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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Division of Agriculture offers Specialty Crop Block grants

\$115,000 in grants available; application period is March 1-31

(Palmer, AK) – The Alaska Division of Agriculture has \$115,000 in grant funding to support the development of Alaska’s specialty crops such as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, nursery crops, and mariculture.

Starting March 1, Alaskans can apply for block grants of \$10,000 to \$60,000 to support specialty crops under the federal Specialty Crop Block Grant program administered by the Division of Agriculture. The program seeks to enhance the competitiveness of Alaska Grown specialty crops, sustain farmers’ livelihoods, and strengthen local communities, said Director David W. Schade.

“Specialty Crop Block grants provide Alaska a means to improve our specialty crop industry in a manner that addresses Alaska’s unique farming environment”, stated Schade. “This program has brought understanding of better farm practices, plant varieties and marketing of our Alaska Grown specialty crops.”

The application deadline is 5 p.m. AST on Thursday, March 31.

Only projects related to specialty crops are allowed under this funding source. Potential recipients include universities, producers, extension services, soil and water conservation districts, or schools working in cooperation with a farm, ranch or non-profit. All projects must show a benefit within the specialty crop industry.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines specialty crops as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, culinary herbs and spices, dried fruits, horticulture, nursery crops, and mariculture. A list of USDA-eligible specialty crops is at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbqp/specialty-crop>.

“As previous Specialty Crop Grants have already produced a number of improvements and innovations, we look forward to seeing this year’s proposals,” said Governor Mike Dunleavy. “Supporting Alaska food production is a high priority of my administration and we

celebrate the successes that this grant program has yielded. This collaborative model has helped assure that food and fiber production and marketing of our specialty crops in Alaska is enhanced.”

This year, the application process will be simplified, requiring only one “final” application document to be submitted. There is no Letter of Intent required in the 2022 application process. The electronic application, a tutorial video, and links to more information is available on the Division of Agriculture grants page at:
http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grants.htm

Clear, concise applications that show how the proposed activity can accomplish project goals are encouraged. Funding is provided to the State of Alaska by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Services through the 2018 Farm Bill authorization. Results will be published and shared at the completion of the grant.

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