

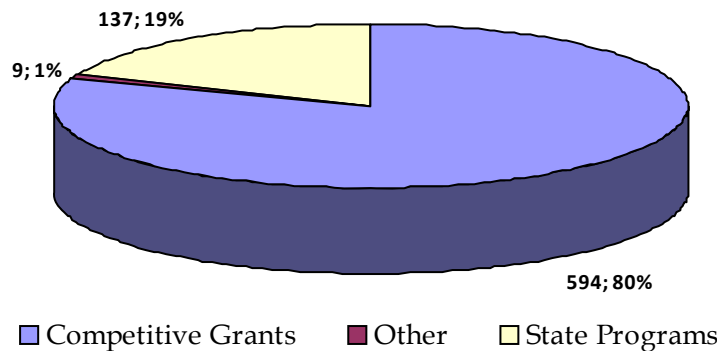


Fiscal Year 2011

Description of Funded Projects

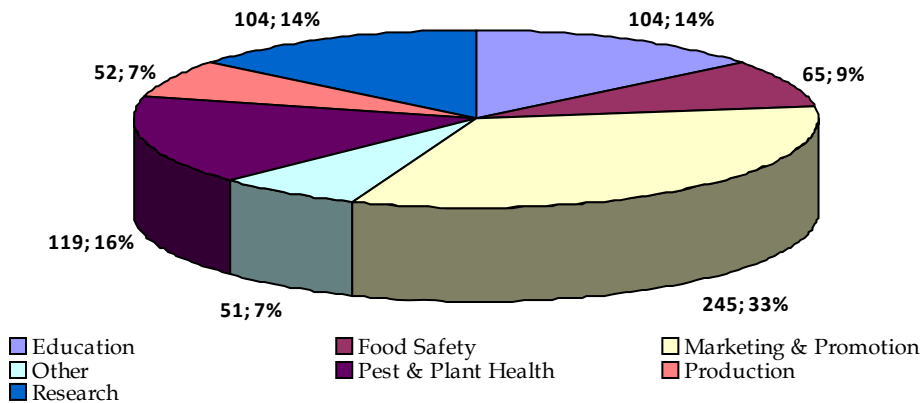
The fifty States, the District of Columbia and four U.S. Territories were awarded Fiscal Year 2011 funds to perform a total of 740 projects that benefit the specialty crop industry. All the eligible entities submitted their applications by the established deadline of July 13, 2011; however, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands withdrew their application. The approved awards are listed alphabetically.

2011 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.

2011 Project Types



Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Amount Awarded:

\$438,635.47

Number of Projects:

8

- Partner with the Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association to conduct regional training sessions throughout the state to assist processors, packers, and processors with meeting the guidelines for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Handling Practices (GHP), and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)
- Assist growers and producers in meeting the requirements of the Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices program (GAP/GHP) via a three pronged effort to include educational meetings, development of a workbook, and a cost sharing program to help disperse the expense of the certification
- Partner with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to teach Alabama's specialty crop producers how to utilize the database MarketMaker for market research and market development as well as educate potential buyers on the existence of the database for sourcing specialty crops in the state through training sessions and online tutorials
- Partner with the Alabama Farmers Market Authority to develop an educational DVD targeted at adults and children of Alabama that increases their knowledge and consumption of locally grown specialty crops
- Partner with the Chattahoochee Trading Company, Inc. to inform and educate current and potential fruit growers that they can have significant returns from small acreage production and to research and document for instructional use by other blueberry growers the required techniques and the benefits of growing early maturing Southern High Bush (SHB) blueberries in high density plots
- Partner with the Department of Horticulture at Auburn University to determine the feasibility of growing *Vitis vinifera* grapes in Alabama and select the best performing French-American, American hybrid bunch grape cultivars, and table grape selections
- Partner with Chilton Food Innovation Center to lower the processing time per batch of specialty crop product thus reducing cost of production per batch for producers, raise product output for each current client, and increase profits for clients on total crop, by automating the Chilton Food Innovation Center
- 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

Alaska Division of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$196,584.11

