



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

This is the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) program outline for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB) through United States Department of Agriculture/Ag Marketing Service (USDA/AMS); the funding will be from the federal allocations of FY2009 through FY2012. The goal of this federal program is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

Specialty crops are defined as “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.” Attached is a listing of plants commonly considered as fruits and tree nuts; vegetables; culinary herbs and spices; medicinal herbs; and nursery, floriculture, and horticulture crops.

PURPOSE OF GRANTS:

Examples of “enhancing the competitiveness” of specialty crops includes, but is not limited to: research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, increased knowledge and consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development, good agricultural practices, good handling practices, and good manufacturing practices.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- SCBGP-FB funds shall be used for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops that benefit the specialty crop industry as a whole.
- Grant funds **will not** be awarded for projects that directly benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual as these projects do not enhance specialty crop industry competitiveness.
- MDA will solicit proposals for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, the Joint Evaluation Committee will review and select the qualifying proposals, and then submit those projects in the State plan (MDA) to USDA/AMS in accordance with State plan requirements.
- Applications for grant funds should demonstrate how the project potentially impacts and produces measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry rather than a single organization, institution, or individual.
- Multi-state organizations proposals are permitted.

Examples of Unacceptable Projects

- A company requests grant funds to purchase starter plants or equipment used to plant, cultivate, and grow a specialty crop for the purpose of making a profit, or to expand production of a single business.
- A State requests grant funds to make grants to individual specialty crop businesses or roadside stands to promote their individual business.

Examples of Acceptable Projects

- A State requests funding to contract with a university to conduct research on the feasibility of planting, cultivating, and growing a specialty crop in a particular area, the results of which can be shared with many growers throughout the State.
- A State requests grant funds to help improve and expand domestic farmers markets, which benefits a wide array of specialty crop producers.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Eligible applicants must be non-profit organizations, local, state, and federal government entities, for-profit organizations, and universities.
- Organizations must be legal entities recognized by the IRS.
- Applicants must reside, and/or conduct their business or organization in Michigan and must be in good standing.

GRANT PROPOSAL CRITERIA:

Grant proposal(s) should contain the following: (See Appendices C & D for further information)

1. **Cover page** - Include the organization name, grant dollars requested, contact person, address, phone number, FAX number, Employer Identification Number (EIN), and e-mail address. If you are not already registered with the State of Michigan as a vendor, please go to this website for directions on how to register for a Vendor Identification Number. http://www.michigan.gov/budget/0,1607,7-157-13404_37161-179392--,00.html.
2. **Title of Project and an Abstract of the Project** – 200 words or less.
3. **Project Purpose** - Clearly state the objectives of the project. Describe the specific issue, problem, interest, or need to be addressed. Describe project importance.
4. **Potential Impact** - Discuss the number of people or operations affected, the intended beneficiaries of the project and the potential economic impact.
5. **Work Plan** - Describe the activities and/or tasks that will be performed to accomplish the objectives of the project. Clearly state who will conduct the work and why this person or organization was selected. Include appropriate timelines for the project and expected date of completion.
6. **Budget Narrative** - Include total estimated cost for the project with a breakdown of grant dollars and match dollars. In the budget narrative, provide detailed information for the budget categories listed on the Federal Budget Form, SF-424A, to demonstrate

that the grants funds are being expended on eligible grant activities (see attached Reference List with links to Federal Budget Forms SF-424, 424A, and 424B).

- This is a cost reimbursement program.
 - **In-kind funds** - will not be accepted as match dollars.
 - **Administration Expenses** - The department will not accept any proposal with a budget line of administration expenses. (pre-award costs, proposal costs; depreciation or use allowances on buildings and equipment; costs of operating and maintaining facilities; general administration and general expenses; and personnel, legal, information technology, and accounting administration.)
 - **Awarded Grant(s)** will range from \$10,000 to \$75,000.
7. **Expected outcome(s)** - describe at least one distinct, quantifiable, and measurable outcomes that support the project's purpose. It is important that each outcome provides evidence about the accomplishment of a particular program objective. These outcomes are program-focused, measurable, specific, and clear.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

- Proposals must be received (NOT postmarked) by **Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 5:00 pm** and will not be accepted if received after the deadline.
- **Two** complete hard copies of your proposal and attachments including Federal Budget Forms SF-424, 424A, and 424B. **One copy as a PDF** document of your proposal and attachments on a disk or flash drive.

