



STATE OF IDAHO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ISDA is Seeking Specialty Crop Grant Applications

Boise - The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is pleased to announce the competitive solicitation process to award Specialty Crop Block Grants. The United States Department of Agriculture has allocated these funds to the state and ISDA will be passing them through as competitive grants. Funds will be available to interested local, state and federal government, non-profit and for-profit organizations and universities as competitive grants. Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.

Eligible projects will solely enhance the competitiveness of U.S.-grown specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets and must provide a benefit to more than just the applicant. Projects may include, but are not limited to, pest and disease control, enhancing food safety, developing new and improved seed varieties, increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops, market development, or developing good agricultural, handling or manufacturing practices.

"The 2009 Specialty Crop Grant process resulted in funding many high-quality projects." ISDA Director Celia Gould said. "We are excited to see the results on the ground in the next couple years and anticipate this next round of funding to be even more competitive."

Projects will be evaluated on how well they enhance the competitiveness of Idaho's specialty crops, soundness and quality of the project plan, the measurable outcomes it will produce and the return on investment. ISDA will be hosting two webinars covering the application process on February 18th and March 9th.

Additional details and application guidelines for the competitive grant program are available at www.agri.idaho.gov. Applications are due to ISDA by April 30, 2010. If you have questions about the grant program, please contact Lacey Menasco at lacey.menasco@agri.idaho.gov or 208-332-8538.

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