

John Crowther
Commissioner-designee

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Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 20, 2026

Alaskans Can Apply Now for the 2026 Specialty Crop Block Grants

(Palmer, AK) – The Alaska Division of Agriculture is requesting applications for the 2026 USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBG). The SCBG Program is a federal program provided by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and administered by the Alaska Division of Agriculture. The purpose of this program is to award grants to eligible projects that will enhance the competitiveness of Alaska's specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets. **Applications are due by 5 p.m. on May 20, 2026.**

The Division is also seeking input from Alaska specialty crop growers, processors, and/or distributors on what should be this year's top funding priorities by completing the [Stakeholder Priority Survey](#) by **5 p.m. on May 8, 2026.**

Eligible applicants include universities, producer groups, extension services, soil and water conservation districts, colleges, universities, schools, and non-profit organizations. Eligible projects include those focused on enhancing food safety; improving capacity in the specialty crop distribution chain; specialty crop research; developing new and improved varieties; pest and disease control; increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops; improving efficiency and reducing costs; and sustainability. Applications for grant funds must describe how the project will affect and produce measurable outcomes for Alaska's specialty crop industry and/or the public. Projects that benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single business, organization, or individual will be deemed ineligible for funding. Grant projects are 1-3 years in duration and available in amounts up to \$60,000.

For more program information and application documents, please refer to the Request for Applications document located on the Division's [SCBG Program](#) webpage. **Important Update:** Starting in 2027, each selected applicant will be required to provide a cost share from non-Federal sources, in the form of cash and/or in-kind contributions, equal to 25% of the requested Federal funds.

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 (except 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>

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

Public Contact: Division of Agriculture, Specialty Crop Block Grant main email address:
dag.scbg@alaska.gov

Media Contact: Lorraine Henry, 907-378-4926, lorraine.henry@alaska.gov

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