Please send your proposal to:

Mike DiBernardo
Michigan Department of Agriculture
525 W Allegan
Lansing, MI 48933

OR

Mike DiBernardo
Michigan Department of Agriculture
PO Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909

- Faxed documents **will not** be accepted.
- E-mail documents **will not** be accepted.
- Applications must be limited to six (6) pages - 8½" x 11", with not less than 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Attachments should include Federal Budget Forms SF-424, 424A, and 424B, these reports will not count toward the page limit.
- Recommendation of proposals to be awarded will be determined within 60 days after application deadline.
- Once MDA completes the review process, the State plan will then be submitted to USDA/AMS for review and approval.

NOTE: The Director of Michigan Department of Agriculture will have final authority to approve or not approve grant awards, based upon selection criteria, program priorities and application instructions.

MDA Contact - Mike DiBernardo, 517-373-9144, dibernardom@michigan.gov.

ATTACHMENTS

Eligible Commodities:

This list is not intended to be all inclusive, but rather intended to give examples of the most common specialty crops. It will be updated by USDA.

List of Plants Commonly Considered Fruits and Tree Nuts

Almond	Grape (including raisin)
Apple	Guava
Apricot	Kiwi
Avocado	Litchi
Banana	Macadamia
Blackberry	Mango
Blueberry	Nectarine
Breadfruit	Olive
Cacao	Papaya
Cashew	Passion fruit
Citrus	Peach
Cherimoya	Pear
Cherry	Pecan
Chestnut (for nuts)	Persimmon
Coconut	Pineapple
Coffee	Pistachio
Cranberry	Plum (including prune)
Currant	Pomegranate
Date	Quince
Feijou	Raspberry
Fig	Strawberry
Filbert (hazelnut)	Suriname cherry
Gooseberry	Walnut

List of Plants Commonly Considered Vegetables

Artichoke	Mustard and other greens
Asparagus	Okra
Bean Snap or green Lima Dry, edible	Pea Garden, English or edible pod
Beet, table	Onion
Broccoli (including broccoli raab)	Opuntia
Brussels sprouts	Parsley
Cabbage (including Chinese)	Parsnip
Carrot	Pepper
Cauliflower	Potato
Celeriac	Pumpkin
Celery	Radish (all types)
Chive	Rhubarb
Collards (including kale)	Rutabaga
Cucumber	Salsify
Eggplant	Spinach
Endive	Squash (summer and winter)
Garlic	Sweet corn
Horseradish	Sweet potato
Kohlrabi	Swiss chard
Leek	Taro
Lettuce	Tomato (including tomatillo)
Melon (all types)	Turnip
Mushroom (cultivated)	Watermelon

List of Plants Commonly Considered Culinary Herbs and Spices

Ajwain	Clary	Malabathrum
Allspice	Cloves	Marjoram
Angelica	Comfrey	Mint (all types)
Anise	Common rue	Nutmeg
Annatto	Coriander	Oregano
Artemisia (all types)	Cress	Orris root
Asafetida	Cumin	Paprika
Basil (all types)	Curry	Parsley
Bay (cultivated)	Dill	Pepper
Bladder wrack	Fennel	Rocket (arugula)
Bolivian coriander	Fenugreek	Rosemary
Borage	Filé (gumbo, cultivated)	Rue
Calendula	Finger root	Saffron
Chamomile	French sorrel	Sage (all types)
Candle nut	Galangal	Savory (all types)
Caper	Ginger	Tarragon
Caraway	Hops	Thyme
Cardamom	Horehound	Turmeric
Cassia	Hyssop	Vanilla
Catnip	Lavender	Wasabi
Chervil	Lemon balm	Water cress
Chicory	Lemon thyme	
Cicely	Lovage	
Cilantro	Mace	
Cinnamon	Mahlab	

List of Plants Commonly Considered Medicinal Herbs

Artemissia	Liquorice
Arum	Marshmallow
Astragalus	Mullein
Boldo	Passion flower
Cananga	Patchouli
Comfrey	Pennyroyal
Coneflower	Pokeweed
Ephedra	St. John's wort
Fenugreek	Senna
Feverfew	Skullcap
Foxglove	Sonchus
Ginko biloba	Sorrel
Ginseng	Stevia
Goat's rue	Tansy
Goldenseal	Urtica
Gypsywort	Witch hazel
Horehound	Wood betony
Horsetail	Wormwood
Lavender	Yarrow
Yerba buena	

List of Commonly Considered Nursery, Floriculture, and Horticulture Crops

Note: Under the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP), turfgrass sod is not eligible. Under the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB), horticulture was added to the definition making turfgrass sod eligible.

