

SCBGP Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Is there a minimum or maximum numbers of pages allowed?**
*The Project Proposal is limited to 5 pages. This does NOT include the Application Coversheet, the Budget Narrative, Line Item Budget, or other **allowable** attachments such as researcher vitae's and letters of support.*
- 2. When will funds be available?**
We do not have a specific date from USDA, but we are anticipating to be able to disperse the funds in October.
- 3. Is there a minimum or maximum allowable dollar amount per proposal?**
No, grants can be for as much or as little as is required to complete the activity. There is a total of approximately \$870,000 available. In 2009 funded activities ranged from \$167,080 to \$2759 and averaged about \$75,000.
- 4. Can the outcome of the research project be beyond the timeline of the grant?**
Yes. These grants will fund projects for up to two years. ISDA understands that for many of Idaho's specialty crops, it may take longer than two years to reach measurable outcomes. If proposing such a project, communicate what the anticipated outcomes will be by the end of the grant and a timeline for the expected end results of the project beyond the end of the grant. It will also be important to communicate HOW the project will be able to continue without the SCBGP funds at the end of the granting period.
- 5. Does the proposal need to follow exactly the outline specified in the Application Guidelines, or are those categories just suggestions.**
Proposals need to contain the exact categories specified in the Application Guidelines (Project Title and Abstract, Project Purpose, Potential Impact, Expected Measureable Outcomes, Work Plan, Project Oversight, Project Commitment, and a Budget Narrative). ISDA's application to USDA is required to contain these specific categories for each project funded through the SCBGP. Additional documents such as letters of commitment from project partners may be attached.
- 6. Are mushrooms or huckleberries a specialty crop?**
*Yes, **if they are cultivated**. Wild harvest mushrooms and berries are NOT specialty crops.*
- 7. Are seeds eligible specialty crops?**
Seeds of specialty crops are eligible, seeds for non-specialty crops are not eligible.

8. Can SCBGP funds be used to purchase a green house?

No, SCBGP funds cannot be used to purchase buildings. It could be used to purchase equipment and technology needed to run the green house.

9. Can SCBGP funds be used to purchase equipment?

They can be used to purchase "specific use" equipment, but not general use equipment. See the grant guidelines for more information about the difference between specific and general use equipment. Equipment over \$5000 must have prior approval. The proposal must specify who will take ownership of the equipment at the end of the grant period.

If a piece of equipment will ever be used to benefit anything other than specialty crops, it is not eligible.

10. Can other documents be submitted with the application packet?

Every Application must include the (1) Application Cover Sheet, (2) Project Proposal, (3) Budget Narrative, and (4) the Line Item Budget. Letters of commitment are encouraged from project partners, individuals and organizations that will be contributing any kind of match to the project, and any other entity that is supportive of the proposed activity. Addition document providing back ground or supporting information are not recommended and will not be included in the review process.

12. The project calls for the purchasing of many parts that will be used to make one piece of equipment, should this be listed as supplies or equipment?

The total amount of the parts and inputs should be totaled and listed as one item under equipment.

13. Equipment of \$5000 requires prior AMS approval – is that process difficult?

No. The equipment must be listed in the budget. ISDA will include this in our state plans to USDA AMS. This is the approval process.

14. The proposal entails a multi-state project that will be submitted to another state for partial funding as well, how does this effect my application to Idaho?

Specify in the proposal that it is a multi-state project, what the total amount of the project is, and what portion/percent will be funded through the Idaho program. Idaho staff will work together with the other state(s) to reach a funding decision.

15. What regulations are to be used when calculating travel expenses for the grant?

Travel expenses must comply with the State of Idaho travel regulations.

- 16. If a project benefits more than just specialty crops, is it still eligible?**
It may still be eligible. The applicant can use other monies to fund the portion of the project proportionate to the amount of NON-specialty crops. This will work for project expenses, but not equipment purchases.