

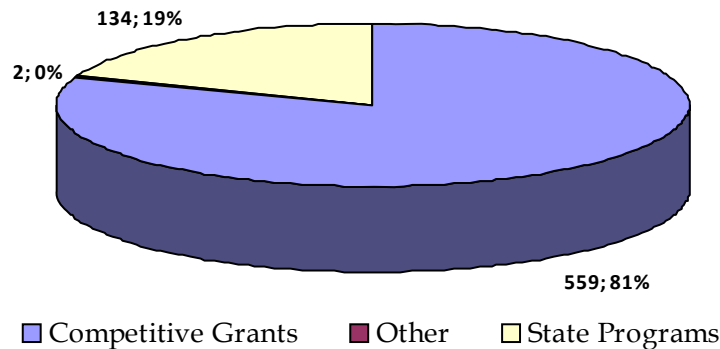


Fiscal Year 2013

Description of Funded Projects

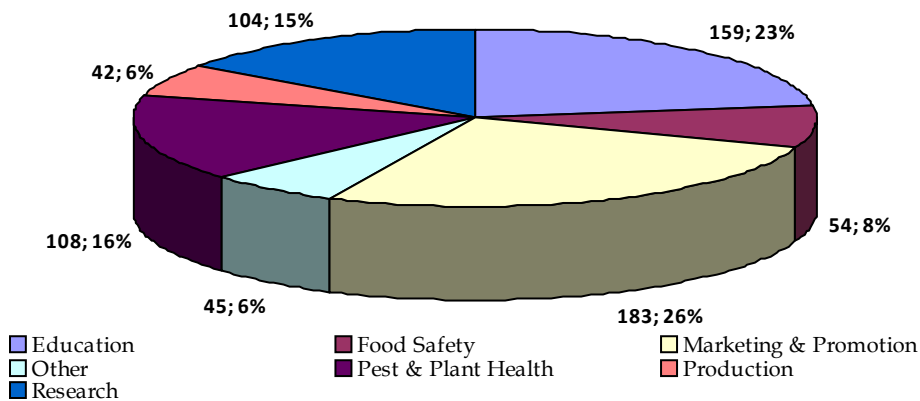
The fifty States, the District of Columbia, and three U.S. Territories were awarded Fiscal Year 2013 funds to perform a total of 695 projects that benefit the specialty crop industry. All the eligible entities with the exception the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands submitted their applications by the established deadline of July 10, 2013. The approved awards are listed alphabetically.

2013 Project Delivery Types



- State Program** The proposal illustrated that the State department of agriculture planned to administer the project and/or a competitive grant program was not conducted.
- Competitive Grants** The proposal demonstrated that a fair and open competition was conducted and the project partner(s) are clearly involved.
- Other** The proposal illustrated that project partners met with the grantee to determine project priorities, but an open competitive grant program was not conducted.

2013 Project Types



Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Amount Awarded:

\$380,805.87

Number of Projects:

14

- Partner with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Talladega County) to increase small business opportunities for specialty crop producers by conducting workshops and demonstrations on production practices and yield improvements, opening farmers' markets where producers can sell their crops, and educating consumers about the nutritional benefits of fruits and vegetables
- Partner with the Shoals Culinary Center to help local specialty crop farmers generate increased/and or supplemental income as well as employment opportunities by organizing and hosting workshops and training for new processing techniques for their specialty crops and through the development and implementation of a local and regional food marketing/branding initiative. Only specialty crops will be included, branded, and promoted through this project
- Partner with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to support the specialty crop industry by providing training including the dissemination of specialty crop research information on food safety, improved seed varieties, weed and pest control and sustainability through enhancements to the Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association annual conference
- Partner with the University of North Alabama to increase the production and consumption of locally grown produce by establishing an aeroponic system to be used in educating the public about aeroponics
- Partner with the Volunteers of America Southeast to establish a community garden to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to residents of low income and high crime neighborhoods
- Partner with Homewood City Schools to increase consumption and demand for specialty crops by students and the surrounding community by establishing a school and community garden and supplementing the school cafeteria's produce offerings
- Partner with the Mobile County Alumni Training School to increase accessibility to fresh fruits and vegetables by establishing a community garden and providing nutritional and gardening education in the Africatown community – a known food desert
- Partner with the Deep South Food Alliance to increase the volume and variety of vegetables produced by historically disadvantaged farmers by extending the growing season through the use of tunnel houses, by integrating plasticulture techniques such as drip irrigation and plastic mulches, and by developing planting protocols for several crops that will disseminated through outreach meetings and on-farm demonstrations
- Partner with the Alabama State Association of Cooperatives to increase child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops, to help youth develop good agricultural practices, and to promote sustainability by engaging youth from low-income and underserved rural communities in gardening, classroom instruction, and other agricultural activities
- Partner with Auburn University to enhance fruit cultivar information available to stakeholders by conducting specialty crops cultivar evaluations and presenting results to stakeholders through timely and consistent presentations at venues such as the Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Conference, the Chilton Area Peach Production meeting and the Farm, Home and Wildlife Expo
- Partner with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to minimize pest damage to specialty crops by teaching farmers how to address pests in a sustainable manner; and demonstrating the effectiveness of trap crops in tomato and squash production, mechanical pest control practices, approved organic insecticides and tank mixes; and training extension agents to support a statewide integrated pest management program
- Partner with the Food Bank of North Alabama, in coordination with the Farm Food Collaborative, a partnership among institutional buyers, local producers, and support agencies to increase specialty crop producers' access to wholesale markets by supporting a Local Food Coordinator in promoting local farmers, increasing farmer capacity to meet buyer requirements through Good Agricultural Practices training and leveraging shared resources among Collaborative members to build an efficient, cost-effective distribution system within a sustainable local food economy. The Farm Food Collaborative only facilitates transactions on behalf of specialty crop producers
- Partner with the Cullman County Soil and Water Conservation District to increase vegetable production in Cullman County by providing plastic laying and planting equipment that can be used, upon request, by the County's producers

- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Alaska Division of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$185,380.86	Number of Projects:	5
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- Assist specialty crop producers gain access to more markets by hosting on-farm food safety workshops in different regions of the State that will include mock Good Agricultural Practices audits, an overview of the creation of a food safety plan as well as input from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Food Safety and Sanitation Program
- Increase purchases of specialty crops by rewarding restaurants that utilize and promote Alaska Grown specialty crops
- Partner with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, in cooperation with Alaska peony growers, to establish standards for best quality fresh cut peonies that meet or exceed rigorous international industry standards by conducting a series of experiments to establish post harvest handling standards
- Partner with the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation to aggregate, market and distribute local produce to local markets by conducting a market analysis to assist in the development of a prospective Fairbanks growers' cooperative
- Provide Alaska specialty crop producers with access to research about asparagus varieties suitable for Alaska field production by conducting field trials on different varieties of asparagus to help identify emergence dates, pest prevalence, and novel characteristics and sharing this information with growers through a field day and conference

American Samoa Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$202,860.23	Number of Projects:	2
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- Improve the availability, quantity, and quality of fruits and vegetables produced locally so more school lunch program dollars are used to purchase local produce by educating, training, and incentivizing the farming of specialty crops by Native Samoan farmers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Arizona Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,318,053.18	Number of Projects:	18
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- Partner with the University of Arizona to continue to increase Arizona specialty crop producers knowledge of Good Handling Practices/Good Agricultural Practices (GHP/GAP) and help them prepare for and ultimately obtain GHP/GAP certification by conducting workshops
- Partner with the University of Arizona to increase awareness of risk at the earliest points in the food production chain by collecting and screening animal scat using molecular methods for known pathogens to estimate pathogen survival and spread by irrigation processes and develop recommendations to disseminate through a user-friendly tool, "The Track and Scat Fresh Produce Handbook"
- Partner with the Arizona Geological Survey to promote agritourism opportunities associated with 11 specialty crops through the development of crop profiles on an interactive Arizona Agritourism Specialty Crops Map showcasing nutrition information, recipes, growing regions, producers, purchase locations, etc. and original videos featuring agritourism
- Educate and engage the public on where and why to buy Arizona grown produce and nursery plants through the continuation of a media campaign using digital billboards, public relations efforts with Arizona Grown items, daily Facebook postings and other easily available social media tactics that work in harmony with Facebook
- Partner with the Arizona Nursery Association to increase Arizona grown low water use plant sales by expanding the successful Plant Something™ promotion
- Partner with the Arizona Wine Growers Association to increase awareness of the growth and viability of the wine grape industry by conducting a confidential survey of all Arizona wine grape growers to determine acreage planted, productivity, and varieties of wine grapes planted

- Partner with Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association to educate specialty crop industry members about the technological advances and emerging issues in the industry by conducting the 2014 Southwest Ag Summit, which promotes the interaction between educators, regulators, specialists, farmers and students of the southwest desert specialty crop industry. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Partner with the Western Growers Foundation to continue to increase the number of children who, by experiencing an edible garden, understand the importance of good nutrition and where their food comes from by awarding 50 Arizona schools \$1,500 each to create and sustain their own edible school garden through a competitive application process
- Partner with Western Growers Foundation to increase awareness of Arizona produce farming and increase children's exposure to local Arizona specialty crop farms by continuing to sustain the fruit and vegetable garden in Harmony Farms at the Phoenix Zoo
- Partner with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension in Maricopa County to educate children about the importance of pollinators by publishing a book to be used in all of Arizona schools
- Partner with the University of Arizona to continue to increase awareness and knowledge of new integrated pest management (IPM) technologies that are essential for economical and environmentally sound production of high value, vegetable crops in Arizona by further enhancing IPM in vegetables through an extension outreach program that emphasizes the development, validation, and delivery of timely and relevant information and technologies to growers and pest control advisors for managing pests in Arizona vegetable and melon crops
- Partner with the University of Arizona to lower fertilizer costs to producers and lower impacts of fertilizer on the environment by continuing to study root activity and nutrient and water uptake of plants by way of screening lettuce lines for H⁺-PPase transporter expression and identifying breeding lines that can be used to develop more nutrient efficient lettuce types by traditional breeding techniques. Project results will be shared with seed companies and vegetable producers through grower workshops and field days
- Partner with the University of Arizona to reduce production costs for lettuce growers by continuing to develop technologies that will improve seeder seed spacing uniformity to include an insert for planter openers that better controls delivery of seed and a drum planter for precision seed placement
- Partner with the University of Arizona to decrease costs for the wholesale nursery production industry by producing specific recommendations and demonstrating best management practices for reducing weed pressure in nursery containers in the low desert of Arizona through education and outreach directly to nursery workers
- Partner with the University of Arizona to provide accurate and reliable information on the presence of pesticides in soil, water and plant tissue in a timely and cost-effective manner by establishing a pesticide analytical laboratory at the University of Arizona Yuma Agriculture Center
- Partner with the University of Arizona to generate new scientific knowledge by extending work with the Integrated Plant Protection Center using the Pesticide Risk Mitigation Engine, a sophisticated, data-based, comprehensive eco-toxicological tool, to identify drivers of risk and alternative practices to reduce risk; developing educational materials and teaching tools, and; conducting outreach to specialty crop growers to create awareness of, and a platform for, discussion on pesticide risk and its mitigation
- Partner with the University of Arizona to decrease grower losses by researching the Bagrada bug and developing trap-crop technology to reduce insecticide use in conventional brassicaceous fields, providing a viable control strategy in organic fields, and forming a pathway to more sustainable control of an invasive pest permanently established in Arizona
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Arkansas Agriculture Department

Amount Awarded:	\$242,640.15	Number of Projects:	7
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- Partner with the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation to increase sales of specialty crop producers by creating an Android and iPhone app that provides consumers with their locations. Matching funds will be provided to offset the non-specialty crop enterprises
- Partner with the University of Arkansas to establish potential uses of fresh-market blackberry genotypes by identifying consumer trends that impact marketability and providing this information to producers to help them develop their marketing and pricing strategies
- Promote Arkansas produce growers and facilitate new sales leads for Arkansas produce companies by exhibiting at the 2014 PMA Fresh Summit Show

- To promote Arkansas Grown specialty crops through the use of a multi media campaign and conduct a survey to gauge consumer awareness of these specialty crops. Matching funds will be used for any activities and costs that are not for specialty crops
- Partner with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables by Arkansans in need by gleaning Arkansas fields
- Partner with the University of Arkansas to enhance muscadine production by Arkansas farmers by studying muscadine varieties and advanced breeding selections for postharvest storage potential and antioxidant level assessment and sharing this information with growers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$18,269,944.35	Number of Projects:	65
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- Partner with the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (LGMA) to reduce the number of non-compliances issued by the LGMA compliance officer by developing an industry-wide food safety training program, in English and Spanish, that addresses all activities in accordance with the LGMA metric for the California leafy greens industry
- Partner with the Community Alliance with Family Farmers to increase food safety on specialty crop farms by assisting beginning, minority, and direct-market specialty crop farmers in the implementation of food safety practices which will ensure that buyer and insurance requirements around food safety do not exclude these farmers from selling to stores, restaurants, or institutions
- Partner with AgSafe in collaboration with the California Cantaloupe Advisory Board to positively impact the effective implementation of food safety protocols in the production and handling of cantaloupes by training supervisors and workers in uniform food safety guidelines such as Good Agricultural Practices and cantaloupe-specific protocols and implementing a train-the-trainer program for supervisors designed to teach them how to provide ongoing food safety training to workers
- Partner with the University of California, Davis Center for Produce Safety (CPS) in collaboration with the University of Tennessee to reduce the risk of produce contamination by investigating water used for frost protection and irrigation, one of the most likely points of pathogen contamination during fruit and vegetable production. The interim and final research findings will be presented at the annual CPS Produce Research Symposium
- Partner with the University of California, Davis Center for Produce Safety (CPS) to address the sources of Salmonella and E. coli O157:H7 in the pistachio and walnut production environment and whether water used for irrigation or application of agricultural chemical sprays a risk for contamination in these crops by elucidating the mechanisms by which floater pistachios are contaminated and what practices may lead to widespread, low level contamination of dried pistachios with Salmonella. The interim and final research findings will be presented at the annual CPS Produce Research Symposium among other symposia
- Partner with the University of California, Davis Center for Produce Safety (CPS) in collaboration with the University of Florida to address agricultural water and pathogen survival in the postharvest distribution chain by testing several conditions associated with irrigation water quality on their ability to impact norovirus survival in the water, on produce and transmission to a host. The interim and final research findings will be presented at the annual CPS Produce Research Symposium
- Partner with the University of California, Davis Center for Produce Safety (CPS) to address compost, soil amendment fertilizer use and cultivation practices and how different cultivation practices impact the fate of foodborne pathogens and/or indicator organisms in various soils and crops by providing alternative solutions for soil remediation of human pathogens that specialty crop growers across the United States could use irrespective of the size of the operation. The interim and final research findings will be presented at the annual CPS Produce Research Symposium
- Partner with the University of California, Davis Center for Produce Safety (CPS) in collaboration with North Carolina State University to address buffer zones from domestic animals to fruit and vegetable production and co-management of food safety and the environment by investigating the direct application or indirect transfer of animal manure into the produce farm environment as a potential source of fresh produce contamination. The interim and final research findings will be presented at the annual CPS Produce Research Symposium

- Partner with the University of California, Davis Center for Produce Safety (CPS) in collaboration with Cornell University to address buffer zones from domestic animals to fruit and vegetable production and climate, environment and production practices by validating a global information system based modeling tool that identifies specific locations and times on a produce farm where the prevalence of foodborne pathogens is elevated and, as a result, the risk of produce contamination is higher. The interim and final research findings will be presented at the annual CPS Produce Research Symposium
- Partner with the University of California, Davis Center for Produce Safety (CPS) in collaboration with the University of Arizona to increase the number of food safety professionals and growers utilizing the risk-based sample collection protocol to minimize risk by developing a risk-based approach for sampling of irrigation waters used for produce production to minimize the risk of crop contamination by foodborne bacteria. Results will be presented at the annual CPS Produce Research Symposium
- Collaborate with the Buy California Marketing Agreement and the California Travel and Tourism Commission to increase exposure and sales of “CA Grown” specialty crops by implementing a media program with Food & Wine, a national food and wine publication, to highlight the seasonality, diversity, and uniqueness of California grown specialty crops
- Partner with the California Flower Growers Cooperative to enhance the ability of California cut flower farmers to compete with imports by creating a website to provide online product aggregation and a single destination for buyers to purchase all California varieties in one place
- Partner with the Ecology Center to develop the long-term sales and competitiveness of California specialty crops by executing targeted promotions of specialty crops to CalFresh recipients to increase their awareness and purchase and provide farmers’ markets across California with the technology and training needed to accept CalFresh Electronic Benefits Transfer cards. Matching funds will be used to ensure all activities solely benefit eligible specialty crops
- Partner with Solano Grown to promote and encourage purchases of local specialty crop products by developing an online farmers’ market outlet for Solano County specialty crop producers. Support for the non-specialty crop portion of the market will be provided as an in-kind match of time from the Solano Community College volunteer staff and from Solano Grown
- Partner with North Coast Opportunities, Inc. to make more Mendocino and Lake County specialty crop products easily available to schools and other institutional and commercial buyers by creating a California specialty crop grower food sales and marketing hub. The Food Sales and Marketing Hub will handle only eligible specialty crops to ensure that grant funding supports only specialty crops.
- Partner with Sunsweet Growers, Inc. to attract younger consumers to California prunes and generate increased returns to the growers by conducting public relations campaigns and online, print, and television advertising to support new product introduction efforts focused on the prune content
- Partner with the University of California, Davis to increase agritourism revenue for specialty crop producers and increase the number of agritourism customers by offering important skill-development, marketing, and networking opportunities to assist small-scale specialty crop growers in successfully taking advantage of recent local food interest and partnering with others in their communities to develop rural tourism
- Partner with the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs’ Activities League to increase access to specialty crops in local underserved communities by recruiting small urban farms to join the Bay Area Urban Agriculture Marketing Association for product aggregation, distribution to member farms, and market expansion and providing training, technical assistance, networking opportunities, and best practices for urban farmers
- Partner with the California Cut Flower Commission to enhance the marketability and competitiveness of California’s flowers through a certification program that educates consumers and buyers on the unique sustainability practices of California’s farms and encourages California’s farms to expand stewardship and natural resource conservation by providing tools that assist them with continuous improvement for environmental and financial performance
- Partner with the Center for Ecoliteracy to increase the use of specialty crops in school meals by implementing a targeted marketing campaign that provides nutrition service directors and district personnel with the recipes and technical expertise they need to procure, prepare, and serve specialty crops throughout California schools and design and launch a communications strategy to build enthusiasm for locally grown produce in school meals with parents and students
- Partner with the Sonoma Valley Vintners Association to increase wine consumer awareness of the high-quality wines from the Sonoma Valley American Viticultural Area through a marketing campaign that will include website redesign, social media and email campaigns, and print and online advertising
- Partner with the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers to increase sales for California-grown nursery products across California by utilizing modern marketing techniques and mobile media to attract and transition a new set of consumers from urban dwellers into urban farmers

