

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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Wednesday, February 25, 2009

2009 Alaska Agriculture Innovative Grant Request for Proposals ~ Application Deadline April 3, 2009

To: Interested Alaska Farmers, Producers and Industry Members

Director Franci Havemeister is pleased to announce the availability of funds through the new Alaska Agriculture Innovation Grant (AAIG) program. Funding is a result of the successful USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) proposal submitted by the Division of Agriculture.

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/presentation has been delivered to other growers. If you need assistance with funding for the initial purchase, please contact Amy Pettit for additional information.

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, **as it has been revised**. The application, evaluation methods, sample proposal and budget sheet can be found online at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/index.htm>.

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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 5:00 pm on Friday, April 3, 2009.

Selected proposals will be announced by April 17, 2009. Projects and reports must be complete and submitted to the Central office of the Division by 5:00 pm on June 18, 2010. Final reports received after that time and date will be considered late and influence evaluation points given on future proposals. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Pettit at Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov, (907) 761-3864 or Patricia O'Neil at Patricia.ONeil@alaska.gov, (907) 761-3858.

Sincerely,

Amy Pettit
Development Specialist

Cc: Douglas Warner, Marketing & Inspection Administrator

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2009 Alaska GROWN Alaska Agriculture Innovative Grant Application

Applications must be received by close of business (5:00 pm) April 3, 2009. Submit by fax, mail or in person to the Alaska Division of Agriculture, Central or Northern Region Office (see above).

Make sure to provide the name, address, email address and telephone number for the primary applicant.

Proposal Due Date: April 3, 2009

Applicants Notified by: April 17, 2009

Proposal Requirements:

In order to address the increasingly competitive grant program, we must enforce the following requirements.

1. Must be an eligible *specialty crop*: fruits, vegetables, and nursery crops including floriculture. **Ineligible crops include:** feed crops, livestock, dairy products, eggs and aquaculture products.
2. The AAIG is intended to expand current technologies and opportunities, not subsidize producer; therefore, funds cannot be spent prior to award notification and receipts must be dated post-award.
3. Up to 50% of the total cost of the equipment, system or project, **excluding labor and shipping costs**, can be applied for.
4. Application *must* be typed. Please use 12-point font.
5. Each project must have a title page that includes the project title and your contact information.
6. Begin the proposal with a ½ page abstract, and then address each question outlined under "proposal content." A successful project will provide clear goals and objectives and will clearly state how you intend to evaluate the success/ challenges of your innovation system. The goals and objectives need to be specific, well-structured and brief. Clearly indicate how you will share your information publicly with the agricultural community.
7. Please make sure the proposal is no more than 4 pages, including the budget.

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Proposal Content Requirements:

Project abstract: Provide a ½ page summary of the project and its objectives and then address the questions below:

1. What is the piece of equipment, system or project you are requesting grant funds for?
2. Explain how you expect the equipment, system or project to extend your season or increase your production capacity. Please specify how you intend to measure this increase/ change compared to previous years.
3. Please list the different specialty crops you produce that will be impacted by this equipment, system or project. Be specific!
4. The AAIG is intended to encourage innovative ideas and projects in the State. Use this response to explain how your project is innovative, and why you chose it.
5. What is the total cost of the piece of equipment, system or project, excluding shipping, transportation and/or other fees? This is a dollar for dollar match, and you will contribute (at least) 50% of the monies for this purchase. Please indicate your understanding of this minimum dollar for dollar match requirement.
6. How will you present your findings to other growers, i.e. speak at a future meeting or arrange for a farm tour? Please understand that presenting your information is a requirement, and that your findings, positive or negative, will be posted online and available to other producers/farmers.

Submission Requirements:

Make sure to provide the name, address, email address and telephone number for the primary applicant.

1. Submit a completed proposal by fax, mail or in person to the Alaska Division of Agriculture, Central or Northern Region Office (see above).
2. Proposal *must* be received by end of business (5:00 pm) in the Division of Agriculture offices on April 3, 2009. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered for funding.
3. 12-point font must be used for all text in the proposal.
4. Each project must have a title page including the title and your contact information.
5. Limit your proposal to **4 pages, including the budget. The title page does not count!**

The Division of Agriculture has written a sample proposal. You have permission to follow the format displayed on the sample proposal. The Division has also provided a sample budget outline to follow. Use this when presenting your budget information. This budget outline is in Microsoft Excel. You can download it off of our website and save it to your computer, to use. It will automatically total the numbers you enter. Please go to: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/index.htm> to access these documents.

If you have any questions when working on this proposal please contact Amy Pettit at Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov, (907) 761-3864, or Patricia O'Neil at Patricia.ONeil@alaska.gov, (907)761-3858.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the Alaska Agriculture Innovative Grant proposals:

1. Application: Please refer to the sample application provided on our website at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/index.htm>. Proposal is well-written and clear; please clearly outline your goals and objectives, and clearly demonstrate how you will meet each goal and objective. The application will be evaluated on how comprehensive it is and follows the directions provided in the request for proposals. (10 points)
2. Budget: Please use the budget worksheet provided by the Division or follow the example provided closely. The budget will be evaluated on how clearly it defines how the funds will be used, and if it indicates you understand this grant will cover up to 50% of the costs, not including shipping or labor. Please consider the use of funds and how it pertains to increased crop production. (10 points)
3. Presentation: How will you present the information gathered from your system implementation, i.e. arrange a farm tour, present at a farm function, etc.? What format will be used, and how will the information be presented in document form, so that it can be available for farmers in the future? (15 points)
4. Innovation: How is your project innovative, compared to what is being done in Alaska already and what specialty crops will it affect? (Please check to see what other projects have been completed, to ensure this is not duplicating a project.) Why is this considered innovative, and how much do you anticipate it will increase production? Please consider these items when choosing a system to implement. (25 points)
5. Evaluation Methods: How will the goals and objectives of the proposal be evaluated, i.e. a control will be used, different test plots will be set up, etc. (25 points)
6. Previous Projects: The proposal will be evaluated by previous projects completed by the applicant/business applying. If projects were late, incomplete, or did not meet the objectives set forth in the project, this will effect the evaluation of the current proposal. If you have not been previously awarded a grant with the Division of Agriculture, you will not be penalized and will be granted 15 points automatically. If you previously had an incomplete project, a 0 will be granted. (15 points)

Total Points Possible = 100