

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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Thursday, March 01, 2012

2012 Alaska Agriculture Innovative Grant Request for Proposals ~ Application Deadline May 31, 2012

To: Interested Alaska Farmers, Producers and Industry Members

Director Franci Havemeister is pleased to announce the availability of funds through the Alaska Agriculture Innovation Grant (AAIG) program. Funding is a component of the 2012 USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) program; although the USDA has not awarded funding yet, the Division anticipates at least \$50,000 will be available. The Division expects funding to arrive in October; awarded projects can commence after that time.

The application process will have two steps in 2012. First the application will be reviewed by an in-State committee. The top proposals will be forwarded on for review by the USDA SCBG program staff.

Eligible *specialty crops* include fruits, vegetables, and nursery crops including floriculture. Alaska Grown products that **DO NOT** qualify as specialty crops under the federal agreement and are therefore ineligible for this grant include: feed crops (such as barley, corn, hay, oats) livestock, dairy products, eggs and aquaculture products.

Grant amounts for the AAIG will range from \$500.00 to \$5000.00. Applicants will be eligible for up to 50% of the total cost of the project, equipment or “system” that is purchased. Shipping and labor costs are not eligible for reimbursement. Multiple pieces of equipment or cohesive systems can be bundled into one application; however no individual will receive greater than \$5000.00. If multiple pieces of equipment are requested, the Division of Agriculture reserves the right to approve or deny item by item.

If awarded, recipients will receive 75% of the grant funds upon delivery of necessary receipts, etc. and the remaining 25% after an acceptable report and presentation has been delivered to other growers.

“To responsibly develop Alaska’s resources by making them available for maximum use and benefit consistent with the public interest.”

The AAIG is intended for specialty crop producers to adopt and develop methods and systems for **season extension and increased crop productivity**. Innovative technologies not currently being utilized in Alaska are encouraged. Requirements of the contracts will include:

- Purchase the system identified and described in your application;
- Dollar-for-dollar match of every State dollar expended, shipping and labor not included;
- Public presentation of your project and information to other producers/farmers; and
- Deliver a final report on the project, including required documentation.

Applicants should submit proposals using the proposal requirements supplied. Please review the application information carefully. The application, evaluation methods, sample proposal and budget sheet can be found online at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/>.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the innovation of your idea and system, specialty crop emphasis, success & increased productivity evaluation measures, how you intend to share your project with others and if applicable, performance on previous grant contracts. Please see the criteria and points associated with each evaluation method. The Division of Agriculture intends to award multiple contracts from this solicitation.

Proposals must be received at either the Central or Northern Region Division of Agriculture (Division) offices (see above addresses) by May 31, 2012.

Selected proposals will be moved to the second round of review with the USDA on/before July 11, 2012. Funding is expected to arrive in October of 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact Program Manager Amy Pettit at Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov or at 907-761-3864.