



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DNR seeks applicants for specialty crop grants**

(Palmer, AK) – The Division of Agriculture is now seeking applicants for its annual Specialty Crop Competitive Grant Program.

Examples of specialty crop projects that have been funded in the past include disease research in the peony industry, variety trials in garlic production, and rhodiola marketing.

The Division intends to provide grants to multiple projects, with a maximum grant per project of \$25,000. An overview of the 2014 specialty crop competitive grant program, including deadlines and requirements, is available at [http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_grantsSCCG.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grantsSCCG.htm). Grant applicants must provide a letter of intent to the Division by May 16, 2014. The Division intends to host two webinars to answer questions related to the application process. Webinar dates will be announced on the website listed above.

Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts and nursery crops, including floriculture and turf production. Many Alaska Grown products – including livestock, dairy, fuel/feed grains, hay, and aquaculture – are excluded from this grant program due to U.S. Department of Agriculture restrictions.

Please note that funding to enhance an individual company or business is not acceptable. Matching funds are not required, though preference points will be given in the application review process. Funding for this grant program is made possible through the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

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