



Department of
Agriculture

John R. Kasich | Governor

David T. Daniels | Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Department of Agriculture Accepting Specialty Crop Grant Proposals

Assistance available to promote fruits, vegetables, flowers and nut crops in Ohio

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (April 04, 2018) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture is now accepting proposals for the 2018 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, which will provide funding for projects to enhance the competitiveness of crops such as fruits, vegetables, nuts and nursery crops.

Grant funding is provided by the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service. The deadline for on-line grant proposal submissions is May 1, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. Grants will range from a minimum of \$25,000 to a maximum of \$150,000. In addition, all applicants must provide a minimum match of 25 percent of the requested grant amount.

Project proposals are sought that will advance the long-term economic viability of the state's specialty crop industry, while increasing the marketability of specialty crops. Higher rankings will be given to projects that demonstrate profit potential for growers and that could boost employment opportunities in the specialty crop industry.

Food and agricultural non-profit organizations, associations or commodity groups, universities and research institutions are eligible to submit specialty crop proposals. To view SCBG projects previously funded by USDA visit ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/awards.

For more information on the 2018 program, available forms, or a copy of the request for proposals, visit the Ohio Department of Agriculture's website at agri.ohio.gov/apps/odaforms/odaforms.aspx.

- 30 -

Media Contact: Ashley McDonald, Public Information Officer, 614-752-9817



Serving Farmers and Protecting Consumers Since 1846