USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Transportation and Marketing

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2025 Description of Funded Projects – Farm Bill

Number of Grants Awarded: 56
Number of Sub-award Projects: 586
Amount of Funds Awarded: $72,900,350
For more information, please visit the program's website: https://www.ams.usda.gov/scbpg
NOTE: The project descriptions below were provided by the grant recipients and lightly edited for flow by SCBGP BC/TLs.
(File updated August 25, 2025)

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries: Amount of Funds Awarded to the State: $561,371.57; Number of Sub-Awards: 15*

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 11 research projects, 2 education and outreach projects, and 1 project that crosses more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including Christmas trees, kiwifruit, peaches, pecans, strawberries, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, and other fruits and vegetables throughout the State of Alabama.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Nano-Enabled Herbicides for Season-Long Control of Weeds in Young Pecans and Peaches	Auburn University will investigate the use of nanocellulose as an additive to herbicides to determine if cost-saving benefits can be seen by reducing the recommended labels rates for season-long weed control in young pecans and peach trees.	$40,000.00
2. Introduce Disease-Tolerant Strawberry Cultivars to Combat the Neo Disease	Auburn University will partner with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and strawberry breeding programs to introduce strawberry cultivars with better tolerance to the Neo disease.	$40,000.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
3. Alabama Seed-to-Table Specialty Crops for Young Learners	Schoolyard Roots will introduce Alabama elementary school students to specialty crops by engaging them in hands-on experiences, including growing, harvesting, cooking, and tasting a variety of crops.	$25,000.00
4. Integrated Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes and Fungal Diseases in Sweet Corn Production in Alabama	Auburn University will manage plant-parasitic nematodes and fungal diseases in sweet corn through comprehensive surveys, resistance screening, integrated management, impact assessment, and outreach activities, ultimately enhancing yield and quality.	$36,317.44
5. Evaluating Nematode-Resistant Tomato and Pepper Varieties for Foliar Disease Resilience and Long-Term Disease Management Strategies	Auburn University will take a systems approach to develop economically feasible and sustainable disease management strategies against root-knot nematodes and foliar pathogens in vegetable crops, primarily solanaceous crops.	$39,860.00
6. Cutting Costs from Above: UAV Chemical Applications for Specialty Crop Labor Savings	Auburn University will reduce labor costs in nurseries, Christmas tree farms, and orchards by increasing UAV chemical application adoption. This project includes on-farm demonstrations, field trials, economic analysis, and BMP development.	$39,989.50
7. Enhancing Specialty Crop Sustainability Through Research and Education	The University of West Alabama (UWA) will examine the potential of its biofertilizer (Rabiota®) to improve tomato output, flavor, and nutritional content.	$38,010.00
8. AI-based Precision Weed Management Approaches for Vegetable Crops	Auburn University and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries will partner to develop AI technology for spot spraying the weeds in vegetable crops. Results will be shared through presentations, publications and webinars.	$40,000.00
9. Alternative Disease Resistant Specialty Crop for Sustainable Family Farms	Auburn University will partner with the ADAI to enhance sustainability of family farms by developing recommendations for utilization of novel Pierce's disease resistant cultivars and disseminating the research results to stakeholders.	$40,000.00
10. Tackling Strawberry Shelf-Life Issues for Alabama School Systems	Auburn University and ACES will collaborate with ADAI, AFVGA, Alabama Farm to School Program (e.g., Don Wambles) and two local strawberry growers to increase strawberry shelf-life for Alabama school systems by using high relative humidity after harvest.	$22,750.00
11. Protected Culture Production of Strawberry Plant Material in Alabama	Researchers at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Auburn University will explore new methods for producing and propagating strawberry plants within the state of Alabama which will provide growers with quality plant material at the appropriate time for planting each season.	$40,000.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
12. Sustainable Sweet Potato Production: Antimicrobial Peptides, AI Monitoring and Small-Scale Farmer Support	Tuskegee University aims to enhance sweet potato production for small-scale farmers by integrating designed antimicrobial peptides and AI-assisted crop health monitoring for sustainable management of plant-parasitic nematodes PPNs.	$33,699.60
13. Propagation Practices to Expedite Kiwifruit Farming	Auburn University and ACES will collaborate with ADAI to determine and disseminate optimal production practices for propagating kiwifruit plants for the nursery trade. The goals are to enhance efficiency/profitability for plant producers, and the availability of quality kiwifruit plants for farmers.	$40,000.00
14. Bridging the GAP: Increasing GAP/GHP Audit Participation in Alabama Specialty Crop Growers	The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) will offer financial assistance to support market- driven food safety certification by reimbursing up to 75% of initial GAP/GHP inspection costs up to $750.00.	$40,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$44,909.73

Alaska Division of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded to the State: $256,415.27; Number of Sub-Awards: 5*

The Alaska Division of Agriculture and Industries will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 1 education and outreach project and 3 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including carrots, salad greens, herbs, Nootka lupine, wooly geranium, and mushrooms throughout the State of Alaska.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Using Biocontrol Agents to Enhance Specialty crop production in Alaska	The University of Alaska Fairbanks, Integrated Pest Management program with the Cooperative Extension Service in partnership with the Division of Agriculture Plant Pathologist will address the topic of biocontrol agents with education, producer surveys and research.	$59,995.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
2. Improving Farms with Dual-Purpose Native Plant Crops	The Homer Soil and Water Conservation District will work directly with agricultural producers to incorporate native plants into their crops, increasing revenue for the grower and increasing native plant supply to meet demand.	$55,739.84
3. Fjordland Greens Project	The Seward Wilderness Collective (SWC) in partnership with the Seward City Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking support in developing the Fjordland Greens Project, a program for the education/promotion of specialty greens (including but not primarily kelp) amongst consumers on the Eastern Kenai Peninsula.	$59,150.00
4. Cooking With Alaska Grown	The State of Alaska, Division of Agriculture will provide support to specialty crop producers by creating cooking demonstration videos that will increase consumer awareness of the seasonality and availability of specialty crops, educate consumers on how they can incorporate local product into their everyday meal planning, and increase consumer purchasing by encouraging viewers to spend at least $5 a week on Alaska Grown specialty crops.	$40,503.99
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$41,026.44

American Samoa Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $264,016.96; Number of Territory-run Awards: 1

The American Samoa Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The Territory’s sub-award is a food safety project to enhance the competitiveness of various specialty crops throughout the Territory of American Samoa.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Safeguarding American Samoa's Food Supply	The Department of Agriculture Extension Division will improve specialty crops in American Samoa through increased awareness on food safety standards, compliance, and education, to include monthly farm inspections and quarterly workshops with farmers, a directory of specialty crop farms, data collection from local farms, and promoting good agricultural practices and standards in crop production.	$264,016.96

Arizona Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $1,350,108.57; Number of Sub-awards: 15*

The Arizona Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 7 research projects, 2 education and outreach projects, 1 marketing project and 4 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including leafy greens, brassicas, Medjool dates, Apache squash, Apache corn, chilies, summer squash, basil, melons, and other fruits and vegetables throughout the State of Arizona.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Data and Outreach to Support Arizona Specialty Crops with Endangered Species Act Compliance	The University of Arizona will work with the Arizona Department of Agriculture to maintain ongoing access to timely and accurate pesticide use data for the benefit of Arizona specialty crop industries.	$81,865.00
2. Advancing Data-Driven Resistance Management in Arizona's Specialty Crops Systems	The University of Arizona will improve insecticide resistance management in Arizona's specialty crop systems by deploying and refining a decision-support tool for pest control advisors and growers, supported through targeted trainings, live demonstrations, and user feedback.	$37,250.00
3. Ndee Bikiyaa Local Crop Expansion Project	The White Mountain Apache Tribe will demonstrate and share improved growing methods for increased production and distribution of local and cultural food products to the White Mountain Apache people living across the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.	$96,000.00
4. Building Targeted DNA Enrichment Systems for Improved Molecular Based Pathogen Detection Methods for Arizona Leafy Greens	The University of Arizona will develop a targeted DNA enrichment system for improved pathogen detection utilizing different molecular based detection assays to improve testing pipelines for the Arizona specialty crops industry, specifically the Arizona leafy greens industry.	$93,591.00
5. Potential Reduction of Black Mold Infestation in Medjool Dates - 2025	The University of Arizona will evaluate the ability to reduce incidence of Aspergillus niger (Black mold) in date fruit when organic and conventional fungicides are applied with the pollen to the open inflorescence and to fruitlets 4-6 weeks after pollination and again before ripening.	$60,611.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
6. Expanding 'On-demand' Harvest Worker Food Safety Training	The University of Arizona in partnership with the Arizona Department of Agriculture aims to address a critical gap in protecting public health by providing expanded Produce Safety Rule food safety training to harvest foremen/supervisors and workers in the fresh produce industry.	$94,834.00
7. Evaluation of Grower Practices to Reduce Potential Risks Associated with the Use of Biological Soil Amendments in Leafy Green Production	The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension will work alongside compost/poultry pellet suppliers and members of the fresh produce industry to evaluate grower management practices and environmental conditions to determine risk reduction strategies that support industry decision-making on the use and application of biological soil amendments.	$79,672.00
8. Supporting the Development of Downy Mildew Resistant Lettuce Cultivars	The University of Arizona's Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture will annually assess the population of Bremia lactucae in the Yuma growing region through monitoring for pathogen presence and disease symptoms at a "trap nursery" at the Yuma Ag Center using differential lettuce cultivars specified by the International Bremia Evaluation Board.	$33,773.00
9. Establishing a Fusarium Wilt Screening Facility for Arizona Lettuce Growers	Arizona State University will establish a Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. lactucae screening program in Arizona to identify pathogen diversity, enhance research capacity, and provide growers with science-based disease management strategies.	$96,000.00
10. Epidemiology and Management of Emerging Viruses in Arizona Melon Production	The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, in collaboration with Arizona's melon producers, will lead a multidisciplinary team to address the impact of insect-transmitted viruses on Arizona's melon industry.	$46,644.00
11. Studying Different Sanitizer Chemistries for Soil Health in Romaine Production	The University of Arizona Agricultural Experimental Station will conduct a study to identify specific soil health impacts of different sanitizer chemistries used for water treatment in romaine production.	$95,987.00
12. Statewide Awareness Campaign for Indoor-Grown Specialty Crops	Homer Farms Inc. will address water scarcity, extreme weather conditions, and limited market competitiveness in Arizona’s specialty crop sector by implementing a Statewide Awareness Campaign for Controlled-Environment Agriculture specialty crops.	$92,371.00
13. Increasing Consumer Awareness, Building Demand for Arizona Grown Specialty Crops through Promotions In-Store, Social Media, Website Outreach	The Arizona Department of Agriculture will help increase market avenues for Arizona specialty crop producers and increase consumer awareness and consumption of specialty crops through their "Arizona Grown(R)” initiative.	$299,078.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
14. Providing Education and Technical Assistance to Specialty Crop Growers on the Produce Safety Rule	The Arizona Department of Agriculture will provide Arizona's fresh fruit and vegetable farms with the education necessary to meet the requirements of the Produce Safety Rule by conducting bimonthly virtual Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Courses and follow-up technical assistance.	$49,569.63
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$92,862.94

Arkansas Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $363,533.85; Number of Sub-awards: 7*

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 3 research projects, 1 education and outreach projects, and 2 marketing projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including pecans, blackberries, muscadine grapes, strawberries throughout the State of Arkansas.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Developing Pecan Marketing Strategies and Tools for Arkansas Pecan Growers	The Arkansas Pecan Growers Association will increase their support to Arkansas Pecan Growers by developing a strategic marketing plan, website, and promotional materials to further the advancement and development of partnerships with wholesale and retail buyers and growers in Arkansas and the United States.	$75,000.00
2. Evaluation of Annual Blackberry Production System for Arkansas	The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture will conduct replicated variety trials using a novel annual blackberry production system in Northwest Arkansas and Central Arkansas to determine the commercial feasibility of an annual system for Arkansas growers with results disseminated through online publications and field days.	$55,000.00
3. Expanding the Arkansas Fresh-Market Muscadine Grape Industry	The University of Arkansas System will advance the Arkansas fresh-market muscadine grape industry through on-farm evaluations that develop production, pest management and postharvest recommendations for growers and creating outreach opportunities for stakeholders.	$55,000.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
4. Eat More Blackberries Promoting Arkansas Grown Blackberries	The Arkansas Blackberry Growers Association will promote increased consumption and purchasing of Arkansas Grown Blackberries on social media and through in person promotional events to support increasing demand for the crop in Arkansas and the surrounding area.	$40,000.00
5. Developing Best Management Practices for Neopestalotiopsis, an Emerging Disease Threatening the Arkansas Strawberry Industry	The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture will research innovative control measures and produce outreach materials to help Arkansas strawberry farmers manage a new and devastating disease, Neopestalotiopsis leaf spot and crown rot.	$55,000.00
6. Expanding Market Access for Arkansas Specialty Crop Producers and Arkansas Value Added Specialty Crop Producers	This project within the Arkansas Department of Agriculture will enable Arkansas-based specialty crop producers and value-added specialty crop producers to exhibit their products at premier national food trade shows. The project will foster business growth through lead generation, brand promotion, and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange.	$56,605.42
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$26,928.43

California Department of Food and Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $24,168,824.20; Number of Sub-awards: 50*

The California Department of Food and Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 23 research projects, 15 education and outreach projects, and 11 marketing projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including almonds, avocados, cabbages, cantaloupes, leafy greens, lettuce, prunes, tomatoes, turfgrass, walnuts, winegrapes and other fruits and vegetables throughout the State of California.

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Explore CA GROWN Goodness	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the Buy California Marketing Agreement (BCMA) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by implementing a multi-platform digital campaign designed to generate strong support from the retail and food service trade in marketing California Grown specialty crops and increasing consumer demand for California specialty crops and specialty crop products.	$2,772,600.00
2. Evapotranspiration Tools for Vegetable Crop Water Use with Central Coast Focus	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University Corporation at Monterey Bay (CSUMB) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers and stakeholders by developing cost-effective, easy-to-use decision tools for water use.	$493,908.00
3. Expanding Specialty Crop Agroforestry Demonstrations and Technical Assistance Through the California Farm Demonstration Network	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers and stakeholders by promoting increased adoption of agroforestry farming systems by specialty tree crop and other specialty crop growers.	$493,883.00
4. Increasing Demand for California Cantaloupe Among Younger Consumers	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the California Cantaloupe Advisory Board for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by increasing demand for California cantaloupe among younger consumers.	$500,000.00
5. Nutrition Education for Healthy Communities and Sustainable Farmers Markets	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association (PCFMA) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by creating nutrition education sessions that will provide consumers with information on incorporating specialty crops into their family's diets.	$494,163.00
6. Roots to Harvest: School Garden Agricultural Education Program	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with Color the Block for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by increasing agricultural knowledge among students and community members in South Sacramento and enhancing awareness of agricultural careers.	$250,000.00
7. Enhancing the Economic and Environmental Sustainability of Vegetable Production	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California (UC), Davis for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by demonstrating the practicality and evaluating changes in the agronomic performance of processing tomatoes and cabbages when integrated with existing solar energy production.	$457,082.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
8. Maritime Magic: Expanding California Specialty Crops	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner West Sonoma Coast Vintners (WSCV) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by helping promote the unique and appealing qualities of the wines at the West Sonoma Coast region.	$400,702.00
9. Small Intelligent Electric Safe Tractor Assistance	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California, Santa Cruz for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by developing AgTech tools and technologies to support mechanization innovation for three essential operations: planting, weeding, and harvesting.	$489,435.00
10. Farmers' Food As Medicine	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with Circle of Life, on behalf of Foodshed Cooperative, for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by ensuring small-scale farmers and producers can access an emerging market channel.	$250,000.00
11. Improving Management of Recently Emerged, Whitefly-Transmitted Cucurbit Viruses in the Southwestern United States	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California (UC), Riverside for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by creating multiplex diagnostics, identifying non-cucurbit crop and weed reservoirs, proactively surveying for new virus threats, and determining seasonal vector and virus dynamics in areas where viruses are emerging.	$406,628.00
12. Entrepreneurs: Specialty Crop and Health Literacy Program	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with Food and Exploration and Discovery (dba Food ED) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers and stakeholders by increasing demand for fruits and vegetables among high school students and community members in San Gabriel Valley through health literacy.	$194,180.00
13. Determining the Causal Agents of Walnut Replant Disease and Testing New Treatments	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California, Riverside for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by reducing the large losses caused by walnut replant disease (WRD) and replant diseases of other California specialty crops.	$497,649.00
14. Promoting California Specialty Crop Consumption and Sales	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the California Distillers Association (CDA) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by encouraging distillers to utilize undervalued crops and increase consumer awareness via digital tools and advertising.	$470,000.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
15. Assessing the Impact of Heat Waves on Sunflower Pollination to Promote Resilient Summer Seed Crops	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by investigating the effect of heat waves on sunflower pollination.	$446,432.00
16. Demonstration Trial of Soil and Water Management in Specialty Crops to Small Farmers	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with FarmsRus for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by setting up a demonstration trial to educate small farmers on best management practices.	$241,429.00
17. Fermented California-Grown Specialty Crops to Expand Consumption Through Health Promotion and Spoilage Prevention	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California (UC), Davis for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by developing new recipes, hosting educational online events on fermented specialty crop fruits and vegetables, holding fermentation workshops, and conducting research to understand and minimize ferment variation and defects.	$329,089.00
18. Community as Medicine: Senior Forward	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with With Love Community Programs for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers and stakeholders by increasing knowledge of and demand for specialty crops in South Los Angeles.	$244,545.00
19. San Joaquin County AgVenture	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner the County of San Joaquin for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by bringing together farmers, ranchers, industry partners, and local school districts to educate third-grade students about the importance of San Joaquin County's agricultural industry and the benefits of incorporating specialty crops into a healthy diet.	$375,804.00
20. Driving Sales and Awareness Among New Drive-Market Consumers	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with Santa Lucia Highlands Wine Artisans (SLHWA) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by boosting the awareness and sales of Monterey County and Santa Lucia Highlands wines.	$495,950.00
21. Increasing Avocado's Resilience by Identifying Superior Salinity Tolerant Rootstock and Scion Combinations	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California (UC), Riverside, for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by identifying the best rootstock and scion combinations to mitigate salinity stress and elucidate the salinity tolerance mechanisms in rootstocks.	$497,059.00
22. Deadzone Destroyers: Native Plant Education and Resources for a Healthier Specialty Crop Ecosystem	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with Mother Natives for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers and stakeholders by increasing demand for and understanding of native plants, an underutilized specialty crop.	$186,150.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
23. Strengthening Roots: Workforce Innovation for Economic Sustainability	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation (NVFF) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by combatting labor shortages through training programs.	$500,000.00
24. Outreach and Education to Support Food Safety Modernization Act Compliance	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California (UC), Davis, for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by providing technical assistance and developing educational materials related to pre-harvest agricultural water assessments (AWA).	$478,235.00
25. Development of Novel Insect Pest Control Method for Stored Tree Nuts Using Silica Nanoparticles	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California (UC), Davis for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by significantly reducing product and quality loss, and chemical use and costs, making the industry more economically competitive and sustainable.	$499,643.00
26. Productivity Potential of Agave Species in San Joaquin Valley	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California (UC), Agriculture and Natural Resources for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by establishing long-term research trials at 'UC Merced Smart Farm' to examine the influence of irrigation and fertilization on survivorship, biomass yields, carbon dioxide uptake, and water use of Agave americana (A. americana) and Agave salmiana (A. salmiana) and their potential for soil health improvement.	$494,866.00
27. Revitalizing California Prune Sales by Engaging Health-Focused Younger Consumers	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner Sunsweet Growers, Inc (SSG) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by building awareness and increasing demand for California prunes among Millennials and Gen Z consumers.	$500,000.00
28. Increasing Specialty Crop Awareness, Access, and Consumption on the Central Coast through Ecommerce and Education	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with Slow Money San Luis Obispo (dba Harvestly) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers and stakeholders by increasing awareness, demand for, and access to specialty crops and equipping growers with effective marketing and sales tools.	$249,617.00
29. Development of Improved Long Bean Varieties with Stacked Resistance Traits Through Modern Breeding and Community Engagement	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner the University of California (UC), Riverside, for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers utilizing resources developed from a prior project in modern breeding and extension strategies to improve existing varieties of long bean.	$495,755.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
30. Saticoy Specialty Crop Initiative Programs	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with Saticoy Food Hub for a project that supports California’s specialty crop farmers by increasing the availability and consumption of specialty crops in Ventura County.	$247,277.00
31. Optimizing Nitrogen-Fixing Bacterial and Mycorrhizal Biostimulants on Nutrient Management of Asian Vegetables	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California (UC), Agriculture and Natural Resources for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by creating transferable, science-based information on best practical use of nitrogen (N) fixing bacterial and mycorrhizal biostimulants to improve Asian vegetable production and nutrient management.	$348,695.00
32. Harnessing Bacillus PGPR Strains to Manage Gray Mold Disease and Improve Strawberry Production in California	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California (UC), Davis for a project that supports California’s specialty crop farmers by evaluating various Bacillus strains and developing enhanced ones with stronger biofilm formation and antimicrobial activity, for improved biocontrol efficacy.	$401,709.00
33. Deciphering Strategies for the Genetic Improvement of Lettuce for Resistance to Fusarium Wilt Disease	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by developing lettuce germplasm with resistance to Fusarium wilt, a major pest for California lettuce growers.	$393,351.00
34. Sharing the Value of Sustainable California Wine to Build Millennial and Gen Z Consumer Demand	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance (CSWA) for a project that supports California’s specialty crop farmers by connecting millennials and Gen Z consumers to California Wines in efforts to demonstrate the stewardship efforts within winegrape production.	$499,951.00
35. Almond Irrigation by Variety to Enhance Yield, Water Usage, Nitrogen Use Efficiency, and Profitability	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner the University of California, Davis for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers and stakeholders by evaluating the effect of the irrigation of almonds by variety on yield, water use, Nitrogen (N) use efficiency, and profitability.	$487,633.00
36. Development and Release of Lettuce with Resistance to Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by identifying and characterizing new sources of resistance and development, and public releasing the improved lettuce germplasm.	$195,850.00
37. Providing Mendocino County Producers with Tools and Strategies	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) for a project that supports California’s specialty crop farmers by conducting outreach to specialty crop producers in Mendocino to implement needed training and education to drive adoption of best management practices on 10,000 acres, 120 farms by 2028.	$486,627.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
38. Ag-Tech Innovations: Do-It-Yourself Low-Cost Real-Time Automated Irrigation for Small-Scale Diversified Vegetable Farms	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner the University of California (UC), Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) and UC Santa Cruz for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by improving on-farm irrigation scheduling by developing an automated system using affordable do-it-yourself, open-source, and easy-to-use tensiometers connected to irrigation valves.	$498,275.00
39. New Surveillance Tools for Detecting Thrips and Thrips-Transmitted Viruses	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers and stakeholders by developing more efficient and cheaper methods for detecting viruses that threaten lettuce crops.	$464,581.00
40. A New 'Green Carpet' for California: Groundcovers for Urban Landscapes	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by testing new and traditional groundcovers as potential turf alternatives.	$498,991.00
41. Market Development, Education and Trade Facilitation for California Specialty Crops	The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will support California's specialty crop farmers through international market development activities and outreach.	$400,000.00
42. Can Clean Get Cleaner? Evaluation of Cleaning and Sanitation Process Improvements for Harvest Equipment of Leafy Greens	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the Center for Produce Safety (CPS) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by refining industry cleaning and sanitation practices for mechanical harvesters of leafy greens.	$482,015.00
43. Characterization and Control of Food Safety Risks Associated with Indoor Leafy Green Growing and Harvest	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with The Center for Produce Safety (CPS) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by providing science-based insights into food safety risks associated with controlled environment agriculture systems for leafy greens.	$368,676.00
44. Evaluation of Grower Practices to Reduce Mitigate Risks of BSAAOs in Leafy Greens	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the Center for Produce Safety (CPS) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by improving how biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAO) are tested, stored, and applied in leafy greens production to reduce contamination risks.	$464,175.00
45. Automated Compost Monitoring with Low-Cost RFID, Drones, and Machine Learning for Improved Control and Pathogen Safety	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the Center for Produce Safety (CPS) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by developing an intelligent, automated system to monitor the composting process for safer and more efficient commercial composting.	$446,174.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
46. Developing Methods to Assess Risk to Crops Exposed to Animal Facility Fugitive Dust	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with The Center for Produce Safety (CPS) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers determine appropriate setback distances from small-scale cattle operations to produce fields.	$331,419.00
47. Promotional Training Resources to Enhance Irrigation Scheduling and Efficiency in Almonds and Pistachios	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with the California State University, Fresno Foundation for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by providing training programs for almond and pistachio growers in California's Central Valley.	$311,276.00
48. Grow Global: California Specialty Crop Exporter Development Program	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with State Center Community College for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by addressing the critical need to enhance California specialty crop producers' ability to compete in international markets.	$485,462.00
49. Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture STEM Career Pathways In Agriculture Initiative	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will partner with Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG) for a project that supports California's specialty crop farmers by preparing high school students to pursue agricultural careers that support the specialty crop industry's workforce needs.	$236,360.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$1,915,523.20

