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Commissioner

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Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Alaskans Can Apply for Federal Specialty Crop Block Grants

(Palmer, AK) – The Alaska Division of Agriculture is soliciting interest for the 2025 USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBG). The federal program, provided through the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and administered by the Alaska Division of Agriculture, seeks to enhance the competitiveness of Alaska Grown specialty crops, sustain farmers' livelihoods, and strengthen local communities.

Only projects related to specialty crops are allowed under this funding source. Eligible applicants of this grant program include universities, producer groups, extension services, soil and water conservation districts, colleges, universities, schools, and non-profit organizations. Grant projects are 1-3 years in duration and available in amounts up to \$60,000 depending on the scope of the project.

Eligible projects include efforts focused on:

- Enhancing food safety
- Improving capacity in the specialty crop distribution chain
- Specialty crop research
- Development of new and improved varieties
- Pest and disease control
- Increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops
- Improving efficiency and reducing costs
- Sustainability

Alaskan specialty crop producers and industry stakeholders may provide input on this year's top funding priorities by completing this survey by March 1: [2025 SCBG Funding Priorities Survey](#).

Letters of Intent for proposed project ideas are due to the Division by 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10. The request for proposals, including application and deadline information, is available at: https://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grants/specialty_crop_block_grant.htm.

Grant projects must benefit the specialty crop industry as a whole and enhance the competitiveness of U.S. grown specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets. Projects that benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single business, organization, or individual will be deemed ineligible for funding.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines specialty crops as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture and nursery crops. Livestock, dairy, fuel/feed grains, hay, and aquaculture (with the exception of kelp and sea vegetables) – are excluded from the grant program, due to USDA restrictions. A list of USDA-eligible specialty crops is at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop>.

2025 USDA SCBG program funding for Alaska is pending either an extension of the 2018 Farm Bill Act or the passage of the 2024 Farm Bill.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS about the Specialty Crop Block Grant may be directed to:
dnr.scbg@alaska.gov

MEDIA CONTACT: Lorraine Henry, 907-269-8427, lorraine.henry@alaska.gov

The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.

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