



# STATE OF IDAHO



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## **Additional Specialty Crop Grant Applications Will be Accepted for 2014 Funding**

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) will accept additional applications for the 2014 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program through Friday, June 20. Idaho's allocation more than doubled from 2013, and ISDA is seeking to expand its pool of applications.

Specialty crop funds are provided by the United States Department of Agriculture and are allocated to the State to be awarded through a competitive grant process. 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.

"I am pleased that Idaho is receiving additional Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding, as it means we can further invest in Idaho's specialty crop industry and economy," ISDA Director Celia Gould said. "Projects for research, marketing, and education, address key priorities in the specialty crop industry and provide valuable results for growers, producers and processors."

Funds will be available to interested local, state, and federal government agencies, 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 Friday, June 20. Application guidelines are available at [www.agri.idaho.gov](http://www.agri.idaho.gov) under Marketing and Development, Specialty Crop Grant. An informative PowerPoint presentation regarding the application process is also available for download from the website.

If you have questions about the program, please contact Amanda Gibson at [amanda.gibson@agri.idaho.gov](mailto:amanda.gibson@agri.idaho.gov) or 208-332-8538 or 208-332-8500.

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