Colorado Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $813,874.73; Number of Sub-awards: 11[*]

The Colorado Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 5 research projects, 4 education and outreach projects, and 1 project that crosses more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including cowpeas, grapes, peaches, potatoes, saffron, sweet corn, and other fruits and vegetables throughout the State of Colorado.

[*] This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Development of a Multiplex IC-RT-qPCR for Direct Potato Tuber Testing of Potato Viruses Required by the Certification of Seed Potatoes in Colorado	Colorado Potato Administrative Committee and Colorado State University will develop a multiplex IC-RT-qPCR for direct potato tuber testing of potato viruses required by the certification of seed potatoes in Colorado - a timely reliable alternative of winter grow-out.	$119,737.00
2. Enhancing the Water Productivity of Black-Eyed Peas (Cowpeas) in Alkali Soils of Western Colorado through Micronutrient Amelioration and Evapo-tran	The Colorado State University's Western Colorado Research Center – Grand Valley, in collaboration with the Delta Conservation District, will evaluate the water productivity and consumptive water use of drought-tolerant black-eyed peas in Delta, Colorado.	$63,788.00
3. Grower Accessible and Dynamic Weather Peach Cold Hardiness Tool with Accurate, Real-Time and Forecasted Predictions and Alerts	The Colorado State University will address peach cold damage challenge in Colorado through cooperation among researchers, tree fruit growers and agricultural professionals and will develop a decision-support tool to mitigate cold damage.	$76,191.00
4. Evaluating Saffron as a High Value, Dormant Season Crop in Colorado	Colorado State University will evaluate saffron production under multiple soil/substrate and shade conditions to determine the optimal growing conditions for saffron in Colorado.	$80,991.00
5. Improving Consumer Awareness and Perception of Colorado Sweet Corn	The Colorado State University Office of Engagement and Extension will conduct a public relations campaign to improve Olathe Sweet Corn brand awareness. Efforts aim to overcome negative consumer perceptions related to a 2023 corn ear worm crop loss.	$68,167.00
6. Interspecific Hybrid Grape Research to Stabilize Colorado's Grape Growing Industry	EsoTerra has established a viticultural research trial by planting 40 cultivars of interspecific hybrid grape varieties. This study aims to assess the viability of these hybrids under Colorado's unique environmental conditions characterized by low moisture levels, extreme temperature fluctuations, and a variety of soil compositions.	$91,796.00
7. Providing Alternative Farmer Training Opportunities	Fort Lewis College-Old Fort at Hesperus will offer online Farm Planning, Summer Short Course and Farmer Convergence scholarships to new and beginning specialty crop farmers.	$37,486.76

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
8. Modeling and Teaching Methods for Growing and Drying Medicinal and Culinary Herbs to Increase Specialty Crop Sales in Rural Colorado	Guidestone Colorado will model methods for growing , harvesting and processing medicinal and culinary herbs on small acreage at our high elevation C & S Farm, a 4 acre parcel with a 20 year lease from Salida School District.	$24,215.00
9. Mite Insight: Observing Individual- and Colony-Level Varroa Mite Behavior and Control in Colorado	The University of Colorado Boulder will mitigate the spread of Varroa mites by using novel technologies to study the life cycle of the mites and honey bee colony response. and disseminating the results to stakeholders through presentations and local workshops.	$39,300.00
10. Food Access and Education at the Dahlia Campus Farms and Gardens	The Mental Health Center of Denver dba WellPower: This project will enhance year-round specialty crop production through improved aquaponic systems, increasing the availability of fresh, culturally relevant produce.	$99,507.16
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$112,695.81

Connecticut Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $427,716.04; Number of Sub-awards: 5*

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 4 research projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including strawberries and sweet corn throughout the State of Connecticut.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Evaluation of Fungal Populations Responsible for Anthracnose Crown Rot and Commercial Strawberry Susceptibility to the Disease in Connecticut	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will characterize the organisms causing anthracnose crown rot throughout the state of Connecticut and optimize current management strategies to control the spread of the disease.	$68,796.14

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
2. A Monitoring Network to Assess the Status and Trends of Emerging European Corn Borer Resistance to Bacillus Thuringiensis Corn in Connecticut	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will use several monitoring methods to map the distribution, abundance, and prevalence of Bt resistance across Connecticut.	$82,968.90
3. Nanobubble Technology for Irrigation Systems	The Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association (CGGA) will trial nanobubble technology at a commercial greenhouse and a specialty crop food producer to evaluate this technology's effectiveness in improving irrigation water quality across different irrigation methods.	$79,387.60
4. Connecticut Urban Farmer Collaboratory	The University of Connecticut along with project partners will develop resources for urban farmers to better understand land policy, zoning, production of specialty crops, etc., by developing training, resources, and networking opportunities.	$46,451.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$150,112.40

Delaware Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $341,861.97; Number of Sub-awards: 9*

The Delaware Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 2 research projects and 6 education and outreach projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including leafy green, carrots, peaches, herbs, peppers, watermelons, peonies, strawberries, and tomatoes throughout the State of Delaware.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1.Healthy Meals, Local Field: Teaching Families to Cook with Delaware Specialty Crops	This project aims to encourage families to incorporate Delaware-grown specialty crops into their everyday meals by providing easy-to- follow recipes, a list of local farm markets, and instructional cooking videos featuring Delaware Farm Bureau (DEFB) members, chefs, and other local food advocates.	$12,756.16

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
2. Wilmington Specialty Crop Empowerment Through the HOPP, Conscious Connections and Soulfully Conscious	The Harvest Outreach People's Project will promote Delaware-grown specialty crops through an education campaign featuring crop-specific outreach materials, grower partnerships, and cooking demonstrations led by a certified culinary educator.	$75,000.00
3. Increasing Access to Specialty Crops for Delaware Students Through Education, Exposure, and Training	Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids (HFHK) will expand its specialty crop education across Delaware by launching three new school gardens, conducting 40 educational farm tours at Penn Farm, and hosting two "Community Education and Engagement" nights at participating schools.	$74,751.24
4. "Future Harvest: Empowering Youth and Community Through Specialty Crop Production"	Odyssey Charter School (OCS) will expand Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) on our urban K–12 campus and will exclusively focus on cultivating Delaware specialty crops—including leafy greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, herbs, and peppers.	$14,396.40
5.Summer Sprouts Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Program at Howard T Ennis School	The SNAC Garden Foundation will improve accessibility and workforce readiness for students with disabilities by building ADA-compliant pathways in the school garden at Howard T. Ennis School and implementing a greenhouse-based leadership and sustainable agriculture education program called Summer Sprouts.	$38,840.00
6. Enhancing Vegetable Variety Recommendations for Delaware's Fresh Market Vegetable Growers	The University of Delaware Extension Vegetable Research program will support Delaware's fresh market vegetable growers with updated variety recommendations for six widely grown crops: watermelon, sweet corn, cantaloupe, summer squash, tomato, and bell pepper. Variety recommendations will be based on multi-season trials to test yield, stress tolerance and quality characteristics.	$43,432.00
7.Peony Possibilities: A Path to Enhancing Delaware's Peony Industry	Spectrum Farms LLC seeks to enhance the competitiveness of Delaware's peony crop industry through development of a field tested and research-based guide that outlines entry into growing peonies specific to Delaware for new farmers and existing operations wanting to expand.	$36,651.90
8. "Black Plasticulture Strawberry Production Yields with the use of a Biochar Soil Amendment"	The University of Delaware Extension Vegetable program will support Fresh Market growers in Delaware by creating and obtaining black plasticulture strawberry yields when grown in a biochar soil amendment.	$27,475.70
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$18,558.57

The Department of Energy & Environment Government of the District of Columbia: Amount of Funds Awarded: $243,001.17; Number of Sub-awards: 4*

The Department of Energy & Environment Government of the District of Columbia will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The District's sub-awards include 1 research project and 2 education and outreach projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including mushrooms, leafy greens, and a variety of other specialty crops throughout the District of Columbia.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Specialty Crop Expansion and Development Project	Dreaming Out Loud will enhance access to fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables by increasing specialty crop production by 30%; training a cohort of 10 specialty crop growers through its new workforce development program; and strengthening its training and capacity-building program through 5 annual specialty crop workshops and community events.	$74,969.00
2. Community Green Spaces	City Blossoms' Community Green Spaces program will provide resources to youth, adults and families across the District of Columbia. Resources include teaching children and adults about growing, preparing, and eating fruits and vegetables.	$70,990.00
3. Farm to Table: Expanding Agricultural Literacy and Long-Term Planning Through Specialty Crop Education	EightFold Farms DC will partner with the DC Public Schools (DCPS) Anne Beers Elementary School to teach 120 elementary school students about the science of growing mushrooms, composting, and gardening, while also participating in chef-led tastings and culinary demonstrations in a three-year educational initiative focused on mushroom cultivation and specialty crop awareness.	$75,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$22,042.17

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: Amount of Funds Awarded: $3,844,128.76; Number of Sub-awards: 17*

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 14 research projects and 2 marketing projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including blueberries, blackberries, mango, ornamental fruit, disease control and irrigation throughout the State of Florida.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Enhancing Carotenoid Production and Flower Color in Marigolds through Targeted Genomic Modification	The University of Florida will lead efforts to develop new marigold (Tagetes spp.) varieties with enhanced ornamental appeal and increased health benefits.	$201,273.00
2. Development of Economic- and Efficacy Based Insecticide Recommendations for Whitefly Management in Vegetables	The University of Florida will develop updated whitefly management recommendations for multiple vegetable crops based on scientifically rigorous on-farm insecticide trials, technology evaluations, and economic assessments.	$235,148.00
3. Using AI-Based Robotic Vision and Ericoid Mycorrhizal Fungi for Improving Blueberry Production in Florida	The University of Central Florida (UCF) and University of Florida (UF) will use AI-based robotic vision for monitoring plant growth condition and ericoid mycorrhizal fungi for enhancing soil health to improve blueberry production.	$199,979.00
4. Advancing Sustainable Lettuce Production in Florida through UAV and AI-Driven Precision Phenotyping and Disease Management	The University of Florida aims to increase lettuce breeding programs focused on improving yield, disease resistance, and stress tolerance.	$249,997.00
5. Advancing Florida Berry Production: Multisite Field Trials and Demonstrations of New Blackberry Varieties	The University of Florida (UF) will conduct field trials and demonstrations of 15 new experimental blackberry varieties across central, north central, and north Florida.	$249,971.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
6. Survey and Chilli Thrips Management in Woodland Vegetation Associated with Small Fruit Farms	The University of Florida and Florida A&M University will develop a biorational invasive thrips pest management strategy focusing on the woodland refuges of Scirtothrips dorsalis Hood (chilli thrips) around small fruit crop farms and utilize field days with stakeholders to disseminate results.	$248,508.20
7. Expanding the Production of Mango in Florida through an Integrated Approach to Manage Anthracnose Disease	The researchers based at the University of Florida, Tropical Research and Education Center, will facilitate the expansion of mango production in Florida by providing growers with efficacious management strategies to mitigate the impact of the most economically important pre-and post-harvest disease, anthracnose.	$248,891.00
8. Development and Evaluation of Novel, Heat-Tolerant, Sterile Begonia for Florida's Ornamental Industry	The University of Florida will increase the marketability and landscape use of wax begonia, Florida's third top bedding plant, by developing novel, sterile (non-invasive) cultivars and/or hybrids that are tolerant of Florida's extreme weather conditions.	$220,444.00
9. Pre-Harvest and Post Harvest Strategies to Mitigate Pink Rib/Pinking Disorder and Increase Shelf-life in Florida-Grown Lettuce	The University of Florida will lead a project to improve lettuce quality and shelf life by reducing the risk of pre- and postharvest development of pink rib/pinking disorder (PR).	$219,008.00
10. Statewide Survey for Managing Seven Major Grapevine Viral Pathogens to Sustain the High Productivity and Economic Development of the Florida Grape	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University will focus on combating grapevine viral pathogens affecting muscadine grapevines in Florida, including Grapevine Leafroll Disease (GLD), Grapevine Red Blotch Disease (GRBD), and the Rugose Wood Disease Complex.	$226,937.04
11. Advancing Precision Irrigation for Specialty Crops: Development of a Statewide Tool for Site-Specific Subirrigation Recommendations	University of Florida Board of Trustees will advance agricultural drainage management for specialty crops by optimizing nitrogen use which mitigates negative environmental impacts.	$249,930.13
12. Impact of Colored Mulch and Net Shading on Blackberry Yield and Quality of Florida Varieties	The University of Florida (UF) will conduct field research in north and central Florida to support the state's rapidly expanding blackberry industry.	$248,450.44

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
13. Improving Summer Fertilization Efficiency in Blueberries	The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences will improve fertilizer uptake efficiency in blueberry farms by developing scientifically based practical measures to use controlled released fertilizers for blueberry fertilization in the summer.	$249,268.00
14. Reducing Nematode Damage in Strawberries with Agricultural Practices that Enhance Soil Health and Agricultural Sustainability	The University of Florida will provide Florida strawberry growers with nematode management recommendations that enhance soil health and disseminate this information via growers' meetings, extension agents, and publications	$239,173.00
15. Improving Soil Health and Vegetable Production through Cover Cropping, Composting, and Mycorrhizae Inoculation Practices	Florida International University's Agroecology Program, in collaboration with, Miami-Dade County (Urban Horticulture Program), Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, and the USDA-ARS Subtropical Horticultural Research Station, aim to enhance soil health and resilience in South Florida's Specialty Crop industry.	$249,841.00
16. "Fresh From Florida" Food Service Distributor and Retail Market Access Project	The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will identify market access opportunities for Florida growers within the food service and grocery retail industries.	$147,402.64
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$159,908.08

Georgia Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $1,509,518.14; Number of Sub-awards: 16[*]

The Georgia Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 7 research projects, 3 education and outreach projects, 2 marketing projects, and 3 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including blueberries, pecans, turfgrass, citrus fruits and squash throughout the State of Georgia.

