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Department of
Natural Resources

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Graduate students may apply for specialty crop block mini-grants

(Palmer, AK) – Graduate students can apply for block grants of up to \$10,000 to support Alaska-grown specialty crops this year, under a federal program administered by the Alaska Division of Agriculture.

The mini-grants seek to encourage students to conduct research projects into issues related to specialty crops, such as pest identification and mitigation, regional food systems, crop efficiencies, variety trials, feasibility studies, or other topics.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines specialty crops as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture, kelp, seaweed, and nursery crops. See: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbqp/specialty-crop>.

Only graduate students in good standing and currently enrolled in an accredited college or university are eligible. Individual students may apply. Students must have a faculty advisor, and should also have an industry professional sponsor or advisor. The projects and work must take place in Alaska.

Grants will be awarded to qualified applicants for relevant projects, based on merit, until funds are expended. Approximately \$30,000 is available under this year's program. The deadline for submitting applications to the division is May 10. Projects must be completed by September 15, and project reports will be due October 30.

Information about the grants, a link to the application, and application instructions will be posted on the "Grants" page of the division's website, at: http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grants.htm

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