Christmas Trees
Cut Flowers
Honey
Hops
Maple Syrup
Tea Leaves

PROPOSAL REVIEW SCORING AND CRITERIA

		SCORE
1.	Project Description (10 points)	
	How well does the applicant describe the project? How well does the applicant define the need for and purpose of the project? How feasible is the proposed project?	
2.	Goals and Objectives (10 points)	
	How clear and appropriate are the project's goals and objectives?	
3.	Benefit Statement (15 points)	
	Does the applicant define the benefit goals, purpose, opportunities of the project? Does the project provide a direct benefit? How effective will the project be at enhancing the competitiveness of Michigan specialty crops?	
4.	Project Work Plan (20 points)	
	How do the tasks and activities relate to the goals and objectives? Is the project feasible? Is the timeline reasonable?	
5.	Budget (20 points)	
	How reasonable and appropriate is the amount requested and budgeted for the project?	
6.	Measurable Outcomes (25 points)	
	Does the project include at least one measurable outcomes? Does the proposed project allow the applicant to quantify and document the projects benefits and outcomes?	
	TOTAL Regular points	
7.	Matching Funds: Bonus Section applies to any proposal over \$20,000.00.	
	Matching funds matrix: Any proposal with a match of 25% add 10 points Any proposal with a match of 50% add 20 points Any proposal with a match of 75% add 30 points Any proposal with a match of 100% add 40 points	
	Total Bonus points	
8.	Grand Total	

Should this proposal be funded YES NO

REFERENCE LIST

Please refer to the website for further information and forms:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateN&navID=SpecialtyCropBlockGrant%20Program&rightNav1=SpecialtyCropBlockGrant%20Program&topNav=&leftNav=CommodityAreas&page=SCBGP&resultType=&acct=fvgrntprg>

OR

USDA/AMS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB) –

Website: www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp.

You may print forms directly from this website. More forms may be found when you click on the “Grant Forms” under the “Resources” section on this web page. See example below.



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Specialty Crop Block Grant Program - Farm Bill

Program Scope & Legislative Authority

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) was authorized on December 21, 2004, by [Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004](#). The Act authorized the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide grants to states to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. In 2008, [Section 10109 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 \(the Farm Bill\)](#) amended the Act, which established the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB). The agency, commission, or department responsible for agriculture within the 50 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 for grant funds directly to the USDA. Specialty crops are defined as “fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).” The minimum base grant each State is eligible to receive is equal to the higher of \$100,000 or 1/3 of 1 percent of the total amount of funding made available for that fiscal year. In addition, AMS will allocate the remainder of the grant funds based on the value of specialty crop production in each state in relation to the national value of specialty crop production using the latest available cash receipt data. USDA to Implement the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill [[News Release](#)]

[Specialty Crop Block Grant Program –Farm Bill Fiscal Year 2009 Implementation Power Point \(PDF\)](#)

2009 Grant Procedures

[2009 Eligibility, Application Requirements, and Grant Management Procedures \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix A - List of Selected Items of Cost Contained in OMB Cost Principles Regulations \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix B – Unallowable and Allowable Costs for State Governments \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix C – State Plan Format \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix D – Budget Narrative Format \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix E – Statutes, Regulations, and Policy Requirements \(PDF\)](#)

Resources

- [Award Terms and Conditions](#)
- [Definition of Specialty Crops](#)
- [SCBGP-FB Final Rule](#)
- [Grant Forms](#)
- [AMS Contacts](#)
- [State Contacts](#)

See Also

- [Grant Awards](#)
- [Final Performance Reports](#)
- [Grant Management Updates](#)
- [SCBGP Final Rule](#)

Media Help

- [Download Adobe Acrobat](#)