[*] This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Monitoring and Management of Blueberry Gall Midge, a Threat to Profitability of Blueberry Farmers in Georgia	The Georgia Commodity Commission for Blueberries will establish a contractual agreement with the State Department to conduct research to understand biology and ecology of blueberry gall midge and use that information to develop more sustainable strategies to monitor and manage this pest.	$98,039.00
2. Providing Education to Increase Profitability and Efficiency for Georgia Pecan Growers Through Access to the Most Current Best Practices	The Georgia Pecan Growers Association will plan and execute the 2026 GPGA Conference and Trade Show as a 3-day educational event to be held in Perry, Georgia at the Georgia National Fairgrounds.	$57,108.00
3. Advancing International Sales and Exports of Georgia Pecans Through Buyer Engagement and Promotion with India	Georgia Pecan Growers (GPGA) aims to stimulate networking and innovation to drive long-term growth and sustainability for pecans in the Indian market through direct recruitment and relationship building with vetted Indian buyers and manufacturers.	$77,506.00
4. Providing Best Practices and Education to Specialty Crop Producers for Competitiveness (SERFVC)	The Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association will coordinate the 2026 Southeast Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference to provide up to date information and best practices to educate specialty crop producers on the best ways to be competitive.	$99,705.89
5. Production and Beyond: GFVGA Provides Industry Competitiveness through Education for Changes in Labor, Leadership, and More	The Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will coordinate the in-person Georgia Agricultural Labor Relations Forum, two (2) in person meetings around the state, and at least four (4) webinars throughout the year focused on current industry hot topics bringing change for our specialty crop operators.	$40,952.00
6. Growing Georgia Grown: Expanding Georgia Grown Marketing to Include National Retail Wholesale Buyers	This Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association (GFVGA) project provides Georgia's specialty crop growers with a unique platform to directly engage with thousands of potential buyers at The Global Produce and Floral Show.	$54,343.00
7. Screening Turfgrass Species Against Dollar Spot and Understanding Host-Pathogen Interaction	The University of Georgia will screen commercial cultivars and UGA advanced breeding lines of warm-season and cool-season turfgrasses for resistance to dollar spot, a significant fungal disease.	$99,957.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
8. Identify and Develop High-Quality and Microbiologically-Safe Compost Teas for Blueberry Production	The University of Georgia aims to collaborate with the Georgia Blueberry Growers Association to develop and identify high-quality, and microbiologically safe, compost teas for blueberry production.	$99,970.00
9. The Effects of Nitrogen on the Growth and Harvest Timeline of Bermudagrass Sod	The University of Georgia will identify fertility programs to improve the re-establishment of bermudagrass sod fields, quantify the effects fertilizer on growth and development, and in turn the ability to harvest and handle sod to optimize grower inputs.	$94,013.80
10. Biopolymeric Antimicrobial and Ethylene-Regulating Packaging for Enhancing Shelf Life and Safety of Georgia Specialty Crops	The University of Georgia will lead this project to develop an innovative biopolymeric antimicrobial and ethylene-regulating packaging system to enhance the shelf life and safety of Georgia's specialty crops.	$99,997.00
11. Paper or Plastic? What is the Best Mulch Type for Vegetable Production in Georgia?	The University of Georgia will evaluate the efficacy of a novel paper mulch with a proprietary coating in suppressing nutsedge in bell pepper cultivation.	$99,970.40
12. Breeding for Dual Resistance: Identification and Genetic Mapping of Powdery and Downy Mildew Resistance in Squash	The University of Georgia will improve the production of summer squash by improving powdery and downy mildew resistance in controlled environment agriculture facilities. Results will be disseminated to stakeholders for large-scale implementation.	$99,636.00
13. Enhance Food Safety Practices in Cold Storage for the Specialty Crops in Georgia	The University of Georgia will conduct food safety risk assessment of cold room sanitation practices and provide intervention techniques that are readily adaptable by the specialty crop/vegetable growers in Georgia.	$58,280.00
14. Development of Primary Macronutrient Recommendations for the Georgia Citrus Grower	The University of Georgia will develop primary macronutrient fertilizer recommendations for Georgia citrus growers through a large-scale field trial to optimize annual rates of nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus.	$89,821.60
15. Innovative Manufacturing Practices to Enhance the Value of Georgia Citrus with Techno-Economic Considerations	The University of Georgia project is an innovative manufacturing initiative to enhance the economic and environmental sustainability of Georgia's citrus industry, particularly Satsumas, through product diversification, waste valorization, and techno-economic analysis.	$98,686.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$241,522.14

Guam Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $245,562.78; Number of Sub-awards: 3

The Guam Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The Territory's sub-awards include 1 research project and 2 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including bananas and hibiscus throughout the Territory of Guam.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Growing Roselle (Hibiscus sabdariffa), a Functional Food Crop to Create Value-Added Products in Guam	The University of Guam (UOG) in collaboration with the Guam Department of Agriculture (GDAg) will support local production and marketing of value-added products of roselle (Hibiscus sabdariffa) to promote agribusinesses in Guam.	$100,000.00
2. The Propagation of Bananas Using Nature-Friendly and Conventional Methods of Farming for Evaluation and Demonstration to Local Producers on Guam	Farm to Table-Guam, Corp. (FTT), in collaboration with the Guam Department of Agriculture (DoAG), will enhance banana cultivation and marketability among local producers.	$99,999.99
3. Guam Department of Agriculture Propagation Laboratory Project	The Guam Department of Agriculture will revamp the Tissue Culture Laboratory to multiply high-quality banana varieties via scientific in-vitro propagation methods and disseminate pest and disease-free plantlets to partners and stakeholders for field evaluation and demonstration purposes.	$45,500.01

Hawaii Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $512,663.87; Number of Sub-awards: 8*

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 1 food safety project, and 6 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including kukui nut, breadfruit, taro, sweet potato, and banana throughout the State of Hawaii.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Building a Hawai'i-Based Flour Economy: Reducing Imports with Local Alternatives	Farm Link Hawaiʻi and Culinary Breeding Network aim to increase the demand and consumption of six well-adapted specialty crops—breadfruit, taro, cassava, sweet potato, macadamia nut, and banana—as locally grown alternatives/additions to imported grain products.	$49,800.00
2. Taro Leaf Viability for Small-Scale Dryland Farming	Kalo Road Farm project will increase the market viability of small-scale dryland farmed taro through improved post-harvest handling of taro leaf, educational marketing, and technical but accessible materials to aid small-scale farmers.	$34,650.00
3. Revitalizing Kukui Nut Production and ʻInamona Commercialization in Hawaiʻi	Kukui Ranch LLC will develop a statewide initiative to revitalize kukui nut (Aleurites moluccanus) as a specialty crop by producing ʻinamona -- a traditional Hawaiian roasted kukui nut condiment -- in a food-safe, scalable, and market-ready format.	$50,000.00
4. Increasing Marketability of Farmed Warmwater Macroalgae by Developing GAP Guidelines for Producers	Ocean Era, Inc. will partner with the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership to establish Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) guidance for land-based, warmwater seaweed farms.	$46,164.00
5. Developing a Drought-Resilient Model of Regenerative Management and Production for Lychee Orchards in Hawai'i	O.K. Farms will develop a model of sustainable and drought-resilient lychee orchard management in Hawaiʻi by developing scientifically based methods for increasing soil organic matter content, establishing water-conscious irrigation, and replacing conventional fertilizer regimes for more cost-effective and environmentally conscious organic and locally sourced alternatives.	$46,285.00
6. Hawaii Grown Specialty Crops at the Global Produce Show	Hawaii Department of Agriculture will present four Hawaii-grown specialty crop exhibitors at the Global Produce and Floral Show.	$143,039.51

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
7. Advancing Herbs and Spices as a Crop for Hawaii	The Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity will lead a project to advance herbs and spices as a crop for Hawaii growers. The project will enhance the competitiveness of culinary herbs and spices.	$101,685.15
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$41,010.21

Idaho State Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $1,926,913.31; Number of Sub-awards: 14[*]

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 2 research projects, 4education and outreach projects, 2 marketing projects, 4 pest and disease control projects, and 1 food safety project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including beans, winegrapes, hops, potatoes, onions and apples throughout the State of Idaho.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Sampling and Asymptomatic Detection for the Bacterial Wilt Pathogen in Beans	The Idaho Bean Commission will work with the University of Idaho to develop new optimum cost-effective sampling strategies for Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens pv flaccumfaciens (Cff) in bean crops.	$80,000.00
2. Idaho Made Wine for an Idaho Made Lifestyle	The Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission (IWC) aims to elevate the visibility and reputation of Idaho-grown, and Idaho made wine and cider.	$125,000.00
3. Building Awareness, Idaho Hops through Trade Shows, Reverse Missions, and Social Media	The Idaho Hop Growers Commission will support industry members attending domestic and international trade shows to learn from brewers and dealers. Domestic promotions will also include radio advertising and other promotional opportunities during the grant period to promote certain events such as Craft Beer Month.	$50,000.00
4. Optimizing Irrigated Culinary Mustard Agronomic Practices and Developing Winter Culinary Mustard Varieties for Idaho	The Idaho Oilseed Commission will work with the University of Idaho to research agronomic management practices of irrigated yellow and oriental culinary mustard grown for spice.	$100,000.00

[*] This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
5. Enhancing the Export of Idaho Potato Products to Latin America	The Idaho Potato Commission is seeking additional funding to assist in growing export sales of frozen, dehydrated, and fresh Idaho potatoes.	$125,000.00
6. Modernizing the Grading Process for Idaho Potatoes to Improve Efficiency and Quality	The Division of Agricultural Inspections within the Idaho State Department of Agriculture will modernize Idaho's potato grading systems by evaluating and demonstrating updated technologies.	$250,000.00
7. Bridging Producers and Consumers: Growing Idaho Specialty Crops Through Retail, Agritourism and Education	Idaho Preferred, an Idaho State Department of Agriculture program, will promote Idaho specialty crops through strategic retail partnerships, wholesaler education, specialty crop producer marketing, and development of high-impact digital assets.	$290,610.00
8. Reducing Codling Moth Populations Using Sterile Insect Release	Mid Snake Resource Conservation and Development Council (RCD) seeks to mitigate the economic impact of codling moth damage to apple and pear trees in Idaho.	$60,000.00
9. Food Safety Risks in Onions: Examining Salmonella and E. coli Behavior in Damaged and Diseased Bulbs	Oregon State University, together with Idaho Department of Agriculture, will explore the behavior of foodborne pathogens in damaged and diseased onion bulbs and how that could influence food safety risks throughout the dry bulb onion supply chain.	$150,000.00
10. The Introduction and Propagation of New Garlic Varieties Into Idaho's Allium Quarantine Area	Sundries Farm Garlic will work with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to have six new varieties of garlic tested for White-Rot, certified for cultivation within the Allium Quarantine Area, certified for sale within the Allium Quarantine Area, and made widely available within the Allium Quarantine Area.	$16,150.00
11. Marketing and Outreach Expansion for Idaho Wines, Grapes, and Agritourism in the Sunnyslope, Idaho American Viticultural Area (AVA).	The Sunnyslope Wine Trail, Inc (SSWT) will promote its new AVA (American Viticultural Area) destination, the Sunnyslope, Idaho AVA. We will increase awareness of the Sunnyslope Wine Region and Idaho wines grown from Idaho grapes.	$100,000.00
12. Developing Novel Fungicides for Sustainable Potato Production- Efficacy Evaluations of Newly Identified Compounds Against Potato Pathogens	The University of Idaho will screen potato pathogens against these compounds including Alternaria solani, Colletotrichum coccodes, Helminthisporium solani, Rhizoctonia solani, Phytophthora erythroseptica and Spongospora subterranean.	$120,000.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
13. Sustainable and effective methods for the management of Powdery Scab and Potato Mop-Top Virus	The University of Idaho will develop practical tools for Idaho potato growers to manage powdery scab and PMTV through field trials at Aberdeen and Parma R&E centers.	$130,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$330,153.31

Illinois Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $679,005.52; Number of Sub-awards: 13*

The Illinois Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 12 education and outreach projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including microgreens, pest management, fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the State of Illinois.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Growing Fenugreek Microgreens in Hydroponics System: Promoting as Anti-Inflammatory and Anti-Diabetic Diet in Illinois	The Southern Illinois University seeks to develop growing fenugreek microgreens using hydroponics as a clean, sustainable way to boost health. It will focus on optimizing growth, nutrients and yield while analyzing bioactives for their anti-inflammatory and antidiabetic properties.	$58,831.00
2. Integrated Pest Management of Squash Bug in Illinois Pumpkin Production	The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign will investigate integrated pest management of squash bugs in cucurbit production with an emphasis on biological control. The overall project goal is to explore squash bug integrated pest management.	$52,290.63

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
3. The Right Ingredients: Increasing Youth and Family Health Outcomes and Specialty Crop Consumption via Pizza and Salsa Gardening and Cooking Classes	Farmers Rising will increase consumption of specialty crops among 500 youth and their 75 adult chaperones in Northern Illinois, by providing hands-on gardening and cooking classes to youth program participants who attend field trips and summer camps.	$44,808.56
4. One Stop Shop: Simplifying Resources for Illinois Specialty Crop Producers	The Land Connection will lead the development of a resource portal for Illinois specialty crop producers, which includes an interactive food safety decision-making tool, by redesigning our website to host curated, easily searchable materials from us and peer organizations.	$49,928.99
5. Educating Low-Income Clients of the Benefits of Consuming Specialty Crops Sold at the 61st Street Farmers Market	The 61st Street Farmers Market, a program of Experimental Station, seeks to expand further its educational programming to rebuild local knowledge of the nutritional benefits and pleasure of consuming foods on the Illinois Specialty Crops list, as well as how to grow and prepare them.	$49,856.46
6. Roots to Wellness: A Farmers Market Approach	GinnFarms Corp, dba the Greater Wabash Food Council (GWFC), will address food insecurity and limited access to fresh produce by expanding GWFC's educational programming at farmers markets to increase knowledge and consumption of Illinois Specialty Crops.	$74,999.20
7. Cultivating Food Sovereignty: Training Specialty Growers in Englewood Chicago	Social Change will launch a training program teaching high school students and local adults the farming and business skills needed to start an urban farm on any available land. The program will cover sustainable growing techniques, small-scale farm management, and selling to local markets.	$36,132.70
8. Development of Best Practices for Production, Post-Harvest, Marketing and Distribution for a Variety of Perennial Crops at Sola Gratia Farm	Sola Gratia Farm (SGF) is seeking support towards strategic development of our perennial crop operation. Investment in perennial crops will provide stability and sustainability through expansion into new markets that are underutilized in our area, though involves a steep learning curve in production, post-harvest, marketing and distribution of perennial crops.	$48,031.92
9. SnackTime Explorers - Building Curiosity About/Consumption of Illinois-grown Produce through Classroom-based Tastings that Promote/Elevate Illinois	Pilot Light will establish an agreement with the Illinois State Department of Agriculture to elevate the work of Illinois farmers and producers of specialty crops and increase awareness and consumption of locally grown produce by bringing the SnackTime Explorers™ (STE) program to students in Decatur, Illinois (and potentially other Illinois communities).	$50,000.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
10. Illinois Specialty Crop Resiliency Through Technical Assistance through the Illinois Specialty Crop Conference and Video Resource Library	The Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA) will offer specialty crop farmers educational programs through their Illinois Specialty Crop Conference, virtual educational library, and educational workshops to create in-depth educational resources for the specialty crop industry year-round.	$100,000.00
11. Illinois Department of Agriculture Apiary Inspection Education and Outreach Project	The Illinois Department of Agriculture will draft and publish fliers or handouts to inform the public and beekeepers within the state of the Illinois about the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act and the Department's Apiary Inspection Program, and provide collective training to the staff and beekeeper's on honey bee diseases, pests, and treatments.	$28,073.38
12. Expansion and Continuation of the Illinois Product Program and Promotion of Illinois Specialty Crops	The Illinois Department of Agriculture will continue the revitalization of its 30-year-old Illinois Products program through continued education of the staff, expanding participation, boosting visibility, and driving access, consumption, and support for Illinois specialty crops.	$19,068.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$36,517.52

Indiana State Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $534,076.75; Number of Sub-awards: 6*

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 3 research projects and 2 education and outreach projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including cucurbits, tomatoes, and wine grapes throughout the State of Indiana.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Breaking the Blight: Genetic and Fungicide Strategies for Indiana Cucurbits	The Purdue University "Breaking the blight: genetic and fungicide strategies for Indiana cucurbits" will address the growing threat of Gummy Stem Blight (GSB) in cucurbit crops.	$73,069.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
2. Multi-Site Vitus Vinefera Viability Assessment	Owen Valley Winery, in partnership with Butler Winery, will conduct a grant-funded study to evaluate the viability of growing traditional Vitis vinifera (European wine grape) varieties --such as Cabernet Franc, Gamay Noir, and Merlot in Indiana.	$141,388.00
3. Producing Value-Added Food Products to Diversify and Add Profit to Indiana Orchards	Students, staff, and faculty at Purdue University's Food Entrepreneurship and Manufacturing Institute (FEMI) will work with a local orchard (Wea Creek Orchard, Lafayette, Indiana) to develop a reproducible process to produce, formulate, and package non-alcoholic cider.	$117,852.00
4. Increasing Yields by Reducing Pollination Deficits in Indiana Processing Tomatoes	Purdue University entomologists will collaborate with processing tomato growers to reduce yield gaps derived from sub-optimal pollination.	$84,041.00
5. Marketing and Promotion of Indiana Specialty Crops	Indiana Grown aims to strengthen market access, supports sales growth, and creates new export opportunities for Indiana's specialty crop producers by facilitating farmers' participation in key trade shows.	$75,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$42,726.75

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship: Amount of Funds Awarded: $369,273.79; Number of Sub-awards: 13*

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 3 research projects, 6 education and outreach projects, 1 marketing project and 2 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including grapes, strawberries, amaranth greens, and other fruits and vegetables throughout the State of Iowa.

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Tackling Grapevine Viral Infections in Iowa: Advancing Detection and Understanding Virus Prevalence in Cold-Hardy Cultivars	Iowa State University will assess the prevalence and distribution of viruses affecting cold-hardy grape cultivars in Iowa, providing the first comprehensive insights into their presence and impact on grape production.	$27,880.00
2. Advancing Strawberry Production in Iowa: Evaluation of New Cultivars for Yield and Disease Resistance	Iowa State University seeks to enhance strawberry production in Iowa by evaluating new day-neutral strawberry cultivars for yield and disease resistance under conventional, organic, and high-tunnel production systems.	$29,782.00
3. Farmer Led Education for Growing, Packaging and Marketing Leafy Greens Year-Round in Iowa	Practical Farmers of Iowa will equip vegetable farmers in Iowa to produce, package and market leafy greens year-round through a series of farmer-led educational events.	$30,000.00
4. Creating Education and Networking Opportunities for Beginning Specialty Crop Farmers	Practical Farmers of Iowa will plan and facilitate a beginning farmer business retreat and a hands-on field day for beginning specialty crop farmers focusing on topics such as risk tolerance, record keeping, marketing, and business plans to support essential business development.	$29,783.00
5. Investigating Nitrogen in Vine/Wine Quality	The Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute in conjunction with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will work together to determine how differing sources of vineyard and winery nitrogen additions will impact grapevine growth and wine quality in a red and a white hybrid wine grape cultivar.	$29,662.00
6. 2026 Iowa Specialty Crop Growers Conference	The Iowa Specialty Crop Growers Association will collaborate with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, along with key industry stakeholders, to coordinate, organize, and manage the 2026 Iowa Specialty Producers Conference offering valuable educational opportunities and promotes networking amongst attendees to bolster the specialty crop industry in Iowa.	$18,795.00
7. Efficiency of Alternative Products for Replacing Sulfites in Wine	The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State University will investigate the efficiency of alternative products to sulfur dioxide on the quality of wines.	$29,522.00
8. Iowa Wine Growers Association Annual Conference	The Iowa Wine Growers Association will work with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, as well as other industry members and partners to plan, prepare, and execute the 2026 Iowa Wine Growers Association Conference.	$27,880.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
9. Digital Content in Commercial Vegetable Educational Programming: Expanding Reach and Impact	Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will expand educational opportunities for Iowa vegetable farmers through digital content creation and dissemination.	$27,750.00
10. Reading Across Iowa with Specialty Crops	The Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation (IALF) will extend Iowa specialty crops education with Iowa youth through developing and implementing a program that will integrate literature, corresponding lessons, farm and agribusiness tours and resources.	$30,000.00
11. Expanding Access and Consumption of Lenga-Lenga as Iowa's New Superfood	Lutheran Services in Iowa's Global Greens program will increase the awareness and consumption of Lenga-Lenga, also known as Amaranth Green, among Iowa's consumers while supporting specialty crop producers.	$15,000.00
12. Choose Iowa - Promoting Horticulture through Website, Online Directory	The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will help boost sales of Iowa specialty crops by creating tools for Iowa consumers to find Iowa grown horticulture products.	$35,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$35,389.10

Kansas Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $324,059.17; Number of Sub-awards: 8[*]

The Kansas Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 3 research projects, 3 education and outreach projects, and 1 project that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including pinto beans, spinach, and other fruits and vegetables throughout the State of Kansas.