- Partner with Sustainable Agriculture Education to increase specialty crop growers' use of sustainable agriculture practices and use of agritourism by providing workshops, technical assistance, demonstrations, and outreach as well as enhance marketability of locally grown specialty crops by educating consumers through a series of marketing campaigns and events. Any incidental benefit to non-specialty crop recreation or non-specialty crop products will be supported by other funding secured by project staff
- Partner with the International Rescue Committee to increase access of specialty crops in the City of El Cajon in eastern San Diego County through the development of a community garden and gardening training program, support of positions to establish a "Fresh Fund" for federal nutritional benefits recipients at a farmers' market, and host a conference for participating individuals. Project staff will maintain daily timesheet and work logs to support work on activities that only support eligible specialty crops
- Partner with the Community Alliance with Family Farmers to support California specialty crop growers by creating a California Farm to School Network that foster efficient regional distribution efforts through facilitating meetings among growers, distributors and school districts; and providing training and resources to increase awareness of California specialty crops among K-12 students. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Partner with the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative, a Project of Trust for Conservation Innovation, to increase revenues for local specialty crop businesses and the purchases of local specialty crops in Northern California by promoting opportunities for specialty crop direct marketing to faith-based groups in the North San Francisco Bay Area through outreach, technical assistance, training, resource materials and a conference
- Partner with the Sacramento Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. to increase specialty crop sales and add specialty crop vendors at the Oak Park Farmers' Market through a marketing campaign and vendor outreach
- Partner with the California Fig Advisory Board to shift usage of California figs and fig ingredients to the high-value niche markets by creating a comprehensive ingredient education program, which will educate key target audiences (research chefs, cereal chemists, and food technology professionals) about new product concepts using California grown- and produced-figs and fig ingredients
- Partner with the American Pistachio Growers in collaboration with the California Dried Plum Board to enhance the market for pistachios and prunes in Japan and South Korea by hosting a series of seminars educating professional bakers on the technical aspects and nutritional benefits of cooking with pistachios and prunes
- Partner with the Center for Land-Based Learning to increase the number of specialty crop growers in California, especially in the Sacramento Valley, by providing beginning specialty crop farmers a training and incubator program that utilizes the experience and resources of partner organizations
- Partner with the University of California, Davis to increase horticultural knowledge of California's ornamental specialty crops producers by updating existing educational materials and making them available to the ornamental workforce in a more time and cost-effective web-based format
- Partner with the University of California, Davis to provide specialty crop producers with the knowledge needed to process part of their production into cottage foods both safely and legally by facilitating workshops that will train specialty crop producers in food processing expertise and sound food safety practices, as well as marketing and business planning skills
- Partner with the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association to assist aspiring, limited-resource farmers establish organic specialty crop farming businesses by providing access to education, technical assistance, land and equipment for aspiring family farms. All Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding will go toward providing access to the skills, resources and markets necessary to establish and grow the businesses of organic specialty crop producers
- Partner with the Center for International Trade Development, Fresno to increase the level of export knowledge of the California specialty crop industry by assessing the needs of experienced exporters, reviewing and updating video and workbook curriculum with agricultural industry cooperators, and producing a new specialty crop oriented "A Business of Details" export training video and workbook with online components for dissemination through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, California agricultural cooperators, and specialty commodity groups
- Partner with 18 Reasons to increase consumption of specialty crops by providing Cooking Matters nutrition and cooking classes focused on preparing healthy fruit or vegetable based recipes; providing graduates with the opportunity to purchase weekly bags of affordable, local specialty crops directly from local farms; and training peer educators to teach Cooking Matters
- Partner with the Western Growers Foundation to increase the number of California students exposed to fresh produce and their awareness of how it is grown by working with the California Department of Education to implement a competitive grant program that awards mini-grants that provide fruit and vegetable garden supplies and training for Kindergarten through 12th grade school sites

- Partner with California State University, Chico Research Foundation to increase school district purchases of specialty crops and consumption of California grown specialty crops by children, their families, and teachers by implementing a farm-to-school Harvest of the Month program in Butte, Glenn, and Tehama elementary schools
- Partner with People's Grocery to increase West Oakland low-income residents' knowledge of, access to, and interaction with specialty crops by growing and operating a specialty crop garden at the California Hotel, a low-income housing development in West Oakland where People's Grocery has managed an agricultural space since 2009
- Partner with Life Lab Science Program to encourage and educate low-income Latino youth and parents how to cultivate, harvest, prepare, and market specialty crops by conducting a series of seasonal educational programs
- Partner with the California Association of Food Banks to expand the Produce Toolbox pilot program to include 20 unique specialty crop lessons delivered to people waiting in food pantry lines to receive fresh fruit and vegetable specialty crops. Participants engage in taste testing; learn health benefits of produce consumption and how to store and prepare specialty crops; receive multilingual recipe cards and nutrition information with their fresh produce; and are encouraged to purchase specialty crops using their Electronic Benefit Transfer cards
- Partner with the Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles to improve nutritional awareness by children and adults and increase their consumption of California specialty crops by bringing California specialty crop farmers into Title I Los Angeles Unified School District classrooms to deliver interactive presentations about agriculture, specialty crops, and the importance to good health of eating more fresh fruits and vegetables
- Partner with the HEAL Project to encourage children to become life-long consumers of California grown fruits, vegetables, and nuts by actively engaging students through educational curriculum in the production, preparation, and consumption of California specialty crops as a regular school-day activity
- Partner with the California Strawberry Commission to improve water quality management practices on California strawberry farms by equipping growers and irrigators with knowledge and skills necessary to establish and operate efficient strawberry irrigation systems that conserve water, apply nutrients effectively, and comply with water quality regulations through the creation of an irrigation and nutrient management training program
- Partner with the University of California, Davis to enhance economic opportunities for California specialty crop producers and improve Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program participants' access to fruits and vegetables by analyzing the California WIC Program with respect to the use of cash-value vouchers for the purchase of fruits and vegetables, including conducting scientific surveys of WIC Program participants and farmers who participate and do not participate in the WIC Program. The results of this project will be disseminated through newsletters and member meetings of specialty crop stakeholders
- Partner with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments to increase local understanding of and support for specialty crop production by developing an economic impact model that accurately reflects the full range of economic contributions from specialty crops and their ancillary industries and the true cost of regulatory compliance. The results of this economic impact model will be published for distribution at specialty crop industry groups', meetings, workshops, conferences, and in publications
- Partner with the University of California, Oakland Cooperative Extension to improve water and nitrogen fertilizer management by expanding, CropManage, an innovative and easy-to-use web-based tool that assists growers in matching water and fertilizer rates to the needs of their crops as well as track inputs by field to include additional cool season vegetables by collecting field data and developing algorithms that will be integrated into the software
- Partner with the Rancho California Water District to improve the viability of the Temecula Valley wine grape economy by developing and implementing best management practices assisting growers to reap economic rewards derived from decreased production costs related to water and energy conservation and increased crop value resulting from fruit quality enhancements
- Partner with the University of California, Santa Cruz to mitigate water quality impacts to the California nursery industry by developing a novel, easily adoptable, simple, and inexpensive approach using polyacrylamide as a potting soil amendment in potted plants for mitigating water pollution in nurseries. The results of this research will be circulated through presentations at industry meetings and workshops and articles in grower newsletters
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to enable specialty crop growers in the Imperial Valley that rely on the salty Colorado River water for irrigation to screen and develop salt-tolerant lettuce and spinach germplasm and cultivars. Results will be demonstrated to growers and industry personnel at field trials, meetings, and publication in journals

- Partner with the University of California, Davis to improve nutrient use efficiency in California's walnut orchards by quantifying the monthly nutrient needs of walnut orchards, estimating soil nutrient losses and contributions, and improving grower nutrient assessment techniques through revisiting leaf critical values, exploring optimum nutrient ratios, and revising leaf sampling for improved accuracy. The results will be shared with growers and farm advisors through presentations at industry meetings and periodicals in which nutrient budget tools are discussed
- Partner with Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, Inc. to improve water use efficiency and nitrogen use efficiency by assessing a large mapping population of lettuce for its water use efficiency and nitrogen use efficiency and develop molecular markers that can be used in breeding programs. The results will be disseminated through presentations at professional meetings that include both academic and industry scientists and publications in peer-reviewed and industry publications
- Partner with the University of California, Davis to expand environmental stewardship and natural resource conservation by assisting specialty crop producers adapt to two components of climate change (limited freshwater resources and increased soil salinization) through developing a novel methodology for rapid assessment of specialty crop salt tolerances. The information gained from this effort will be distributed online for open access, through outreach in workshops and professional presentations, and published literature
- Partner with the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom to educate students and teachers about invasive species and the precautions that should be taken to prevent their spread and the damage they do to California specialty crops by developing and distributing fact sheets that focus on invasive species and providing teachers with quick, 30-minute lessons using hands-on, real-life applications that meet educational standards and their busy schedules
- Partner with the University of California, Davis to control soil-borne pests while reducing fumigant emissions by evaluating and demonstrating the impact of combining low fumigant rate and totally impermeable film in raised beds systems for strawberries. The data will be presented to growers and interested stakeholders through a field day, stakeholder meeting, and commodity group meetings, as well as via the University of California Cooperative Extension network by attending various professional conferences and publication
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to reduce the amount of fertilizers and pesticides used by onion, strawberry, and tomato growers by further developing matrix formulations with encapsulated microbes in collaboration with LH Organics; developing pilot scale production capabilities to produce the matrix formulations; and conducting large-scale field trials with onion, tomato, and strawberry growers. The results will be disseminated through presentations at academic and professional meetings as well as published in peer-reviewed publications
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to reduce the adverse economic and environmental impacts of cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus (CYSDV) and the sweet potato whitefly (SPWF) in cantaloupe and honeydew by determining the best sources of resistance to CYSDV and SPWF and use those sources to breed CYSDV and SPWF resistant cantaloupe and honeydew. The results will be shared with stakeholders at annual meetings, field days, workshop presentations, and through a web page
- Reduce pesticide costs to both the agricultural industry and in urban settings for the brown Marmorated stink bug by providing a sustainable, cost effective management tool for control of this pest. Recommendations that result from this effort will be shared through presentations at specialty crop grower, society, and commodity board meetings; professional pest control advisor organizations; and professional society meetings
- Partner with the University of California, Davis to reduce the prevalence of lettuce downy mildew disease and manage the pathogen population to provide durable resistance to lettuce downy mildew in California by determining the variation and variability of downy mildew using high throughput DNA sequencing. Results of this effort will be presented every six months at the California Leafy Greens Research Program meetings as well as in its annual reports
- Partner with the University of California, Berkeley to improve olive fruit fly bio-controls, especially in ornamental and abandoned olives that serve as a reservoir for the fly and in olive oil acreage where some fly damage can be tolerated, by permanently establishing the most promising natural enemy (*P. lounsburyi*) throughout California. The results of these efforts will be shared at research symposia sponsored by California olive commodities
- Partner with the University of California, Davis to enhance the productivity and sustainability of California orchard and vineyard cropping systems by developing practical weed management practices for known or suspected glyphosate-resistant summer grass weeds. The results of these efforts will be shared by preparing manuscripts, reports, and presentations
- Partner with Ag Against Hunger to expand access to healthy, safe California specialty crops by utilizing additional cooler space for the Harvest Program, which distributes surplus produce to low-income Californians

- Partner with the Hoopa Valley Tribe to increase consumption and knowledge of healthy specialty crop produce for people of the Hoopa Valley, the surrounding areas of Willow Creek, Salyer, Orleans, Weitchpec, and Pecwan by developing a local farmers market for locally produced vegetables and fruits and providing a voucher to customers to match the purchase of specialty crops to be used on their next purchase of specialty crops
- Partner with North Coast Opportunities, Inc. to build on existing resources to link specialty crop growers with mainstream markets by developing a business model for a food processing facility to process specialty crops for consumption at schools and other institutions
- Partner with the Trust for Conservation Innovation to expand access to healthy, safe California specialty crops at school, at work, and in the neighborhoods of Fresno County residents by launching a vertically integrated, community-owned and operated enterprise to produce and deliver locally grown fruit and vegetable specialty crops to residents
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Colorado Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$684,488.50	Number of Projects:	11
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- Partner with the Arkansas Organic Valley Growers to increase sales of specialty crops through a local food hub by recruiting small- and medium-sized farms to participate and advertising the food hub in print and by radio. Only fruits and vegetables are marketed and distributed through the food hub
- Partner with the Colorado Certified Potato Growers to increase sales of Colorado specialty potatoes by promoting them at the Produce Marketing Association trade show in 2014
- Continue to educate consumers, retailers, and restaurants about the wide range and availability of Colorado specialty crops and increase sales of Colorado produce by developing television advertisements to promote Colorado Proud. Matching funds will be used to cover the inclusion of non-specialty crops
- Partner with Plant Something™ to increase sales and educate the public about the environmental, economic and aesthetic value of landscapes by running a promotional campaign including television and newspaper advertisements designed to drive visitors to the Plant Something™ Colorado website
- Increase business contacts for Colorado specialty crop producers by hosting a pavilion at the 2014 Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit Expo
- Partner with Denver Urban Gardens to increase the sales of specialty crops in a low income area by establishing and promoting a neighborhood farmers’ market that sells only fruits and vegetables
- Partner with Plant Select® to increase sales of Plant Select licensed propagators by creating a strategic plan, updating the Plant Select website and updating the Plant Select logo
- Partner with Colorado State University to facilitate specialty crop production innovation as well as direct marketing opportunities among small acreage, socially disadvantaged and beginning specialty crops producers by providing technical assistance, organizing field days, and awarding mini-grants to enable them to meet their production and sales goals
- Partner with the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board to investigate and educate grape growers of the possibility of incorporating hybrids and other cold-hardy grapes into wines that are more appealing to consumers by running focus groups and educational workshops
- Partner with the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee to provide consumers with potato varieties with improved flavor profiles by identifying chemical and genetic traits associated with a palatable flavor profile and present results to growers through publications and meetings
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$375,644.00	Number of Projects:	7
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- Partner with the University of Connecticut to better understand how the Connecticut Grown label attracts and holds consumer attention for fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants via eye tracking technology; identify barriers for fruit, vegetable and ornamental plant producers and retailers to use local labeling; and identify and address Connecticut consumer access to specialty crops via a consumer survey

- Partner with the Connecticut Apple Marketing Board (CAMB) to increase demand for Connecticut apples by creating a full and cohesive marketing program which includes a new mobile-optimized web site that will support an interactive and informational database, a mobile application connected with existing CAMB social media, and web and print media
- Partner with the University of Connecticut to ultimately release sterile, non-invasive burning bush plants to Connecticut and the U.S. green industry by propagating sterile and non-invasive burning bush plants, evaluating their ornamental and seedless traits under greenhouse and field environment, and developing DNA markers unique for these triploid plants
- Partner with the University of Connecticut, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture in cooperation with one commercial berry grower in Connecticut to reduce growers' crop losses by objectively measuring the effectiveness of fall raspberries planted around a field of high value day-neutral strawberries as a trap crop for the spotted wing drosophila. Important results will be communicated to growers through factsheets, a field day, and meetings
- Assist farmers looking to start new ventures for processing specialty crops by establishing the layout and governance structure for a food processing center at the Hartford Regional Market and select equipment necessary for the center. An application and approval process will ensure only specialty crop products are being processed at the kitchen
- Partner with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to begin hop production in Connecticut by identifying suitable hop cultivars and demonstrating the feasibility of hop production to interested growers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

University of the District of Columbia, College of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$171,852.89	Number of Projects:	5
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- Partner with the Common Good City Farm to increase access to and understanding of specialty crops in low-income areas by engaging youth ambassadors in establishing community gardens and in educating low-income residents on gardening methods
- Partner with the Neighborhood Farm Initiative to increase the knowledge, consumption and capacity of District of Columbia residents to grow vegetables throughout the year by providing training on season-extending methodologies
- Partner with the Friends of the National Arboretum's Washington Youth Garden to increase child nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops, increase the development of organic and sustainable production practices and improve food access in underserved communities by expanding the Specialty Crop Field Trip Program (SPROUT). SPROUT uses the child-friendly one-acre organic vegetable and fruit garden on the grounds of the National Arboretum as a tool to teach environmental science and nutrition education to area schools and youth organizations
- Assist small farmers and gardeners in developing their agricultural business skills by providing business training focused on growing and distributing their product
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Delaware Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$229,084.67	Number of Projects:	6
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- Partner with Washington's Green Grocers to enhance the distribution of Delaware fruits and vegetables to non-traditional and underserved markets in Delaware by establishing two fully sustainable food hubs with a local-focused distribution network linking Delaware fruit and vegetable producers with Delaware and Delmarva Peninsula restaurants, schools, small retail outlets and other institutional outlets
- Increase consumption of Delaware specialty crops, as well as build deeper relationships for local growers with both retailers and consumers in Delaware's three counties by providing opportunities to connect growers with produce buyers, conducting in-store promotions featuring the farmer, along with appealing signage and other point-of-sale marketing materials, and providing the opportunity for growers to attend the national Produce Marketing Association
- Partner with the Delaware Center for Horticulture to improve sales of organically grown produce from the 12th & Brandywine Urban Farm (Farm) to residents of the Farm's neighborhoods in urban Wilmington which are USDA-designated food deserts and support the work of the stakeholder-based Delaware Urban Farm and Food Coalition to efficiently and effectively facilitate the production, marketing, and sales of specialty crops in nearby food deserts by conducting marketing, outreach and nutritional education to neighborhood residents

- Increase access to, and promotion of, healthy, fresh fruits and vegetables in low-income urban neighborhoods of Wilmington, increase benefits of eating healthy fruits and vegetables, and increase demand of specialty crops in corner stores in Wilmington by enrolling stores in a program which will provide storeowners with technical assistance and resources to source, stock and market fresh, local produce.
- Partner with University of Delaware, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences to increase lima bean yields under high temperature conditions by researching breeding and selection to develop heat tolerant lima bean varieties, understanding the physiological mechanisms for heat tolerance/susceptibility, and characterizing the genetic basis for heat tolerance in lima beans. Project results will be presented to growers, vegetable processors, fieldsmen, crop consultants, and seed company representatives at meetings and conferences
- To expand access to fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs in communities surrounding the Herman Holloway Campus, an area that has low access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food, by developing a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and an accessible demonstration garden for education, vegetable production, and season extension that will supply local produce to the CSA

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Amount Awarded:	\$4,221,847.94	Number of Projects:	30
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- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to assist local specialty crop producers in promoting their produce as locally grown by testing various local specialty crop messages through focus groups; testing effective messages on a wider community of consumers; and providing producers with the resulting research-tested messages and media strategies
- Partner with the University of Florida to increase consumers' awareness and preference for Florida-grown ornamental plants by investigating determinants of consumer purchasing behavior such as personal health and wellness benefits and environmental and economic benefits and by developing contextually relevant marketing strategies to increase plant sales
- Partner with the Florida Tomato Committee to increase sales of Florida's tomatoes by partnering with Subway on a promotional campaign touting the nutritional benefits of eating Florida tomatoes
- Partner with the Florida Sweet Corn Exchange to increase sales of Florida sweet corn by conducting an integrated promotional campaign
- Partner with the Florida Strawberry Growers Association, Inc. to increase the sustainability of the Florida strawberry industry by implementing a targeted promotional campaign consisting of billboards, media exposure and internet marketing
- Partner with Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. to improve students' eating habits and test scores by providing grants for school gardens and an accompanying curriculum
- Partner with the Urban Growers Community Economic Development Corporation to expand access to fresh fruit and vegetables in the underserved communities of Coleman Park, Historic Northwest, and Peasant City in West Palm Beach by training community gardeners how to properly grow specialty crops, harvest the produce, and sell it at the Urban Growers Farm Stand and weekly Green Market
- Partner with Farm Credit of Central Florida to increase specialty crop producers' risk management skills by providing training through the Florida Agriculture Financial Management Conference, helping them to effectively interpret and use data from financial reports, understand the impact of operating decisions on financial performance, increase comprehension of current analytical practices and techniques, utilize financial performance metrics and understand importance of financial markets. Matching funds will be used to offset the inclusion of non-specialty crop participants in the conference
- Partner with the University of South Florida to reduce strawberry production costs and offer higher quality strawberries to the consumer by determining the effect of repeated (conventional), reduced-fungicide, or no-fungicide applications (organic) on the postharvest quality and shelf life of field-grown strawberries and sharing the results of the project with growers through presentations at various grower meetings and conferences
- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to increase production of sweet corn and green bean by optimizing nutrient management through the evaluation of new fertilization strategies; managing plant pathogens, weeds, and insects; and increasing consumer awareness and consumption of these vegetables through field days, demonstrations and presentations
- Partner with the University of Florida to improve yield and profit of greenhouse production of citrus trees for out-planting by determining the optimal spacing and irrigation regime for 14 inch citrus pots and tracking the adoption of such techniques amongst nursery growers
- Partner with the University of Florida to stimulate water savings by providing a smart application for avocado, cabbage, and tomato growers to use to better estimate crop water needs using real-time data from the Florida Automated Weather Network

- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to reduce labor for tomato production, reduce costs and the environmental carbon footprint and improve land utilization and production efficiency by developing and testing compact-growth habit tomato cultivars, determining the most appropriate production practices, assessing labor efficiency during mechanical harvest, and sharing the results of the study with growers
- Partner with Florida A&M University (FAMU) to stimulate resveratrol production in muscadine grapes to ensure nutritional value and boost market potential by screening the berries for their resveratrol content and further enhancing its expression by applying chemical stress agents. Results of the project will be shared with grape growers and wineries through publications in the Florida Grape Growers Association newsletters, brochures and websites and through FAMU field days
- Partner with the University of Florida to further develop the specialty crop industry in Florida by developing and disseminating information on sustainable fruit and nut crops that can be grown in north Florida with special reference to cultivar evaluation, culture and management, insect and disease resistance, economics and marketing based on increased demonstration plantings and a survey of fruit and nut specialty crops statewide
- Partner with the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District to conserve water and reduce the costs of producing strawberries by studying overhead irrigation application rates for two common layouts and emitters with nozzles having different diameters, and sharing results with local strawberry and blueberry farmers
- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to minimize the spread of citrus greening disease (Huanglongbing) and provide guidance to growers on the best use of insecticides to kill the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) that carries the disease by providing a remedy through focused outreach to hotspot managers and developing a smartphone spray application that provides guidance to growers and consultants as to the best insecticide choices to control ACP while also collecting data at the block scale
- Partner with the University of Florida to control Huanglongbing (HLB) caused by *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (Las) by studying mechanisms of defoliation, dieback, and root decline; controlling HLB and secondary infections by integrating different approaches to suppress Las virulence; and sharing the results of the study with citrus growers
- Partner with the University of Florida to protect citrus from Huanglongbing (HLB) and canker diseases by investigating the feasibility of profitably growing trees for fresh fruit production in screen houses, dubbed Citrus Undercover Production Systems and by sharing results with citrus growers through field day demonstrations, extension publications and trade shows/seminars
- Partner with the University of Florida (UF) to mitigate the effects of Huanglongbing (HLB) on crop loss by identifying factors that minimize preharvest drop rates through grower surveys and studies of the role of stress-induced ethylene and by sharing results of the project with growers through County Citrus Agent newsletters, presentations at grower meetings and progress reports on the UF website
- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to minimize the loss caused by bacterial leaf spot in lettuce by using a plant breeding approach to develop resistant cultivars and to establish a fertilizer management program to maintain the host-plant resistance under field conditions. Results of the project will be shared with lettuce growers through field days and through presentations to the annual Florida Lettuce Advisory Committee Meeting
- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to develop emerging fruit crop industries in Florida, such as pomegranate and blackberry by developing control strategies for managing aboveground diseases and arthropod pests; creating new varieties adapted to Florida conditions; introducing new, undersupplied niche crops; and sharing project results with growers through presentations and demonstrations at growers' conferences
- Partner with the University of Florida to minimize the spread of citrus black spot (CBS) by developing ground- and aerial-based detection systems for CBS in the field using multispectral imaging and to adapt the developed systems for use in commercial citrus groves
- Partner with the University of Florida to prevent the loss of the Florida caladium industry due to the effects of grassy tuber disease by developing recommended production practices to prevent transmission to disease-free plants, selecting disease-free plants using molecular assays, rapidly increasing the number of disease-free plants through tissue culture, producing a large number of disease-free tubers for distribution to growers and sharing the recommendations with growers
- Partner with Florida International University to minimize the damage to avocados caused by the laurel wilt pathogen by training dogs to sniff out the pathogen and by using unmanned drones to provide low cost broad area spectral screening across the avocado growing region of south Florida
- Partner with the University of Florida to combat the invasive spotted wing drosophila (SWD) in berry crops by expanding the current survey of blueberry farms; initiating a survey on strawberry farms; identifying alternative hosts for SWD and the most susceptible fruit stage using a colorimeter; identifying effective reduced insecticides for management of SWD; and training growers on how to identify and manage SWD on their farms through on-farm demonstrations and field days

- Partner with the University of Florida to develop a method and criteria for evaluating peach rootstock resistance to the peach root-knot nematode by conducting microscopic examination of peach rootstock to study nematode and plant interactions at the cell/tissue level, developing criteria for evaluating nematode resistance in current peach rootstocks and new hybrid rootstocks, and sharing results of the study with peach growers through field days
- Partner with the University of Florida to minimize the devastating effects of downy mildew on *Impatiens walleriana* by evaluating the efficacy of pesticides and nutritional amendments for controlling downy mildew caused by *Plasmopara obducens*; identifying downy mildew-resistant varieties; running nursery and landscape demonstration trials based on the results; and sharing results with local growers
- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation in collaboration with the Florida Association of Food Banks to increase consumption of specialty crops amongst low-income residents and provide better access to fresh fruit and vegetables by providing packing materials and transportation services for unmarketable produce to be delivered to Florida's food banks
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,142,332.70	Number of Projects:	18
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- Partner with the Eastern Cantaloupe Growers Association to conduct research to define best practices and water sanitizer levels for cantaloupe packing operations in the southeast by educating Georgia cantaloupe growers on the procedures necessary to ensure good agricultural practices and providing consumers with information on how to safely handle and prepare cantaloupes at home
- Partner with the Georgia Watermelon Association to promote food safety awareness through in-store demonstrations and a YouTube video to educate consumers on the proper handling procedures of watermelons at home and develop a QR code so that consumers can learn about safe handling, recipes, storage information and the nutritional value of watermelons accessed directly from the fruit
- Partner with the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association to continue to help growers increase their knowledge of risk management and food safety through workshops, training, consultation and dissemination of up to date information
- Partner with the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association to continue to expand the marketing of Georgia produce and increase the competitiveness of Georgia producers by providing a Georgia Pavilion at the Produce Marketing Association 2013 Fresh Summit
- Partner with the Georgia Peach Council to work with retailers and registered dieticians through the use of a tool kit to educate consumers of the benefits of feeding sweet Georgia peaches to their families
- Partner with the Georgia Agriculture Commodity Commission for Pecans and Georgia Pecan Growers Association to educate children and their parents about Georgia pecans and their health benefits in the supermarket and in the classroom
- To continue to increase awareness of, and desire for, Georgia Grown specialty crops by promoting specialty crops at the retail level through point-of purchase advertising, specialty crop sourcing information, and farm stand promotion. Matching funds will be used to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Partner with Georgia Public Broadcasting to continue to increase knowledge of and demand for Georgia specialty crops by showcasing crops as they come into season--on multiple media platforms, and through demonstrations at farmers markets and agricultural events in Georgia
- Partner with the Georgia Restaurant Association to boost economic growth for Georgia farmers by promoting and selling quality Georgia grown fruits and vegetables to restaurants and foodservice businesses
- Partner with the Vidalia Onion Committee to increase consumer familiarity and awareness that Vidalia Onions are a summer specialty crop through the Sweet Vidalia® Flavors of Summer promotional campaign that will include direct-to-consumer and retail promotions
- Partner with the Georgia Olive Growers Association to address the research needed on potential pests, disease and the effects of humidity, rainfall and cold, and optimal varietal selection, maximize the income from production of olives, and establish a framework for maximizing the marketable products that be produced from olive trees through research, educational and informational programs

- Partner with the Hospitality Education Foundation of Georgia to raise awareness of specific Georgia Grown specialty crops commonly found in supermarkets, by educating high school students on how to prepare Georgia Grown specialty crops and then use their newfound skills to travel to grocery stores and perform cooking demonstrations. The students will then compete at a statewide competition, where professional chefs will assess their abilities. Matching funds will be used to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Partner with Kennesaw State University to provide future chefs and food service professionals an increased knowledge of how improving the mineral balance in soil improves the overall health, yield, and nutrient density of specialty crops
- Partner with the Mustard Seed Projects to teach veterans and the elderly how to create a small scale farming system that they can use to grow specialty crops in an urban environment
- Partner with the University of Georgia to develop and promote sustainable, low water-use turf grass systems in Georgia through training opportunities offered by Cooperative Extension for landscape professionals
- Partner with the Vineyard and Winery Association of West Georgia to increase the knowledge among current and potential growers through educational opportunities with experts on wine-grapes, wine making and co-operatives that ultimately result in more growers due to an increase in interest in the wine-grape industry
- Partner with the University of Georgia to determine the economic benefit to specialty crop producers (with a focus on commercial nursery and greenhouse) of reducing root disease incidence and crop losses by employing precision irrigation
- Partner with the Georgia Tech Research Institute to prevent entire orchard losses by conducting focused research on the early detection of infection by Armillaria in peach trees

Guam Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$173,507.52	Number of Projects:	2
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- Partner with the University of Guam to produce several of the most common varieties of certified, disease-free orchids and make them available to local nurseries
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$346,818.56	Number of Projects:	8
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- Partner with the Hawaii Homegrown Food Network to conduct a public education campaign to increase the consumption and sales of breadfruit by promoting locally grown breadfruit to adults and children through a wide range of media, including print, radio, public access television, social media, online and electronic media
- Partner with the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences to ensure Hawaii can ship a uniform high quality fresh pineapple by determining application time during fruit growth when calcium and potassium have the greatest effect in reducing translucency and modifying acidity in pineapple. Project recommendations will be shared with pineapple growers as to whether calcium and potassium fertilizer application should be made and at what stage of fruit development
- Partner with the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center to maintain market presence and increase revenues for Hawaii floriculture businesses by creating double and triple-gene constructs to develop blue and purple large-flowered, pest tolerant anthuriums
- Partner with the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center to support the Hawaiian cacao industry by conducting cacao breeding program, developing standardized methods for propagation of the cultivars, and releasing new, improved cacao cultivars to Hawaiian growers
- Partner with the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center to develop a papaya with papaya ringspot virus resistance that is not genetically modified (non-GMO) using the Australian hybrids
- Assist export-ready Hawaii specialty crop farmers to increase access to markets by working with specialty crop growers, shippers and treatment facilities statewide to identify and implement programs to facilitate the use of irradiation as a postharvest phytosanitary treatment
- Partner with the Kohala Center to document the barriers of tea production and investigate potential solutions, which will be used to create reference materials to guide Hawaii farmers on the means to sustain and/or increase production levels for Hawaii-grown tea

- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,001,020.69	Number of Projects:	11
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- Partner with the Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission to increase exposure of the Idaho wine industry in markets outside of the state and industry members to more consumers by conducting a marketing campaign
- Partner with the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association to increase additional revenues for Idaho's green industry by building additional web pages and consumer resources and information tips on the Plant Something™ Idaho website; designing display booth banners; and increasing social media presence on the Pinterest website and Plant Something™ Idaho Facebook page
- Increase consumer awareness and demand for locally grown and produced Idaho specialty crops by continuing the Idaho Preferred® program through television, radio, and print advertising, retail and foodservice promotions, public relations activities, consumer events and educational programs. To ensure that all grant funding solely enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops, staff time will be pro-rated based on percent of specialty crop products or participants. In addition, matching state funding and Idaho Preferred® participant fees will support non-specialty crop salary and fringe as well as many of the actual program costs
- Partner with the Sunnyslope Wine Trail Group to increase visitors and sales for the wineries located in the Sunnyslope community by conducting an advertising campaign
- Partner with the Idaho Apple Commission in cooperation with the University of Idaho to increase apple acreages in Idaho by studying the influence of apple rootstocks on precocity, yield, and fruit quality attributes and leaf mineral nutrition and presenting project results to apple growers
- Partner with the Idaho Bean Commission in cooperation with the University of Idaho Extension to help growers better manage input costs and increase yield of dry beans by determining the effectiveness of slow release nitrogen products for production and if it is possible to create recommendations for growers on the use of these products
- Partner with the Idaho Potato Commission in cooperation with the University of Idaho to minimize annual losses by the Idaho potato industry by characterizing the seasonal phenology of different Lso-carrying psyllid biotypes and developing and implementing tools for biotyping psyllids in Idaho potatoes
- Partner with the University of Idaho to minimize crop losses and increase yield by surveying all seed potato lots that undergo winter testing in Idaho for prevalence of Potato virus Y (PVY) strains with subsequent elimination of lots containing necrotic PVY from the seed potato system
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Services in cooperation with the University of Idaho to expand on preliminary research efforts regarding Idaho grapevine viruses and relate this to its influence on fruit quality
- Partner with the Idaho Bean Commission in cooperation with the University of Idaho and Oregon State University to promote the value of certified Idaho dry bean seed to Mexican growers by conducting field trials of a virus-resistant yellow bean seed and facilitating a grower field day in Sinaloa, Mexico. At the completion of the trials, the research team's objective is to be able to identify one or more successful varieties with resistance to multiple viruses that will be publically released
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$539,840.36	Number of Projects:	13
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- Partner with the Illinois Specialty Growers Association to increase the training opportunities of Illinois specialty crop growers with focus on current food safety requirements through the facilitation of an educational conference. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Increase local specialty crop sales at designated grocery stores and farmers' markets by implementing the "Illinois Where Fresh is..." buy local marketing campaign

- Partner with WBBM TV, a subsidiary of CBS, Inc. (CBS Community Partnership Division), to increase specialty crop sales at designated grocery stores and farmers' markets by continuing to provide a targeted multimedia campaign that focuses on the importance and availability of locally grown specialty crops
- Partner with the Illinois Stewardship Alliance to solicit commitments from chefs to make at least ten percent of their purchases from local specialty crop growers by assisting chefs to locate local farmers, developing a pilot project for online procurement by restaurants, and organizing chef-farmer networking events. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Partner with the Land Connection to assist specialty crop farmers market their local specialty crops throughout the growing season by developing and delivering a marketing plan curriculum that incorporates tools utilizing different social media platforms, and providing monthly social media starter kits that offer specific content (tweets, Facebook posts, photos, etc.) that busy specialty crop farmers can use as-is, or customize, and disseminate via social media
- Partner with Ag in Progress Partnership to facilitate an educational mentoring program for Future Farmers of America members to impart considerable working knowledge and appreciation of honeybee biology and behavior and their importance to specialty crop pollination
- Partner with the Experimental Station to continue to educate low-income urban residents how to grow, prepare, and enjoy Illinois specialty crops by providing at-Market, in-school, after-school and summer educational programming through the 61st Street Farmers Market program. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Partner with the Gary Comer Youth Center to provide urban youth with additional education on the nutritional value of specialty crops and the opportunity to participate in urban agriculture through developing a youth managed roof top farm
- Partner with the IAA Foundation to help students make the connection between foods and the farmers who grow them by developing and printing a new Pumpkins Ag Mag and supporting trainings and county program implementation to educate students and teachers about this specialty crop grown by producers in Illinois
- Partner with the University of Illinois to develop grower best management practices by identifying optimum strawberry varieties and planting dates for the vertical production of hydroponic strawberries in high tunnels in southern and central Illinois and sharing the best practices through presentations, field days, and newsletters
- Partner with the Horseradish Growers of Illinois to improve size, color, root rot, and taste of horseradish through the use of newly obtained germplasm materials from Eastern Europe in crosses with widely used cultivars and breeding lines in various combinations to generate the large seed numbers needed to develop new cultivars
- Partner with Southern Illinois University in collaboration with the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association and Shawnee Hills Wine-Grape Association to improve the sustainability of vineyard floor management by growers through research of new cultural and biological under-vine management tools, such as various mulches, compost, and fertilization; and understand grower reluctance to adopt new soil management methods and the value that consumers place on sustainability of vineyard cultural practices
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$373,503.14

Number of Projects:

8

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- Partner with Purdue University's Hancock County Purdue Extension to increase education about and consumption of Indiana's specialty crops among consumers by developing QR codes and an accompanying website where consumers could view nutritional information, food safety tips, recipes, and more that is easily accessible through their smartphones
 - Partner with the Indy Hunger Network to provide access to specialty crops by low income federal nutrition benefit recipients, increase their consumption of specialty crops and provide additional revenue to specialty crop producers through an incentive program. To ensure funds solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, project staff will provide specialty crop incentives to recipients after they purchase eligible specialty crops with their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits
 - Partner with the Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture and Agriculture Extension Service at Purdue University in collaboration with the Indiana Farm to School Network to expand the farm to school movement by identifying barriers to school and specialty crop producer partnerships and helping to overcome them by conducting a survey of both schools and producers and promoting the farm to school program at various state fairs
 - Increase student understanding of the production and nutritional benefits of specialty crops by establishing a school garden at the Joshua Academy Charter School and developing an accompanying curriculum

- Conduct a feasibility study to assess the economic impact and potential development of a food hub network with several aggregation points around Indiana that would act as one large network, offering transportation of specialty crops across regions to offer a wider variety and larger quantities of specialty crops to consumers and retail customers
- Partner with the Indiana Cooperative Development Center to conduct a feasibility study and develop a business plan to determine how specialty crop producers can begin to penetrate the “direct to retail” markets such as food cooperatives and whether an aggregation and distribution facility operation can address those barriers
- Partner with Growing Places Indy, in partnership with the Chase Near East Side Legacy Center, to provide greater access to specialty crops by increasing Growing Places Indy’s production through the expansion of its farm which is the primary provider for fresh produce in Indianapolis’ Near East Side
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Amount Awarded:	\$253,104.59	Number of Projects:	10
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- Partner with the Iowa Valley RC&D Council in cooperation with the Valley Food Cooperative to increase the readiness and success of Iowa Valley Food Co-op producers in the wholesale specialty crop industry by providing tools and training to producer members and other local growers on topics such as record keeping, cost benefit expansion, planning experience, and crop planning
- Partner with Iowa City Parks and Recreation to increase awareness of agroforestry techniques for perennial specialty crops by developing an online publication of scalable agroforestry planting templates; establishing a permanent public demonstration site of these templates in a popular urban park in a low-income neighborhood where growers and residents can readily observe and learn about specialty crops on large and small scales; and conducting hands-on classes to assist specialty crop growers with the design, implementation, and maintenance of their agroforestry plots
- Partner with Iowa State University Extension & Outreach in cooperation with Red Fern Farm and Levi’s Indigenous Fruit Enterprises to increase the availability of fresh, Iowa-grown specialty fruit and increase profitability for growers by providing cultural information to growers through presentations on how to grow persimmon, pawpaw, and aronia fruit in Iowa soil and climatic conditions; determining the most economical and quality preserving way in which to harvest and how to store and process the fruits;and introducing these fruits to the general public and to restaurant chefs
- Partner with Practical Farmers to educate fruit and vegetable growers about pesticide drift occurrences, prevention and response protocols in Iowa
- Partner with Lutheran Services to assist refugee growers to begin growing, selling, and keeping records on their specialty crop businesses by implementing a land-based training model that will assist and train growers in all aspects of specialty crop production and marketing
- To provide school food authorities with exposure to a greater number of growers that can supply produce to schools and increase the quantity of specialty crops served in school meals by providing local growers with tools, training and opportunities to better enable them to supply Iowa schools with fresh, locally grown specialty crops
- Partner with Healthy Harvest of North Iowa to increase North Iowa’s specialty producer confidence in determining a price that assures them of a profit and increase their production efficiencies by introducing a new set of financial management and production skills through technical training and on-farm research
- Partner with Iowa State University to increase the availability of fresh, Iowa-grown apples that are available to Iowa consumers by evaluating the performance of scab-resistant apple cultivars on size controlling rootstocks that are resistant to fire blight under an organic/sustainable management system. Research results will be shared via progress reports, field days, newsletters, and presentations at meetings and conferences
- Partner with Iowa State University to determine if Iowa’s organic apple growers can produce fruit that is commercially acceptable for the marketplace, while enhancing orchard ecosystems services, including increased pollination, lower fertilizer and pesticide residues, and improved soil quality by finding ecological approaches to apple pest and fertility management that are site-specific and affordable. Lessons learned from on-farm trials and best management practices for organic apple production will be distributed via fact sheets and publications
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Kansas Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$239,566.58

Number of Projects:

7

- Improve specialty crop production food safety practices and increase the number of specialty crop producers seeking and attaining Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification by training a state employee to be a GAP auditor
- Create awareness about Kansas specialty crops and products available online through the “From the Land of Kansas Market” program by providing an on-line retail store that would offer specialty crop producers access to post their available products without the need to spend personal capital to invest in their own marketing site and allow buyers to purchase their products. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Partner with the Kansas Rural Center to increase Kansas specialty crop producers’ knowledge of options and decision-making criteria needed to incorporate polytunnel solutions on their farms by producing a thoroughly researched polytunnel comparison and resource guide, farm decision-making tool, and a series of regional on-the-ground workshops that demonstrate the different polytunnel options available
- Partner with Highland Community College to help the Kansas grape and wine industry to grow and improve fruit and wine quality through consultations and educational workshops and make planting grapes more cost and time efficient through the use of a vine transplanter
- Partner with Kansas State University, Olathe to increase the value of specialty crops in Kansas thru commercialization of new food products that would benefit both growers and consumers by establishing a shared-use incubator kitchen for specialty crop entrepreneurs to create local value-added specialty crop products, promote local foods, facilitate grower education, and enhance public access to local specialty crop foods
- Partner with the Kansas Grape Growers and Winemakers Association to help expand Kansas wine grape vineyards and increase Kansan wine grape grower knowledge of wine grape production by educational workshops, informational sessions on available micro-loans, networking opportunities, and cost share monies for growers to purchase vines for planting
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$244,167.89

Number of Projects:

7

- Train and maintain third party auditing skills for department personnel that will provide Good Agricultural Practices audits for specialty crop producers and offer trainings through various venues to educate producers, producer organizations, and partners-such as cooperative extension personnel-on third party audits
- Partner with the University of Kentucky to continue to increase demand for Kentucky specialty crops by teaching consumers through demonstrations and recipe cards how to purchase and use Kentucky Proud specialty crops
- Partner with the University of Kentucky to increase sales and consumption for many specialty crop producers through the "SoKY Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" campaign that will introduce a local farmer that produces the specialty crop of the month, and provides nutritional information, recipe demonstrations, and information on where to purchase the product
- Partner with the Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association to increase educational opportunities and market share for growers by providing educational conferences and a map for consumers to locate Kentucky nursery growers
- Partner with the Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest to provide education, plants, tools, and garden access to veterans to prepare them for an agricultural career
- Partner with the University of Kentucky to minimize cucurbit crop losses by conducting on-farm research in experimental organic fields to document pest and natural enemy populations in relation to field management strategies, and test for natural enemy pressure on pests in cucurbits. Results from the study will provide a framework for future decision making on best practices in organic cucurbit systems
- Partner with the Kentucky Blueberry Growers Association to improve fruit quality and food safety by providing a sorting belt and booth washer to Kentucky blueberry growers

