horticultural crops in areas such as marketing, promotion, education, research, trade and nutrition. For FY 2012 Colorado received an award of more than \$680,000.

Funding from the SCBGP affords Colorado's specialty crops stakeholders an unprecedented opportunity to undertake new initiatives that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including, but not limited to:

- mitigating food safety concerns;
- advancing new crops, production systems, and landscaping practices;
- investigating disease, pest, and phytosanitary issues;
- strengthening industry organizations;
- developing and expanding local, state-wide, regional, national, and international markets;
- promoting fruits and vegetables as integral to a healthy and well-balanced diet;
- conducting scientific, new product, nutrition, and/or market research; and
- enhancing transportation & distribution systems.

• Eligibility

Producer groups, organizations, and associations, as well as state and/or local organizations, academia and other specialty crops stakeholders are eligible to apply either as single entities or in combined efforts. Although proposals submitted by individual producers are allowed, they must demonstrate that the potential impact of the project will accrue to a broader group of similar producers, region or industry segment.



• To Apply

Visit www.colorado.gov/ag/specialtycropgrant to submit an application and related paperwork to the Department before the deadline date.

Applications must be sent to:
Markets Division
Specialty Crop Program
700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215-8000

Call (303) 239-4119 or e-mail markets@ag.state.co.us with questions.