[*] This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Statewide Conference for Kansas Specialty Crop Growers and Stakeholders.	The Kansas Department of Agriculture will host a conference focused on the business and production aspects of specialty crops in Kansas. The conference will be an educational event for specialty crop growers and stakeholders to gather, network, and grow in knowledge.	$11,746.82
2. Supporting Kansas Growers with Free Water Testing for Produce Safety Compliance.	The Kansas State University will provide free water testing for Kansas specialty crop growers to support compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule requirements. In addition to providing water testing services, this project will generate valuable long-term data on agricultural water quality trends in Kansas.	$30,009.96
3. Weed Control in No-till Dry Bean Production	Kansas State University will conduct research and develop recommendations for broadleaf weed control in pinto beans produced in no-till irrigated fields. They will communicate these recommendations to farmers and agronomy professionals through field days, grower meetings, and other outreach efforts.	$30,589.39
4. Comprehensive Postharvest Hands-On Training for Kansas Specialty Crop Growers.	Kansas State University will develop and deliver a tailored short course on postharvest management of specialty crops for Kansas growers. The overall goal of the project is to improve grower postharvest practices, reduce postharvest losses, and boost economic growth in the Kansas fruit and vegetable industry.	$99,568.18
5. Double Film Method for Large Scale Production of Vegetables in Winter Season without Added Heat Source.	Kansas State University Research and Extension will develop a method to grow vegetable crops in local subzero winter climate. Spinach will be used as the crop of research subject, but other species will be studied in subsequent research if the method is proved to be effective.	$57,273.48
6. Growing Community Through Kansas Specialty Crops.	KC Farm School will increase awareness and consumption of Kansas-grown specialty crops through live farmers market cook-alongs featuring specialty crops from regional farmers through our CSA co-op, Community Garden members, Let's Grow Wyandotte! members, the Wyandotte County Farmers Market Coalition, and the KC F.A.R.M.E.R.S Coalition.	$48,079.44
7. Increasing Consumption and Purchase of Specialty Crops Through the Expansion of Nutrition Education Programs to Children and Adults in Saline County	Prairieland Market will increase knowledge about the availability, purchase, preparation, cooking, and preservation of specialty crops by offering education programs to children and adults in Saline County. Prairieland Market will promote educational programs focused on children and families.	$39,432.97

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$7,354.07

Kentucky Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $345,544.81; Number of Sub-awards: 7*

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 1 research project, 4 education and outreach projects, and 1 marketing project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including winter squash, sweet potatoes, carrots, mixed greens, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, and berries throughout the State of Kentucky.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Specialty Crop Produce Prescriptions for Diabetes Prevention Program Participants	This project is a partnership between Need More Acres Farm, the Allen County Health Department Board of Health, and the Barren River District Health Department. Together, they aim to address health concerns in South Central Kentucky by promoting the consumption of Kentucky-grown specialty crops among individuals at risk for diabetes.	$44,000.00
2. Seed Production of Cut Flower Crops	The University of Kentucky will evaluate and develop seed production recommendations for perennial cut flower crops that can be grown commercially in the mid-South.	$53,000.00
3. Growing Demand for Organic Specialty Crops in Kentucky	The Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) will market and promote specialty crops to new customers by enhancing OAK's Find-A-Farm Directory and launching a strategic marketing campaign to increase awareness of and demand for local and organic produce.	$44,000.00
4. Increasing Awareness and Consumption of Kentucky Specialty Cut Flowers	The Southern Kentucky Floral Exchange will increase awareness and consumption of Kentucky grown specialty cut flowers in our region to expand cut flower production, sales and distribution through consumer education, networking and marketing initiatives.	$62,000.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
5. Developing Advanced Resources and Filling Knowledge Gaps for Fruit and Vegetable Growers	The University of Kentucky Specialty Crops Team will develop advanced disease management tools to help growers transition to organic production or to incorporate biological/biorational products into their conventional pest management systems.	$53,000.00
6. Appalachian Protected Agriculture Alliance	The Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) will lead a collaborative effort with Kentucky Fresh Harvest (KFH) to launch the Appalachian Protected Agriculture Alliance (APAA)—a multi-state nonprofit coalition supporting greenhouse and vertical farm specialty crop producers across the 13-state Appalachian region.	$62,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$27,544.81

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry: Amount of Funds Awarded: $386,273.54; Number of Sub-awards: 7[*]

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 3 research projects, 1 marketing project, and 2 food safety projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including ginger, blueberries, and strawberries crops throughout the State of Louisiana.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Reducing Microbial Loads and Maintaining the Quality of Blueberries Through Combined Airborne Ultrasonic and Freezing Technology	Louisiana State University Agricultural Center will conduct a study that aims to determine the effectiveness of the combined airborne ultrasonic and freezing technology (USFT) in reducing Listeria monocytogenes and Escherichia coli O157:H7 levels on the surface of blueberries and in reducing spoilage microbial loads to extend shelf life.	$59,275.00
2. Ask for Louisiana Strawberries" Influencer Marketing Campaign	The Louisiana Strawberry Marketing Board will increase consumer demand and consumption of Louisiana strawberries over a three-year period by partnering with social media influencers to create content and share posts promoting the nutritional benefits and availability of Louisiana strawberries.	$41,760.00

[*] This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
3. Establishment of a Model Agritourism Setup at the LSU AgCenter Dean Lee Research and Extension Center	Louisiana Stata University AgCenter will lead and execute the project to establish a model agritourism setup at the Dean Lee Research and Extension Center. The project aims to enhance local fruit production and provide valuable educational resources by establishing a model agritourism setup.	$54,216.00
4. Addressing Fresh Produce Safety Concerns with Non-Thermal Plasma-Activated Water	The Louisiana State University Agricultural Center has identified a method utilizing ozonized water to reduce pathogenic loads on fresh produce surfaces. This project will assess the effectiveness in reducing levels of Listeria and Escherichia coli on cantaloupe surfaces.	$58,525.00
5. Improving Disease Detection, Forecasting, and Developing Best Management Practices to Mitigate Neopestalotiopsis Leaf, Fruit and Crown Disease of S	The Louisiana State University Agricultural Center's Specialty Crop Team will collaborate to mitigate Neopestalotiopsis leaf, fruit and crown disease of strawberries through improved disease detection, forecasting and developing best management strategies.	$74,277.00
6. Evaluation of Ginger Family (Ginger, Turmeric, Galangal) Cultivars for Louisiana Horticulture Growers and Nurseries	Louisiana State University AgCenter will research the organic and sustainable production of ginger family (ginger, turmeric, galangal) cultivars as well as their phytochemical and nutritional properties.	$67,318.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$30,901.88

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry: Amount of Funds Awarded: $640,638.23; Number of Sub-awards: 5*

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 1 education and outreach projects, 2 marketing project and 1 mini-grant project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including tulips, freesia, narcissus, alliums, lavender, oregano, basil, mint, apples, pears, peaches, cherries, chestnut, hazelnut, blueberries, cranberries, raspberries, blackberries, grapes, kiwis, and other fruits, vegetables and herbs throughout the State of Maine.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Broaden Maine-Grown Flower Demand and Availability by Testing Season Extension and Piloting Sustainable State-wide "Maine Flower Days"	Maine Flower Collective will expand floral offerings into the shoulder seasons by supporting farmers' efforts to produce flowers in March, April, and May, as well as October, November, and December while promoting locally grown flowers throughout the state to create more demand for such special product.	$92,256.00
2. Increase Competitiveness and Market Share of Maine Grown Herbs Through E-commerce Farm to Consumer Sales	Meeting House Herb Farm and Maine Organic Farmer's and Gardeners Association will work together to educate and support business development and market promotion for more than 40 farms.	$100,000.00
3. Building a Permaculture, Agroforestry, and Alley Cropping Model by Implementing Strategies to Diversify Maine Farm Production and Provide Economic Viability	Maine Department of Corrections will partner with Restoration Agriculture Development and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association to provide film and print documentation of the training, workshops and implementation steps used to design and develop an on-site farm model.	$100,000.00
4. Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Specialty Crop Mini Grant Program	The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's division of Agricultural Resource Development will create a mini grant that will provide opportunities for specialty crop producers to increase market access, enhance food safety, and offer educational workshops and activities to improve knowledge of specialty crops.	$297,131.18

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$51,251.05

Maryland Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $499,856.10; Number of Sub-awards: 8*

The Maryland Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 3 research projects, 1 education and outreach project, 2 marketing projects and 1 food safety project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including apples, strawberries and various other fruits and vegetables throughout the State of Maryland.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Maryland's Best - Promoting Maryland Specialty Crops to Consumers and Distributors	The Maryland's Best marketing program aims to increase the sales of specialty crop farmers by connecting consumers to locally grown products.	$143,500.00
2. MAEF Mobile Agriculture Showcase	The Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation is building a new mobile Showcase exhibit, which is booked at fairs and community events to encourage Marylanders to learn more about agriculture and its importance in our daily lives.	$20,000.00
3. Learning and Connections for Specialty Crop Farmers: The Future Harvest Annual Conference	Future Harvest will facilitate education and networking for 400 specialty crop farmers in the Chesapeake region by hosting an annual Specialty Crop conference.	$34,924.80
4. Produce Safety GAP/GHP Program Market Access and FSMA Produce Safety Rule Compliance	The Maryland Department of Agriculture, Food Quality Assurance Program, along with project partners University of Maryland Plant Sciences and Landscape Architecture Department, University of Maryland Extension, and the University of Maryland Agricultural Law Education Initiative will collaboratively work to provide educational food safety programs, training, and resources.	$166,500.00
5. Maryland Farm & Harvest Season 13	Maryland Public Television and its co-producer Maryland Department of Agriculture will include segments on specialty crops in Season 13 of Maryland Farm & Harvest.	$29,173.60

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
6. Understanding the Impact of NeoPest Infection on Strawberry Production in Maryland	The University of Maryland will improve the sustainability of strawberry production by improving our understanding of the effects of NeoPest infection on fruit yield and quality in the Mid-Atlantic region.	$23,569.21
7. Advancing the Apple Fruit Maturity Assessment Program for Maryland Growers	University of Maryland researchers in partnership with apple growers in Western and Eastern Maryland will continue developing an apple fruit maturity assessment program as a tool to improve harvest and storage decisions of economically important cultivars adopted by growers statewide.	$27,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$55,188.49

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources: Amount of Funds Awarded: $441,530.48; Number of Sub-awards: 7*

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 5 education and outreach projects and 1 marketing project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including cranberries, herbs and spices, and various fruits and vegetables throughout the State of Massachusetts.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. A Program to Create Cranberry-Specific Tools that Enhance Viability and Understanding of This Unique Industry	The Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association (CCCGA) will improve public knowledge and awareness of the unique aspects of the Massachusetts cranberry industry by direct-mailing an informational brochure to all residents of top cranberry growing communities.	$80,797.00
2. Actualizing the Healthy Incentives Program to Increase Sales of Massachusetts' Grown Fruits and Vegetables	Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture ("CISA") will increase sales of and access to local fruits and vegetables by providing training and promotional support to Healthy Incentives Program ("HIP") vendors in Massachusetts and educating consumers about where, why, and how to use HIP and other resources to purchase fruits and vegetables directly from local farms.	$78,134.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
3. Promoting and Increasing Consumption of Local Specialty Crops through Cooking Education	Through this project, Coastal Foodshed will promote and increase awareness of locally grown specialty crops, increasing the sale of locally grown specialty crops, particularly among low-income, SNAP households in the Southcoast of Massachusetts.	$63,018.00
4. Empowering Communities to Access and Prepare Local Specialty Crops Through Markets and Education	Grow Food Northampton will build on its successful food access and education programs to increase direct and sustainable access to specialty crops for residents of public housing communities.	$62,674.04
5. Specialty Crops Work in North Central MA	Growing Places (GP) will create an accessible and resilient regional food system in North Central MA (NCMA). This project aims to expand reach and market penetration to boost the purchasing and consumption of locally grown specialty crops to support the region's 180+ farms.	$68,038.00
6. Market Assessment: Demand for Local Peppers in Massachusetts and the New England Region	The Williams Agency, in collaboration with the Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts (SBN) and KAS Consulting, will conduct a market assessment to enhance the competitiveness of locally grown chili, hot, and mild peppers, and pepper-based products in Massachusetts and New England.	$53,547.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$35,322.44

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Amount of Funds Awarded: $2,256,268.19; Number of Sub-awards: 23[*]

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State’s sub-awards include 16 research projects, 1 education and outreach projects, 3 marketing project and 2 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including grapes, strawberries, potatoes, onions, Christmas trees, cherries, and various other specialty crops throughout the State of Michigan.

[*] This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1.Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development/International Marketing- International and Domestic Promotion of Michigan Specialty Crops	The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MDARD) International Marketing Program will continue to work with several Michigan commodity groups to promote Michigan specialty crops domestically and internationally.	$156,779.55
2. Area Community Services, Employment and Training Council - Supporting Specialty Crop Growers with Food Safety Certification and Workforce Development	The Area Community Services Employment & Training Council will enhance specialty crop workforce development by providing 65 workers with industry-recognized food safety and leadership certifications while engaging 6,000 students in exploring specialty crop-related careers across a seven-county region.	$83,470.00
3. Cherry Marketing Institute - Enhancing and Unifying the Digital Presence of the Michigan and U.S. Cherry Industry	In this project, the Cherry Marketing Institute will redesign, optimize, and unify the Michigan-based U.S. tart cherry industry's websites into one cohesive and unified site that will best serve consumers, retailers, nutritionists, and growers into the future.	$122,500.00
4. Hop Growers of Michigan - Innovative Management of Downy Mildew in Michigan Hopyards	The Hop Growers of Michigan is requesting funding from the MDARD/USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The research aims to improve the management of hop downy mildew.	$99,000.00
5.Michigan Apple Committee - Enhancing Social Marketing to Build Brand Loyalty for Michigan Apples	The Michigan Apple Committee will spend $125,000 on a social media campaign bolstered by additional digital public relations tactics to raise brand recognition, enhance connections, and increase consumption with our target audience.	$125,000.00
6. Michigan Asparagus Advisory - Promoting Asparagus Production Through Decision Support and Sustainable Soil and Nutrient Management	The Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board, in cooperation with Michigan State University, will increase plant and soil health, farm profitability, and industry resilience to future weather and economic conditions.	$100,000.00
7. Michigan Bean Commission - A Systems Approach to Improving the Sustainable Production of Dry Beans in Michigan: Stage II	The Michigan Bean Commission (MBC) will continue its pursuit of knowledge using a multidisciplinary approach to better understand the biology and ecology of dry bean production systems while addressing farmer defined production barriers to sustainable production systems in Michigan.	$99,999.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
8. Michigan Blueberry Commission - Advancing Anthracnose Management in Michigan Blueberries	The Michigan Blueberry commission is requesting funding from the MDARD/USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. In order to stay competitive in the fresh fruit market, Michigan growers are aiming to increase production and fruit quality. This research will evaluate anthracnose prediction models and improve grower management strategies.	$99,000.00
9. Michigan Blueberry Commission - Evaluating New IPM Tools to Advance Spotted-Wing Drosophila Control for Michigan Blueberry Growers	The Michigan Blueberry Commission will support entomologists from Michigan State University to evaluate novel integrated pest management strategies to control spotted-wing drosophila and reduce reliance on insecticides for this damaging invasive pest.	$66,797.00
10.Michigan Celery Research - Integrated Strategies for Management of Herbicide-Resistant Weeds and Bolting in Celery	Michigan Celery Research, Inc., in cooperation with Michigan State University, will develop integrated strategies for managing herbicide-resistant weeds and evaluate new celery cultivars for bolt-resistance in order to reduce costs and improve profitability of celery production.	$99,998.00
11. Michigan Christmas Tree Association - Understanding and Managing Armillaria and Phytophthora Root Rot in Michigan Christmas Tree Plantations	The Michigan Christmas Tree Association, working with Michigan State University, is seeking funding support to help growers manage Phytophthora and Armillaria root rot issues in Michigan Christmas tree production.	$89,444.00
12. Michigan Grape Society - Evaluating Sustainable Management Systems for Successful Establishment of Michigan Vineyards and Orchards.	The Michigan Grape Society, in partnership with Michigan State University seeks to understand the benefits and challenges of organic and regenerative management methods on the establishment of grape vineyards and apple orchards under Michigan climatic conditions when compared to conventional management methods.	$97,941.00
13. Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association - The Real Cost of Weed Control	The Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) will establish a program to evaluate the cost and efficacy of the four most common pre-emergence herbicides in nursery container production of specialty crops, as well as one combo product developed in past specialty crop block grants.	$19,999.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
14. Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association - Alternative Pesticides for Nursery Container Production	The Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association, working with Michigan State University is seeking funding to support research to help nursery growers improve their productivity and profitability by developing alternative pesticide strategies for controlling problematic weeds in MI woody shrub container production.	$100,000.00
15. Michigan Onion Committee - Onion Growers Seek to Limit Leaf Spot to Preserve Yields	The Michigan Onion Committee, in partnership with Michigan State University, will identify effective management strategies aimed at protecting the crop's foliage from Stemphylium leaf blight (SLB) (causal pathogen Stemphylium vesicarium) and preserving bulb quality and yield.	$99,108.00
16. Michigan Potato Industry Commission - Nitrogen Dynamics of Various N Sources and N-15 Isotope Fate in Potato	The Michigan Potato Industry Commission (MPIC) will partner with researchers at Michigan State University (MSU) to better understand the fate of nitrogen fertilizers in the soil and where within the plant these products may reside at harvest (tuber vs vegetation).	$85,630.00
17. Michigan Seed Potato Association - Post-Harvest Testing Method Comparison in MI Certified Seed Potatoes	The Michigan Seed Potato Association with partnership from Michigan State University, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will compare the conventional winter-grow out test of certified seed potato stocks to novel PCR direct tuber testing for estimation of disease incidence to disseminate results to seed and commercial potato growing stakeholders.	$72,320.00
18. Michigan State Horticultural Society - Creation of a User-Friendly Mobile Phone App for Enviroweather	The Michigan State Horticultural Society will partner with MSU AgBioResearch to enhance the utilization of Enviroweather by creating a user-friendly mobile app version to assist specialty crop growers to make more informed and timely decisions.	$99,200.00
19. Michigan State Horticultural Society - Optimizing Sensory Quality in Controlled Environment Strawberry Production	The Michigan State Horticultural Society will contract with Michigan State University to identify the cultivars and growing conditions that optimize controlled environment strawberry sensory quality, determine instrumentally-measurable quality bounds.	$100,000.00
20. Michigan Vegetable Council - Sustainable Management of Root-Knot Nematodes in Michigan Vegetable Production Systems	Michigan State University's Applied Nematology Lab will address the growing threat of root-knot nematodes (Meloidogyne spp.) in vegetable production systems.	$96,925.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
21. Michigan Wine Collaborative - "Taste Best of Michigan" Pilot Program - Educate and Train Wine Wholesalers and Retailers to Expand Consumer Access	Grant funds from the SCBG will support the Michigan Wine Collaborative's (MWC) "Taste Best of Michigan" education and training pilot program. To develop an education and training curriculum about Michigan wine.	$64,800.00
22. New City Neighbors - Expanding Specialty Crop Training in West Michigan	New City Neighbors will enhance specialty crop training in West Michigan by establishing an Agricultural Training Center in Grand Rapids that will serve as a new training site for the Michigan State University Organic Farmer Training Program.	$98,822.25
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$179,535.39

Minnesota Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $1,493,003.21; Number of Sub-awards: 12*

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 3 research projects, 6 education and outreach projects, and 2 marketing projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including turfgrass, potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, collard greens, and grapes throughout the State of Minnesota.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Marketing Botanicals: Legal Liabilities for Growers and Agricultural Service Providers	Farm Commons will strengthen the botanical agricultural market in Minnesota by training at least 326 specialty crop producers and agricultural service providers on the correct legal classification of foods, dietary supplements, and cosmetics.	$109,192.00
2. Growing Wholesale Markets for Specialty Crop Farmers	The Good Acre, Minnesota's largest nonprofit food hub, will expand meaningful wholesale opportunities for a wide range of produce farmers by increasing local purchasing power and expanding specialty crop farmers' capacity to meet market demand.	$124,983.36

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
3. Produce Safety Certification Pilot Program	The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will lead a Produce Safety Certification Pilot Program aimed at assisting produce growers with the implementation of on-farm food safety practices.	$125,000.00
4. Protecting Minnesota Cold-Hardy Grapes from Viral Threats	University of Minnesota (UMN) researchers will work with MN grape farmers to investigate virus spread and pathways for introduction, implement management strategies, and promote the planting of virus-clean material.	$124,739.00
5. Evaluating Native Brambles for Fruit Quality and Production Traits	The University of Minnesota Department of Horticultural Science will enhance viability of blackberry production in Minnesota by evaluating native species for fruit quality traits such as fruit chemistry, physical fruit characteristics, and plant growth habits to determine which accessions have potential for breeding.	$123,884.00
6. Postharvest Handling, Food Safety and On-Farm Cooling Education for Specialty Crop Growers Entering Local Food Supply Chains	University of Minnesota Extension, working with non-profit partners and a farmer advisory board will lead food safety, postharvest quality and produce cooling education and participant-led research for beginning farmers in MN who are seeking wholesale markets but lack knowledge and infrastructure needed to meet these standards.	$124,395.00
7. Trap Crops to Manage Colorado Potato Beetles	The University of Minnesota will assess the efficacy of using trap crops to arrest and prevent post-overwintered adult Colorado Potato Beetles from entering production fields and establishing damaging populations.	$49,582.00
8. Developing Early Disease Detection Tools and Management Guidelines for Irrigated Potatoes in Minnesota	The University of Minnesota will develop models and management guidelines for early detection and mitigation of crop stress and diseases of potato. Results will be disseminated with academic and extension publications and at grower meetings.	$124,965.00
9. Identifying Swede Midge Resistant Traits in Brassicas for Sustainable Integrated Pest Management	The University of Minnesota will investigate swede midge resistant traits in brassicas for sustainable pest management strategies for this invasive insect pest. Swede midge threatens brassica crops in Minnesota, such as broccoli, cauliflower, kale, and collard greens within urban and organic farming systems.	$124,632.00
10. High-Efficiency Lighting Trial to Improve Performance of the Deep Winter Greenhouse System	The UMN Extension Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) and UMN Department of Horticulture will conduct on-farm research trials to determine the degree to which high-efficiency lighting systems in Deep Winter Greenhouses increase yield and profitability of passive solar winter production systems.	$125,000.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
11. Enhancing Consumer and Grower Confidence in Sustainable Turfgrass Seed Adoption through Clear Labeling and Certification	University of Minnesota (UMN) researchers will identify effective labeling strategies for sustainable turfgrass seed to improve market demand and support Minnesota's specialty crop industry.	$125,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$211,630.85

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce: Amount of Funds Awarded: $419,995.50; Number of Sub-awards: 11[*]

