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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill

(Last update 1/31/14)

2014 SCBG Proposals must be received by 3pm EST Friday, April 11, 2014, and will not be accepted if received after the deadline. Applications must be sent in a WORD document to mda-grants@michigan.gov. All application materials including letters of support and attachments must be provided in one email by the deadline. Cover page, SF 424A, and letters of support do not count toward maximum allowable pages.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

This is the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) program outline for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB) through the United States Department of Agriculture/Ag Marketing Service (USDA/AMS); the funding is from the federal allocations.

Specialty crops are defined as “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.” Attached are 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 **solely 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.
- MDARD will solicit proposals for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. The Joint Evaluation Committee will review proposals and recommend proposals for award to the MDARD Director. With the Director’s approval, MDARD staff will prepare and submit those projects in the Michigan State plan 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.

- Indirect costs are not allowable under this grant program.
- Multi-state organizations proposals are permitted.
- Eligible applicants must be non-profit organizations, local, state, and federal government entities, and for-profit organizations.
- 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 AND GUIDELINES:

- Grant proposal(s) - Please complete the application in the format provided. The application format **must** be followed.
- Grant period will be October 1, 2014, through March 31, 2016.
- Only proposals submitted in whole dollar amounts will be considered.
- Failure to comply with MDARD and USDA AMS reporting requirements may result in forfeiture of current and future grant funding.
- This is a cost reimbursement program.
- If you are a University applying for funding your application must be submitted by the commodity group or other eligible organization for which the work is being performed.
- Only two applications per entity are eligible for consideration.
- **2014 SCBG Proposals must be received by 3pm EST Friday, April 11, 2014, and will not be accepted if received after the deadline. Applications must be sent in a WORD document to mda-grants@michigan.gov. All application materials including letters of support and attachments must be provided in one email by the deadline. Cover page, SF 424A, and letters of support do not count toward maximum allowable pages.**
- Applications must be limited to ten (10) pages - 8½" x 11", with not less than 12-point Arial font and one-inch margins.
- Applications must follow format requirements as outlined in the application or will be disqualified.
- Recommendation of proposals to be awarded will be determined as soon as possible and applicants will be notified.

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.

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- If your project is recommended for funding, the contact person must be available for questions and comments from USDA AMS until the state plan is accepted. Failure to comply with these requests may result in the withdrawal of your project for funding consideration.
- Projects cannot begin work and/or expend any funds until a signed grant agreement is in place
- The Director of Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development will have final authority to approve or not approve grant awards, based upon selection criteria, program priorities and application instructions.

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.

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

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
Edamame	Spinach
Eggplant	Squash (summer and winter)
Endive	Sweet corn
Garlic	Sweet potato
Horseradish	Swiss chard
Kohlrabi	Taro
Leek	Tomato (including tomatillo)
Lettuce	Turnip
Melon (all types)	Watermelon
Mushroom (cultivated)	

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	File (gumbo, cultivated)	Rue
Calendula	Fingerroot	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	

Medicinal Herbs

Artemisia	Marshmallow
Arum	Mullein
Astragalus	Passion flower

Boldo	Patchouli
Cananga	Pennyroyal
Comfrey	Pokeweed
Coneflower	St. John's wort
Fenugreek	Senna
Feverfew	Skullcap
Foxglove	Sonchus
Ginkgo biloba	Sorrel
Ginseng	Stevia
Goat's rue	Tansy
Goldenseal	Urtica
Gypsywort	Witch hazel
Horehound	Wood betony
Horsetail	Wormwood
Lavender	Yarrow
Liquorice	Yerba Buena

Nursery, Floriculture, and Horticulture Crops, Horticulture

Honey	Tea Leaves
Turfgrass	Maple Syrup
Hops	

Annual Bedding Plants

Begonia	Coleus
Dahlia	Geranium
Impatiens	Marigold
Pansy	Petunia
Snapdragon	Vegetable Transplants

Potted Flowering Plants

African Violet	Azalea
Flowering Bulbs	Poinsettia

Potted Herbaceous Perennials

Astilbe	Columbine
Coreopsis	Daylily
Dianthus	Heuchera
Hosta	Ornamental Grasses
Peony	Phlox
Rudbeckia	Salvia
Vinca	

Cut Flowers

Carnation	Chrysanthemum
Delphinium	Gladiolus
Iris	Lily
Orchid	Rose
Tulip	

Cut Cultivated Greens

Asparagus Fern	Coniferous Evergreens
Eucalyptus	Leatherleaf Fern
Pittosporum	

Foliage Plants

Anthurium	Bromeliad
Cacti	Dieffenbachia
Dracaena	Fern
Ficus	Ivy
Palm	Philodendron
Spathiphyllum	

Christmas Trees

Balsam Fir	Blue Spruce
Douglas Fir	Fraser Fir
Noble Fir	Scots Pine
White Pine	

Deciduous Flowering Trees

Crabapple	Dogwood
Crepe Myrtle	Flowering Pear
Flowering Cherry	Flowering Plum
Hawthorn	Magnolia
Redbud	Service Berry

Broadleaf Evergreens

Azalea	Boxwood
Cotoneaster	Euonymus
Holly	Pieris
Rhododendron	Viburnum

Deciduous Shade Trees

Ash	Elm
Honey Locust	Linden
Maple	Oak
Poplar	Sweetgum
Sycamore	

Landscape Conifers

Aborvitae	Chamaecyparis
Hemlock	Juniper
Pine	Spruce
Yew	

Deciduous Shrubs

Barberry	Bubbleia
Hibiscus	Hydrangea
Rose	Spirea
Viburnum	Weigela

REFERENCE LIST

Please refer to the website for further information and forms: USDA/AMS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB) – Website: www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp. [Agricultural Marketing Service - Specialty Crop Block Grant Program](#)
MDARD Contact – Nancy Nyquist, 517-284-5735, nyquistn@michigan.gov.