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Amount Awarded:

\$326,171.71

Number of Projects:

5

- Partner with 1st Co Inc. Productions to increase consumer awareness of the nutritional value and availability of specialty crops by developing six episodes of a cooking television show focused on specialty crops
- Partner with the Louisiana Strawberry Marketing Board to increase sales of Louisiana strawberries by conducting an educational marketing campaign consisting of print, internet, and television advertising
- Partner with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center to raise sod producers awareness of zoysiagrass with regard to shade tolerance by investigating cultivar selection, establishment methods, and production times for saleable sod and informing consumers to the benefits of zoysiagrass as a grass for home or commercial lawns
- Partner with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center to reduce the harmful effects on growth and yield of sweet potatoes due to off target moment or drift of herbicides by documenting the effects of reduced rates of hormonal herbicide 2,4-D and dicamba and disseminating the results to local growers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Amount Awarded:	\$401,852.47	Number of Projects:	8
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- Partner with AgMatters, LLC to assist Maine specialty crop producers grow their markets by providing growers with support in preparing a food safety plan
- Partner with Maine Organic Farmers and Gardener’s Association to assist Maine specialty crop producers gain access to institutional and wholesale markets by designing, planning, and implementing training sessions on basic food safety protocols around the State of Maine and developing and making available to farms a template for a basic food safety plan
- Partner with Oxford Hills School District M.S.A.D. #17 to increase child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops by delivering educational programs to students at Roberts Farm and through partnerships with Whitman Farms and Eastman’s Orchards
- Partner with the University of Maine to increase yield in cranberries by determining if there is a deficiency of boron occurring inside Maine cranberry plants during fruit set, and to make growers aware of any deficiencies in hopes that they might elevate their fruit set in the future by adding a boron foliar spray to their management practices
- Partner with the Maine Potato Board, in collaboration with the University of Maine to maximize the quality and yield of the Maine potato crop by continuing the field-monitoring program and the potato integrated pest management program that includes a combination of field surveys and the use of a decision support system that helps growers interpret rapidly changing factors, including weather, crop growth, inoculum loads, fungicide residual, and spore mortality
- Partner with the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission, in collaboration with the University of Maine, to decrease crop losses and increase revenues for wild blueberry growers by enhancing the integrated pest management (IPM) program for control of mummy berry and Botrytis blight through expansion of weather stations that provide forecasts on infection risk; developing a biological model of Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi, the fungus which causes mummy berry disease; and investigating additional control materials to build fungicide resistance management into the mummy berry IPM system
- Partner with the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission, in collaboration with the University of Maine, to prevent annual berry grower losses from the spotted wing drosophila (SWD), winter moth (WM), and brown Marmorated stink bug (BMSB) by developing and testing integrated pest management tactics for SWD management; determining damage potential and least toxic management tactics for WM; determining the extent of the BMSB and its potential as a pest of fruits and vegetables in Maine; educating growers on monitoring and management of these pests and; evaluating the adoption of, and impediments to the management tactics
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$447,289.46	Number of Projects:	10
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- Continue to mitigate specialty crop food safety risks by reducing barriers to implementing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) programs through specialty crop producer technical assistance, training programs, one-on-one assistance on developing GAP programs, and U.S. Department of Agriculture GAP and USDA Harmonized GAP audit certification cost share assistance

- To assist producers in implementing effective good handling practices (GHP) by conducting training; offering cost share for U.S. Department of Agriculture verification audits; conducting environmental assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented practices; developing improved guidelines for practices based on environmental assessment results; and conducting inspections to verify compliance with Maryland Department of Agriculture GHP for packing sheds
- Continue to strengthen consumer awareness of local specialty crops and connect specialty crop farmers with markets through seasonal promotions of Maryland specialty crops via mass media, www.marylandsbest.net, direct partnerships with Maryland specialty crop associations, and other strategic promotional avenues
- Partner with the Maryland Wineries Association to increase consumer, restaurant, and retailer acceptance and familiarity of Maryland wine by developing, promoting, and managing a wine demonstration event to members of the food and wine trade featuring Maryland wine from Maryland-grown grapes
- Promote local specialty crop farmer sustainability and provide nutritious food to food insecure networks by researching and planning a regional food hub, with a focus on table crop producers in Southern Maryland
- Partner with the Maryland Grape Growers Association to increase grape grower knowledge and adoption of sustainable viticulture practices through the development of a guide to help growers conduct an assessment of their vineyard practices and a sustainability action plan based on the outcome of the assessment
- Identify plant species likely to become invasive by conducting a Weed Risk Assessment and summarizing information about the species in an easy to interpret, user friendly document format to provide a scientifically determined basis for establishing regulated species lists and disseminating to appropriate specialty crop stakeholders
- Partner with the University of Maryland to increase the grade and marketability of processing sweet corn by modifying current insect control practices to manage stink bugs in the most cost-effective and environmentally-acceptable way and disseminate important information through a management guide and scientific papers
- Partner with Engaged Community Offshoots (ECO) City Farms to demonstrate how small urban and rural farms can intensively produce microgreens and shoots year-around for restaurants by developing and documenting a microgreen production system that can be replicated by other farmers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Amount Awarded:

\$419,923.97

Number of Projects:

13

- Partner with the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts to improve food safety by educating new and beginning farmers on the new Harmonized Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Commonwealth Quality standards through various training programs and by preparing and using the UMass Vegetable and Agronomy Farm as a food safety model
- Partner with the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association to increase maple syrup sales by 15 percent by organizing and promoting a Maple Weekend including a recipe contest, tours of sugarhouses, restaurant participation, and promotional activities
- Partner with the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association and the Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association to increase public awareness of and participation in the state's Plant Something™ campaign through social media, the PlantSomethingMA.org website, the Boston Flower & Garden Show, and other similar promotional efforts
- Partner with the Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts to continue to address and overcome barriers to specialty crop grower and buyer collaboration by organizing a 3rd Buy Local Trade Show and Seminar. Matching funds will be used to cover expenditures associated with non-specialty crops
- Partner with the U.S. Cranberry Marketing Committee, in collaboration with the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, to increase demand for cranberries in China by organizing a media mission through which Chinese journalists travel to Massachusetts to participate in and report on the cranberry harvest
- Partner with the Boston Public Market Association (BPMA) to increase the number of specialty crop vendors selling produce at BPMA's markets by hiring a specialty crop outreach coordinator to recruit new vendors. To ensure that grant funds solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources will review all project materials and the specialty crop outreach coordinator will only recruit specialty crop vendors

- Partner with the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, Inc. (CISA), in collaboration with Berkshire Grown and Northeast Harvest, to increase wholesale sales of specialty crops in western and northeastern Massachusetts by providing information, workshops, and one-on-one support directly to farmers and retailers. Matching funds will be used to offset the cost of the participation of non-specialty crop producers in training
- Partner with the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Agricultural Preservation Corporation to increase locally grown specialty crop sales at institutions with corporate food management service contracts by researching, documenting and overcoming barriers; providing specialized assistance to farmers and distributors who are trying to overcome these barriers; developing closer working relationships with local and regional management company staff; and by using the Massachusetts Harvest of the Month campaign as a tool. To ensure that grant funds solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, training and promotional materials will only feature specialty crops
- Partner with Lutheran Community Services, Inc. to enable aspiring and beginning immigrant farmers to improve their farming skills and become more competitive in the marketplace by developing and implementing a new Advance Farming Training Program for Specialty Crop Production
- Partner with the Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom to strengthen the connections between the school garden and local farms, nurseries, greenhouses, and garden centers by providing mentoring through local farms and horticultural businesses, start-up funding for school gardens through mini-grant vouchers, and professional development workshops
- Partner with Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition to expand the volumes, prices and sales revenues generated by Massachusetts specialty crop producers by helping them better understand the key attributes of local tomatoes, apples, and salad greens that influence what farmers grow and sell and what customers select and purchase at farmers markets. Results will be disseminated to farmers at the end of the project
- Partner with the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association to reduce cranberry growers' costs and improve their regulatory compliance with pesticide recordkeeping by creating a mapping application toolkit on the BOGS Online Grower System developed under a previous grant to help growers denote where they have applied pesticides
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Amount Awarded:	\$1,268,583.61	Number of Projects:	20
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- Assist Michigan specialty crop commodity groups and companies in promoting their products both domestically and internationally by enabling them to participate in major domestic and international trade shows
- Partner with Michigan Food and Farming Systems to facilitate relationships between producers and buyers of regional specialty crops by identifying and documenting specialty crop buyers' sales and food safety expectations; providing sales techniques and tools to specialty crop producers at "meet the buyers" events; facilitating regional opportunities for buyers and producers to connect; and assisting smaller-scale growers meet food safety requirements and become Good Agricultural Practices certified
- Partner with the Michigan Apple Committee to develop Detroit apple markets by leveraging the locally-grown movement, focusing consumer promotions on premium varieties, and promoting apples for health and nutrition benefits through in-store special events, broadcast activities and community outreach efforts
- Partner with the Cherry Marketing Institute to increase sales of tart cherry by reintroducing the fruit to ingredient decision makers who may have stopped using the ingredient due to lack of supply resulting from the loss of the crop in 2012 by advertising tart cherries in key trade publications
- Partner with the Michigan Apple Committee to increase sales of Michigan apples by promoting the fruit more vigorously to the public who may have stopped seeking out Michigan apples due to lack of supply resulting from the loss of the crop in 2012 by advertising Michigan apples in key trade publications
- Partner with the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments to increase sales of wine in Northwest Michigan wine tasting rooms and increase customer satisfaction by delivering training to wine tasting room staff
- Partner with the Michigan Farmers Market Association to improve production efficiency, increase sales and facilitate overall business growth amongst specialty crop producers by developing a 2014 Farm-based Education Program consisting of farm field days and online training videos, evaluating the effectiveness of each activity and resource, and providing a foundation to sustain an ongoing Farm-based Education Program for specialty crop producers

- Partner with the Michigan State Horticultural Society to keep Michigan fruit producers competitive by establishing and maintaining apple, grape, cherry, blueberry and peach plantings at AgBioResearch research centers and campus locations and by developing and determining the effectiveness of new management practices and technologies in these modern plantings, leading to commercial applications and adoption. Results of the study will be shared with growers at various fruit grower association meetings
- Partner with Lakeshore Environmental, Inc. to assist winemakers in navigating the waste water permit process, determine the success and efficiency of one or more onsite treatment systems for Michigan wineries, and compare sanitation additives use and effectiveness
- Partner with the Michigan Carrot Committee to increase carrot growers' capacity to differentiate between carrots that are ideal for dicing and those that are not by investigating the use of X-ray computed tomography in addition to spectral measurement and imagery for detection of undesirable fibrous carrot tissue in processing carrots, identifying commercial level research and development collaborators and partners to bring such a technology into commercial application, and sharing results of the work with carrot growers in Michigan
- Partner with the Michigan Christmas Tree Association to reduce labor costs for shearing and cone removal and improve tree quality by evaluating the effectiveness of plant growth regulators in Christmas tree and conifer nursery production
- Partner with the Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance to enhance the feasibility and competitiveness of Michigan organic raspberry and sweet cherry production by developing organic management approaches that integrate high tunnels for critical climatic modification, novel and biological strategies to control pests and diseases, soil-building strategies for root and plant health and nutrient cycling efficiency, and evaluating cultivars and rootstocks, and training systems that are most suitable for organic fruit production in Michigan
- Partner with the Michigan Maple Syrup Association to increase the profitability of Michigan maple syrup producers by developing planting stock for new sugar bushes with a higher sap sugar content than the native wild stands which are commonly converted to sugar bushes through identification of trees with this trait, genetic analyses to estimate the heritability of the trait, and sharing results with the maple industry
- Partner with the Michigan Bean Commission to establish dry bean acreage in non-traditional regions by assessing the impact and adaptability of suitable dry bean cultivars and breeding lines; assessing dry bean insect, disease, and weed control strategies; and implementing grower educational activities to communicate economic options and current best management practices for production of dry beans
- Partner with the Michigan Blueberry Advisory Committee to strengthen the blueberry industry's response to spotted wing drosophila (SWD) by determining the insecticide residue profiles required to meet maximum residue level restrictions, monitoring the susceptibility of SWD populations to insecticides, improving rain fastness of insecticides for SWD control and delivering comprehensive education programs on SWD to the Michigan blueberry industry
- Partner with the Michigan Vegetable Council to minimize the threat of Phytophthora crown, root, and fruit rot caused by *Phytophthora capsici* (*P. capsici*) on Michigan vegetables by determining the susceptibility of brassica vegetables (broccoli, cabbage, mustard greens); determining the susceptibility of brassica cover crops; determining the effect of inoculum density on disease development in cabbage; testing cabbage varieties for tolerance; evaluating soil-applied fungicides for control of *P. capsici* on cabbage; and sharing results of the study with vegetable growers
- Partner with the Michigan Onion Committee to reduce damage to Michigan onions due to pink root and bacterial rot by characterizing variations within a collection of the pink root pathogen and within a collection of bacterial pathogens; evaluating the efficacy of soil-applied fungicides for control of pink root; scouting fields and collecting onion bacterial pathogens; testing and using a diagnostic molecular marker to quickly identify bacterial pathogens; developing a management plan for both bacterial diseases and pink root; and sharing results of the study with Michigan onion growers
- Partner with the Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board to increase asparagus production by evaluating breeding lines and commercial varieties for disease tolerance to foliar and soilborne diseases; developing specific fungicide programs to manage foliar diseases; evaluating soil-applied fungicides for control of *Fusarium* and *Phytophthora*; evaluating the effects of irrigation delivery system and timing on disease incidence, crop quality and yield; and sharing results of the study with local growers
- Partner with the Michigan Potato Industry Commission to improve potato production by investigating how to improve soil health through soil data collection and sharing results with potato growers on Michigan's Upper Peninsula
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$676,531.57

Number of Projects:

10

- Partner with the University of Minnesota to improve producers' knowledge of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and food safety practices by providing technical assistance, education and tools necessary to support increased adoption of GAPs by specialty crop growers, including Hmong growers
- Partner with the University of Minnesota to ensure public food safety of locally-grown leafy greens by enhancing farmer training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), studying current on-farm postharvest practices and their effects on greens bacterial load, and consulting with farmers on the feasibility of GAPs recommendations
- Partner with the Minnesota Grown Promotion Group, Inc. to increase sales of Minnesota specialty crops by promoting and improving the printed and online versions of the Minnesota Grown Directory; creating innovative new promotional materials for wineries, vegetable growers and nurseries/garden centers; and creating a public television feature program highlighting specialty crops. To ensure that grant funds are used to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, the Minnesota Grown Promotion Group will provide matching funds to pay for 25 percent of the costs associated with search engine optimization for the online Directory
- Increase producer awareness of specialty crop enterprises and opportunities, increase profitability, diversify the agricultural landscape and enhance the quality of life for farmers and rural communities by developing and running farmer-to-farmer radio broadcasts highlighting 12 Minnesota specialty crop producers and their successes
- Partner with Renewing the Countryside to expand markets and increase sales of specialty crops in southern Minnesota by conducting a local foods trade show to connect buyers and producers, local foods expo, and creative marketing campaign. Matching funds will cover the costs of the trade shows and events involving non-specialty crop activities
- Partner with Sweetland Orchard, LLC to increase understanding of the market demands for cider varieties by measuring the state of Minnesota's hard cider industry through annual surveys of the state's hard cider producers and sharing results with the Minnesota Farm Winery Association, the Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, and the Minnesota Apple Growers Association
- Partner with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy to increase purchasing from Minnesota's specialty crop growers by the childcare and school sectors through outreach activities to increase grower's knowledge of how to sell to childcare programs, curriculum dissemination on how to incorporate farm to school into classrooms, and the development of a formal network of interested specialty crop producers and schools. The farm to school curriculum package will be expanded to include specialty crops relevant to the Hmong community
- Partner with the Minnesota Food Association to increase access for small-scale organic vegetable growers to distribution systems and new markets by exploring the need and potential for offering additional "food hub" services such as aggregation, sales and distribution to beginning and immigrant farmers growing organic vegetables in the Twin Cities
- Partner with the University of Minnesota to reduce the incidence and severity of scab, verticillium wilt, and other soilborne diseases of potato by evaluating microbial inoculants and soil carbon amendments for their efficacy alone and in combination. Results of the study will be shared with growers through field days, publications, and grower conference presentations
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

Amount Awarded:

\$276,351.62

Number of Projects:

11

- Partner with Farm Families of Mississippi to assist small specialty crop growers with marketing by implementing a promotional campaign that educates the public about the benefits of buying and consuming locally grown and produced specialty crops
- Provide Mississippi schools with continued support for specialty crops in the Farm to School program through enhanced materials and further educational components promoting specialty crops, and providing funds for school gardens through the "Growing Lunch" program
- Partner with Mississippi Sweet Potato Council to continue to attract new buyers and increase sales through the participation in the Produce Marketing Association annual tradeshow

- Partner with Mississippi State University to increase the number of Mississippi specialty crop growers by educating and training current and prospective growers about the economic advantages of selling specialty crops at farmers markets and promoting to consumers the health benefits of purchasing and consuming specialty crops at farmers markets
- Partner with the Mississippi Beekeepers Association to demonstrate to beekeepers non-chemical methods for controlling mites and reducing the need for intervention with insecticides. Results of the demonstration will be published in scientific and extension publications as well as presented at beekeeper conferences and meetings
- Partner with Mississippi State University to improve the ability of specialty crop growers to avoid soil borne diseases, increase yield per acre, improve quality and uniformity, and reduce days to harvest by establishing replicated production trials of containerized vegetable and edible flowers
- Partner with Mississippi State University to investigate the potential of tea production in Mississippi by conducting a tea cultivar evaluation trial and distributing the project results through direct farmer contacts, meetings, field days, and publications
- Partner with Mississippi State University to end the increasing economic sweet potato crop losses by studying the relationship between reniform nematodes and fungi that are associated with sweet potato end rot disease. Results will be published in an Extension publication and published in a refereed plant pathology journal as well as discussed with growers at county sweet potato meeting and on an individual basis
- Partner with Mississippi State University to generate new knowledge for growers on how and if soil fumigation should be included into an overall pest management system for sweet potatoes. Recommendations generated from the research will be shared with growers and follow-up communication will gauge the number of growers who incorporate the recommendations into their production practices
- Partner with the Mississippi Beekeepers Association to continue to assist beginning beekeepers by providing a cost share to get started in bee production and educating all beekeepers through the offering of workshops on maintaining hive health
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Missouri Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$319,039.43

Number of Projects:

11

- Increase the number of Missouri consumers that purchase, prepare, and consume Missouri grown specialty crops by creating a regional advertising campaign and participating in tradeshow
- Partner with Kansas City Community Gardens to improve gardening knowledge, increase access to healthy food, and increase fruit and vegetable production for Kansas City, Missouri area low-income urban gardeners by providing education, greenhouse production of high-yield food crops for transplant, cost-saving bulk seed, plant, and fruit tree purchases, technical assistance, and community garden space
- Partner with the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture to provide learning opportunities that enable new farmers to learn about growing Mid-Missouri specialty crops in a hands-on, skill-based series of internships
- Partner with the University of Missouri, Center for Agroforestry to expand acreage of chestnut orchards in Missouri and reduce overall harvest costs by demonstrating a mechanical chestnut harvester to Missouri growers; conducting a “time-and-motion” study to quantify the labor saving benefits of a commercial harvester; creating, demonstrating, and releasing a Chestnut Financial Decision Support Tool; and providing advanced financial and market information to enable growers to profitably sell their chestnut crop
- Partner with Hammons Products Company to reduce black walnut harvest costs for growers by re-engineering a modified pecan harvester and a specialized black walnut huller into one machine that will collect and hull the nuts in a streamlined, single-step process, and then convey the hulled nuts into an easily-handled transport container
- Partner with Missouri State University to identify the best primocane bearing raspberry varieties for production in grow bags rotated in and out of a high tunnel with vegetable crops and increase the number of people affected by this new knowledge by disseminating project results
- Partner with Urban Buds, LLC to enable small-scale Missouri cut flower growers to compete with imported flowers by determining the best varieties and crop mixes for efficient cut flower production within a high tunnel to extend the growing season by four months, while producing high quality cut flowers not commonly grown in Missouri such as Lupine, Ranunculus, Anemone, and Mathloia for the holiday markets. Information generated by the trials will be transferred to producers through field days and other outreach efforts