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 8 research projects, 1 education and outreach project, and 1 marketing project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including strawberries, sweet potato, kiwifruit, mushrooms, sweet corn, watermelon, tea cultivars throughout the State of Mississippi.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. MS GAP/GHP Education and Cost Share Program	The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is requesting funds to assist growers in obtaining the Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices food safety certification. This audit is required for many specialty crop growers to sell their fruits and vegetables to grocery stores, restaurants, schools and distributors.	$35,000.00
2. Environmental Effects on Sweet Potato Slip Survivability at Transplant	Mississippi State University will investigate the effects of daily climate and soil conditions during a 24- hour period on sweet potato transplanting on sweet potato slip survival and yield.	$40,489.00
3. Advancing Leafy Green Hydroponic Production in MS	The Mississippi State University will enhance the competitiveness of Mississippi-grown leafy green specialty crops by optimizing hydroponic production. This project will identify the most effective hydroponic systems, customize nutrient solutions to maximize nutritional value, and develop cost-efficient temperature management strategies to improve yield and crop quality.	$45,356.00

[*] This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
4. Transforming Strawberry Production by Producing Disease-free Plugs in Mississippi in Protected Environment	Mississippi State University will conduct research to investigate the feasibility of producing disease-free strawberry plugs by investigating strawberry propagation ratio or efficacy of major cultivars as affected by environmental factors.	$37,140.00
5. Kiwifruit as an Alternative Crop for Mississippi	Mississippi State University will conduct research to assess the feasibility of growing kiwifruit as a high-value alternative crop in Mississippi.	$36,486.00
6. Empowering Small-Scale Farmers and Woodland Owners in MS through Mushroom Cultivation Technology	Alcorn State University will train small-scale farmers and woodland owners in Southwest Mississippi to utilize conifer wood waste for cultivating oyster mushrooms through hands-on workshops, and to provide spawns of a new oyster mushroom strain.	$38,458.00
7. Developing Best Management Practices for Commercial Sweetcorn Production in MS: Variety Trials and Nitrogen Management.	Mississippi State University will investigate best management practices in sweetcorn production to meet critical needs in knowledge gaps among commercial sweetcorn growers in MS.	$52,674.00
8. Comprehensive Evaluation of Plant Health Management Strategies for Sustainable Watermelon Production in MS	Mississippi State University will conduct a two-year research and extension project to enhance watermelon production through improved plant health management. This project will evaluate a range of fungicides, insecticides and herbicides in watermelon fields under Mississippi growing conditions.	$46,304.00
9. Freshly Picked: Educating Mississippians on Specialty Crops	The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC), Market Development Division, is seeking funding for the Freshly Picked: Educating Mississippians on Specialty Crops campaign. This initiative aims to further educate communities across the state on the value of specialty crops --highlighting their seasonal availability, preparation methods, nutritional benefits, and local accessibility.	$35,000.00
10. Identifying and Developing Superior Tea Cultivars for MS: A Genotypic and Phenotypic Approach	Mississippi State University will collaborate with tea growers in Mississippi to conduct research on identifying and developing superior tea cultivars adapted to the state's unique climate through a combined genotypic and phenotypic approach.	$16,324.86
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$36,763.64

Missouri Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $438,429.62; Number of Sub-awards: 10*

The Missouri Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 6 research projects, 1 education and outreach project, 1 marketing project and 1 project that crosses more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including sweet potatoes, grapes, hazelnut, leafy greens, and other fruits and vegetables throughout the State of Missouri.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Empowering Missouri Processors: Ensuring Safe and Sustainable Food – Phase 2	The University of Missouri (MU) Extension will lead and deliver comprehensive Applied Food Safety Microbiology, PCQI (Human Food), and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) trainings which are based on the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). This training project aims to further strengthening food safety training and entrepreneurial capacity among small and medium-scale fruit and vegetable processors across Missouri.	$49,012.90
2. Influence of Postharvest Practices on Sweet Potato Storage Disease Occurrence	Lincoln University of Missouri will establish an agreement with the State Department of Agriculture to understand sweet potato postharvest handling practices among sweet potato growers and investigate the impact of postharvest practices on storage diseases caused by important fungal pathogens in sweet potatoes.	$26,014.31
3. Repatriating and Evaluating Lost American Grape Cultivars for Improved Sustainability	The University of Missouri Grape and Wine Institute has identified lost American grape cultivars that vanished during prohibition but currently reside in other countries, these cultivars have resistance/tolerance to common fungal diseases and therefore will be repatriated resulting in enhanced sustainability for grape growers.	$36,887.00
4. Pilot Scale Hazelnut Processing Lab	The University of Missouri's Center for Agroforestry (UMCA) in partnership with the Hybrid Hazelnut Consortium (Oregon State and Rutgers) are working to expand hazelnut production in the Eastern US. The UMCA is seeking to develop a pilot research scale processing line to test commercial processing of future releases, provide outreach/training to new growers, and provide small growers a local processing line to clean and shell their crop until a commercial business is available to provide this service.	$49,901.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
5. Utilization of Neem, a Novel Biopesticide for Enhancing Sweet Potato Storage	The University of Missouri will develop a strategy utilizing a neem-based product, a novel biopesticide, to improve the storage life of sweet potatoes.	$44,047.00
6. Passive Heat Mitigation Solution for Horticultures Grown in Hot Seasons	The University of Missouri - Columbia will investigate a passive cooling solution (radiative cooling mulch technology) to improve yield and quality of horticultural crops and extend the growing season of cool-season crops into the summer.	$50,000.00
7. Celebrating the Farmers Behind Specialty Crops	The Known and Grown project of the Gateway Sustainable Farmers Alliance (GSFA) will increase sales and community outreach for our 45 specialty crop farmers by highlighting their work and our interactive Local Food Locator tool on the Known & Grown website and in partner retail stores through a marketing campaign that will connect consumers with their local farmers.	$50,000.00
8. Genetic Analysis of Resistance to Penicillium Chrysogenum in 'Norton' Grape.	Missouri State University will investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying postharvest berry rot resistance by constructing a high-density genetic map, establishing phenotyping protocols, localizing quantitative trait loci (QTLs) and disseminating results to growers at the annual Show-Me Grape and Wine Conference.	$49,994.00
9. Seeds to Success: Urban Youth Specialty Crop Academy	St. Charles Community College will engage urban and suburban high school students in specialty crop education through dual credit/dual enrollment plant science courses and hands-on summer workshops that cover production, technology, food safety, culinary preparation, and marketing of vegetables and herbs.	$47,499.04
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$35,074.37

Montana Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $2,728,828.14; Number of Sub-awards: 15*

The Montana Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 7 research projects, 2 education and outreach projects, 2 marketing projects, and 3 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including apples, leafy greens, lentils, peas, potatoes, and other fruits and vegetables throughout the State of Montana.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Expanding Montana's Agritourism Industry from the Ground Up	Montana State University will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop producers by exploring how agritourism can expand production, activities, and income supported by a statewide association.	$125,584.00
2. Growing Skills, Connections, and Success with Montana Horticulture Specialty Crops	The Montana Nursery & Landscape Association Green Expo will have 3-days of workshops, seminars, and networking events to help horticulture specialty crop stakeholders gain the skills and knowledge needed to remain competitive and grow the industry.	$74,939.00
3. Assessment of Rotations and Spent Lime on Soil and Pulse Crop Health	The Montana State University EARC will continue research on the effect of rotations and previous crop on Fusarium root rot of peas and evaluate isolated root rot pathogens.	$249,960.00
4. Promoting Montana Specialty Crops at National Trade Shows	The Montana Department of Agriculture will promote Montana specialty crops at three national trade shows per year for three years.	$88,712.90
5. Extending Vegetable Production with Leafy Green Varieties Tailored to Montana's Shoulder Seasons	Montana State University (MSU) will lead a project to expand the growing season for leafy greens in the state, strengthening Montana's specialty crop industry.	$130,390.00
6. Enhancing Above and Below Ground Branching in Chickpea	Montana State University -Giroux Lab will use CRISPR-Cas9 to create new alleles of BRC1in chickpea (Cicer arietinum L.). These alleles will be evaluated in near isogenic populations in the greenhouse and the field.	$168,612.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
7. Varietal Education to Advance Best Production Practices in Pulses in Montana	This project led by Montana State University- Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology will continue to fund grower education programs in Montana, focused on educating growers and seed producers about variety data and production methods best suited to their area.	$147,287.00
8. Surveying Vectors and Virus Strains to Improve PVY Management in Montana Seed Potato	Montana State University will conduct field surveys to identify aphid species diversity, associations with PVY infection, and PYV strains present in Montana and disseminate results to stakeholders through the annual potato seed seminar.	$234,184.00
9. Investigating Fungicide Resistance in Ascochyta Blight Pathogens and Developing Innovative Management Solutions	Montana State University will improve Ascochyta blight (AB) management in pulse crops (pea, lentil, chickpea) by assessing the prevalence of fungicide resistance in AB pathogen populations and exploring alternative management solutions, including biocontrol agents and novel biomolecules, which would also be suitable for disease management in organic production systems.	$286,756.00
10. Impact of Stress on Peas and Lentils: Root Rot and Herbicide Injury	Montana State University will lead a project aimed at addressing two critical challenges to dry pea and lentil production in Montana: root rot diseases and residual herbicide injury. The project will define critical herbicide concentrations that damage pulse crops, assess how herbicide injury influences root rot severity, and evaluate pea and lentil breeding lines for resistance to root rot.	$281,021.00
11. Pre-plant Practices to Improve Profitability for MT Organic Vegetable Farms	Montana State University will provide research-based results to help these farmers integrate cover crops and other pre-plant practices to optimize weed suppression, nitrogen fixation, and subsequent cash crop yields.	$243,034.00
12. Advancing testing of seedborne and soilborne pathogens of pulse crops	The Regional Pulse Crop Diagnostic Lab (RPCDL) at Montana State University will provide pulse growers with advanced testing for soilborne root rot pathogens, monitor for new and emerging pulse diseases.	$93,223.00
13. Revitalizing and Growing Montana's Apple Industry	Ravalli County Economic Development Authority will assist Montana's apple industry, from orchards to value added producers, in becoming more competitive. Work will include an opportunity analysis, orchard incubation and integrated marketing.	$103,041.00
14.Impact of Precision Weed Management on Soil Health and Pulse Crop Production	Montana State University College of Agriculture will evaluate precision weed management, focusing on spot-spraying systems, to improve pulse crop yields, soil health, and reduce herbicide use.	$283,778.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$218,306.24

Nebraska State Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $712,794.53; Number of Sub-awards: 14*

The Nebraska State Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 11 research projects and 2 education and outreach projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including grapes, apples, sweetcorn, popcorn, peas, dry beans, tomatoes, potatoes, and confection sunflower throughout the State of Nebraska.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Monthly Specialty Crop Series on the Rural Radio Network	The Nebraska Rural Radio Association, in a contractual relationship with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, will lead a monthly multimedia outreach initiative to raise awareness and support for Nebraska's specialty crop industry.	$30,000.00
2. Developing High-Yielding, Superior Quality, and Drought Tolerant Spring Pea Varieties for Nebraska	The University of Nebraska - Lincoln Panhandle Research and Extension Center, in a contractual relationship with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, aims to develop high-yielding and superior-quality pea varieties adapted to Nebraska production conditions, especially heat and drought, which are the major production constraints in Nebraska.	$72,158.00
3. Potato Cyst Nematode 2025	The Nebraska Department of Agriculture will conduct comprehensive soil surveys throughout the state to confirm the presence or absence of Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) in Nebraska.	$83,000.00
4. Integrating Flumioxazin with Standard Weed Control Programs in Dry Edible Bean	The University of Nebraska, Panhandle Weed Science Program, in contractual relationship with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, will research the integration of flumioxazin into existing grower standard weed control programs in Nebraska dry edible bean.	$53,621.00
5. Effect of Cropping Systems and QPM Traits on Yield, Quality, Economics, and Insect Pests for Sweet Corn and Popcorn	The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in a contractual relationship with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, will evaluate the impact of cropping systems including conventional and organic production, and intercropping with legume cover crops.	$61,808.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
6. Increasing Economic Sustainability by Using UV Light as the Latest Weapon in the Battle Against Powdery Mildew in the Vineyard: A Cont. Study	Mac's Creek Vineyards, in a contractual relationship with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, will investigate the feasibility of eliminating or reducing chemical pesticide spraying for disease control against powdery mildew in vineyards via the usage of Ultraviolet (UV) light.	$59,470.00
7. Exploiting Endemic EPNs for Biocontrol of Insect Pests in Dry Bean and Confection Sunflower in Western Nebraska	The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Panhandle Research, Extension, and Education Center, in a contractual relationship with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, will survey endemic entomopathogenic nematodes (EPNs) in dry bean and confection sunflower fields in western Nebraska and identify candidates to be developed as biocontrol agents for key insect pests in those specialty crops.	$43,468.00
8. Winter Pea Production and Quality as Influenced by Seeding Rate and Depth and Previous Crop	The West Central Research Extension and Education Center at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, in a contractual relationship with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, will develop seeding guidelines to extensively cultivate yellow winter peas in west central Nebraska.	$38,786.00
9. Cold Hardiness: It Takes More than a Cold Hardy Cultivar: An Orchard Application	Arbor Day Farm will mitigate frost/freeze damage to orchard fruit (specifically apples) via application of techniques designed to enhance fruit tree cold hardiness.	$69,436.00
10. Pea Type and Planting Date Influence on Crop Water Use, Nitrogen Fixation, Soil Health, and Yield	The University of Nebraska - Lincoln, in a contractual agreement with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, will conduct a field experiment at the High Plains Ag Lab located near Sidney, Nebraska to investigate the response of yellow pea types to different seeding dates.	$75,265.00
11. Precision Management of Water, Insects, and Diseases, in Newly Established Grapevines in Nebraska	The University of Nebraska–Lincoln, in a contractual relationship with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, will lead the project to improve the sustainability and productivity of Nebraska's growing grape industry.	$24,749.00
12. Transplanting Innovations for Specialty Crops	The University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL), in a contractual agreement with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, will improve crop health and reduce plastic waste in specialty crop production by developing research-based recommendations for biobased plug production.	$25,854.00
13. Gene-Editing to Restore Resistance to Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus in Tomatoes and Peppers	The University of Nebraska–Lincoln's Department of Plant Pathology, in a contractual relationship with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, is working to develop Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV)-resistant tomato cultivars using CRISPR-based gene editing technology.	$18,156.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$57,023.53

Nevada Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $315,514.86; Number of Sub-awards: 4*

The Nevada Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 1 research projects, 2 education and pest control projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including grapes and various vegetables throughout the State of Nevada.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Examine Organic Fertilizer and Bio-stimulant for Hydroponic Leafy Vegetable Production and Phytochemical Accumulation.	University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) will examine the impact of using organic fertilizers and bio stimulants instead of chemical fertilizer for hydroponic leafy vegetable production and phytochemical accumulation in an indoor vertical farming system.	$84,037.16
2. A Survey of The Pest and Beneficial Thrips (Thysanoptera) Associated with Grapes and Other Nevada Specialty Crops	The Nevada Department of Agriculture will survey for and collect thrips from targeted specialty crops during the growing season.	$103,714.71
3. Specialty Crop Industry Pest Surveys and Outreach	Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) will use standardized survey protocols and develop an outreach program to target pests that threaten the specialty crop industry.	$107,762.99
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$20,000.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food: Amount of Funds Awarded: $296,051.74; Number of Sub-awards: 6*

The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 2 research projects, 2 education and outreach projects, and 1 marketing project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including apples, pumpkins, radicchio, squash, and various fruits and vegetables throughout the State of New Hampshire.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Comprehensive Planning for the Recycling of Agricultural Plastics in Merrimack County	Merrimack County Conservation District will survey farmers interested in reducing the costs of handling their solid waste while increasing sustainability on the farm.	$17,500.00
2. Genetic Characterization and Fungicide Sensitivity Profiling of Phytophthora capsici	The University of New Hampshire will lead a project to improve management of Phytophthora capsici, a destructive disease of vegetable crops, by identifying local strains and their resistance to fungicides.	$50,184.00
3. Producing and Selling Apple Cider in New Hampshire	The University of New Hampshire will develop a comprehensive guide for processing and selling apple cider in New Hampshire and will disseminate results to stakeholders on-line and during a grower meeting.	$28,512.00
4. Bitter Greens, Sweet Opportunity: Optimizing Radicchio Production for New Hampshire Farms	University of New Hampshire will determine the effects of nitrogen fertilization on quality and postharvest storage potential for several types of radicchio, increasing knowledge about radicchio production to increase availability and access to this specialty leafy greens crop.	$73,972.00
5. Buy New Hampshire Specialty Crops: Increasing Awareness Among Consumers Using the New Brand to Create Interest and Drive Spending in Partnership	The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food will enhance consumer awareness and interest in New Hampshire specialty crops by leveraging the new specialty crop brand. This initiative will include targeted social media campaigns and digital platforms aimed at both tourists and New Hampshire residents.	$102,199.60
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$23,684.14

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

New Jersey Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $870,479.24; Number of Sub-awards: 21*

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 9 research projects, 3 education and outreach projects, 4 marketing projects and 4 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including peaches, blueberries, cranberries, currants and spearmint throughout the State of New Jersey.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. "Know Farms, Know Food:" Expanding Consumer Awareness, Knowledge, and Demand of New Jersey's Specialty Crops	The Foodshed Alliance's project, "Know Farms, Know Food:" Expanding Consumer Awareness, Knowledge, and Demand of New Jersey's Specialty Crops, will promote a consumer-focused campaign providing significant exposure to New Jersey's specialty crop farmers.	$39,998.00
2. Promoting Consumer Knowledge and Consumption of Specialty Crops Through the "Flavor Workshop"	The Franklin Food Bank will continue to increase child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops through the delivery of a nutrition program that will provide hands-on training and materials.	$22,307.20
3. Strengthening Food Security and Local Agriculture through Specialty Crop Partnerships	Loving Our Cities, Inc., a nonprofit based in Sewell, NJ, will lead this initiative to increase food access and strengthen South Jersey's local agricultural economy.	$27,000.00
4. Pest and Disease Control on NJ Specialty Crop Farms Through Shared Soil Steaming Equipment Model	Three Central NJ farms (Moonshot Farm, Abe's Acres, and Ramblin' Sol Farm) will reduce soil pathogens in high tunnels by utilizing a soil steamer and creating a shared equipment model with peer-to-peer education to enable other farms in the region to use the soil steamer.	$40,000.00
5. Promoting Nutrition and Consumption of New Jersey Blueberries to Local Consumers	The New Jersey Blueberry Growers Association will work with local advertising agencies to deliver an extensive radio and aerial banner campaign throughout the tri-state area.	$40,000.00
6. Documenting Consumer Preferences for New Jersey Peaches and Digital Promotional Program	The New Jersey Peach Promotion Council's (NJPPC) overarching objective is to increase the consumption of New Jersey peaches. This application will fund a university research project to determine consumer preferences for New Jersey peaches.	$40,000.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
7. Utilizing Technology to Increase Consumption and Knowledge of Specialty Crops in NJ: Replication of the New Root's Fresh Stop Market Model and Mobi	New Roots will organize farmers and communities in New Jersey to build logistics and infrastructure that increase farm income and improve access to fresh food in NJEDA food desert communities.	$40,000.00
8. Creating a Statewide Toolkit for Increasing SNAP and FMNP Sales by Piloting in Asbury Park/Neptune, Toms River, and Bridgeton	New Jersey Democracy Collaborative (NJFDC) will lead a project to develop targeted, community-informed marketing and outreach campaigns that promote SNAP and FMNP redemption at NJ specialty crop farms.	$38,390.00
9. Project to Maximize the Effectiveness of the Jersey Fresh Advertising Program in 2026 and Beyond	The NJDA seeks SCBG funding to increase awareness and purchases of locally grown crops intended to increase NJ farmers' sales utilizing a marketing campaign with various tactics to promote the Jersey Fresh brand and maximize reach of our target audience.	$134,607.82
10. Garden State Special: An Educational Video Series Highlighting NJ Specialty Crops, Producers that Grow Them, and the Communities that Enjoy Them	The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA NJ) will produce a series of educational and promotional videos to highlight NJ specialty crop producers and to promote increased consumption of locally-grown specialty crops.	$36,513.57
11. Mapping Blueberry Flowering and Pollination using AI and Autonomous Drones for Assessing Duke Decline and Breeding of New Cultivars	Rowan University in collaboration with Rutgers Philip E. Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research will develop AI tools to map flowering and pollination of blueberry bushes.	$39,109.00
12. Development of an Affordable Smart Weed Detection and Management System for Row Crops	Rowan University in collaboration with Rutgers Philip E. Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research will develop an affordable smart weed detection and management system for row crops that can be mounted on vehicles or autonomous ground robots.	$39,941.00
13. Multidisciplinary Approach for Optimizing Pesticide Application Rate for Blueberry	The PE Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research and Extension at Rutgers University will lead a research project that addresses the critical need to optimize pesticide application rates for New Jersey commercial growers.	$39,925.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
14. Beyond the Berry: Exploring Leaf Flavonoids for Dual-Purpose and Early Selection of Resilient and Health-Promoting Cranberry Cultivars	The blueberry and cranberry breeding program at Rutgers University seeks to boost New Jersey's cranberry industry competitiveness through speeding up flavonoid-rich cranberry cultivar development for health-promoting foods.	$40,000.00
15. Evaluation of Niche Berry Crops for New Jersey Growers	Rutgers University will evaluate the horticultural viability of several berry species new to most New Jersey growers. This project will establish a test plot/demonstration trial of niche berry crops with potential market value.	$13,000.00
16. Optimizing Application Rates: Multidisciplinary Approaches for Pesticide Testing	Rutgers P.E. Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research and Extension and this project, will utilize a state-of-the-art spray bench to explore the relationship between rate, concentration, and pesticide efficacy.	$40,000.00
17. Evaluating the Efficacy of Phenolic Compounds and Rhizobacteria for Mitigating Phytophthora Capsici Infection in Pumpkin	Rutgers Cooperative Extension will explore the use of phenolic compounds and rhizobacteria to mitigate the effects of Phytophthora capsici disease for small scale pumpkin growers.	$39,690.00
18. Improvement of Roselle (Hibiscus Sabdariffa) as a Dual-Use Crop Suitable for New Jersey Specialty Crop Farmers	Rutgers University will improve and release new roselle (Hibiscus sabdariffa) varieties to be used as dual-use crops, for production and consumption of flavorful nutrient-rich leafy greens and dark pigmented calyces.	$39,998.65
19. Development of Powdery Mildew Resistant Spearmints with High Flavor profile for the New Jersey Fresh Market	Rutgers University will develop new spearmints resistant to powdery mildew (PM) for the NJ fresh market industry while maintaining essential oil quality, yield, and agronomic traits following their evaluation by NJ growers.	$39,999.00
20. Expanding Specialty Crops Access with Local Health Centers Through our New Farm to City Center	Urban Agriculture Cooperative (UAC) is transforming Newark's food system by connecting local producers with local communities.	$40,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$40,000.00