Number of Projects:

9

- Provide workshops for Alaska specialty crop growers to prepare them for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) audits to assist them in the process of becoming certified
- Launch a specialty crop marketing campaign in 2012 for Alaska Grown that will provide year round and statewide outreach. All developed materials will feature only specialty crops
- Increase the public's awareness of locally grown specialty crops and enhance the competitiveness of Alaska Grown specialty crops in the food service industry by providing marketing and promotion for restaurants that use those crops. The Alaska Division of Agriculture staff will review submitted restaurant receipts for reimbursement to verify that only specialty crops are included
- Host Chef Days at statewide farmers markets to provide attendees with new and exciting ways to use Alaska Grown specialty crops in order to increase sales as well as consumption. Chefs who are awarded funding under this project will sign an agreement stating their understanding of and commitment to only utilizing Alaska Grown specialty crops in their promotions
- Assist specialty crop producers in marketing their products by surveying consumers to determine what marketing strategies influence the consumers' decision to buy. Non-specialty crops will be excluded from the study
- Increase consumer awareness about the availability of Alaska Grown specialty crops through the production and distribution of a valuable sourcebook. Matching funds will be used to cover the cost of inclusion of non-specialty crops in the book
- Partner with Calypso Farm and Ecology Center to provide students with hands on educational opportunities through school gardens allowing them to connect with the garden and learn the value of nutrition and healthy eating habits made possible through specialty crops

- Partner with Alaska Peony Growers Association to continue to seek and provide guidance on the best practices for production for the Alaska Peony industry
- Increase communication with specialty crop stakeholders and provide development and expansion for the Alaska Grown program by hiring a project assistant to provide continued outreach and support

American Samoa Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$217,962.80	Number of Projects:	1
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- Increase local production and decrease importation of vegetables by establishing school gardens at 23 elementary schools by educating students about locally grown vegetables

Arizona Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,172,102.32	Number of Projects:	20
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- Partner with the University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension Service to implement USDA Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices on-line Training Program for Arizona specialty crop producers
- Provide cost share reimbursement assistance to fresh fruit and vegetable producers, growers, distributors, wholesalers, and handlers that become Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices certified
- Partner with the University of Arizona to reduce the risk of consumer exposure to enteric pathogens resulting from produce contamination from degraded irrigation water
- Hire a good handling practices/good agricultural practices (GHP/GAP) coordinator to provide one-on-one assistance and on-site visits to fresh fruit and vegetable producers/growers, distributors, wholesalers and handlers so that they can become USDA GHP/GAP certified
- Partner with the Arizona Nursery Association to launch an integrated marketing campaign that will result in a greater awareness of locally grown specialty crops and an increase in consumer purchases. All promotional materials will include only eligible specialty crops
- Partner with the Arizona Nursery Association to continue promoting and encouraging the production, sale and use of Arizona grown, regionally adapted landscape plants and trees with a broad marketing campaign
- Partner with the Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association to conduct the 2012 Southwest Ag Summit (SWAS) to provide an interactive forum between educators, specialists, farmers, and students of the southwest desert specialty crop industry at general sessions, academic workshops and hands-on field demonstrations; and to expand the reach of SWAS through a coordinated marketing program and updated website. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with Western Growers Foundation to create a “Gardens for Learning” Arizona specific resource for school and youth gardening to promote students’ consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Partner with Western Growers Foundation to create a Fruit and Vegetable Learning Garden for school children that will focus on how produce is grown and the importance of including fruits, vegetables and nuts into their daily diets
- Partner with the Arizona Association Future Farmers of America to provide opportunities for agricultural education instructors to teach; and agricultural education students to participate in floriculture-related production, handling, and marketing, while involving industry members and increasing community awareness
- Partner with the University of Arizona to evaluate functional capabilities of a spray-based, automated lettuce thinner to be used for weeding and spot spraying
- Partner with the University of Arizona to evaluate 28 varieties of pomegranate for plant growth, precocity, yield and fruit quality
- Partner with the University of Arizona to conduct an economic analysis that considers changes in the operating costs for the orchard, market returns from different yield and quality factors and optimum hedging cycles for ‘Wichita’ and ‘Western Schley’ pecans
- Partner with the University of Arizona to identify seasonal occurrences, feeding damage, and insecticidal control of the Bagrada bug on desert cole crops
- Partner with the University of Arizona to conduct research that will focus on maximizing powdery mildew control on

- Partner with the University of Arizona, Arizona Pest Management Center to develop an analytical approach that will quantify the reduction in risk of pest management practices of Arizona lettuce producers
- Partner with the University of Arizona to conduct research that will provide an innovative and effective tool for tomato growers to manage TCDVd infections and subsequently increase the competitiveness of the tomato industry in Arizona
- Partner with the University of Arizona to evaluate the potential for using AVP1 modified vegetables for improved nutrient use efficiency under desert cropping systems
- Partner with the University of Arizona to develop and test a system for applying Zn-EDTA through a micro-sprinkler irrigation system to provide a sustainable micronutrient fertilization practice for pecans
- 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

Arkansas Agriculture Department

Amount Awarded:	\$254,937.41	Number of Projects:	10
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- Assist up to six Arkansas specialty crop companies in displaying at the 2012 Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit
- Promote Arkansas wines by designing and printing a cardboard wine bottle carrier for the 15 Arkansas wineries/vineyards that have on-site shops
- Partner with the University of Arkansas to enhance the ability of Arkansas specialty crop producers to extend their production season and expand their ability to grow a diversity of specialty crops by conducting two demonstration workshops that cover topics such as high tunnel structures and styles, high tunnel construction, management equipment, considerations for safety and good agricultural practices, and high tunnel production management
- Partner with the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SSAWG) to educate small and beginning farmers on the planning, production, and marketing of specialty crops, including fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers by making its DVDs available for free viewing on the SSAWG website
- Provide financial assistance for specialty crop producers to participate in educational conferences and workshops that focus on educational areas that enhance the competitiveness or promotion of eligible specialty crops
- Partner with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture to develop and release fresh market muscadine varieties for Arkansas growers that are large, high quality, disease resistant, and adapted to all areas of the State where muscadines are grown
- Partner with the Division of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville to provide long-term economical, biological control of Japanese beetles through the introduction of *Ovavesicula popilliae* Andreadis, a microsporidian pathogen of Japanese beetle larvae, into Arkansas
- Partner with the Arkansas Pecan Growers' Association to improve pecan yield and quality by continuing to monitor and trap the pecan nut casebearer (as part of the Pecan IPM PIPE project), improving the management of stink bugs that attack pecan, assessing and determining nutritional orchard needs, educating and training growers on cultural practices that increase orchard productivity and nut quality
- Partner with the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Arkansas to promote the production of heirloom tomatoes by assessing distribution of Fusarium wilt in Ashley, Bradley and Drew Counties; assessing the effectiveness of grafting of heirloom tomato on disease incidence and severity of Fusarium wilt disease; assessing the effect of grafting on yield of heirloom tomatoes; assessing the time and cost for local tomato growers to conduct their own grafting efforts; and conducting a cost/benefit analysis of grafting based on cost of production, disease control, and yield
- 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:	\$18,679,315.50	Number of Projects:	73
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- Partner with the Community Alliance with Family Farmers to create a food safety extension program targeting small and minority farmers through workshops and one-on-one assistance in improving food safety for specialty crops