- Partner with the University of Missouri, Grape and Wine Institute to assist wine grape growers in making good harvest and management decisions to increase fruit quality by expanding basic analytical testing
- Partner with Missouri State University to expand environmental and economic sustainability by improving fungal disease resistance in the Norton grape through the development of the first genetic linkage map for the Norton that will serve as a foundation for future breeding of new cultivars
- Partner with the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture to reduce the environmental and financial implications of excessive fertilizer applications by assessing the benefits of using mycorrhizal fungi to take up soil nutrients more effectively in tomato and cucumber crops. Results will be shared with vegetable producers through farm tours and speaking engagements
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Montana Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$304,803.65	Number of Projects:	7
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- Partner with Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center to improve specialty crop producer profitability by selecting and trialing organic vegetable seed crops that can be further processed for a value added return; educating specialty crop producers' on integrating seed production into diversified specialty crop farms for the purpose of building farm financial sustainability; and promoting Montana grown, regionally adapted organically grown vegetable seed
- Partner with Montana State University to improve grower's management decisions and reduce pulse crop losses by evaluating isolates for sensitivity to QoI and DMI fungicides in pulse crops so that growers can be notified quickly when fungicide resistance exists. Results of the project will be distributed through routine extension activities such as presentations, agricultural alerts, press releases, radio and television media
- Partner with Montana State University to better understand the role of pathogens in honey bee colony losses by monitoring colony size and pathogen incidence and abundance in select colonies before, during, and after almond pollination and communicating important findings to all registered commercial beekeepers in Montana
- Partner with Montana State University to study and document the native pollinators involved in huckleberry pollination by surveying huckleberry stands to establish insect associates of the plants, evaluating those associates for pest status, identifying the species responsible for the fruit damage and monitoring for the penetration of the spotted wing drosophila
- Partner with Montana State University to meet the requirements of federal land management agencies to utilize locally adapted plants, promote sustainable maintenance through reduced water and energy consumption, and help to alleviate economic constraints and human health risks of small scale agriculture through reduced fertilizer and pesticide use by researching greenhouse protocols for the production of high-demand yet difficult to propagate native perennial plants and promoting information sharing of native plant production, installation, maintenance, and growth protocols between buyers and sellers
- Partner with Montana State University to increase plantings of Montana certified seed potatoes in home gardens by creating an online garden seed directory and developing a wholesale distribution and delivery network using Montana county extension offices. A second objective of the project is to adopt multiplex PCR techniques for identification of potato diseases in one assay, decreasing reagent and labor costs
- Partner with Williston Ag Diversification Group to enhance the potential of potato processing and marketing in the MonDak region by providing a commercial supply of MonDAK Gold potatoes for test marketing with fresh pack, restaurant, grocery store chains, specialty potato product processors, and other marketers

Nebraska State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$314,214.46	Number of Projects:	12
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- Increase purchases of specialty crops by establishing an online, interactive, farmers' market database that will enable consumers and market managers to locate and contact produce growers, streamline the vendor certification process for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and Women, Infants, and Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and improve program efficiencies

- Partner with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s Nebraska Cooperative Development Center to increase specialty crop growers knowledge and change their marketing and business management behaviors to sustain a successful, profitable business as well as promote specialty crops by providing educational workshops and trainings through expansion of the Buy Fresh Buy Local Nebraska program. All promotional materials and activities funded through this grant will only be targeted to promote specialty crop growers
- Partner with Mac’s Creek Vineyards and Winery to promote and develop global collaborative research in the area of viticulture in northern environments as well as promote Nebraska’s tourism industry by hosting the 2015 International Association of Northern Viticulture
- Partner with the Center for Rural Affairs to increase consumption of locally raised fruits and vegetables by developing a statewide Farm-to-School Summit bringing together fruit and vegetable growers and schools for training and connection
- Partner with Community CROPS to expand the market for locally-grown, late season specialty crops by offering a series of workshops on season extension methods to small scale specialty crop growers and by organizing a Holiday Market
- Partner with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s Panhandle Research and Extension Center to lower the cost of seed potatoes while producing the greatest amount of starch by developing the technology and determining the feasibility of growing potatoes under semi-arid conditions using sustainable, organic farming practices in western Nebraska and presenting the results through grower meetings
- Partner with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s Panhandle Research and Extension Center to introduce a new crop and new industry into western Nebraska and a source of raw product to the pharmaceutical industry by continuing to study fenugreek to identify the amount of irrigation needed, the best planting date in the spring, and the best date to harvest for high seed yield and pharmaceutical properties
- Partner with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln to investigate ways to improve the nutritional value of snack foods by investigating the factors affecting oil absorption by dry beans so that food processors increase the utilization of dry beans in commercial snack food processing
- Partner with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s Panhandle Research and Extension Center to decrease losses of confection sunflower and increase profitability through reduced insecticides by assessing the degree of any insect-resistance in confection sunflower hybrids, developing new sources of resistance for confectionery hybrid development through breeding and genetics research, and sharing the results at a workshop
- Conduct a comprehensive survey of nursery dealers and growers to determine the presence or absence of Japanese beetle populations at those facilities. The survey results will determine what steps, if any, are necessary to certify the nursery stock for interstate or international trade
- Partner with Mac’s Creek Vineyards and Winery to keep the Nebraska tomato industry competitive and sustainable, while minimizing environmental impacts by determining whether spraying tomatoes and their vines with ozonated water will control and/or eliminate diseases better than typical chemical pesticide usage
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Nevada Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$250,730.77

Number of Projects:

14

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- Continue to support the pilot Farmer Assistance Program by providing educational workshops and other resources that will encourage small farms to adopt Good Handling Practices and Good Agriculture Practices
 - Partner with Harvest Hub to increase access to locally grown specialty crops by coordinating orders with Distributors of Regional and Organic Produce and Products (DROPP) for local produce, create a hoop house, and purchase items necessary to store, distribute and sell produce on site
 - Encourage Nevada businesses to export specialty crops by assisting them in the development of international business plans, market research, matchmaking meetings, and other export promotion activities for specialty crops
 - Partner with Nevada Grown to increase consumer awareness and sales of Nevada specialty crops by identifying and establishing a bank of information on Nevada specialty crops and producers; promoting Nevada-grown specialty crops and producers through media outlets and attendance at special events; and creating a seasonal eating chart showing Nevada specialty crops
 - Partner with Gardnerville Main Street Program Corporation to establish a community supported educational garden at the Heritage Park Gardens to teach youth and parents about the health benefits of consuming fresh, locally grown produce

- Partner with Jody Hammel to demonstrate the viability to small urban growers and consumers of utilizing aquaponics production methods to grow specialty crops. Outreach will be conducted to science students and others through field trips and blogs to educate them about aquaponics and urban farming
- Partner with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Lyon County to eliminate plant stressors, extend the growing season of cold vegetable crops, and increase demand for these crops by conducting a study on cold vegetable crop production in a hoop house, educating and demonstrating to the public about how to grow crops during the early winter through springtime using a hoop house, and educating schoolchildren about the nutritional value of these crops
- Partner with the Eastern Nevada Food Bank to evoke interest and educate school children in growing large hybrid specialty crops in agricultural hydroponic systems by developing and providing a basic hydroponic system curriculum
- Encourage youth to consume more fruits and vegetables by providing educational programming in schools on specialty crop growth, nutrition, and farms
- Partner with Urban Roots Garden Classroom to create and implement a new state standard high school curriculum that incorporates specialty crop agriculture into traditional subjects such as science, history, health, and economics
- Partner with the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources, the Cooperative Extension, High Desert Farming Initiative, and Urban Roots Garden Classrooms to provide Nevada farmers with reliable data (production, maintenance, harvesting, selling, etc.) that will encourage and guide producers to grow hops successfully by identifying hop varieties that will thrive in Nevada's high desert ecology and yield highly desirable qualities for Nevada brewers
- Partner with the University of Nevada, Reno to increase the information available regarding best growing practices and harvesting efficiency recommendations about Salanova lettuce, a patented differentiated lettuce variety that produces leaf lettuce on a head lettuce core, by testing production within the high desert, hoop house, measuring consumer acceptance of this new specialty crop, and providing the project results to Nevada farmers
- Partner with Nevada Vines & Wines in collaboration with the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources at the University of Nevada, Reno to promote wine grape growing and wine making in the State of Nevada by planting and raising Riesling grape vines and a similar quantity of vines of a red variety, to marketable yields, demonstrating frost protection techniques for Nevada's climate, making commercially salable wines, analyzing the profitability of the results, and sharing the results through workshops
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food

Amount Awarded:

\$224,025.35

Number of Projects:

10

- Partner with the Northern Community Investment Corporation to create greater access to healthy, locally grown specialty crops by expanding the marketing efforts and delivery of specialty crops by the North Country Farmer's Co-Op to New Hampshire institutions including restaurants, hotels, schools, hospitals and individual customers
- Partner with the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success to increase direct to customer sales of New Hampshire grown specialty crops at Fresh Start Farms collective by refugee farmers by developing educational materials and outreach aimed at participating specialty crop farmers; developing a targeted, multilingual, and culturally appropriate marketing and education plan to promote specialty crops; and implementing an incentive program solely for specialty crops. Funds will be used to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops by providing customers who first purchase fruits and vegetables with the incentive
- Partner with Local Food Plymouth to connect specialty crop producers with businesses/employees and reduce farmers' costs for selling specialty crops by designing and implementing a Farm to Desk program providing employees in the Plymouth area a venue to purchase specialty crop products year-round on-line and have them delivered weekly to their desks. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Partner with Vital Communities to overcome the barriers to purchasing local grown specialty crops and increase market access for specialty crop producers in the Upper Valley of New Hampshire and Vermont by offering and promoting a farm-to-workplace program that provides specialty crop delivery to their employees on-site. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Collaborate with the New Hampshire Division of Travel & Tourism Development to build awareness of New Hampshire specialty crops and increase sales of these products by promoting the purchase of specialty crops under the New Hampshire's Own logo. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops

- Partner with the New Hampshire Plant Growers Association to increase nursery crop business owners' and employees' understanding of the green industry by offering informative speakers at annual meetings
- Partner with the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts to increase specialty crop producers' knowledge of pollinators and promotion techniques by offering a series of county-level workshops on raising awareness about pollinators and methods to promote them; creating ten demonstration sites situated that showcase best management practices; and facilitating a Pollination Summit to discuss New Hampshire pollination issues
- Partner with the New England Apple Growers Association to educate consumers about new and challenging pests like the brown Marmorated stinkbug and address their concerns about food safety and the use of pesticides by producing an educational video program about integrated pest management
- Partner with the Small and Beginner Farmers of New Hampshire to increase access to a range of agricultural equipment and tools to small and beginning specialty crop producers by establishing an equipment bank and facilitating workshops on the safe and effective use and maintenance of the equipment and tools offered by the equipment bank
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

New Jersey Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$777,044.10	Number of Projects:	13
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- Partner with the Mercer County Board of Agriculture to prepare specialty crop producers to comply with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) by educating direct market growers on FSMA compliance and GAP; conducting pathogen sampling of manure and manure based composts; conducting pathogen sampling of packing house equipment; developing cost effective means of compliance with FSMA and GAP
- Partner with the Garden State Wine Growers Association to increase sales of northern New Jersey wines by promoting them through a targeted promotional campaign
- Partner with the New Jersey Blueberry Growers Association to promote the consumption of New Jersey blueberries by developing and implementing a targeted promotional campaign consisting of radio advertisements
- Continue to enhance the competitiveness of New Jersey fruits and vegetables by providing promotional support to the Jersey Fresh brand through print and television advertisements and point of sale advertising
- Partner with the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council to promote New Jersey peaches through advertising in print media and various promotional events
- Partner with the Outer Coastal Plain Vineyard Association to increase sales of New Jersey wines by conducting market research of wine consumers, creating a brand identity for a new proprietary blend, determining the proper channels through which target consumers can be reached with incentives, and creating a "Buy Local" marketing program to promote the new blend
- Partner with the Jersey Fruit Cooperative Association, Inc. to lower the operating costs of fruit farms while minimizing the negative impact of fruit production on the environment by providing sustainability training to fruit growers and packing houses
- Partner with the New Jersey Agricultural Society to increase specialty crop producers' understanding of agricultural issues such as water and land use, trade agreements and land preservation and to enhance their business management, marketing, and communication skills by providing agricultural leadership development training. Matching funds will be provided to cover the costs that do not solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops
- Partner with the New Jersey Agricultural Society to increase production and consumption of specialty crops by educating low-income families and the general public on their nutritional value; educating the general public about local sources of specialty crops; and marketing specialty crops and nutrition through video, online resources, and handouts
- Partner with the American Cranberry Growers' Association to increase the consumption of cranberry products by those suffering from metabolic syndrome by determining if cranberry consumption, even with added sugar, will improve some parameters of metabolic syndrome; showing the presence of beneficial phytochemicals in human plasma after cranberry consumption; testing the use of one or more cranberry varieties with a lower acid level; and sharing the results of the study with local cranberry growers

- Partner with Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and the Small Fruits Council to increase production of New Jersey strawberries by assessing the status of the production and marketing of minor small fruits such as strawberries, brambles, and ribes; expediting the evaluation and release of strawberry selections from the Rutgers breeding program; and sharing results of the project with small fruits growers
- Partner with the New Jersey Blueberry and Cranberry Research Center to minimize the damage caused by key insect pests of blueberries by evaluating and developing innovative insect behavior- based approaches to managing oriental beetle, plum curculio, brown Marmorated stink bug and spotted wing drosophila; demonstrating the effectiveness of an attract-and-kill strategy for controlling these pests; and sharing results with blueberry growers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$429,210.57	Number of Projects:	7
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- Partner with the New Mexico Chile Association to increase demand and price premiums for New Mexico chile growers and processors by developing and implementing a region of production certification program for New Mexico chile peppers
- Partner with the New Mexico Farmers’ Marketing Association to increase sales of specialty crops by educating new and beginning farmers about what it takes to be successful as a specialty crop farmer in New Mexico, creating brand loyalty among specialty crop buyers and engaging the next generation of youth in issues of food, farming, and sustainability through a series of short videos to be shown on YouTube and at statewide events. Only specialty crops and specialty crop farmers will be featured in the videos
- Partner with the New Mexico Wine Growers Association to increase traffic to New Mexico’s wineries by designing and implementing tourism-oriented promotional materials and by developing a Smartphone application to guide tourists to winery destinations, provide them with information and discounts, and alert them to events the wineries offer
- Increase awareness of New Mexico specialty crops and value-added products by reaching out to national food and beverage associations through product sampling, demonstrations, seminars, workshops, and tradeshow. If non-specialty crop products are included in any of the project activities, state funds will be used to cover their costs
- Capture new target markets and create greater demand for New Mexico’s green chile peppers by developing and implementing new marketing strategies including in-store demonstrations, advertising activities, and restaurant promotions
- Partner with New Mexico State University (NMSU) to increase consistent production of pecans by studying the issue of alternate bearing (the major constraint to consistency), measuring the genetic signals to pinpoint the timing of pecan flower induction, and sharing results with pecan growers at various conferences and through the NMSU Cooperative Extension Bulletin
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

Amount Awarded:	\$1,009,549.88	Number of Projects:	12
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- Partner with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Essex County to increase demand for local specialty crops by implementing a broad scale promotional and educational program consisting of public service announcements, dissemination of local food guides and promotional materials, training classes for consumers on how to cook and can specialty crops, a food hub feasibility study, and training programs to enable specialty crop producers to accept federal nutrition benefits. Only specialty crops will be featured in the promotional and training materials
- Partner with American Farmland Trust to reduce barriers for specialty crop producers to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to State University of New York (SUNY) campuses by identifying crops that are produced in New York and are suitable for college dining services; matching specialty crop growers with food processors, distributors and college food service staff; engaging students and faculty at SUNY campuses; and training specialty crop growers and food service personnel about strategies for increasing purchasing of New York specialty crops. Only specialty crops will be included in promotional and educational materials
- Partner with Cornell University to support the expansion of production of New York mild onions by demonstrating the potential of new mild longer-storing New York-adapted onion hybrids, determining potential profitability of the product, and sharing results with producers, seed companies and marketers

- Partner with Cornell University to increase the profitability of the green industry by improving nursery native tree production through a study of the physiological mechanisms behind transplant shock and the impact of transplant timing and tree transplant size on transplant success. Project results will be shared with New York’s green industry
- Partner with Cornell University to continue to support the wine industry in New York by continuing viticulture and winemaking trials that address production issues associated with new grape varieties and providing outreach to new growers producing these grapes and wines
- Partner with Cornell University to enable growers to avoid catastrophic losses on conventional and organic Allium crops (onions, leeks, garlic, chives) due to the leek moth by monitoring insects, studying pest control options, and sharing research results with Allium crop producers
- Partner with Cornell University to minimize loss of grapes due to crown gall pathogen by developing methods to eliminate the pathogen from grapevine propagation material and sharing the results of the study with growers through presentations at grower conferences and publications
- Partner with Cornell University to protect New York nursery crops, home landscapes and natural environment systems against Phytophthora diseases by conducting a survey for Phytophthora kernoviae in P. ramorum samples; determining the Phytophthora species present in samples that contain a Phytophthora other than the target species CP. ramorum; determining if currently used, commercially available tests kits provide consistent results; and sharing the results of the study with New York growers
- Partner with Cornell University to improve insect, disease and weed management by using a newly established high-density organic apple orchard to evaluate and demonstrate the most effective and best recommended practices available to New York apple growers interested in organic production
- Partner with Cornell University to minimize the damage to Long Island fruit orchards while reducing the use of harmful pesticides by engaging Long Island tree fruit growers in adopting area-wide mating disruption and providing a 40 percent cost share for the mating disruption dispensers
- Partner with Cornell University to increase growers’ access to new seed potatoes by increasing potato seed production through the installation of a new hydroponics system
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Amount Awarded:	\$1,082,555.81	Number of Projects:	18
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- Partner with the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association to increase the production and sales of specialty crops and participating specialty crop farmers in the Down East Connect Farmers’ Market by conducting an advertising campaign to recruit new farmers to the virtual farmer’s market, bringing together rural farmers and urban consumers of Southeastern North Carolina, and performing training sessions for season extension of specialty crops. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Increase awareness of North Carolina’s green industry and increase sales for local growers by conducting a marketing campaign to direct consumers to the nearest local dealer
- Partner with the North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association to increase sales of North Carolina nursery crops by conducting a marketing campaign to wholesale buyers promoting local sources of North Carolina grown plants
- Partner with the North Carolina Strawberry Association, Inc. to increase strawberry growers’ understanding of marketing through the web and social media by supporting training in using web/social media to help make outreach by the Association and its grower members more effective and transforming the Association’s website to make it mobile-friendly and accessible across multiple platforms
- Partner with Surry County to increase sales, marketing, and distribution of locally grown specialty crops at Pilot Mountain Pride (PMP), a local food marketing organization serving more than 100 farmers in Surry, Stokes and Forsyth counties that aggregates and sells fresh produce to area restaurants, retailers, and institutions, by developing a buy local campaign for PMP produce
- Partner with the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association to increase the number of specialty crop seed varieties available to organic producers by providing workshops focused on seed saving techniques, on-farm variety trialing, and on-farm plant breeding; providing direct assistance to farmers conducting on-farm broccoli variety trials; sharing information on organic seed availability; and collaborating with North Carolina State University to expand on-farm broccoli variety trials to additional regions/locations in the state