New Mexico Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $611,032.51; Number of Sub-awards: 8*

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 1 research project, 5 education and outreach projects, and 1 marketing project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including lavender, apples, wine grapes and various other fruits and vegetables throughout the State of New Mexico.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Apple Revitalization for New Mexico	Bluefly Farms, LLC will establish an agreement with the State Department of Agriculture to prune and propagate apple trees and to harvest, transport and press apples from New Mexican orchards into a variety of value-added products including fresh apple cider, hard cider, and apple cider vinegar.	$94,618.00
2. Path to Plate: Enhancing Local Food Supply Chain Efficiency in New Mexico	This project, led by New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service, aims to support the Path to Plate project, a first-of-its-kind B2B online marketplace designed to enable New Mexico's local producers to sell directly to institutional, wholesale, and retail buyers.	$156,662.69
3. New Mexico Grown Value-Added Foods Pilot Rollout	The New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association (NMFMA) will help specialty crop producers across the state access the expanding market for value-added foods within the "New Mexico Grown" farm to institution program, and beyond.	$98,210.80
4. Quality Assessment of Northern New Mexico Lavender Cultivars' Essential Oils	New Mexico State University researchers will assess the quality of essential oils derived from various lavender cultivars cultivated in Alcalde and Farmington AG science centers.	$59,822.06
5. Enhancing Awareness of the Benefits of Specialty Crops for Rural New Mexico Families, Farmers, and Youth	The Healthy Futures project will empower rural communities by fostering awareness of agricultural practices and improving dietary health through the promotion and integration of specialty crops.	$77,634.95

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
6. Sembrando Salud: Promoting Health through the Small-scale Production of Specialty Vegetables and Culinary/Medicinal Herbs	This project, run by Sembrando Salud, will be facilitated through educational workshops aimed at instructing participants in the cultivation of specialty vegetables and culinary or medicinal herbs.	$60,421.44
7. New Mexico Wine Grape Awareness and Interaction	The New Mexico Department of Agriculture will develop a new interactive display centered around New Mexico wine grapes to increase consumer access and awareness at events throughout New Mexico.	$14,779.97
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$48,882.60

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets: Amount of Funds Awarded: $1,373,502.47; Number of Sub-awards: 9*

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 4 research projects, 1 education and outreach project, 2 marketing projects and 1 project that crosses more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including grapes, apples, onions, tomatoes, and potatoes throughout the State of New York.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Investigation into Efficacy of Ultraviolet Light Against Pathogens and Mites in New York Apple Orchards	Cornell University with Mount Sinai as a partner will lead research investigations into the efficacy of ultraviolet light (UV-C) against destructive apple pests and pathogens in New York.	$199,258.00
2. Evaluation of Management Options for Sour Rot in Grapes Without Insecticides	Cornell Cooperative Extension will evaluate options to manage sour rot in grapes that could reduce or eliminate the need for insecticides and would be practical for grape growers to implement.	$102,130.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
3. Preparing the New York Potato Industry for Colorado Potato Beetle Control Without Neonicotinoids	Cornell University will lead this project in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension vegetable specialists to prepare potato growers with alternative approaches for managing Colorado potato beetle (CPB) in New York potato fields without neonicotinoid insecticides.	$156,361.00
4. Improved Control of Bacterial Diseases in Tomato Through Resistance Breeding and UV Light Application	Cornell University researchers and extension specialists aim to develop strategies for improved control of bacterial diseases, specifically bacterial spot and bacterial speck in tomato.	$175,991.00
5. Stress Detection in Specialty Crops by Hyperspectral Imaging and Machine Learning: A Case Study of Stemphylium Leaf Blight of Onion	Rochester Institute of Technology will focus on evaluating hyperspectral imaging combined with machine learning to detect S. vesicarium infection in onions and explore its potential for informing fungicide application timing through a decision support tool.	$199,468.00
6. GAP Reimbursement Program	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets will continue to promote the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audit as the best way to prepare for new regulatory programs and standards to be implemented under the Food Safety Modernization Act.	$165,000.00
7. Marketing and Promotion of New York's Specialty Crops	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets will promote New York's specialty crops at trade shows across the country, increasing sales of specialty crops and broadening New York specialty crop producers' sales avenues nationally and via export.	$226,031.77
8. Cooperative Marketing Grants for New York's Specialty Crops	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets will promote New York's specialty crops through a cooperative marketing program used to incentivize producers and retailers to develop and use packaging, digital marketing, and point-of-sale materials designed to highlight New York State and local specialty crops.	$50,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$99,262.70

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: Amount of Funds Awarded: $1,313,818.63; Number of Sub-awards: 9*

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 6 research projects and 1 project that crosses more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including strawberries, blueberries, sweet potatoes, Christmas trees, and tomatoes throughout the State of North Carolina.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Phenological Responses of Two Regulated Pests	North Carolina State University will develop and validate a robust predictive degree day model to forecast the seasonal timing of vulnerable stages of Aspidiotus cryptomeriae and Fiorinia externa (Diaspididae).	$171,463.42
2. Modernizing NCSU's Blueberry Breeding Program	North Carolina State University's project integrates advanced artificial intelligence with modern digital data collection to revolutionize their blueberry breeding program and lay the groundwork for the future of precision breeding.	$160,000.00
3. Deer Browse Protection for Christmas Trees	North Carolina State University's Nonwovens Institute in collaboration with the Christmas Tree Genetics program will develop a nonwoven fabric from a bio-based polymer that is compostable, affordable, easily applied, and will serve as physical protection against deer browse on Fraser fir Christmas trees.	$155,224.00
4. Optimizing Nitrogen for Strawberries in NC	North Carolina State University will develop cultivar-specific nitrogen (N) recommendations for optimizing yield, post-harvest quality, and pest management in North Carolina strawberries.	$126,601.00
5. Commercial Evaluation of GRKN Resistant Sweetpotatoes	The North Carolina State University Sweetpotato Breeding and Genetics Program's project will rapidly propagate and conduct evaluation trials of NC09-1105 and conduct genomic-assisted breeding research focused on accelerating the development and release of future generations of high-quality, disease-resistant sweet potatoes.	$160,000.00
6. Optimization of Recirculated Produce Wash Systems	North Carolina State University will examine current practices and the effectiveness of recirculated produce wash systems during post-harvest handling to help the specialty crop industry optimize wash systems that comply with FSMA and third-party audit standards.	$165,000.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
7. Expanding Markets for NC Specialty Crops	The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Marketing Division's initiative will increase the value of crops at the farm gate, raise consumer awareness in urban markets, and enhance food safety through a water testing reimbursement program.	$180,000.00
8. Developing Improved Hybrid Heirloom Type Tomatoes	North Carolina State University will develop heirloom-type fresh-market hybrids tomatoes and breeding lines with disease resistance, superior fruit quality, and improved shelf-life. This initiative aims to boost profitability for farmers and deliver a superior product to consumers.	$149,719.80
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$45,530.21

North Dakota Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $2,503,834.55; Number of Sub-awards: 16*

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 12 research projects, 1 education and outreach project and 2 marketing projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including potatoes, peas, lentils, beans, honey, pulses, and other fruits and vegetables throughout the State of North Dakota.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Increasing Specialty Crop Access and Education to Schools and Communities	The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) will help increase the access of specialty crops to schools and communities by offering competitive grants. The NDDA will also create a honey-tasting toolkit that can be used to educate classes about the honey industry.	$199,381.30
2. Support Export of Potatoes to Canada, Mexico and Other Countries	The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) will support exports of tablestock, processing, and seed potatoes grown in North Dakota to Canada, Mexico and other countries by conducting a survey of Potato Cyst Nematodes or PCN (Globodera pallida and G. rostochiensis).	$67,107.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
3. Domestic Trades Shows and Mission	The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) will partner with local and regional specialty crop companies, producers, processors, and producer associations to increase promotion and sales of specialty crops.	$231,328.00
4. Aphanomyces and Fusarium Root Rots in Field Peas: Validation and Advancement of Integrated Management Strategies	The North Dakota State University (NDSU) Carrington Research Extension Center, in collaboration with the NDSU pulse breeding program, will validate the integrated use of tolerant varieties, planting date, and fungicide seed treatment for Aphanomyces and Fusarium root rot management and will screen commercial and experimental field pea varieties for tolerance to this root rot complex.	$111,959.00
5. Optimizing Fungicide Droplet Size for Increased Field Pea Yields Under Ascochyta and Powdery Mildew Pressure	The NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center, in cooperation with the NDSU Robert Titus Research Farm in Oakes and NDSU Langdon Research Extension Center, will test the impact of fungicide droplet size on field pea Ascochyta and powdery mildew. This project seeks to develop finalized fungicide droplet size recommendations for Ascochyta and powdery mildew in field pea.	$88,702.80
6. Developing Eco-Friendly Nematode Management Approaches for Control of Pin Nematodes in Field Pea	The Department of Plant Pathology at North Dakota State University aims to develop eco-friendly management approaches against pin nematodes (Paratylenchus nanus type B) affecting field pea (Pisum sativum) in North Dakota.	$129,267.00
7. Advancing Lentil Production by Optimizing Management Practices for Sustainable Dryland Cropping System in North Dakota	North Dakota State University (NDSU)-Dickinson Research Extension Center (DREC) will develop optimal lentil management practices for widespread lentil integration into small grain-based cropping systems of western North Dakota.	$109,810.00
8. Harnessing Plant-Growth Promoting Keystone Inoculants for Sustainable Pulse Production	North Dakota State University, Carrington Research Extension Center, and North Central Research Extension Center are partnering to improve the farm profitability of pulse producers by reducing reliance on fertilizers and enhancing the competitiveness of microbial inoculants in the field.	$144,671.00
9. Twin-Screw Extrusion of Whole Pea Flours for Nutrient-Rich Fermented Beverages	North Dakota State University (NDSU) is leading an innovative project to develop a balanced, nutrient-rich beverage from peas, aligning with the growing trend of mindful drinking.	$91,400.00
10. Potato Black Dot Disease: Timing, Impact, and Control Measures	North Dakota State University will work towards reducing losses to two phases of potato black dot disease. Additionally, this project will facilitate building black dot research relationships to advance the management of both phases of the disease to improve outcomes for North Dakota growers.	$140,437.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
11. Exploring the Interactions Among Soil pH, Nitrogen and Common Scab on Potatoes	North Dakota State University will work towards elucidating the role of soil pH and nitrogen on common scab severity. This research will help to identify alternative management strategies that could be effective in reducing common scab on potatoes in regions such as the Northern Great Plains, where soils have a high buffering capacity.	$177,030.00
12. Influence of Particle Size on Quality Attributes of Stone-Milled Pinto Bean Flour	The North Dakota State University and the Northern Crop Institute aim to explore how milling conditions influencing particle size distribution modifies flour nutrition and functionality, and their suitable application for targeted nutrient rich produce development.	$60,417.00
13. Biofumigation with Brassica Cover Crops: Effective Control of Soil-Borne Diseases in Dry Bean Production	The North Dakota State University will explore the effectiveness of biofumigation in controlling pathogens while offering additional ecosystem benefits.	$195,290.00
14. Growing Global Opportunities for ND Specialty Crop Producers and Processors	The North Dakota Trade Office (NDTO) will create and expand opportunities for ND Specialty Crop Companies to showcase and establish their products in the global market.	$348,699.45
15. Supporting North Dakota Honey Producers with a DNA Diagnostic Panel to Identify Local Honey Sources and Evaluate Authenticity of Imported Honey	The National Agricultural Genotyping Center (NAGC) will create a DNA-based diagnostic panel to identify honey origins across commercial and hobby beekeeping operations in North Dakota.	$183,308.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$225,027.00

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources: Amount of Funds Awarded: $244,149.83; Number of Sub-awards: 2*

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The Commonwealth's sub-award includes 1 education and outreach project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, chili peppers, and leafy greens throughout CNMI.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1.Specialty Crop Farming Internship Program	The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Island (CNMI) Division of Agriculture will partner with the CNMI public schools and private schools Co-op program to train and employ outgoing high school seniors to work with local specialty crop producers in the hopes of becoming or inspired of becoming the future specialty crop producers of CNMI.	$200,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$44,149.83

Ohio Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $710,110.81; Number of Sub-awards: 10*

The Ohio Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 1 education and outreach projects, 4 marketing projects, and 4 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including apples, blueberries, watermelons, cantaloupe, and beekeeping throughout the State of Ohio.

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.
* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Specialty Crops in Early Education Programs and School Districts	The Cuyahoga County Board of Health will use Farm to school (F2S) and Early Childhood Education (ECE) child nutrition programs to integrate the specialty crop industry into operations while also creating solutions that increase consumption and knowledge of Ohio specialty crops by children and families.	$80,000.00
2. Creation of Ohio's Specialty Crop Reference Guide	The Ohio Department of Agriculture will utilize Ohio Proud staff and resources to create a specialty crop guide that can help producers reach a large audience of interested consumers and convert them into new (and hopefully repeat) specialty crop customers.	$26,178.00
3. Equipping Ohio's Specialty Crop Farmers to Weather Market Disruptions and Natural Disasters	Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association project will help Ohio's specialty crop farmers improve soil health, increase their revenue streams through crop diversification, reduce pest and disease pressure by utilizing IPM and other innovative techniques, increase safety in handling and production, and enhance Ohio's specialty crop market overall.	$118,638.00
4. Growing Ohio's Future: Enhancing Specialty Crop Marketing + Promotion	The Ohio Produce Growers and Marketers Association will expand distribution and increase consumption and purchases of specialty crops by implementing new marketing and promotional strategies for Ohio growers at the Ohio State Fair.	$35,036.33
5. Empowering New American Farmers Through New Farmer Aggregation	The Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio will create a New American Farmer Aggregation (NAFA) to empower New American Farmers, enhancing market access, education and sustainability by developing a series of workshops and hands-on training sessions, enhancing market access, establishing farm stands, and facilitating efficient aggregation and distribution of produce.	$98,420.00
6. Notoweega Nation Beekeepers Training Program	This project will maintain a resident population of honeybees within the tribally designated jurisdictional area of the Notoweega Nation with the overall purpose of protecting and improving pollinator health and enhance the competitiveness, sustainability, variety, and resilience of Ohio's population of honeybees.	$52,800.00
7. Community Canning at Ohio City Farm	Re:Source Cleveland's licensed community canning program at their Ohio City Farm will increase CSA sales through canned fruit and produce, retail canned products, and take contract work from local growers that results in new income.	$31,000.00
8.GHASD Empowerment Center - Fresh Farm: Specialty Crop Expansion and Food Access	The Global Humanitarian Aid and Social Development will lead a two-year project to train urban farmers, expand specialty crop production, and boost food access in Columbus through workshops, apprenticeships, and sustainable growing methods.	$81,875.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
9. Spotlighting Ohio's Specialty Crops	The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will encourage consumers to support local while spotlighting Ohio's specialty crop production. ODA will accomplish this through educational materials displayed for the duration of the Ohio State Fair.	$98,250.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$158,427.22

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry: Amount of Funds Awarded: $637,149.70; Number of Sub-awards: 8*

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 4 research projects and 3 education and outreach projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing specialty crops and science-based tools to combat pests and diseases throughout the State of Oklahoma.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Empowering Specialty Crop Processors with Custom Food Safety Training Phase II	Oklahoma State University Extension specialists will expand their food safety education and outreach efforts by developing a standardized online training program for home-based specialty crop processors in Oklahoma.	$81,428.00
2. Development of a Native Grass Sun/Shade Mixture for Oklahoma Lawns	Oklahoma State University will breed shade tolerance turf-type nimblewill grass and develop the sun/shade warm-season native grass mix for addressing the need for homeowners and turfgrass managers to achieve sustainable landscape management and make positive economic impact for seed producers.	$67,131.00
3. Epidemiology and Management of Curburbit Vine Borers and Squash Bugs and Associated Diseases	Researchers at Oklahoma State University will mitigate the impact of cucurbit vine borers, squash bugs and squash bug transmitted cucurbit yellow vine disease by developing a series of experiments that aim to identify the pests and diseases and understand the epidemiology and determine the management of these challenges.	$83,125.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
4. Surveillance and Identification of Potato Viruses in Oklahoma	The University of Tulsa will lead a comprehensive survey across commercial potato fields in Oklahoma to collect samples for virus screening, identify and develop an educational bulletin providing management recommendations for growers and county extension agents.	$89,780.00
5. Use of Biostmulants to Improve Production of Ornamentals and Vegetables	Research at Oklahoma State University will use naturally derived biostimulants to improve plant health by increasing water/nutrient retention and managing stress allowing for increased plant growth of specialty crops with information being provided to stakeholders.	$76,200.00
6. Evaluation of Phyla Nodiflora for Use as a Sod or Nursery Product in Oklahoma	Oklahoma State University will create opportunities for green industry partners through development of novel nursery and sod products using Phyla nodiflora.	$88,515.00
7. Oklahoma Local Ag Summit	The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) will assist members of the specialty crop supply chain to incorporate innovative and sustainable growing practices, learn new marketing techniques, and connect with consumers more effectively.	$100,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$50,970.70

Oregon Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $2,255,953.95; Number of Sub-awards: 14[*]

The Oregon Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 4 research projects, 1 education and outreach project, 4 marketing projects and 4 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including hazelnuts, fescue grass, onions, cherries, strawberries, and rhododendron throughout the State of Oregon.

[*] This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Metro Farm Direct Market Access and Competitiveness Collaborative	The Community Development Corporation of Oregon will build upon 5 years of collaboration with farmers, community leaders, and local organizations to increase market access, specialty crop competitiveness, and farm business viability.	$156,530.00
2. Hazelnut Shell Blends as a Full or Partial Substitute for Peatmoss in Containerized Plants	Ground Up Soil will use this project to figure out a better use for the mountain of hazelnut shells produced by the Oregon hazelnut industry each year. This project aims to replace peatmoss with a local, renewable, peatmoss alternative for commercial growers. Oregon's hazelnut industry presents a compelling local solution.	$170,728.00
3. Cooperative Market Development for Organic Orchardists in the Columbia Gorge	Idiot's Grace Farm will partner with Big Barn Organics to establish a grower-governed association of organic and transitional orchards in the Columbia River Gorge.	$72,642.00
4. Expanding Use of Specialty Crops in Child Nutrition Programs	The Oregon Farm to School Network seeks to expand use of specialty crops in early childhood education (ECE) and K12 school settings through innovative programs and partnerships.	$174,880.00
5. Identifying Weeds in Tall Fescue Seed Crops Using AI	Oregon State University will conduct field tests and further develop a model designed to identify weeds in tall fescue grass seed production.	$168,459.00
6. Plantable Bio-Pots: Zero Plastic Waste and Improved Nursery Crops Productions	Oregon State University aims to reduce plastic use in nursery and greenhouse operations and enhance nursery crop productivity by developing plantable biopots made from 100% plant-based fiber waste (PFW).	$174,390.00
7. Advancing Hazelnut Sustainability: Innovative Sucker Management to Minimize Labor and Herbicide	Oregon State University will improve the environmental and economic sustainability of Oregon's high-value hazelnut crops by developing integrated sucker management programs and educational materials which will allow growers to remain competitive in the global market.	$175,000.00
8. Implementing DNA Metabarcoding to Test for Phytophthoras and Verticillium Species	The Oregon State University Plant Clinic will develop testing services to detect Phytophthora and Verticillium species from soil and water using DNA sequencing.	$169,196.00
9. Making Sense of Outbreaks Linked to Onions: Quantitative Risk Assessment	Researchers and Extension Specialists from Oregon State University will develop quantitative microbial risk assessment models (QMRA) to improve our collective understanding of food safety risks associated with whole dry bulb and fresh cut onions and the potential for specific interventions to influence these risks.	$174,980.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
10. Solar Radiation Reflective Spraying to Mitigate Sunburn Damage of Berry Fruit	Oregon State University will study effective and affordable strategies to mitigate sunburn damage of berry fruit by developing scientifically based preharvest edible spray coatings that reflect solar radiation, validating their effectiveness in research berry fields.	$174,853.00
11. Enhancing Delivery of Specialty Crops to Low Income Communities	In 2026 and 2027 Play Grow Learn will operate the 6th and 7th People's Market, a low-barrier economic development, community engagement, and food security "market". Play Grow Learn will systematize our nutritional access and restorative agriculture programs in East Multnomah County from 2025 to 2028.	$151,635.00
12. Rogue Grown: Increasing Market Access for Rogue Valley Specialty Crops	The Rogue Valley Food System Network will convene and facilitate a strategic Working Group of specialty crop producers, distributors, and retailers to identify, develop, and implement coordinated solutions to critical market access barriers.	$121,456.00
13. Umpqua Valley Farm to School - Southern Oregon Food Alliance (SOFA)	This project will continue the forward movement of SOFA (Southern Oregon Food Alliance) into a regional food hub which benefits coastal and inland producers throughout Southwestern Oregon, including the transportation of specialty crops between inland and coastal counties (Douglas, Coos, Curry), and food safety education, expanding food access to food banks, pantries, and local communities.	$171,902.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding	$199,302.95

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $1,016,971.39; Number of Sub-awards: 11*

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 6 research projects, 1 marketing project, and 3 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including potatoes, mushrooms, grapes, saffron, and maple syrup throughout the State of Pennsylvania.

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. PA Preferred Culinary Connection with Focus on Promoting Pennsylvania Specialty Crops	Strategic Contracting, Inc. will plan and coordinate the 2026 PA Preferred Culinary Connection at the PA Farm Show, which delivers a vital marketing channel and immediate benefits to multiple specialty crops organizations.	$67,998.00
2. Identify Red Potato Varieties with Improved Red Skin Color Retention and High Yield in Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania State University will partner with Pennsylvania Co-operative Potato Growers, Inc. to evaluate and identify red potato varieties with improved red skin color retention and high yield quality under Pennsylvania field conditions.	$65,903.13
3. Developing Control Methods for Mushroom Flies on Farms with Predatory Mites	The Pennsylvania State University Mushroom Fly team will establish a biocontrol management system to control mushroom sciarid (Lycoriella ingenua) and phorid (Megaselia halterata) fly populations using novel natural enemies and to train PA growers in a proper implementation technique.	$108,986.00
4. Leveraging Fungal-Induced Plant Responses to Enhance Drought Resilience and Pest Suppression	Pennsylvania State University will enhance tomato cultivation under drought stress using Trichoderma fungal inoculation to boost resilience and pest control. Findings will guide growers with strategies to improve productivity in protected systems.	$83,142.00
5. Investigating the Impact of Spotted Lanternfly on Concord Grapes Ripening and Production	Pennsylvania State University will identify potential effects of adult spotted lanternfly sap-feeding on Concord grapes by evaluating the effects of varying level of insect pressure on juice quality traits and yield parameters.	$124,029.00
6. Increasing Access to PA Maple Syrup Products:	Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Producer's Council will increase consumer awareness and industry recognition, educate citizens on the role of real maple syrup as a forest product, and ultimately increase direct to consumer sales of maple syrup and maple products.	$28,210.00
7. Transforming Surplus Pennsylvania Apples into Premium Sweet and Hard Ciders	The Pennsylvania State University will address the underutilization of surplus apples in cider production by identifying polyphenol and tannin concentrations in cider apples, developing methods to extract these compounds from apple peels, and analyzing market needs for the cider industry.	$93,079.00
8. Enhancing Efficacy UV Stability Viral Pesticides Against Target Fruit Pests	The Pennsylvania State University will undertake research on combating the codling moth, a destructive pest in apple production, by boosting the effectiveness and UV resilience of viral biopesticides, specifically baculoviruses.	$104,000.00
9. Rediscovering Pennsylvania Saffron Through Genomics and Chemical Analysis	The University of Vermont North American Center for Saffron Research and Development (UVM) and Rodale Institute will conduct a comprehensive analysis of Pennsylvania saffron, the most expensive spice in the world.	$121,332.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
10. Evaluate and Select Yellow Fleshed Potatoes with High Qualities for the Fresh Market in Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Co-Operative Potato Growers, Inc. will partner with Sterman Masser, Inc. and The Pennsylvania State University on this project to identify yellow fleshed potato varieties with high qualities for the fresh market under Pennsylvania field conditions.	$124,161.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding	$96,131.26

Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico: Amount of Funds Awarded: $410,865.69; Number of Sub-awards: 7

The Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 3 research projects, 3 education and outreach projects and 1 marketing project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including celery, coffee, root vegetables, and other fruits and vegetables throughout Puerto Rico.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Certification and Control of Fruit Flies and Secondary Pests (Thrips, Fungi, Scale Insects) Affecting Specialty Fruit Crops	The Innovation Fund for Agricultural Development (FIDA) of the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture will implement a technical project in collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) to improve the monitoring, certification, and integrated control of fruit flies and associated pests (thrips and scale insects) that threaten Puerto Rico's specialty crop sector.	$140,117.78
2. Assistance Program for Celery (Arracacia xanthorrhiza) and Local Seed Production	The Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (PRDA) and the Innovation Fund for Agricultural Development (FIDA) will implement a technical and production program to support sustainable local production of celery (Arracacia xanthorrhiza) and seed through direct assistance to farmers in the municipalities of Barranquitas and Orocovis.	$21,000.00
3. Scaling-Up Commercial Micropropagation of Apio (Arracacia Xanthorrhiza) in Puerto Rico	The University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, through its College of Agricultural Sciences, will lead the implementation of a cutting-edge tissue culture initiative to produce certified disease-free planting material of apio (Arracacia xanthorrhiza).	$49,760.03

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
4. Enhancing Specialty Coffee Quality in Puerto Rico Through Training in Coffee Value Assessment and Coffee Roasting Fundamentals	The Innovation Fund for Agricultural Development (FIDA), in partnership with the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, will implement a comprehensive technical training initiative to strengthen the quality and competitiveness of locally produced specialty coffee.	$11,350.00
5. Agroedu: Hands for the Land	The Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Innovation Fund for Agricultural Development (FIDA), will implement a four-phase initiative titled Agro Edu: Hands for the Land to train incarcerated and recently released individuals, both youth and adults, in specialty crop production and agribusiness.	$48,000.00
6. Agricultural Development and New Agribusiness Formation Program	The Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture and the Innovation Fund for Agricultural Development (FIDA) seek to strengthen Puerto Rico's food security by promoting specialty crop production, fostering new agricultural entrepreneurs, and integrating practical education and mentorship.	$25,000.00
7. Expanding Market Access Through Local and International Promotion of Puerto Rican Specialty Crops.	The Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Innovation Fund for Agricultural Development (FIDA), will lead a strategic initiative to expand the market presence of Puerto Rican specialty crops through targeted international trade missions and consumer-focused local events.	$115,637.88

Rhode Island Division of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $280,426.70; Number of Sub-awards: 5*

The Rhode Island Division of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 3 education and outreach projects and 1 project that crosses more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including cut flowers and various fruits and vegetables throughout the State of Rhode Island.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Building Capacity for Specialty Crop Success in Rhode Island	The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management - Division of Agriculture (RIDEM) aims to build and thereby increase capacity for all aspects of the specialty crop industry in Rhode Island.	$136,240.56

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
2. Serving Up Specialty Crops: Supporting RI Grown Crops Through School Taste Tests	Farm Fresh Rhode Island, a backbone partner of the RI Farm and Sea to School Network, will leverage multiple ongoing state and federal initiatives to provide hands-on education and local food taste tests in Rhode Island schools.	$38,903.00
3. Research and Extension Support for RI Cut Flower Growers	The University of Rhode Island will organize and host winter meetings in 2026 and 2027 where cut flower growers can learn from local and regional experts, discuss topics of interest and network.	$52,934.00
4. Activation of Mowry Commons as Specialty Crop Outdoor Classroom to Increased Productivity of Agroforestry Systems	Revive the Roots will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop production by activating the established edible forest garden at Mowry Commons as a medium scale production site.	$29,915.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$22,434.14

South Carolina Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $648,630.99; Number of Sub-awards: 17*

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 10 research projects and 6 education and outreach projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including peaches, watermelon, cherries, leafy greens, plants, strawberries, and various fruits and vegetables throughout the State of South Carolina.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Produce Safety Outreach and Education Initiative	The South Carolina Department of Agriculture's (SCDA) Produce Safety Department will advance its educational efforts to assist specialty crop growers with improving food safety practices on farm.	$9,877.50

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
2. Developing Solutions to Reduce Mechanical Transmission of Peach Latent Mosaic Viroid in Peach Orchards	The Plant Virology lab at Clemson University will mitigate the mechanical spread of peach latent mosaic viroid by developing specific recommendations for tool sanitation for pruning and grafting in peach orchards.	$50,699.00
3. South Carolina Good Agricultural Practices Technical Assistance and Cost Share Program	The South Carolina Department of Agriculture Consumer Protection Division (SCDA) will develop and implement a robust Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Technical Assistance and Cost Share Program to assist specialty crop growers with expanding markets for greater growth and profitability.	$95,297.80
4. Increasing Produce Safety through a Sustainable Cold Storage Cost Share Program	The South Carolina Specialty Crop Growers Association will continue a cold storage cost share program for small to mid-sized specialty crop growers in the state.	$10,500.00
5. Optimizing the Management Practices Tailored to Carolina Strongback Rootstock Grafting to Combat Fusarium Wilt in Watermelon	Clemson University will address growers' concerns for informed and economical adoption of grafted watermelon production and to provide immediate solution for watermelon fields that have already been infested with FON in South Carolina.	$49,892.00
6. A Toolkit for Estimating Harvest Maturity Indices to Enhance the Quality and Shelf-Life of South Carolina Leafy Greens	Clemson University Coastal Research and Education Center (CREC) will develop a non-destructive methodology to accurately determine harvest timing to enhance the quality and shelf-life of leafy greens in South Carolina.	$50,072.00
7. Comprehensive Guidelines for Chemical Management of Arthropod Pests and Pathogens on Ornamental Plants: A Resource for Nurseries, Greenhous	Clemson University will create a resource that will significantly enhance the timely and effective use of chemical pesticides for arthropod pests and pathogens, which should help ensure the sale of healthy ornamental plants and effective pest management at production facilities and in landscapes.	$8,015.50
8. Effectiveness of Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation Using Cottonseed Meal for Weed and Soilborne Plant Pathogen Management in Strawberry Product	The College of Charleston will partner with Clemson University's Coastal Research and Education Center (CREC) to research anaerobic soil disinfestation on strawberry production in South Carolina through a three-year field trial focused on the reduction of weeds, nematodes, and soilborne plant pathogens using cottonseed meal as an agricultural waste carbon source.	$51,850.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
9. Providing the Southeastern Vegetable Crop Handbook to South Carolina Vegetable Growers	Clemson University Cooperative Extension will provide the Southeast Vegetable Crop Handbook to vegetable growers in South Carolina.	$6,000.00
10. Value Added Packaging and Marketing Cost Share Project	The South Carolina Specialty Crop Growers Association will collaborate with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture to continue increasing marketing efforts of small and mid-sized specialty crop growers in South Carolina.	$36,000.00
11. Enhancing Specialty Crop Awareness and Consumption through Culinary Collaboration and Community Engagement	South Carolina Food Systems Network (SCFSN) and partners will enhance awareness and consumption of local specialty crops through food business, culinary collaboration and community engagement. Mini Meetups – networking gatherings will be organized in different regions and at key industry conferences to foster stronger farmer-chef relationships.	$20,000.00
12. Connecting the Dots of Specialty Crops: Educating the public to procure, prepare, and preserve (P3) {Pilot Program}	Clemson Extension will increase youth and adult knowledge of SC Specialty Crops through collaborative education and outreach programs focusing on the procurement, preparation, and preservation of the over 70 South Carolina locally sourced specialty crops.	$24,997.00
13. Education and Promotion of South Carolina Watermelons	The South Carolina Watermelon Association, with leadership and assistance provided by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, will increase consumer education while simultaneously promoting South Carolina grown watermelons.	$33,500.00
14. Education and Promotion of South Carolina Peaches	The South Carolina Peach Council, with leadership and assistance provided by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, will improve the knowledge of South Carolina grown peaches to the consumers located within the state by means of education and various forms of promotion and marketing.	$15,000.00
15. Improved Sanitation Practices for Effective Control of Microbial Biofilms in the Leafy Greens Packinghouse	Clemson University (Food, Nutrition and Packaging Sciences) will provide analytical data for enhanced sanitation protocols aimed to reduce the number of environmental microorganisms present on leafy greens packinghouse surfaces and improve food safety.	$49,379.00
16. In Person and Online Educational Outreach for South Carolina's Small Fruit Creates a Stronger Industry	The South Carolina Small Fruit Growers Association (SCSFGA) will coordinate at least two (2) in person meetings around the state and up to four (4) webinars throughout the year focused on the current industry hot topics for South Carolina's small fruit industry.	$33,108.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$104,443.10

South Dakota Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $328,599.26; Number of Sub-awards: 5*

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 1 research project and 3 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including aronia berries, sweet corn, pears, plums, asparagus and Jerusalem artichokes throughout the State of South Dakota.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Utilizing Aronia Berries to Improve Health, Growth, and Immunocompetence of Neonatal Dairy Calves	South Dakota State University, in collaboration with SD aronia producers and SD dairy farmers, will broaden the market and create added value for aronia berries by utilizing them in dairy farming to improve calf health and immunity.	$84,659.00
2. Identification of Sweet Corn Varieties Suitable for South Dakota Through Participatory Evaluation of Agronomic, Disease and Soil-Microbial Interact	South Dakota State University will evaluate sweet corn pre-breeding panel established through innovative participatory plant breeding for their agronomic suitability in conjunction with disease resistance and soil-root-rhizosphere living community interactions.	$69,643.00
3. SD Farmers Markets and Specialty Crops: Equipping and Educating for Growth and Sustainability	The SD Specialty Producers Association (SDSPA) will lead a project to bolster South Dakota's farmers markets by expanding access to and awareness of local specialty crops.	$69,822.00
4. Advancing Perennial Specialty Crops: A Sustainable Agroforestry Model for South Dakota Producers	Grace Place Farm and Gardens will develop a sustainable agroforestry model for perennial specialty crops in SD using proven research and expert guidance, sharing results through field days, webinars, videos, and a free guide for producers.	$74,963.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$29,512.26

Tennessee Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $567,424.31; Number of Sub-awards: 11

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 9 research projects, 1 education and outreach project, and 1 marketing project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including mushrooms, hops, Lavendar, and strawberries throughout the State of Tennessee.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Enhancing Cucurbit Pest Management Using Conservation Biological Control	Tennessee State University will identify and demonstrate Integrated Pest Management (IPM)-based, conservation biological control for sustainable pest management practices to manage cucurbit pests in Tennessee.	$44,223.00
2. Shiitake in the Shade: Forest Farming Mushrooms for Food, Income, and Forest Health	Tennessee State University will promote sustainable shiitake mushroom production through innovative forest farming systems, utilizing shaded woodlands to cultivate high-value gourmet fungi on natural hardwood logs.	$25,000.00
3. Drone-Based Precision Woody Crop Management in Middle Tennessee	Tennessee State University will establish a standardized protocol to collect/process/analyze drone data and develop an innovative Woody Crop Management (WCM) platform that uses drone-based high-throughput phenotyping (HTP) and AI technology to enhance woody crop management.	$58,977.50
4. Enhancements to Containerized Nursery Plant Treatments for Japanese Beetle Regulatory Shipments	The Tennessee State University Otis L. Floyd Nursery Research Center will mitigate the spread of Japanese beetle by containerized nursery plants by developing new treatments, rates, and application methods.	$13,489.20
5. Integration of Precision Agriculture and Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Specialty Crop Production Systems	Tennessee State University will advance specialty crop production by developing innovative crop management systems that integrate precision agriculture technologies and artificial intelligence (AI).	$74,520.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
6. Research and Extension Efforts to Mitigate Spotted Lanternfly Impact in Tennessee	The Institute of Agriculture at the University of Tennessee will mitigate spotted lanternfly impact by understanding the time of year when a key life stage is active in Tennessee, identifying any predators or parasitoids that may be promising in controlling SLF populations in Tennessee, and host range.	$58,604.00
7. Cultivating the Future of Hops in Tennessee	The University of Tennessee Specialty Crops Hops Project will aim to support current and prospective hop producers and craft brewers in Tennessee by providing research-based production and marketing resources. The project is designed to expand access to locally grown hops, improve production practices, and increase consumer demand for Tennessee hop products.	$75,000.00
8. Farm Trials to Consumer Tastings: Supporting Strawberry Producers in Tennessee	The University of Tennessee will endeavor to improve commercial and consumer strawberry production by establishing a research and demonstration strawberry patch in partnership with Tennessee strawberry growers.	$71,380.00
9. Meeting the Growers Where They Are: Creating an Online, Searchable Database for the Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook	The University of Tennessee will lead the development of a searchable, mobile-friendly online version of the Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook.	$53,077.00
10. NE Tennessee Farm Trail Weekend	Serenity Springs Lavender Farm will create a farm trail to showcase what is growing and boost agritourism in Northeastern Tennessee.	$34,574.04
11. Early Detection of Pathogens in Tree Fruit Orchards in West Tennessee	The University of Memphis will develop an early detection and risk model for mitigation of serious pathogens of fruit orchards across West Tennessee by deploying an aerial early detection system based on spore sampling, linked with environmental measures and disease surveys that will inform a risk model.	$56,609.81

Texas Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $1,714,957.00; Number of Sub-awards: 10*

The Texas Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 5 research projects, 2 education and outreach projects, and 2 marketing projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including pecans, microgreens, onions and grapes throughout the State of Texas.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Tiny Greens, Big Impact: Training Youth on Production, Nutrition, and Marketing of Microgreens	Sam Houston State University (SHSU) will enable Texas youth to develop a profitable and sustainable microgreens business with Texas specialty crops by training them on production, harvesting, storage techniques, nutritional benefits of microgreens, economic analysis, and innovative marketing strategies including digital marketing.	$63,053.00
2. Unlocking the Potential of New Pierce's Disease Resistant Wine Grapes	Texas A&M will partner with four industry organizations to characterize five new varieties of PD resistant wine grapes to determine their suitability for commercial production in Texas by determining their viticultural characteristics, potential for profitable production, their enological characteristics, and wine quality potential.	$129,876.00
3. Optimization of Irrigation Scheduling and Evaluation of Germplasm for Efficient Water Management in Onions	Texas A&M AgriLife Research will study water-use efficiency and identify short-day onion germplasm for drought tolerance by collaborating with commercial seed companies for cultivar development and optimizing irrigation scheduling in onions to maximize water use efficiency and identify onion germplasm for drought tolerance.	$196,983.08
4. Improving Seed Germination in Watermelon Through Alleviating Germination Inhibiting Factors	Texas A&M AgriLife Research will aim to improve seed germination and enhance seedling vigor in triploid watermelons by applying a combinatorial approach to eliminate physical and physiological inhibiting factors including seed treatments and discover genes in fatty acid pathways during seed germination and seedling development.	149,341.00
5. Specialty Crop Grower Trainings and Local Industry Promotion	The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) will address knowledge gaps in the Texas specialty crop industry through hosting industry related trainings, creating crop specific promotional materials, and other educational resources for both consumers and producers alike.	$344,416.11

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
6. Electrifying Efficiency: Evaluating the Practicality and Effectiveness of Electrical Weed Control in Pecan Orchard Production Systems	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension specialists will conduct field experiments in newly planted and established pecan orchards to determine the feasibility, weed control efficacy, and crop safety of electrical weed control (EWC) in Texas pecan orchards.	$223,514.32
7. Enhancing the Presence of Texas Wines in Key Markets	The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is committed to supporting the state's wine grape growers and winemakers, and will enhance the visibility and potential of Texas wines from the local to national level.	$164,406.44
8. Value-Added Innovation for Texas Pecan Growers	Tarleton State University will purchase equipment to create a pecan cracking and shelling facility to support Texas pecan growers and industry partners with value-added opportunities and innovation.	$123,358.00
9. Farmer-Led Online Education for Specialty Crop Collaborative Distribution	The Texas Center for Local Food (TCLF) will lead and complete the Farmer-Led Online Education for Specialty Crop Collaborative Distribution project with contributions from subject matter experts and micro-content training experts.	$150,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$170,009.05

