



STATE OF IDAHO



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR
CELIA R. GOULD
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Lacey Menasco
208-332-8538
lacey.menasco@agri.idaho.gov

Projects Selected to Receive Specialty Crop Grant Funds

Funding for specialty crop projects across Idaho is on the way from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture thanks to the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The State of Idaho allocated \$925,835.38 to projects that will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

In December 2010 the Department announced a competitive grant process and began accepting applications. Sixteen applications were submitted at a total request of nearly \$1.6 million. A panel of industry representatives reviewed and scored all applications and provided input to ISDA for final selection. Eight projects were selected for funding. These projects include research and promotional activities for commodities such as potatoes, beans, grapes, apples and nursery.

"The Department is very pleased with the quality projects selected for funding this year." ISDA Director Celia Gould said. "This is a great opportunity to put federal grant dollars to work in Idaho to enhance to competitiveness of our specialty crop industry."

The Department's State Plan, including the eight projects, was submitted to USDA on July 13. Final approval is expected from USDA in August or September.

Program requirements governing eligibility were published in the Federal Register. Specialty crops were defined to include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. Eligible projects were required to benefit more than one organization and enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

ISDA is expecting to receive Specialty Crop Grant funding from USDA again in 2012. If you have questions about the grant program, please contact Lacey Menasco at lacey.menasco@agri.idaho.gov or 208-332-8538.

continued

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
2011 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
 Grants Selected and Included in State Plan

NOTE: Grants have been submitted in ISDA's State Plan but not yet approved by USDA.

Applicant	Project Title	Funding Amount
Agricultural Research Service, Dr. Krista Shellie	Preparing Viticulture for Climate Change: Cold Hardiness of Grape Cultivars in Response to Weather Events During Dormancy	\$62,470.00
Idaho Apple Commission	Maximizing Production and Fruit Quality and Optimizing Mineral Nutrients in "Fuji"	\$ 104,388.00
Idaho Bean Commission	Development of virus-resistant Yellow Bean Seed for Domestic Sale and Export to Mexico	\$121,925.00
Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association	Plant Something: Awareness Campaign for Idaho Grown Products	\$20,000.00
Idaho Potato Commission	Development and Sustainable Production of New Potato Varieties for Idaho	\$255,940.00
Idaho Potato Commission	International Market Development for Idaho Potatoes	\$104,240.00
Idaho Preferred	Promoting Specialty Crops Through Advertising and Channel Marketing	\$105,490.38
University of Idaho	Eradication of Necrotic Strains of Potato Virus Y in Idaho	\$151,382.00

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