- Partner with North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University to increase farmers' knowledge of which vegetables can be grown profitably in high tunnels as well as the appropriate time to grow them by developing a calendar for warm and cold season vegetable production in high tunnels in the north central (Greensboro) and southeast regions (Goldsboro) of North Carolina
- Partner with North Carolina State University to increase the profitability and long-term economic sustainability of pecan orchards by providing educational resources to North Carolina pecan growers available in different formats on how to properly design, plan, and manage a pecan orchard with a high potential for success
- Partner with Rural Advancement Foundation International – USA to increase specialty crop growers' risk management knowledge by providing education and further research on use of crop insurance and other methods of risk management, and for the refinement and submission of a direct market strawberry crop insurance policy to the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Partner with North Carolina State University to increase grower efficiency and reduce labor costs by determining the machine harvest capability of advanced blueberry selections from the North Carolina State University breeding program, compared to cultivated commercial standards. Findings will be published in annual blueberry proceedings, presented at grower meetings, and demonstrated at field days
- Partner with North Carolina State University to improve yield for grower profitability and improve quality products for processors by developing methods for producing seedless pickling cucumbers in North Carolina
- Partner with North Carolina State University to conduct a feasibility study on growing stevia in western North Carolina and providing results of the study to potential growers through field days and a webpage
- Partner with the North Carolina Sweet Potato Commission in collaboration with Duke University to increase sweet potato sales through positive health messages reaching consumers by determining the glycemic indices of sweet potatoes and related starches through various cooking methods and promoting the results to the public and to the scientific community
- Partner with North Carolina State University to improve the environment and economy of the nursery and Christmas tree industries by breeding and testing adelgid-resistant Fraser firs and hemlocks that will require little or no insecticide
- Partner with North Carolina State University to decrease the costs of nursery crop production and enhance herbicide efficacy and application efficiency by developing alternative and sustainable weed management practices and providing guidelines and educational materials to aid growers in adopting the best management practices
- Partner with North Carolina State University to decrease economic losses as a result of the high cost of controlling cucurbit downy mildew disease and/or inadequate disease management resulting in plant death and decreased yields by developing early detection tools, identifying targets for species-specific diagnostics that can be consistently detected and developing web-based educational tools about cucurbit downy mildew identification and control for cucurbit stakeholders
- Partner with North Carolina State University to decrease losses to sweet potato growers by identifying integrated management strategies for Rhizopus soft rot through the establishment of epidemiological factors influencing disease development, examining products for chemical control that are acceptable for organic and overseas markets, and exploring the use of ozone treatments to control Rhizopus soft rot in exported sweet potatoes. Results will be presented at sweet potato field days and through reports and publications
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$482,871.82

Number of Projects:

7

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- Continue to assist rural communities in developing local foods initiatives by utilizing the North Dakota Department of Agriculture's mobile food processing unit to promote specialty crops for local consumption and awareness, generating direct marketing outlets for specialty crop farmers through a restaurant partnership program with Pride of Dakota, and educating the region on current trends with an annual state-wide conference. Matching funds will be used to cover the costs of any benefit to non-specialty crops
 - Partner with Dakota Prairies Resource Conservation and Development to increase the knowledge of residents living in Sioux County and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation of how to buy, grow, and prepare culturally relevant and sustainable specialty crops by providing classroom and hands-on educational gardening activities
 - Partner with the National Sunflower Association to minimize the damage to confection sunflowers due to downy mildew by developing super confection sunflower germplasms with downy mildew resistance combined with rust resistance and then making them available to the private seed industry for incorporation into finished commercial hybrids

- Partner with North Dakota State University to increase the number of adapted, winter hardy, pest-resistant woody plants produced by North Dakota commercial nurseries for landscape use in the Northern Great Plains utilizing shoot forcing to produce softwood shoots that can either be used as cutting or tissue culture propagules and educating commercial growers on how to propagate these superior selections of woody plants
- Partner with North Dakota State University to minimize crop loss by North Dakota pinto bean producers by generating high yielding pinto bean breeding lines with multiple disease resistance and sharing results of these efforts with bean growers through annual bean days sponsored by the Northharvest Bean Growers Association
- Partner with the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society to increase access to vegetable varieties that are well suited to North Dakota’s organic and low-input vegetable production systems and their markets by conducting replicated trials and organizing educational workshops and demonstrations for farmers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Ohio Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$506,803.98	Number of Projects:	10
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- Partner with Ohio State University to help individual participants minimize the cost of compliance with Food Safety Modernization Act requirements and fulfill requirements to participate in the Ohio Produce Marketing Agreement by developing food safety educational programs for Ohio fresh fruit and vegetable producers
- Partner with Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association to equip Ohio produce growers with the knowledge base to enable them to produce a safe supply of produce by continuing to expand the number and scope of food safety educational opportunities available to both large and small specialty crop stakeholders
- Partner with Ohio State University to mitigate the risk of bacterial diseases in Ohio tomato production and food-borne illnesses in Ohio citizens by identifying effective seed sanitation practices for pelleted tomato seed, determining the longevity and vigor of tomato seed following seed treatment, and developing an interactive seed health management chapter for a best management practices e-guide for tomato producers
- Partner with Ohio State University to allow Ohio specialty crop farmers to continue to manage manure on farms that is both ecologically friendly and safe by establishing scientifically-validated intervals for application of untreated manure on Ohio specialty crop farms
- Partner with OFA - The Association of Horticulture Professionals to grow the gardening consumer base and help Ohio nursery retailers and independent garden centers remain relevant and grow their business by identifying inhibitors to gardening among younger populations and providing guidance to garden retailers on how to reach this population through marketing messages, changes to store layout, events, pricing and activities
- Partner with Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association to promote and encourage the production, sale and use of Ohio grown landscape trees and plants through “Don’t Just Stand There. Plant Something!” messaging
- Partner with Pickaway County Community Foundation to help producers with an interest in specialty crop production experience the connection with their food by promoting homegrown entrepreneurship through educational programs in marketing skills, value-added opportunities and insight on successful specialty crop operations and providing marketing opportunities at the “Ohio Fresh Foods Corridor” events to enhance specialty crop producers’ visibility
- Partner with Center for Innovative Technology to provide specialty crop growers with season extension and sales opportunities by identifying, demonstrating, and evaluating the production practices of a mobile hoop house with a focus on root crops, evaluating yields, quality and performance of the crops, and sharing the results with growers
- Partner with ACEnet to increase market access and annual sales/profitability for fresh fruit and vegetables by providing training and technical assistance to Appalachian Ohio producers in developing wholesale market opportunities
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry

Amount Awarded:	\$332,772.86	Number of Projects:	10
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- Increase Oklahoma specialty crop producers' ability to create farm food safety plans by organizing workshops that will provide materials and training to develop an on-farm food safety plan, visually demonstrate all food safety plan categories, and provide a mock Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) audit
- Partner with Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association to increase domestic and international awareness of Oklahoma pecan production through participation in domestic and international tradeshows
- Increase the amount of specialty crops marketed locally while also increasing consumer awareness and demand by continuing a statewide farmers market promotional campaign including local promotional grants, and advertisements to increase awareness of Oklahoma's specialty crops. Project staff will ensure that this project solely benefits specialty crops by requiring farmers' markets to provide examples of text that will be used on banners, signs or promotional materials, and submit photos or copies of promotional pieces
- Increase consumer purchases of specialty crops by distributing recipe cards to customers at 100% Oklahoma Grown Farmers Markets that include easy to prepare appetizer, side dish and desserts using fruits and vegetables
- Increase the Pre-K through eighth grade student knowledge and recognition of specialty crops through the integration of these crops into core curriculum that uses technology such as SMARTBoard™ lessons, healthy connection links, and PowerPoint presentations
- Partner with the Oklahoma Grape Industry Council to assist current and future grape growers improve vineyard quality by performing vineyard surveys to collect data, soil and petiole sampling and providing the results to the Oklahoma wine industry through the internet and press releases to local and national publications
- Partner with Redlands Community College to increase water conservation techniques by quantifying the relationship of mulching vs. non-mulching, the potential increase in canopy size and resulting increased evapotranspiration due to mulching, and the amount of fruit production by tomatoes. Results from this evaluation will be disseminated to stakeholders through classroom instruction and social media
- Partner with Redlands Community College to establish a cost estimation for different vineyard ground cover options by evaluating ground cover based on quickness to cover the ground, season of growth (competition with vines for moisture and nutrients), amount of ground cover, maintenance cost, and tendency to spread. The results will be presented to producers from Oklahoma and surrounding states at bi-annual educational sessions
- Increase access of season extension technology to limited resource farmers raising specialty crops by continuing to fund participation in a plasticulture program, assisting in the installation of up to one acre of plasticulture, and funding irrigation systems and plastic to expand the repertoire of fruits and vegetables grown in Oklahoma
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,513,750.36	Number of Projects:	23
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- Partner with Earl Brown and Sons Inc. to increase GlobalG.A.P. certification in the Milton Freewater Valley and to preserve market competitiveness and increase institutionalization of food safety knowledge in the region by assisting with the costs for employee training, water quality testing fees, pesticide residue testing fees, food safety consulting fees, and grower training
- Partner with Northwest Food Processors Association to increase knowledge of basic food safety practices among Oregon specialty crop food processors and increase compliance with those practices by developing and promoting online training modules in Good Manufacturing Practices and basic Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points, including compliance and recordkeeping in accordance with the Food Safety Modernization Act. Non-specialty crop processors accessing the training will be charged a course registration fee
- Add value to Oregon specialty crop producers' efforts to engage or expand key Asian markets by executing targeted trade meetings, product showcases, trade tastings, and educational seminars, to address constraints in each market area
- Deliver accurate information on export certification requirements to specialty crop producers and exporters in Oregon and facilitate new or expanded market access into Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam by clarifying phytosanitary measures and certification requirements for targeted Oregon agricultural specialty crop products through meetings with U.S. trade specialists with the respective regulatory authorities with the National Plant Protection Organizations of those countries

- Partner with Corvallis Environmental Center to increase the use of Oregon specialty crops by Oregon's school districts by providing schools throughout the state a series of recipes and menus that specifically utilize Oregon specialty crops, that have been developed in a school setting and tested with children, meet U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for the National Breakfast and Lunch program, and complement and leverage existing Oregon Harvest for Schools promotional and educational materials
- Partner with Ecotrust to provide Oregon specialty crop suppliers with significantly expanded access to the school food markets by quantifying school district demand for specialty crops, identifying Oregon Harvest for Schools suppliers, providing them training as needed in how to work with school districts, and facilitating the movement of product from suppliers to schools
- Partner with the Oregon Potato Commission in conjunction with the Washington State Department of Agriculture, the Washington State Potato Commission, an onion representative and representatives from the Oregon Dairy Products Commission (Dairy) to increase specialty crop sales to key export markets by conducting a trade development mission to Vietnam, the Philippines and Hong Kong through specialty product technical seminars with product preparation, handling and proper storage presentations along with buyer meetings and addressing market access issues. The Dairy representatives will cover all of their expenses outside of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
- Partner with the Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission to increase the use of caneberries in new product development by bringing food industry product/menu development specialists to the northwest to interact with U.S. Department of Agriculture breeding programs on industry desired traits for caneberries, educating and training food industry product/menu development specialists on the benefits of Pacific NW caneberries, and testing newer caneberry varieties for functional and chemical properties
- Partner with the Pear Bureau Northwest and the Washington State Department of Agriculture to increase pear sales in Southern China markets by conducting the "USA Pear Road Show" where supermarket shoppers in China as well as children will increase their awareness about USA Pear attributes, including varieties, availability, ripening, nutrition, and usage
- Increase the amount of Oregon specialty crops that parents and caregivers of school aged children buy, prepare and eat, by using media and core nutrition messages to enhance parents' awareness of and attitudes towards Oregon grown fruits, vegetables and nuts
- Increase exports and sales of Oregon potatoes in Mexico by attending trade shows in Mexico City and Guadalajara to promote Oregon potatoes and conducting an inbound trade mission for Mexican buyers and distributors to observe production practices and experience the variety and unique qualities of Oregon grown potatoes
- Increase international buyer awareness and sales of Oregon nursery products in key international markets, such as the European Union countries and Canada, by bringing several buyers from key international markets to the Oregon trial garden opening
- Increase the amount of Oregon grown and processed fruits and vegetables in schools across the state, and the likelihood that students will eat them by expanding the successful Oregon Harvest for Schools toolkit through the creation of 12 additional months of toolkit materials to complete 36 months of toolkit materials available for monthly promotion campaigns featuring Oregon fruits and vegetables, and adding new interactive promotional elements that focus on the producers
- Partner with Adelante Mujeres to increase the local distribution power and subsequent specialty crop sales of small scale Latino immigrant farmers by providing training opportunities on promotion and distribution of their produce to local markets, promoting the production of local produce as a viable business opportunity for immigrant Latino farmers, and developing a replicable model of distribution that can be emulated in the region
- Partner with Food Roots to address the specialty crop production deficit in the north coastal region, specifically Tillamook and Clatsop Counties, by utilizing high tunnel hoop houses for training purposes, providing extended season infrastructure for farmers in their start up stage, and providing classroom training, 'infield training' and training at other cropland sites
- Partner with the Oregon State Beekeepers Association to increase information and knowledge on honey bee best management practices by developing the advanced level (Masters level) of the Master Beekeeper Program to educate and train agricultural professionals, beekeepers, farmers and interested citizens and identifying pesticides and fungicides sprayed in specialty crops such as carrot seed, blueberry and cherry that might have negative impact on honey bee health to determine appropriate management practices and floral resources to improve bee nutrition
- Partner with Oregon Strawberry Commission, in coordination with Peerbolt Crop Management, to increase the potential of both present and future Oregon strawberry growers to profitably produce fresh strawberries by creating two workshops introducing Oregon growers to the fresh strawberry market

- Partner with Rogue Farm Corps Farms Next program to launch successful specialty crop enterprises and farm businesses by delivering innovative and effective hands-on training, educational programming and business development support to the next generation of Oregon’s specialty crop farmers
- Partner with Salem-Keizer Education Foundation to address the need to recruit and train the next generation of specialty crop farmers by bringing students together with industry leaders
- Increase the purchase and consumption of Oregon fruits and vegetables by working with the FoodCorps to create and implement Science Family Nights that engage students and their families in the production and preparation of Oregon fruits, vegetables and tree nuts
- Partner with Oregon State University North Willamette Research and Extension Center to reduce the number of Christmas tree shipments that encounter some type of export restriction or rejection by engaging growers and workers in targeted training sessions for workers and growers in both English and Spanish utilizing two new publications – “Best Management Practices for Christmas tree Export Success” and “Identifying and Managing Christmas Tree Diseases, Pests and other Disorder”
- Partner with the Organic Seed Alliance and the Washington State Department of Agriculture to increase the production of four key crops by evaluating and promoting the agronomic and culinary qualities of overwintering chicories, sprouting broccoli, winter cabbage, and storage onions, developing markets for these crops by convening tasting/networking events and providing promotional marketing materials, and facilitating access to seed of appropriate varieties
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$956,374.05

Number of Projects:

19

- Increase the number of producers following Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices by implementing an outreach and educational campaign that provides an overview of the regulatory requirements and uses mock audits to encourage producer participation
- Partner with Pennsylvania State University to help specialty crop growers enter into new wholesale produce markets by providing training on the Food Safety Modernization Act requirements and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), and assisting growers to create food safety plans and pass a third party GAP harmonized audit
- Reduce the threat of food borne illnesses by conducting a cost-share program for specialty crop producers through PAGrows to offset the costs of Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices audits
- Partner with the American Mushroom Institute to create new and enhance existing best practices programs for strengthening the economic viability and competitiveness of mushroom growers, packers, and shippers in Pennsylvania by identifying unmet needs and developing training programs and instructional materials in the areas of food safety and farmworker safety education
- Increase the number of fresh, locally grown markets in underserved areas by providing funds to Pennsylvania based businesses, such as farm stands, farmers’ markets, non-profit organizations, farmers and local governments to provide food assistance to food insecure individuals and families living in Pennsylvania
- Partner with the Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Program to increase sales of apples and apple products through farm markets and retail grocers by conducting a retail promotion campaign
- Increase consumer awareness of specialty crops by expanding the existing PA Preferred promotional efforts to include an additional focus on specialty crops at tradeshow. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Work with Strategic Contracting, Inc. to increase the sales of locally grown specialty crops through improving consumer awareness of specialty crop preparation by providing the opportunity to local farmers and food suppliers to showcase their specialty crops to local consumers at the PA Preferred Culinary Connection; educating the patrons on the health benefit to their families as well as the impact on their community’s local economy by highlighting the quality and accessibility of those products; and reaching out to the restaurant community to encourage Chefs to use Pennsylvania-sourced fruits, vegetables and herbs in their establishments
- Partner with the National Peach Council in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Peach and Nectarine Research Program to increase consumer awareness and consumption of local and regionally produced peaches and the nutrient and dietary value to schools, retailers, direct marketers, and the media through newsletters, point-of-sale materials, and news stories in print and electronically

- Partner with the Pennsylvania Wine Association to increase wine sale growth by creating a user-friendly mobile website where customers and visitors can navigate to the next winery and learn about nearby wineries using their smart-phones
- Partner with the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture to increase sales of specialty crops by increasing the processing and distribution capacity of the Chester County Food Bank by conducting an assessment of the Food Bank infrastructure to determine what would be required to aggregate produce from Pennsylvania specialty crop producers and process those fruits and vegetables needed by institutions and food pantries; and providing Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point and Good Agricultural Practices food safety training to specialty crop growers and/or food bank staff
- Partner with Pennsylvania FarmLink to increase beginning/entering specialty crop farmers' knowledge concerning marketing, production, business, capital sources and land by implementing a "Certified Entering Farmer Program". Matching funds will be utilized to work with beginning farmers who do not produce specialty crops
- Reduce amounts or toxicity of pesticide products used to control a variety of tree pests and help growers integrate biological controls by educating growers about Christmas trees integrated pest management techniques
- Partner with the Blair County Conservation District to improve direct market sales and the sustainability of small farms through training, networking, and mentoring for specialty crop farmers and increase customer demand through promotional and educational programs. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Increase the number of producers following sound business practices by providing scholarships through PAGrows to young and beginning farmers for the AgBiz Masters program, a program that provides education in sound business concepts and financial management skills through online interactive modules, online discussion forums and in-person classroom presentations
- Partner with Pennsylvania Co-Operative Potato Growers, Inc. to promote quality of potato processing products in Pennsylvania by evaluating and selecting high quality processing potato varieties for par-frying and recommending potato varieties and cultural practices with high yield and good processing quality to Pennsylvania potato growers
- Partner with Pennsylvania State University to help growers prevent the introduction and spread of Phytophthora pathogens that threaten specialty crop markets by cataloging the type of Phytophthora and affected plants in the state during the last three decades, developing and disseminating comprehensive identification keys and diagnostic tools for major pathogens, and disseminating the results at extension meetings and conferences
- Assist nurseries in developing and maintaining clean production systems by moving away from a single end-point inspection toward an entire system designed to stop pests from moving in, instead of having to stop a product from moving out
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico

Amount Awarded:	\$352,290.86	Number of Projects:	8
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- Increase sales of specialty crops by improving food safety through training and mentoring programs for specialty crop producers
- Increase local specialty crop sales by implementing a large-scale promotional campaign including television, radio and print advertisements supporting specialty crops under the Delpais brand. Matching funds will be used to cover the cost of the inclusion of non-specialty crops
- Increase international sales of Puerto Rico's coffee by supporting the participation of at least two coffee producers in Specialty Coffee Association of Europe trade shows and export promotion activities
- Increase production of local leafy green vegetables in schools and increase consumption of local leafy greens by school children by providing food safety training to producers and nutrition education in schools
- Partner with Apiarios Caraballo to increase the production of honey and increase the yields of vegetable producers by providing beehives and beekeeping training to potential beekeepers and existing vegetable growers
- Partner with Nuestra Escuela, Inc. to develop a new generation of farmers by educating at-risk youth from Vieques in fruit and vegetable farming techniques through a formalized hands-on training program
- Partner with Plenitud Iniciativas Eco-educativas, Inc. to increase yield, productivity and sales of leafy greens such as kale and moringa by designing, building, and demonstrating a bioaponics system and training growers how to use it
- Partner with Nutricaribe, Inc. to develop a cacao industry by recruiting farmers to plant and farm 10,000 cacao trees

Rhode Island Division of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$205,311.17	Number of Projects:	7
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- Partner with Alex Caserta to promote Rhode Island specialty crop growers and educate consumers about locally produced specialty crops by working with the Rhode Island Public Broadcasting Service and the Rhode Island Nursery & Landscape Association to develop a pilot television series promoting specialty crops
- Partner with Farm Fresh Rhode Island to increase specialty crop purchases by local public schools by continuing to provide technical assistance to food service management companies and local farmers; making connections resulting in local specialty crops on the menu at schools, hospitals, care facilities, senior meal sites and worksite cafeterias; and building demand for local specialty crops through classroom and worksite education programs. Matching funds cover the costs associated with non-specialty crop items
- Partner with the African Alliance of Rhode Island to provide access to African vegetables grown in urban vegetable growing parcels by creating ‘African Vegetable Markets’ in pilot corner stores in African/Latino neighborhoods that will incorporate native African vegetable education programs and cooking demonstrations
- Continue to increase demand and consumption of Rhode Island Grown specialty crops by expanding on the “Rhode Island Grown Get Fresh Buy Local” initiative through produce preparation demonstrations at all RI farmers' markets and participating roadside stands; updating the RI Agricultural Display; enhancing the marketing program by making point of purchase advertising material available to farmers; and introducing electronic benefit transfer banking to farmers' markets to allow federal nutrition benefit recipients to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Matching funds will be used to cover non-specialty crops and producers
- Partner with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Rhode Island to provide training to specialty crop farmers in the use of organic production techniques. Project staff will ensure grant funds solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop through a series of administrative safe guards
- Partner with Beanhouses Inc. and the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension to determine if there are any varieties of dry beans that be grown in Rhode Island and make dry bean production an affordable option for farmers by conducting variety trials and demonstrating a bean thresher and bean winnow to growers
- Partner with the University of Rhode Island to improve yield and quality of melons by testing innovative methods of protecting melons from striped cucumber beetle damage throughout the crop cycle while minimizing risks to bees. Successful control methods will be shared with interested growers through Vegetable Twilight Meetings hosted by Cooperative Extension, and through the newly web-accessible "RI Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin"