U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $246,902.05; Number of Sub-awards: 2

The US VI Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The Territory’s sub-awards include 1 research project and 1 education and outreach project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including cucumber, tomatoes, and inkberry throughout USVI.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Use of the Cooperative Business Model as a Tool for Enhancing the Production and Marketing of Specialty Crops in the USVI	The Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture will develop a state project plan to educate farmers about the cooperative business model and its use to enhance the productivity, access, and marketing of specialty crops in the U.S. Virgin Islands.	$197,335.05

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
2. Inkberry (Crucian Christmas Tree): A Local Tree for the Nursery Industry	The University of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Experiment Station will conduct research on the phenology and propagation of Inkberry (Randia aculeata), a culturally and ecologically significant native plant also known as the Crucian Christmas Tree.	$49,567.00

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food: Amount of Funds Awarded: $378,953.46; Number of Sub-awards: 6*

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 4 research projects and 1 education and to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, honey, and syrup, throughout the State of Utah.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. ASPEN: Aspen Syrup Production Experimentation Network	Utah State University will establish an agreement with the State Department of Agriculture and Food to lead and execute the ASPEN project, which aims to evaluate the potential of a new alternative sweetener derived from an abundant tree species, quaking aspen (Populus tremuloides), in Utah and the Intermountain West.	$75,009.00
2. From Wild to Cultivated: Evaluating Native Honeysuckles	Brigham Young University researchers will track their growth, flowering, and fruiting cycles across multiple environments in native populations and cultivated field plots, refine propagation techniques to scale up production, and measure fruit yield under cultivation.	$52,057.22
3. Alternate Bearing: Finding Solutions to Increase Cherry Production in Low-Yield Years	Utah State University will address low yields caused by alternate bearing by studying flower carbohydrate turnover and pollen performance following treatments applied during both "on" and "off" years. They will further investigate the responses of bee pollinators to orchard treatments with boron and AVG.	$82,156.75
4. Preventing Disease Resistance to Reduce Crop Losses	Utah State University will prevent crop losses for approximately 646 commercial apple, pear, and cherry growers. Research will identify, contain, and prevent fungicide resistance for the major fruit diseases, fire blight and cherry powdery mildew.	$71,770.97
5. Improving Market Access and Postharvest Sanitation in Utah's Specialty Crops	Utah State University will strengthen postharvest food safety in Utah's specialty crop sector by combining applied research on innovative sanitation strategies with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training for small to mid-sized growers.	$69,868.45

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$28,070.63

Vermont Agency of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $317,432.41; Number of Sub-awards: 8*

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 1 research project, 2 education and outreach projects, and 4 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including tomatoes, maple sugar, herbs, and various fruits and vegetables throughout the State of Vermont.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. NEWA: System Upgrade and Expansion to Support Resilience and Profitability of Specialty Crop Producers	University of Vermont Extension will improve pest management on fruit and vegetable farms by updating weather stations and coordinating member activities of the Vermont Network for Environment and weather Application (NEWA) Program.	$42,305.00
2. Improving Air Flow in High Tunnels to Increase Crop Yield and Profitability	The University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Vegetable and Berry team will conduct research to better understand the impact improved ventilation and air circulation in high tunnels has on tomato crop quality, yield, and economic returns.	$38,114.01
3. Understanding the Impacts of Modern Sap Extraction Methods on the Long-term Health of Maple Trees	The Proctor Maple Research Center (PMRC) at the University of Vermont aims to investigate the effects of modern tapping practices on maple tree health and develop and deliver one-day workshops on best practices to disseminate current knowledge.	$43,337.00
4. Seeing the Forest for the Trees: VMSMA Industry Engagement, Membership Cultivation and Staff Capacity Building	Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association, Inc. (VMSMA) will ensure industry resiliency by seeking a consultant to learn more about producer and industry needs to best advocate for and represent Vermont's maple industry.	$20,000.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
5. Vermont Herb Growers Initiative	The Project Team, in partnership with the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association (VVBGA), will develop a collaborative network to support capacity building, education, and market access strategies for Vermont herb farmers.	$17,660.00
6. Mapping Vermont's Agricultural Land for Specialty Crop Expansion and Protection	The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets will lead a statewide mapping project to identify land that is best suited for specialty crop production, supporting both expansion and long-term protection of Vermont's fruit and vegetable acreage.	$83,968.85
7. Market Access Produce Safety Certification with PSR Alignment for Vermont Farms	This Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets project will serve as part two of a two-phase project focused on expanding wholesale market access for Vermont's specialty crop growers.	$42,992.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$29,055.55

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: Amount of Funds Awarded: $610,350.36; Number of Sub-awards: 8*

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 6 research projects and 1 education and outreach project, to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including bok choy, cabbage, broccoli, brassica, strawberries, and apples throughout the State of Virginia.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Optimizing PGR Applications for Balancing Fruit Coloration, Pre-Harvest Drop Control, and Postharvest Quality in Apples	Virginia Tech will conduct research aimed at optimizing PGR (plant growth regulator) applications to balance fruit coloration, drop control, and post-harvest quality across a variety of apple cultivars and communicate findings to apple growers and stakeholders throughout Virginia.	$81,082.08
2. Assessing Irrigation Water Risks and Resistant Varieties for Data-Driven Clubroot Management in Brassica Vegetables	The team at Virginia Tech will assess the role of irrigation water in disease transmission on brassica crops, identify effective control methods, and evaluate cabbage cultivars susceptible to clubroot conducting activities including water sampling and field trials.	$89,469.20

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
3. Strawberries and Soilless Substrates: Production, Marketing, and Economic Assessment	Virginia Tech researchers and extension specialists at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC) and Southern Piedmont AREC research will assess the viability of soilless strawberry production using various substrate blends consisting of Canadian peat, fine bark particles, biochar, perlite, and wood fiber. The findings will be disseminated through publications, field days, market events, and via presentations.	$88,573.33
4. Grow Your Own: Increasing Access to Specialty Crop Consumption, Production, and Marketing with Beginner Cultivation Training	Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD) will provide beginner and intermediate cultivation training through the Grow Your Own program. Participants will be provided with raised beds, seeds, basic tools, and producer-provided technical assistance in the growth of specialty crops including heritage and heirloom and tomatoes, peppers, greens, flowers, squash and beets. The project will provide site visits, training events, and conduct free survey programs to evaluate the programs for improvements.	$89,497.50
5. An IPM/Threshold-based Program with Mating Disruption to Reduce Insecticide Applications to Virginia Cabbage and Broccoli	Virginia Tech's project will aim to effectively manage resistant diamondback moth(DBM) populations while aiding the establishment of an improved IPM approach that incorporates mating disruption. This work will support elimination of DBM from the pest complex and action threshold-based programs to provide a more economically and environmentally way of managing pests in the field.	$69,805.80
6. Evaluating Bok Choy as a New Crop for Controlled Environment Agriculture Production Systems	The Virginia Tech Institute for Advanced Learning and Research Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Innovation Center team will evaluate different cultivars of Bok Choy in different hydroponic systems—using different nutrient solutions for their productions and test promising endophytes for growth promotion and food quality improvement. The overall goal is to evaluate Bok Choy as a new CEA crop and develop comprehensive protocols for small- and medium-size farmers to achieve high yields with a 10-20% increase utilizing biostimulants.	$62,048.76
7. Cleaner Water, Healthier Crops: Mitigating Phytophthora capsici with Floating Treatment Wetlands and Disinfection Strategies	Virginia Tech will aim to develop science-based solutions to reduce P. capsici contamination in irrigation water, including testing floating treatment wetlands for their ability to naturally reduce pathogen loads. Findings will be shared through grower meetings, extension publications, and industry conferences, ensuring timely adoption of effective water treatment strategies.	$89,609.94
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$40,263.75

Washington State Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $4,269,534.41; Number of Sub-awards: 20*

The Washington State Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 8 research projects, 4 education and outreach projects, 3 marketing project and 4 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including winter peas, hops, apples, pears, walnuts, cherries, peaches, nectarines, and apricots throughout the State of Washington.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Increasing Markets for Novel Winter Peas by Exploring Their Nutritional, Functional, and Processing Characteristics	Washington State University will establish an agreement with the Washington State Department of Agriculture to increase markets for novel winter peas.	$249,866.00
2. Driving Direct to Consumer Market Access for Washington Cideries	The Northwest Cider Association will establish an agreement with the Washington State Department of Agriculture to address domestic market development and access issues that will benefit up to 80 Washington cideries and an additional 240 specialty crop producers.	$249,508.00
3. Omics Study on Dark Sweet Cherry Intake and Risk Factors for Obesity-Related Diseases	The Washington State Fruit Commission (WSFC) will partner with the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and Texas A&M University to conduct a health-related research project on Washington-grown sweet cherries.	$200,000.00
4. Opening the Korean Market for Washington State Frozen Raspberries	The Washington Red Raspberry Commission will establish an agreement with Washington State Department of Agriculture to undertake technical efforts to open the South Korean market for Washington State frozen raspberries.	$242,000.00
5. Mitigation of Downy Mildew Throughout the Hop Propagation Cycle	The Washington Hop Commission will establish an agreement with the Washington State Department of Agriculture to mitigate downy mildew throughout the Hop Propagation Cycle. The Washington Hop Commission and its research partners will identify vulnerabilities in the propagation cycle that may introduce downy mildew into new plantings and evaluate practices that can mitigate the impact of the disease during propagation and when establishing new yards.	$249,659.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
6. Developing a Market for Dry-Farmed Tomatoes and Melons in Washington	Organic Seed Alliance, Culinary Breeding Network and The Dry Farming Institute will increase awareness and provide education about dry farming and its benefits – for the environment, the farmer, and the consumer.	$166,527.40
7. Expanding Local Markets for Specialty Crops Grown by Beginning Farmers	Living Well Kent Collaborative will aim to increase access to wholesale and direct-to-consumer markets for beginning farmers growing specialty crops.	$232,925.00
8. Supplementary Food Safety Training and Education for the Washington Produce Industry	Washington State University will establish an agreement with Washington State Department of Agriculture to provide food safety training and education for the Washington produce industry.	$50,789.00
9. Connecting Producers to Supporting Resources for Endangered Species Act Pesticide Mitigation Implementation	Compliance Services International will establish an agreement with Washington State Department of Agriculture to connect producers to supporting resources for endangered species act pesticide mitigation.	$191,166.16
10. Are Viruses in Uncultivated Prunus a Threat to Commercial Cultivation?	Washington State University researchers will aim to determine the incidence of stone fruit-infecting viruses from ornamental and wild Prunus species in Washington and Oregon, and determine the risk of their spread into cultivated, commercial plantings.	$75,927.00
11. Empowering Registered Nurseries to Maintain Virus-Tested Planting Materials for Grape Growers	Washington State University will implement the project "Empowering Registered Nurseries to Maintain Virus-Tested Planting Materials for Grape Growers" to advance sustainability of Washington State's wine industry that has an estimated $9.6 billion to the state's economy.	$249,126.00
12. Extension Implementation of Integrated Pest Management in Honeybee Colonies	The Washington State University Bee Program will aim to create an open-access, comprehensive video series about Varroa destructor management to encourage beekeepers to adopt responsible and effective management methods.	$248,157.94
13. Optimizing Legume-Rhizobia Symbiosis to Promote Pest Tolerance, Nitrogen Fixation, and Crop Yield	Washington State University will establish an agreement with Washington State Department of Agriculture to optimize legume-rhizobia symbiosis to promote pest tolerance, nitrogen fixation, and crop yield.	$250,000.00
14. Developing Codling Moth Biopesticides of Local Origin	Washington State University will establish an agreement with Washington State Department of Agriculture to develop codling moth biopesticides.	$249,914.00
15. Examining the Food Safety Risks of Non-Alcoholic Hop Waters	Central Washington University will aim to define the food borne pathogen risk that is associated with the production of non-alcoholic hop waters.	$162,651.40

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
16. Producing High-Quality, Shelf-Stable Sweet Cherries using Vacuum Microwave Drying (VMD) Technology	Washington State University will establish an agreement with Washington State Department of Agriculture to produce high-quality, shelf-stable sweet cherries using vacuum microwave drying technology.	$198,861.00
17. A New Decision Aid Toolkit for Pear Harvest and Storage	The USDA-ARS Physiology and Pathology of Tree Fruits Research Unit will aim to build predictive decision aid tools that enhance pear fruit quality, with a special emphasis on fruit ripening capacity.	$248,600.00
18. Beat the Heat: Expanding Heat Mitigation Tools for Raspberry Production	This collaborative project between Washington State University and United States Department of Agriculture will expand information and best practices on heat stress mitigation of caneberry, which is increasingly threatening yield and fruit quality.	$250,000.00
19. Enhancing Market Access for Washington's Specialty Crops through WSDA Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Training	The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Fruit & Vegetable (F&V) Inspection Program will develop a farmer-focused video-based training platform to standardize inspection protocols, enhance early pest detection, and improve quality assessment for Washington's specialty crops—apples, pears, cherries, potatoes, and onions.	$162,293.76
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$341,562.75

West Virginia Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $302,873.22; Number of Sub-awards: 8[*]

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 2 research projects and 5 marketing projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including cucumbers, apples, honey, lettuce, pumpkin, and various fruits and vegetables throughout the State of West Virginia.

[*] This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Managing Two Major Cucurbit Diseases to Prolong the Growing Cycle and Boost Marketable Yield	West Virginia University Extension service plant diagnostic clinic will conduct research and outreach activities to find advanced IPM-based solutions and educate growers to manage the disease better to improve financial returns.	$43,712.00
2. Pesticide Resistance of Codling Moth in Apples	West Virginia University will identify genetic mutations in codling moth linked to insecticide resistance to improve integrated pest management programs.	$44,648.00
3. Expanded Community-Based Honey Extractor Program and Collaboration with West Virginia Farmers Market Association	The Mountaineer Beekeepers Association will expand the existing Community-Based Honey Extraction Equipment Program to all 14 West Virginia Conservation Districts.	$11,359.52
4. Lettuce Learn and Earn: Building Agricultural Pathways in West Virginia	The West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition will develop and pilot a Specialty Crop Internship and Youth Entrepreneurship Program in Pocahontas County to enhance agricultural education, workforce readiness, and local food system engagement.	$74,998.27
5. Growing for the Mountain State - WV Grown Promotion with Specialty Crops	West Virginia Grown, West Virginia's Department of Agriculture Marketing Section, will promote local specialty crops to consumers and food retail and restaurants in the WV Grown program through advertising, promotions, outreach and business-to business meetings.	$57,328.38
6. Enhancing and Expanding Student Learning and Collaborations	Wheeling Park High School's Agriculture Program, Park View Farms, will offer new learning opportunities for students in the production and sale of various specialty crops by enhancing our greenhouse to teach our special needs students about home gardening.	$23,194.62
7. West Virginia Pumpkin Patch Education and Promotion	The West Virginia Department of Agriculture will help educate and promote the pumpkin specialty crop industry by utilizing their agritourism marketing team to develop materials for both the farmers and customers to learn from and advertise to through signage and tours.	$11,672.57
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$33,950.86

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection: Amount of Funds Awarded: $1,282,895.79; Number of Sub-awards: 14*

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 7 research projects, 1 education and outreach projects 2 marketing projects, and 3 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including black currants, ginseng, table grapes, a variety of heirloom vegetables, and cranberries throughout the State of Wisconsin.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Launching the UMHDI Accelerator to Hasten Hazelnut Industry Development and 2nd Generation Germplasm Improvement	The University of Wisconsin Extension and partners will support scale up of the hazelnut industry in Wisconsin by evaluating elite second generation germplasm and establish third generation breeding populations.	$98,990.00
2. Supporting Honeyberry and Table Grape Production in Wisconsin	University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension will promote perennial fruit production in Wisconsin through field research and grower education.	$99,583.00
3. Wisconsin Honeybee Health Initiative	The Wisconsin Honeybee Health Initiative will aim to support Wisconsin beekeepers, gardeners, and farmers by providing them with the latest scientific and technical information for protecting pollinators.	$99,070.00
4. Improving Wisconsin Heirloom Vegetable Varieties for Resilient Production and Market Growth	The Vernon Economic Development Association will lead a statewide initiative to improve the resilience, uniformity, and market appeal of three Wisconsin heirloom vegetable varieties.	$97,570.00
5. Increasing Growers' Profitability and Efficiency with Growth Regulators	The Ginseng Board of Wisconsin (GBW) will seek to decrease production costs and increase the profitability of ginseng root.	$99,461.00

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
6. Advancement of High Throughput Sequencing to Detect Pathogens of Concern in Economically Important Wisconsin Specialty Crops	The Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program (WSPCP) in collaboration with multiple partners and Wisconsin specialty crop growers is focused on advancing high-throughput sequencing diagnostic methods on economically important Wisconsin specialty crops.	$50,347.00
7. Next-Generation Approaches to Cranberry Fruit Rot Management: Linking Canopy Microclimate, Fungicide Resistance, and Precision Spray Strategies	The University of Wisconsin–Madison will reduce the impact of cranberry fruit rot by developing science-based, integrated disease management strategies.	$99,622.00
8. Optimizing the Management of Potato Black Dot in Wisconsin Through Research and Extension	The Potato and Vegetable Pathology Research and Extension Program of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Plant Pathology Department will partner with members of the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, members of the Wisconsin Seed Potato Improvement Association, and directly with additional growers and allied industry partners to improve understanding and management of potato black dot.	$67,584.00
9. Using Automated Camera Traps to Quantify the Effects of Weather on Pollination Services to Cranberry	The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and the University of Wisconsin-Madison will use automated camera traps to investigate and then build a tool to forecast how fluctuating weather influences the stability of pollination services to cranberry.	$99,696.00
10. Quantifying the Contribution of Wild and Managed Bees to Specialty Crop Pollination in Wisconsin	The Gratton Lab in the Department of Entomology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will improve its understanding of the role of wild and managed bees in the pollination of Wisconsin specialty crops.	$99,536.00
11. Increasing Institutional Buyers' Local Procurement through Wisconsin's Harvest of the Month	The Community Food Systems Program at UW-Madison Division of Extension will leverage the "Harvest of the Month" initiative to increase Wisconsin institutions' procurement of Wisconsin-grown vegetable specialty crops.	$99,576.00
12. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey, Cooperator Network, and Outreach to Hemlock Nursery Growers and Sellers	The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Plant Industry Bureau will seek to support and maintain the hemlock woolly adelgid (Adelges tsugae, HWA)-free status of hemlock nursery stock in Wisconsin.	$48,194.00

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
13. Testing Intercrop, Mulching, and Mycorrhizal Inoculations to Optimize Blackcurrant and Chestnut Establishment in Wisconsin	The Savanna Institute and UW-Madison will test methods to improve establishment and early growth in blackcurrant and chestnut orchards by assessing effects of intercrop species.	$56,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$167,666.79

Wyoming Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: $292,845.80; Number of Sub-awards: 8*

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 3 research projects and 4 education and outreach projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, and other fruits and vegetables throughout the State of Wyoming.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Season Extension of Specialty Crops through Grower Small Grant Program	Wyoming Department of Agriculture will utilize its grower small grant program to award 8 grants to support extending the growing season of specialty crops. This will help improve specialty crop production problems associated with Wyoming's wind, hail, and short growing seasons.	$90,000.00
2. Geodesic Dome Greenhouses Used to Increase Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and Distribution	Laramie County Master Gardeners (LCMG) greenhouse project will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop producers by serving as an educational hub that hosts workshops, field trips, and hands-on programs for students, families, and the community.	$29,393.00
3. Optimizing Tomato and Tomatillo Varieties for Cool-Climate Production in Wyoming	The University of Wyoming will conduct applied horticultural research in Laramie, Wyoming, to screen tomato and tomatillo varieties under high tunnels and fields, addressing growers' variety selection concerns.	$23,071.15

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
4. SAREC Demonstration Orchard Educational Support	University of Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station, Sustainable Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SAREC) will conduct work to inform the public about orchard management. The research station will also develop insect, disease, irrigation and fruit preservation educational materials.	$11,501.00
5. Carrot Yield Enhancement Using Coal Char as a Soil Amendment in Wyoming Soil	The University of Wyoming aims to develop a scientifically based practical measure on the use of pyrolyzed coal (coal char) in the agroecosystem as a soil amendment to enhance soil properties and crop yield.	$51,820.08
6. University of Wyoming Sustainable Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SAREC) Educational Potato Programs	The University of Wyoming Sustainable Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SAREC) will develop educational programming to ensure Wyoming residents understand healthy and sustainable eating habits through its potato programming activities.	$10,146.00
7. Evaluating Nutrient and Water Requirements of Native Edible Berry Plants for High Density Nutrient Specialty Crop for Wyoming Populations	The University of Wyoming will optimize water and fertilizer management for native edible berry species by performing greenhouse research and disseminating production guidelines to specialty crop stakeholders through publications and field days.	$24,338.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$52,576.57