



USDA, AMS, Transportation and Marketing SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM



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Purpose:

To solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

Definition of Specialty Crops:

Fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.

How to Apply and Eligibility:

Applications for individual specialty crop projects must be submitted to your State Departments of Agriculture to be considered for funding. To learn more about how to apply for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding, contact your State Department of Agriculture Project Coordinator. State Project Coordinators are listed at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbqg>. Click "Contact a State" in the right navigation bar of the Web page.

State Departments of Agriculture are encouraged to partner with specialty crop stakeholders, including socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers, in order to fulfill State specialty crop priorities.

The fifty States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible to apply.

Grant Amounts:

Each State department of agriculture is eligible to receive at least \$100,000, **PLUS** an amount based on the average of the most recent available value of specialty crop cash receipts and the acreage of specialty crop production in the State.

Funding Levels:

2014: \$72.5 million

Examples of Eligible Projects:

Projects pertaining to specialty crop production, education, marketing and promotion, food safety, research, and pest control/plant health.

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