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$508,380.54	Number of Projects:	16
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- Promote Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) certification amongst South Carolina specialty crop producers by providing a cost share reimbursement to help defray the cost of a GAP audit
- Partner with the South Carolina Watermelon Association to increase sales of South Carolina watermelons by educating consumers about the health benefits of eating watermelon through in-store promotional activities
- Increase sales of South Carolina Grown (SC Grown) specialty crops by educating consumers through a multimedia promotional campaign consisting of social media, television and radio advertisements, print promotions, and a redesign of the SC Grown website. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crops
- Increase sales of South Carolina plants and flowers by at least \$100 per vendor by promoting the products through exhibits, radio and television advertisements and print media
- Increase sales of South Carolina Grown specialty crops by enabling specialty crop producers to participate in trade shows and other retail marketing events outside the state
- Increase sales of locally branded produce by using positive messaging, merchandising strategies, and point of purchase materials to aid consumers in identifying locally grown specialty crops and understanding the value and nutrition of eating more fruits and vegetables in their daily diet via several media and direct marketing efforts
- Ease the transition of South Carolina specialty crop growers into organic certification by providing a cost share for those who are pursuing organic certification

- Partner with South Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association (SCNLA) to educate ornamental horticulture stakeholders on various topics that will enable them to better meet the business, environmental and marketing demands of the horticulture marketplace by supporting seminars at the SCNLA conference
- Partner with United Farmers USA to increase production of specialty crops by socially disadvantaged farmers, beginning farmers and youth by educating them on innovative agricultural techniques, promoting agriculture to rural communities and local school youth program through outreach, and connecting these farmers directly with consumers through educational seminars, training sessions and demonstrations
- Partner with the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) to increase the number of South Carolina producers transitioning to organic production in order to take advantage of new markets for organic specialty crops by providing organic/transition consultation; expanding staff certification to include Nutrient Management, Pollinator Habitat Plans, and Conservation Activity Plans; and integrating these services with other CFSA Farm Service offerings
- Partner with Lowcountry Local First (LLF) to increase specialty crop production in South Carolina by mentoring new farmers in LLF's Growing New Farmers Incubator Program, developing associated curriculum, and providing statewide consultation to partner organizations with the ultimate goal of developing a formal certificate program for new and beginning farmers
- Partner with Clemson University to determine the potential economic impact and feasibility of creating a local-regional food hub for Horry County and surrounding counties by conducting surveys of local producers and distributors, analyzing other successful food hubs in other communities, and sharing the results with stakeholders. Only specialty crop producers will be allowed to participate in the project and the food hub planning sessions
- Partner with Clemson University to improve breeding efficiency in the South Carolina peach breeding program by evaluating fruit quality and phytochemical composition of South Carolina peach varieties, identifying markers associated with desirable fruit traits, analyzing breeding germplasm and newly developed hybrids to ensure appropriate parental selection, analyzing sugar composition, and sharing results of the project with South Carolina peach growers through presentations at grower meetings
- Partner with Clemson University to reduce peach and strawberry loss to Anthracnose pathogens by determining the genetic changes that make this fungus resistant to fungicides, identifying fungicides of different chemical classes that are effective for Anthracnose mutant strains, determining the effectiveness of new designed spray programs against Anthracnose and sharing results with growers at various state and regional fruit and vegetable conferences
- Partner with Clemson University to improve control of powdery mildew and anthracnose on watermelon by testing various fungicides and measuring disease control, yield, sugar content, and crop value and providing results of the study to growers through presentations at field days and extension activities
- Perform pre-award and post award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

South Dakota Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$194,842.04

Number of Projects:

13

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- Increase the awareness of South Dakota wines among consumers by hosting a Wine Pavilion at the South Dakota State Fair
 - Partner with the South Dakota Department of Health to enhance strategies that were previously implemented to improve consumption of fruits and vegetables including the statewide marketing efforts YUM! social media campaign, Healthy Concessions campaign, and Harvest of the Month education materials and community partnerships
 - Partner with Buy Fresh Buy Local South Dakota to assist small producers to start up specialty crop only farmers' markets in rural areas and reservations thorough workshops and promotional materials
 - Partner with Robert Weyrich to video archive Dr. Ron Peterson's pioneering research at South Dakota State University that resulted in the development of the Valiant grape and offer it as a marketing element for local food identities. The video will be shared with the South Dakota Specialty Producers Association, the South Dakota Winegrowers, and the public
 - Work with farmers markets across South Dakota to collect pricing, gross sales and customer information regarding specialty crops and make that information available to specialty crop producers and industry partners
 - Partner with South Dakota State University Extension to educate growers in grape pre-harvest parameter measurements and provide critical information to growers on cultivar fruit quality performance in South Dakota by providing grower workshops and conducting an analysis of malic acid content during berry development to determine environmental interactions in addition to cultivar specific content

- Partner with South Dakota Pulse Growers Inc. to increase field pea, lentil and chickpea production in South Dakota by educating growers on production practices and increase awareness and consumption of these crops by educating consumers and food service personnel on the nutritional benefits
- Partner with Ground Works to use two established Sioux Falls elementary school teaching gardens as catalysts to increase the vegetable and fruit consumption of nearly 1,000 students, 80 teachers/staff, their families, and neighborhoods
- Partner with Growing Local Production Seminar to initiate a networking and learning event at the State Fair dedicated to topics specialty crop growers would be interested in such as soil management, irrigation practices, integrated pest management, weed management, plant disease management, variety selection, successful farmer market practices, food safety practices, U.S. Department of Agriculture produce grading standards and high tunnel management practices, value added processing, and marketing
- Partner with Time At The Table, Inc. to educate Mitchell, South Dakota residents on how fruits and vegetables come from farms by providing a community garden and cooking classes
- Partner with Cedar Creek Gardens LLC to increase food distribution of winter specialty crops in rural areas by filming the creation of turning a recycled unused grain bin and an abandoned cistern into a root cellar for winter storage of specialty crops
- Partner with Anderson Hop Farm, LLC to increase hop production and profitability in South Dakota by determining the feasibility of a processing facility to encourage new growers to farm hops, and sharing local South Dakota hops production knowledge with other growers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$474,045.24

Number of Projects:

13

- Partner with the University of Tennessee to have an increased number of specialty crop growers implementing Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) on their farms by developing food safety training material for visual and low-literacy audiences based on GAP and using these materials to train produce growers throughout Tennessee
- Conduct an educational campaign designed to educate the growers throughout the state of the advantages and benefits of going through a Good Agricultural Practices audit
- Partner with Nashville Grown to increase revenues to farmers by expanding the reach of the “Nashville Grown” food hub to all specialty crop growers within 100 miles of Nashville who could benefit from additional wholesale marketing opportunities and educating the Nashville public about locally grown specialty crops and the local restaurants, businesses, and institutions from which these crops can be purchased or consumed
- Increase promotion, production, and availability of specialty produce in Tennessee’s foodservice industry by bringing together Tennessee specialty crop producers from various organizations in the institutional and food service industry through a marketing and outreach campaign
- Partner with the Tennessee Fruit and Vegetable Association to increase fruit and vegetable grower knowledge of marketing methods to increase their profits by providing a central point of communication for marketing and information that will work with Tennessee specialty crop producers, creating marketing materials, events, and formulating a strategic plan
- Partner with the Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association to enable growers to market their products to a national and/or international marketplace and increase their sales by providing a cost-share for growers to attend an exhibition
- Partner with Landmark Training to implement an urban farm training program that nurtures relationships between selected at-risk urban youth and their families by growing, harvesting, canning, selling, and eating healthy specialty crop foods
- Partner with the University of Tennessee at Martin to increase the number of producers using alternative growing methods by constructing a high tunnel at Hidden Hill Farm, a community supported agriculture farm, in Dresden, TN, and educating local small producers, the public, and university students on alternative methods for growing specialty crops through public farm tours, small producer workshops, and farm visits from local school children
- Partner with Rural Resources to increase consumption of specialty crops in a Northeast Tennessee food desert by involving students at the Greeneville City and Greene County School systems in Harvest of the Month tasting and cooking activities so that students can meet farmers and taste what they are growing, involving food-insecure teens in growing and preparing specialty crops on the Rural Resources farm, and providing families living in the heart of our food desert the opportunity to grow in containers and enjoy samples of their favorite specialty crops

- Partner with the University of Tennessee, through collaboration with the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, and the Tennessee Organic Growers Association to assist specialty crop growers diversify their market and receive income over a longer period of the year by developing a workshop series, webinars and factsheets for specialty crop growers considering community supported agriculture in Tennessee
- Partner with the Tennessee Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom to increase students' intake of Tennessee fruits and vegetables by providing teachers and schools a gardening and specialty crop curriculum
- Partner with the University of Tennessee to develop alternative income sources for Tennessee producers by investigating the potential of two different crops, Stevia rebaudiana and chokeberry (*Photinia floribunda*, *P. pyrifolia*, and *P. melanocarpa*), for production in Tennessee on a small commercial scale, and developing publications and presentations as a result of the work
- Partner with the Sanderson Family Farm to increase agricultural commerce in Tennessee through crop diversification by producing two new varieties of Viniferous grapes in Tennessee and effectively reporting the results of the multi-year study to interested stakeholders

Texas Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,420,956.39	Number of Projects:	16
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- Partner with the Texas Vegetable Association along with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M Center for Food Safety, and Texas A&M AgriLife Research to increase grower/packer awareness of field and packing process high risk contamination areas and ultimately limit contamination outbreaks by identifying best practices to reduce the risk contamination areas in harvesting situations across multiple specialty crops that are grown in Texas
- Partner with the Texas Vegetable Association to increase brand awareness and sales of specialty crops by utilizing increased media, billboards and in-store demonstrations to educate consumers on the health benefits, availability and freshness of GO TEXAN vegetables and the benefits of pairing vegetables and dairy together to make a tasty, healthy meal. Matching funds will be used to cover non specialty crop expenses
- Increase retail sales of specialty crops by maintaining a liaison position within the Texas Department of Agriculture, creating a promotional campaign using in-store advertising, online advertisements and social media to drive consumers to their local retailers for Texas grown produce and horticulture products, and promoting Texas produce in restaurants through targeting advertising and social media. Matching funds will be used to cover non-specialty crop promotions
- Partner with the Texas Olive Oil Council to increase Texas olive orchard productivity and yield by providing state of the industry training for optimizing fruiting and harvesting management practices using digital technology distribution
- Partner with the Sustainable Food Center to increase sales of specialty crops at two farmers markets by employing a Food Access Manager to train specialty crop growers to participate in the Double Dollar Incentive Program that doubles the value of fruits and vegetable purchases using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infant and Children (WIC), and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) benefits
- Partner with the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association and the Texas Watersmart Group to improve water conservation and minimize the effects of drought by educating consumers about water conservation through radio advertising
- Partner with the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association to improve water conservations by providing both face-to-face and online training on water saving strategies for both businesses and consumers
- Partner with TexaSweat Citrus Marketing to increase sales and consumption of Texas Grapefruit by continuing to conduct education and promotional programs to classrooms and reinforce messages shared in schools with a blogger ambassador program and media outreach
- Partner with the Texas International Produce Association and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to increase education and awareness of water conserving technologies and practices through educational field days and workshops
- Partner with the Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District and Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center to increase the number of Texas urban and rural growers adopting water use efficient production systems for leafy greens through the use of targeted educational and outreach programs that help growers develop efficient production practices
- Partner with the Texas Pecan Growers Association, Texas Tech University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to increase truffle production in Texas by continuing to promote truffles to growers and consumers and conducting research to provide growers with the best production practices for co-cropping of truffles and pecans in Texas

- Partner with the National Center for Appropriate Technology and Texas A&M Agrilife Research to enhance the quality, taste and production of specialty melons and artichokes by expanding evaluations in replicated trials, studying quality and yield responses under various conditions and production systems, and sharing results of the studies with growers and consumers through workshops, field days and product demonstrations
- Partner with the Texas Pecan Growers Association and Texas A&M AgriLife Research to continue to increase knowledge of growers about the most susceptible rootstocks and potential for new resistant rootstocks to cotton root rot by informing pecan growers of the results of the early cotton root rot evaluations among pecan germplasm being assessed
- Partner with J&D Produce and Texas AgriLife Research to allow growers to expand production and capture a larger market share for Texas grown tomatoes by conducting field trials for tomato yellow leaf curl virus resistant cultivars bred by Texas A&M University so that Texas tomato growers have multiple resistant options
- Partner with Texas Citrus Mutual to continue to slow the spread of citrus greening disease or Huanglongbing (HLB) in the Rio Grande Valley by using an area-wide HLB detection survey complimented by grower and public outreach
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Amount Awarded:	\$279,851.65	Number of Projects:	16
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- Partner with the Utah Red Tart Cherry Marketing Board and the Cherry Marketing Institute to increase sales of tart cherry by reintroducing the fruit to ingredient decision makers who may have stopped using the ingredient due to lack of supply resulting from the loss of the crop in 2012 by advertising tart cherries in key trade publications
- Partner with Thanksgiving Point Institute to increase the knowledge skills and attitudes of 4-H Club participants about specialty crops by supporting the 4-H Junior Master Gardeners Club, that plants, cares for, and harvests a variety of fruits and vegetables at Thanksgiving Point, and the 4-H Growing Leaders Club, that provides leadership to education programs at Thanksgiving Point
- Partner with the City of South Salt Lake Department of Urban Livability to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables by creating a farm stand, connecting residents interested in producing fruits and vegetables with existing resources, and organizing and recruiting fruit and vegetable growers to participate in the South Salt Lake Farmers' Market
- Partner with Discovery Gateway: The Children's Museum of Utah to increase awareness of the importance of consuming fresh produce by educating children in underserved communities through specialized lessons and exhibits focused on specialty crops
- Partner with the Wasatch Community Gardens to increase child nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops among low-income youth by providing a Youth Gardening Program to empower youth with the skills, awareness, and knowledge to grow and harvest food locally, to taste and prepare new fruits and vegetables, and to make healthy choices for themselves and the environment
- Partner with Utah State University to help growers make appropriate decisions on how to protect plants from cold conditions by testing commonly used conditioning treatments to determine their effect on tunnel or field establishment, early growth, and yield potential, studying cold tolerance of various fruits and vegetables, and sharing the results of the study with Utah's vegetable growers
- Partner with the Plants, Soils, and Climate Department at Utah State University to determine if Gambel oak and dwarf serviceberry can thrive in Utah by improving vegetative propagation, sharing the results with Utah growers through presentations, and tracking the number of growers that implement the techniques developed to grow these plants
- Partner with Utah State University to improve conventional orchard floor management options for improved tree nutrition, pest control and efficient water use by studying the effects of organic matter inputs, groundcover and mulches on soil quality and orchard water use; determining the economic potential for generating farm-grown fertility; and sharing results with growers through presentations and the development and distribution of fact sheets
- Partner with Brigham Young University to further develop the specialty crop industry in Utah by evaluating the productivity of agave and Opuntia, sharing results with potential growers through presentations, and tracking the number of growers who are interested in growing these crops
- Partner with Utah State University to minimize the damage to peach, apricot and nectarine trees due to peach twig borer using peach twig borer mating disruption by determining the optimal time to hang peach twig borer disruption dispensers; examining the efficacy of a new, unregistered, cost-saving mating disruption tool called Puffers; disseminating results to growers; and tracking their adoption of the methods

- Partner with Utah State University to minimize pest damage in greenhouses by increasing adoption of biological control as a sustainable pest management through hands-on training and demonstrations
- Partner with Utah State University to minimize damage from fire blight in apple and pear orchards in Utah by determining the efficacy of chemical and biological alternatives to streptomycin for fire blight control and sharing the results with growers
- Partner with Utah State University to minimize damage to high value vegetable crops due to insect-vectored viruses and *Candidatus Liberibacter* by identifying them, determining their distribution, establishment and vectors in the state of Utah, and sharing the results of the study with Utah growers
- Partner with Utah State University to minimize damage caused by tree fruit leafroller by determining their biology and phenology, developing outreach timing tools to improve management, and sharing the results of the project with tree fruit growers
- Support the tree fruit industry and the honeybee industry by conducting a survey to determine which bee diseases, parasites and pests are present in Utah and to determine the current status of honey bee colony production and health and helping specialty crop producers better understand how to maximize honeybee pollination of their crops
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Vermont Agency of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$209,332.96

Number of Projects:

11

- Partner with the University of Vermont Extension Center for Sustainable Agriculture to improve food safety for apple, vegetable, and berry growers by providing in-person food safety training to regions of Vermont not yet reached, keeping the cost of attending the workshops reasonable for farmers who are often stretched financially, and providing an on-farm training component
- Partner with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont to increase the number of consumers farmers can reach through community supported agriculture (CSA) by creating a network of CSA farmers through which they can share experiences and by providing them with direct marketing support to increase consumer shares. Matching funds will be used to cover any activities and costs that do not solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops
- Partner with Vital Communities to open and expand farm-to-workplace markets for specialty crop producers by promoting the benefits of farm-to-workplace sales, establishing protocols for matching worksites with farmers, facilitating relationships between worksites and farms, and sharing best practices with growers and consumers alike. Matching funds will be used to cover the cost of any activities that benefit non-specialty crops
- Partner with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont to increase sales for the Intervale Food Hub's specialty crop producers by developing a booklet for food hub best practices, developing and implementing a marketing and outreach campaign, and surveying consumers to determine their level of participation in the local food economy. Matching funds will be used to cover the costs associated with any benefit to non-specialty crops and all marketing activities will only include specialty crops
- Partner with the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association to increase sales among maple sugar producers by developing and implementing a comprehensive social media marketing campaign
- Increase consumer awareness of the quality of Vermont value-added specialty crop products as well as increase export sales for the producers of these products by showcasing products at the Summer Fancy Food Show and encouraging producers to explore international markets by offering scholarships for the ExportTec Program. Only producers of eligible specialty crop processed products will be allowed to participate in this project
- Partner with the University of Vermont Apple Program to provide access to timely production-related information that will enhance farm profitability and sustainability for Vermont apple growers by developing a comprehensive website containing information on improved management of farm inputs, food production issues, and food safety, among other pertinent topics
- Partner with the Floating Bridge Food and Farms Cooperative to increase consumer awareness and consumption of locally grown specialty crops by providing educational workshops, classes and online outreach to local, regional, and out-of-state consumers. Workshops and classes will include only eligible specialty crops
- Partner with the University of Vermont to increase the profitability of Brassica farmers by developing low-input pest management strategies that will allow vegetable growers to reduce Brassica losses to swede midge and sharing alternative management strategies with growers at the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association meeting

- Partner with the University of Vermont's Department of Plant and Social Science to help blueberry and raspberry growers minimize the damage caused by the spotted wing drosophila (SWD) by identifying and testing cost effective methods for organically managing SWD, organizing pest control workshops, and providing timely and useful information to growers that will enable them to make effective SWD management decisions
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Amount Awarded:

\$458,981.48

Number of Projects:

19

- Partner with the Southwest Virginia Farmers Market (SWVFM) to provide Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Point and Good Agricultural Practices training and consultation by PrimusLabs to the SWVFM and regional produce growers in order to achieve Global Food Safety Initiative Certification
- Partner with Appalachian Sustainable Development to increase the number of specialty crop farmers in Virginia that are Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certified or Harmonized GAP certified by providing training and consultation to prepare them to be certification-ready and expanding the training to include direct-market farmers who may need certification to sell to restaurants and/or institutions
- Partner with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University – Eastern Shore Agricultural Research & Extension Center to reduce the occurrence and/or population of Salmonella in fresh produce, especially tomatoes, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia by determining the dynamics of the food borne bacterial pathogen in relationship to irrigation water sources used for vegetable production and sharing the information with growers through extension talks, field days, and publications
- Partner with Local Food Hub, Inc. to increase the number of farms that are Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certified, or, if they are exempt from the Food Safety Modernization Act, have adopted GAP-compliant practices, and to increase institutional purchasing of local specialty crops as a result by providing food safety technical assistance and training to specialty crop producers through a series of workshops that build the foundation for institutional growing
- Partner with the Virginia Wineries Association to continue the efforts of the Commonwealth Quality Alliance (CQA) by creating more awareness of it through winery, consumer, retailers, wholesalers, and restaurant marketing efforts, and increasing the number of CQA participating wineries and the number of CQA Approved wines through the creation and implementation of a wineries incentives program
- Partner with the Virginia Wineries Association Cooperative to ensure individual farmer income and the sustainability of the wine industry by establishing a Collective Purchasing Program to collectively purchase vineyard and winery equipment, supplies and services
- Partner with the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association to continue to develop the Christmas tree industry by educating growers on new marketing strategies, promotional techniques, and methodologies for maximizing the buying and selling potential between wholesale retailers and growers and by providing general promotional support
- Partner with the Virginia Association for Biological Farming to increase the profitability of specialty crop producers in the Richmond area through direct marketing and agritourism by establishing an annual Farm Tour weekend, in which sustainable farms in the Richmond region will open their doors to the public on a Saturday and Sunday afternoon each year. A selection committee will interview and select farms to be included in the tour that grow specialty crops
- Partner with Virginia Polytechnic and State University to educate nursery and landscape industry personnel as well as Virginia homeowners on the benefits and value of using edible fruit-bearing species in residential landscapes through the establishment of edible landscape demonstration gardens at three major botanical gardens
- Partner with the Lynchburg Health Department to increase urban agriculture activities to expand specialty crop production and procurement in the Commonwealth of Virginia by hosting the Virginia Urban Agriculture Summit to connect rural producers with urban buyers, community gardens, and urban farms, among others and provide education through workshops on various topics. Grant funding will be used to focus on planning activities associated with specialty crop production and for specialty crop producers who are speakers
- Partner with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to increase the quantity and quality of hard cider produced in Virginia by conducting research to identify the top performing hard cider-specific cultivars and providing training to commercial orchardists, cider makers, and associated professionals on the horticultural and economic feasibility of growing hard cider cultivars

- Partner with Virginia State University to establish chickpea as a new specialty crop for production by Virginia farmers and utilization by the local food industry by forming standard criteria for physiochemical and functional properties of chickpea and disseminating research findings to potential producers through the Small Farm Outreach Program
- Partner with Patrick Henry Community College to create the opportunity to provide fresh greens to local public schools and local restaurants by further studying the development of salad greens production using hydroponic systems in underused industrial sites in Martinsville, VA, developing Good Agricultural Practices compliance protocols, and selecting proper packaging for use in the handling of fresh salad greens
- Partner with Virginia Pumpkin Growers Association to increase the profitability of strawberry production by determining if strawberries grown in a substrate system in a high tunnel environment will produce enough yields to justify the additional cost or economic feasibility in rural areas of Virginia and disseminating the results through various producer meetings and field day
- Partner with Old Dominion University Research Foundation to improve strawberry crop yield and quality by evaluating strawberry pollination rates and berry quality through the establishment of six small farms with mason bees and bee houses in Southeast Virginia. Glasshouse studies will also be performed to examine details of mason bee pollination of organic strawberries and results of the studies will be shared with farmers at meetings and through publications
- Partner with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University – Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center to provide organic producers with options for disease and weed control by comparing strawberry production using conventional pest control tools including fumigation and herbicide treatment, to non-chemical approaches utilizing soil solarization and microwave treatments and sharing the benefits of this technology with growers through field days and the web
- Partner with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University - Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center to decrease maintenance costs of row middles, reduce herbicide inputs, and reduce soil and nutrient loss, while improving vine growth by evaluating cover crops for use in newly-established vineyards and disseminating results to growers through extension programs
- Partner with Appalachian Sustainable Development to help growers find a secure foothold in wholesale produce by offering buyers a wide range of options for “locally grown” that includes Brussels sprouts by conducting on-farm trials of Brussels sprouts
- To increase Virginia’s strawberry production by providing strawberry growers with tissue sample analysis that will allow growers to fine-tune nitrogen application and other nutrients to maximize fruit yield and quality and supporting the newly formed Virginia Strawberry Growers Association to hold its first grower’s meeting and address the needs of Virginia’s strawberry growers

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$3,261,843.96

Number of Projects:

24

- Partner with the Washington State Wine Commission in coordination with Visit Seattle to increase sales of Washington wineries by conducting a reverse trade mission with wine buyers and travel journalists from China and Canada enabling attendees to establish sales relationships with Washington wineries and build Washington State’s reputation as a premier destination for wine tourism
- Partner with the Pear Bureau Northwest and the Oregon Department of Agriculture to increase pear sales in Southern China markets by conducting the “USA Pear Road Show” where supermarket shoppers in China as well as children will increase their awareness about USA Pear attributes, including varieties, availability, ripening, nutrition, and usage
- Partner with the Washington Blueberry Commission to increase blueberry exports by conducting a professional assessment on the market for blueberries in South Korea, China and Vietnam in order to determine where to invest its own resources in market development and promotion
- Partner with the Northwest Cider Association to help increase awareness and distribution of northwest cider and ensure there is a supply of cider apples to meet the growing demand through a domestic marketing program and production research with a goal of commercial implementation of mechanical harvesting
- Partner with Viva Farms to provide an incubator program for new specialty crop producers, host workshops, and work with Washington State University Small Farms Program to carry out a program assessment measuring the community, social, and economic impact of the incubator to be shared with development programs throughout Washington. Matching funds and in-kind instructor time will be provided to support non-specialty crop producers who may be served during open courses

- Partner with Washington State University to increase knowledge and awareness about biological control, natural enemies and ways to enhance biological control in tree fruits by developing an online educational course that will train growers, orchard managers, and crop consultants on the use and value of biological control components of integrated pest management in tree fruit orchards. The project focuses on beginning farms and is committed to at least 50 percent Latino specialty crop grower participation
- Partner with Washington State University to increase the number of farmers in Snohomish County using compost on specialty crops by enabling growers to participate in compost research trials to demonstrate enhanced soil quality, nutrient retention and increased water infiltration rates
- Partner with Washington State University to allow specialty crop growers to make better decisions by providing them access to the AgWeatherNet portal integrating current and past weather conditions with high resolution spatial hourly weather predictions up to 24 to 72 hours out
- Partner with Whatcom Farm Friends to reduce current water supply uncertainties and secure access to irrigation water for years to come by integrating specialty crop grower's water use and needs into the Whatcom County Water Use Plan and create an Agriculture Water District to implement water strategies that address grower needs. Matching funds will be used to cover the portion of the project that benefits non-specialty crops
- Partner with Northwest Food Processors Association to increase knowledge and ability of specialty crop processors to create sustainability deployment plans for their plants and achieve efficiencies that preserve key resources by providing specialty crop processors at no cost with online resources and face to face training
- Partner with the Washington State Fruit Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to develop a shelf-stable, standardized cherry powder in order to conduct research to support the health impact of all natural sweet cherries
- Partner with Whatcom Farm Friends to increase sales of blueberries in Asian markets by conducting field research to generate residue decline curves that will allow the blueberry industry to develop more effective pesticide use patterns using currently registered products to control spotted wing drosophila
- Partner with the Washington Red Raspberry Commission to reduce the cost of red-raspberry production while minimizing crop losses for growers by developing a systematic approach for cane management through horticultural modifications for physically separating one-year and two-year old canes. These systems will be evaluated for their feasibility to allow mechanized pruning of two-year old canes while maintaining the desired level of yield. In addition, techniques will be developed to bundle one-year old canes together and tie them to the trellis wires
- Partner with Washington State University to expand acreage, yields, and quality of white wine grapes by determining the effectiveness of three decision-aid tools that will use measurements of weather conditions (atmosphere- or ET-based), soil moisture (soil-based), or plant water status (plant-based) to calculate weekly vineyard water requirements. The best tool, or a combination of tools, will then be put to use to determine optimized irrigation strategies for white wine grape production. Finally, recommendations will be transferred to the industry in the format of website content, workshops, field days, conference presentations, and appropriate publications
- Partner with Washington State University to increase production of dry beans by conducting field trials on dry bean varieties that are early maturing and disease resistant in multiple locations so that recommendations can be made to growers on variety choice and planting date and performing laboratory tests on cooking time and nutritional value to aid in marketing strategies
- Partner with Washington State University to improve the production potential for English/garden and edible pod peas by investigating changes in the genetic identity of the powdery mildew fungus in order to develop online breeding tools along with extension bulletins and online resources for powdery mildew management
- Partner with Washington State University to increase vine health, fruit yield and berry quality by documenting the extent of the distribution of Grapevine redleaf or redblotch disease in Washington vineyards using high throughput diagnostic assays and studying impacts of the disease on red and white grape cultivars in order to empower grape growers, nurseries and regulatory agencies with new knowledge and strategies to contain an emerging virus disease in Washington vineyards
- Partner with Washington State University to address the potential fruit damage and lost revenue of sweet cherry growers by providing them with the necessary integrated pest management information to control the spotted wing drosophila
- Partner with Washington State University to provide cherry growers new and novel means of sustainably managing the powdery mildew disease of cherries by extending the management season to keep the disease at low levels on foliage, and in doing so, reduce or eliminate the survival phase of the life cycle of the causal organism
- Partner with Washington State University to increase crop value for Washington State Christmas tree growers by developing best management practice recommendations to control the adelgid pest on Nordmann and Turkish firs

- Partner with the Washington Asparagus Commission to help growers reduce disease outbreaks and maintain more of their crops value by evaluating asparagus varieties with higher and lower disease susceptibilit
- Partner with the Organic Seed Alliance and the Oregon Department of Agriculture to increase the production of four key crops by evaluating and promoting the agronomic and culinary qualities of overwintering chicories, sprouting broccoli, winter cabbage, and storage onions, developing markets for these crops by convening tasting/networking events and providing promotional marketing materials and, facilitating access to seed of appropriate varieties
- Partner with Kwiaht: Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea to build a market for local camas by researching productive cultivation of camas as a sustainable dry farmed food crop in the San Juan Islands and Western Washington; providing outreach to potential growers including Tribal garden and food programs about trialing camas; and conducting outreach to consumers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$204,802.83	Number of Projects:	17
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- Partner with West Virginia University to encourage new producers to begin producing maple syrup by developing a course devoted to maple syrup production and business planning, and using field days and workshops to demonstrate the establishment and production of a syrup operation for small landowners
- Partner with the Tri-County Partnership for Mid-Ohio Valley Growers Association to increase the profitability of specialty crop producers in the Mid-Ohio Valley and ultimately improve the food security and health of the region by developing a website and distribution system that can be utilized by the fruit and vegetable growers to sell more produce to consumers in the region. An additional 10 percent per item up-charge on the membership fee will be charged to producers listing products that are not eligible specialty crops on this website to act as a matching funds for expenses associated with those products
- Partner with the Coal Heritage Highway Authority to increase consumer knowledge of using and preserving locally grown specialty crops by distributing recipe cards at the Bramwell Farmers' Market and healthy eating classes
- Partner with the Tamarack: Best of West Virginia to increase specialty crop sales and vendors at the Tamarack Farmers Market by conducting a marketing campaign promoting specialty crop vendors and available specialty crops at the market using print media, newspaper advertisements, and radio promotions
- Increase West Virginia wine sales by providing a wine trail publication that will highlight both production and attractions in the wine industry
- Partner with Oak Hill High School to increase student consumption of fresh produce in an underserved area by incorporating specialty crops into biology projects and by planting, maintaining, harvesting, and preparing specialty crops from a kitchen garden
- Partner with the Capitol Conservation District to educate current and future specialty crop producers about the importance of soil care in the production of specialty crops through a soil tunnel trailer
- Partner with the Potomac State College of West Virginia University to increase student and producer knowledge of hydroponic greenhouse and high tunnels for cold season production by developing a greenhouse hydroponic specialty lettuce production model and a high tunnel cool season vegetable production model
- Partner with West Teays Elementary School to get youth excited about fruits and vegetables by establishing a school garden that will be used to teach students how to grow their own fruits and vegetables and incorporate science, technology, engineering, and math education
- Meet the knowledge and regulatory needs of both the production and manufacturing sector of the West Virginia specialty crops industry by offering educational programs for specialty crop producers on personnel safety, production practices that minimize the risk of pathogen introduction and proper manufacturing practices of specialty crops
- Partner with the Jackson County Commission to support later local markets by determining the yield percentage and most desirable watermelon for consumers by conducting varietal trials for five late-season melon varieties in the Ohio Valley region and disseminating the results through articles and publications

- Partner with West Virginia State University Research and Development Corporation to determine if a viable market exists for locally grown and organically produced hops in West Virginia by surveying West Virginia brewers to gauge their opinions on price points for fresh hops, the desirability of locally grown as well as organically produced hops, and the value added to the commodity based on these attributes; establishing the growing and management techniques for the crop that are best suited for the West Virginia climate; performing variety trails to determine which hops strains perform best in West Virginia; and presenting project outcomes to growers and brewers
- Partner with West Virginia State University Research and Development Corporation to diversify existing mushroom markets and create new mushroom markets in the state of West Virginia through the creation of two demonstration sites for varietal trials and grower workshops
- Partner with West Virginia University to increase management options for growers whose peach and apple trees have been diagnosed with nematode problems by assessing tree growth and yield to determine potential benefits of new commercially-available nematode biocontrol agents and providing management recommendations to growers
- Partner with the New Appalachia Farm and Research Center to increase access for local vegetable producers to schools by evaluating the feasibility of some minimal preparation and packaging of vegetables being provided in advance of delivery for school cafeterias
- Partner with West Virginia University's Cooperative Extension Small Farm Center to increase the production potential of sauce tomatoes by exploring the feasibility of starting up a commercial processing facility to process the tomatoes into marinara sauce, then market and distribute the sauce to schools, institutions, and homes
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Amount Awarded:

\$870,891.70

Number of Projects:

19

- Partner with the Waukesha County University of Wisconsin Extension Service to educate farmers and mitigate the risk of food borne illness, particularly amongst new and beginning farmers, by providing food safety workshops and technical assistance, conducting mock audits, and developing a food safety video
- Make third-party food safety audits available to small and medium-size Wisconsin producers by continuing a cost share arrangement for Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices audits and providing pre-audit educational opportunities
- Support underserved farmers in the Hmong community as they increase their understanding of Good Agricultural Practices and safe food handling by providing educational workshops in the Hmong language
- Partner with the REAP Food Group to increase the sales of local fruit and vegetables by creating new farmer-chef connections, encouraging food establishments to design menu options highlighting local produce, educating consumers dining at participating food service establishments, educating chefs who are uncertain about how to purchase local produce, and providing incentives to restaurants when they purchase local produce
- Partner with the Fairshare CSA Coalition to improve grower understanding of vegetable labor costs, increase the capacity of growers to set appropriate prices, increase grower knowledge of the impact of innovative production techniques and tools, and increase grower use of the Veggie Compass profitability program by organizing workshops, developing training videos and providing technical assistance to growers
- Partner with the REAP Food Group to increase the sales of locally grown produce to schools by providing consultation to school districts and area farms to create new bidding, food safety, and seasonal/varietal preference protocols, and facilitating the use of local and regional processing facilities to produce fresh-cut, ready-to-use products for use in school salad bars
- Partner with Farm Commons to educate farmers on the legalities of selling and buying specialty crops by producing legal guides on contract law regarding fresh fruit and vegetables and on food safety liability and developing webinars on the same topics
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato Industry Board in collaboration with the Midwest Food Processors Association and the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association to reduce water use by evaluating the effect of deficit irrigation on yield, quality, and pest pressures of potato, sweet corn, and snap bean and sharing the results with producers in Central Wisconsin

- Partner with Bayfield County to provide growers in the Upper Midwest with a differentiated hazelnut product and allow them to pursue a geographic indication for marketing their specialty oils and nut-butters by evaluating the flavor and kernel quality of American hazelnuts, hastening the breeding process through development of a novel clonal propagation technique, conducting replicated progeny testing, and sharing the research results with growers and potential growers
- Partner with the Wisconsin Ginseng Board to increase ginseng exports for approximately 150 growers including about 44 Hmong growers by monitoring maximum residue limits among international ginseng markets, testing seed treatments and biologically active mulch as a means to exclude pests, and developing pesticide recommendations for growers that protect the crop and allow it to be exported
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin to support the growth of the Wisconsin hop industry by identifying high yield and high quality varieties adapted to Wisconsin, developing an economically sustainable system for production of pathogen-free planting stock, evaluating the disease status of existing hop yard plantings and providing grower education
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato Industry Board to optimize pest and disease control in vegetables with a reduced reliance on pesticides and environmental impact and enhance yield and economic return on investment by developing and evaluating pest and disease forecasting models, building a weather database to drive such forecasting models, and developing and disseminating related extension materials to producers
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato Industry Board to enhance the financial stability and future growth of the Wisconsin high tunnel tomato industry by developing a crop profile for high tunnel tomato, defining an economic threshold for leaf mold to determine need and timing of fungicide application, creating a biointensive integrated pest management production guide for high tunnel tomato, and extending results of research to growers through multiple University of Wisconsin-Extension educational outlets and web-based resources
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato Industry Board to increase the number of growers using clean potato seed by identifying new potato varieties with production and market potential in Wisconsin, screening potential varieties for improved culinary characteristics and resistance to key potato diseases, producing virus free seed, evaluating nitrogen fertilizer and irrigation needs, and predicting the value of new varieties for growers and packing sheds
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin to help Wisconsin cranberry producers reduce pesticide use and environmental threats, and ultimately expand the international market for Wisconsin cranberries by determining cranberry flea beetle overwintering patterns, testing the efficiency of soil-drenches timed for larval emergence, and disseminating research results throughout the cranberry producing community
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin to reduce pesticide use, decrease environmental impacts, and save growers of cold hardy grape varieties input costs by evaluating the performance of spotted wing drosophila on cold climate grape varieties, establishing the correlation between SWD adult presence and fruit infestation or damage, and disseminating research results through reports and field days
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato Industry Board to increase potato growers adoption of integrated pest management practices for key insect pests in potato with a focus on the lower Colorado potato beetle (CPB) pest populations by assessing CPB insensitivity to neonicotinoid insecticides to limit current and future potential for groundwater contamination, determining the relationship of insecticide use and in-plant insecticide use on neonicotinoid leaching, and investigating the spatial scale of insecticide contamination
- Partner with McKay Nursery to increase the efficiency and environmental sustainability of ornamental plants by studying whether a cover crop blend consisting of the annual tillage radish and the perennial red clover will provide sufficient weed suppression and sharing project information with growers through journal articles and meetings
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$197,419.35

Number of Projects:

12

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- Partner with the University of Wyoming Extension, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to educate specialty crop producers on Good Agricultural Practices and the steps required to maintain compliance
 - Partner with the University of Wyoming Extension, Nutrition and Food Safety to increase knowledge and skills of home specialty crop food preservers in Wyoming about preventing food borne illness outbreaks by printing and distributing "Preserving Food in Wyoming" and "Canner's Corner" bulletins specifically for specialty crops at extension offices and canning workshops across the state

- Increase the availability of specialty crops in Wyoming by providing support to agency partners, producers and consumers for marketing, education, season extension, research, food safety, and product distribution
- Partner with the University of Wyoming Extension, Department of Plant Sciences to examine the yield and production costs of high tunnel grown strawberries using vertical growing systems when compared to strawberries grown in the ground and publicize the results of the study via vertical growing seminars and on the University of Wyoming website
- Partner with the University of Wyoming, Department of Plant Sciences to investigate kinwa (quinoa) as a viable crop for leafy green production in Wyoming and communicate successful project results to interested growers
- Partner with the University of Wyoming, Sheridan Research & Extension Center to improve grape vine health and productivity by evaluating the incidence of grapevine cold damage in Wyoming vineyards and developing canopy management practices for members of the Wyoming Grape and Wine Association and homeowners with backyard plantings
- Partner with the University of Wyoming Sheridan Research & Extension Center to extend the production season of specialty crops by evaluating three different production systems for specialty crops: high tunnel, low tunnel, and low tunnel within the high tunnel and publishing the project results in extension bulletins and demonstrated via field days
- Partner with the University of Wyoming Extension, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to involve Wyoming Master Gardeners in an effort to develop winter hardy food peas for home and commercial production
- Partner with the Wyoming Community Network to increase specialty crop production and consumption by providing small grants to specialty crop producers to develop methods and strategies for season extension and water conservation
- Partner with the Wyoming Community Network to increase specialty crop education, production, and consumption by providing small grants to nonprofit organizations for the creation of gardens, planting of fruit orchards, or hoop house season extension projects
- Increase the amount of land under specialty crop production in Wyoming by identifying farmland around the state that potentially could have specialty crops added to present crop rotations
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations