



STATE OF IDAHO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Specialty Crop Grant Applications Being Accepted

Boise - Applications are being accepted by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) for Specialty Crop Block Grants. The United States Department of Agriculture has allocated Specialty Crop Block Grants to Idaho, and ISDA will be passing the funds through as competitive grants.

Projects must 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. Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.

"These funds are an important tool for Idaho's specialty crop industry," ISDA Director Celia Gould said. "This is our third year of providing competitive grants and we are already seeing the positive impacts of prior grants. We look forward to another year of innovative projects that enhance Idaho specialty crops and create economic returns for Idaho."

Funds will be available to interested local, state and federal government, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and universities. 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. Projects will be evaluated on how well they enhance the competitiveness of Idaho's specialty crops, soundness and quality of the project plan, measurable outcomes and return on investment.

Applications are due to ISDA by April 30, 2011. Application guidelines are available at www.agri.idaho.gov. 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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