



STATE OF IDAHO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2016 Specialty Crop Grant Applications Now Available

The 2016 Specialty Crop Block Grant program application process is now open. Nearly \$1.9 million in funds were allocated to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). Grants will be awarded through a competitive process to projects that improve the competitiveness of specialty crops in Idaho. The deadline for applications is April 29, 2016.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture made a number of modifications to the 2016 program. As a result, the application materials have been reworked and will be different from years past, although the scope of the program and eligible products remain the same. All application materials can be found at <http://www.agri.state.id.us/AGRI/Categories/Marketing/specialitycropgrantphp.php>

There will be two pre-application webinars scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, at 1 p.m. MST, and Thursday, March 31, at 10:30 a.m. MST to assist applicants with the new materials.

Specialty crops are defined to include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. Eligible projects are required to benefit more than one organization and solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

"Idaho is a significant producer of specialty crops. As a result, Idaho received the fourth largest allocation of all 50 states" ISDA Director Celia Gould said. "Idaho's specialty crop industry has seen technological improvements and economic benefits each year of the program. We look forward to seeing what Idaho's specialty crop industries have to offer in terms of proposals this year."

If you have questions about the grant program, please contact Eric Boyington at eric.boyington@ISDA.idaho.gov or 208-332-8537.