- Partner with the California Strawberry Commission to create a food safety certificate program for California strawberry growers and high level supervisors, providing them with an advanced understanding of food safety practices for strawberry production
- Partner with the California Avocado Commission to increase grower awareness of the food-safety practices outlined in the California Avocado Industry Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Program, developed by the Commission, and to facilitate grower compliance with GAP audits that may be required, through the establishment of an Avocado Grower GAP Education Series food-safety curriculum
- Partner with the California Fresh Tomato Growers dba California Tomato Farmers to develop an on-line food safety database to allow for efficient traceback of product in the event of a food safety event, and which will allow California tomatoes to either be quickly ruled out as the source or to have the source quickly pinpointed so the entire industry is not implicated, fostering greater collaboration and transparency between industry and their customers, and giving California tomatoes a competitive edge against foreign suppliers who offer lower prices but limited food safety assurance
- Partner with the California Leafy Green Product Handler Marketing Agreement to implement a consumer public relations campaign in Canada to raise consumer confidence in California leafy greens' quality and safety, highlighting the success of the leafy greens industry's food safety certification requirements and food handling practices. The campaign will consist of videos, educational point of sale materials, and recipes
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to explore links between irrigation water and outbreaks of human food borne illness and death associated with bacterial contamination of produce and provide guidance for growers on water sampling methods to maximize the ability to detect bacterial contamination in surface water irrigation sources
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to develop a rapid and reliable loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) detection system for Salmonella, Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) O157 and non-O157 STEC, and validate the system with produce items (cantaloupes, lettuce, peppers, spinach, and tomatoes) surface-contaminated with low levels of these pathogens
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to develop and implement science-based strategies to prevent off-farm dissemination of Salmonella from livestock sources to almond and pistachio crops by characterizing the microbial composition of bioaerosols and dust originating from livestock operations located in close proximity to almond and pistachio production areas in the California Central Valley; evaluating movement of microorganisms from livestock operations to nearby almond and pistachio orchards; and evaluating the microbial composition of bioaerosols and dusts at almond hullers/shellers and pistachio hulling facilities
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to determine the prevalence, concentration and distribution of Salmonella in U.S. pistachios for 2 crop years, develop cost-effective sampling strategies that could be used by the pistachio industry to evaluate the microbial status of raw pistachios, and to update and improve a quantitative microbial risk assessment that is currently in development
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to determine the thermal resistance of a mixture of four Salmonella serotypes at temperatures recommended for heat treatment of chicken litter by evaluating several key environmental factors such as moisture level, nutrient variation, and the freshness of chicken litter. This study will only address the use of heat-treated chicken litter in specialty crop conditions. The research is based on the use of chicken litter for specialty crops; there will not be any non-specialty crop conditions in this study. Only specialty crops will be utilized for testing and post-research surveys on adoption and use in the field
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to evaluate the antimicrobial activity of glucosinolate-derived (GSL) compounds in vitro against E. coli O157:H7 and Salmonella; determine the GSL content of different cultivars of broccoli grown in green houses; and investigate the persistence of enteric pathogens (surrogate strains) in soil tilled over with green manure (remnant crop after broccoli harvest) containing GSL-derived compounds with the hopes of improving food safety
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to evaluate available detection methods for the accurate assessment of Escherichia coli contamination in irrigation waters and provide guidance for interpretation of results through a revised risk-based E. coli standard
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to evaluate microbiological testing methods that are currently recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the United States Composting Council (USCC) for accuracy in detecting pathogens across a wide variety of point of sale composts to determine the most practical and sensitive microbiological testing methods to ensure the safety of compost for use in the produce industry

- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to assess the comparative post-contamination consequences on cilantro, in model commercial settings, with attenuated isolates of Salmonella enterica and Escherichia coli O157:H7 during open-field production, sequential harvest and re-growth, and in pilot plant post-harvest operations
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to improve the prediction of produce contamination risk by modeling the rules of pathogen dispersal through riparian zones to produce fields through defining candidate models for pathogen dispersal based on remotely-sensed and field-collected data to predict the dispersal efficiency of fecal bacteria across an agriculture landscape; determining the genetic distribution of fecal bacteria from fecal and soil samples at participating farms in the landscape using multilocus sequence typing; and conducting goodness-of-fit tests comparing the fecal bacteria genetic distribution on the landscape with predictions of high efficiency dispersal pathways calculated from the models
- Partner with California Bountiful to educate consumers about California specialty crop production by producing segments of the California Country television program that focus exclusively on specialty crops, and extend the program's reach through purchases of airtime on commercial television stations in San Francisco and/or Los Angeles
- Partner with the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission to develop a guide to promoting Asian specialty produce, which will list vegetables and other specialty crops commonly grown in different Asian regions
- Partner with the Lake County Winegrape Commission to increase competitiveness and long term sales of Lake County wine and wine grapes by promoting the unique characteristics of Lake County (LC) through a marketing campaign that includes research on the current status of the industry, implementation of a multi-pronged media campaign, training on the campaign to vintners and growers, and showcasing the LC wine industry at events and trade shows
- Partner with the High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. to increase the distribution and consumption of Placer County Mountain Mandarin oranges beyond the borders of Placer County and California by developing standard horticultural and marketing practices
- Partner with California Citrus Mutual to increase navel orange consumption through an intensive educational campaign including print media, news releases and internet outreach that will educate buyers and customers about the new California Standard and how it helps assure consumers receive a better tasting navel orange
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to document the impact of European Union trade and support policies for olives on the competitiveness of the California olive industry and to analyze the effects and market implications of regulating quality control standards for olive products
- Partner with the Wine Institute to educate the wine trade, media and consumers about California's leadership in sustainable winegrowing practices and increase awareness and sales for the state's 3,000 wineries and 4,600 winegrape growers through the Green from Grapes to Glass marketing campaign, which includes focus groups, surveys, development of print materials, events, press releases and website outreach
- Partner with the California Blueberry Commission to determine if Japan, Australia and England are a plausible and sustainable market for California blueberries by buying marketing data and conducting surveys among the targeted countries' major produce retailers, which will allow the California blueberry industry to focus on those retailers that will provide the best opportunities
- Partner with Solano County to build on the success of the 'Solano Grown' logo and branding effort by developing an advertising campaign that promotes locally produced agricultural products and extends into the Bay area. The marketing campaign will consist of direct mailings and radio, newspaper, publication, and bill board advertisements. The project manager will closely monitor all advertising to ensure sole benefit to specialty crops
- Partner with the Northern California Regional Land Trust to expand the Buy Fresh Buy Local, North Valley (BFBLNV) program to provide marketing opportunities, assistance, and training to specialty crop producers in Butte, Glenn, and Tehama counties. Specialty Crop producers will be exclusively recruited and promoted and activities potentially benefitting ineligible products and/or commodities will be funded by non-SCBGP funds
- Partner with the National Hmong American Farmers to promote healthy eating habits by supplying school meal programs with locally grown fresh specialty crops, developing school farm stands to offer healthy choices at prices below market value while educating students and teachers, and establishing mobile vending to facilitate the sale of specialty crops in disadvantaged communities. Only specialty crop producers will be eligible to participate in this project
- Partner with Sacramento Neighborhood Housing Services Inc. to improve access to fruits and vegetables in the Oak Park food desert by increasing the volume of specialty crops sold at the Oak Park Farmers' Market and attracting increased numbers of shoppers from the local neighborhoods. The project team will ensure that specialty crop funds will solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops by providing incentives to customers exclusively for the purchase of specialty crop items, outreaching exclusively to specialty crop farmers to join the market as vendors, and using language on marketing materials that refers specifically and exclusively to specialty crops

- Partner with the Ecology Center to increase the consumer base for California specialty crops and improve the health of consumers by making specialty crops more accessible through the use of EBT at farmers' markets. The Ecology Center will cover costs for any aspects of the program that do not solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops
- Partner with Rural Innovations in Social Economics, Inc. to re-shape attitudes, increase accessibility to specialty crops, and to address food security and healthy eating in small rural communities by educating children on how to garden and become ambassadors of edible landscapes, while building a community food system using school-home-community resources effectively
- Partner with the Trust for Conservation Innovation to increase the promotion, marketing and access to specialty crops by a consumer base that utilizes food assistance programs, and to alter the purchasing patterns toward an increased commitment to healthy and fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts. Tokens used at the farmers' markets have "produce only" printed on them and cannot be used at non-specialty crop vendors
- Partner with the California State University, Chico Research Foundation to increase food security and nutritional literacy by forming a stakeholder coalition to identify and address the community's nutritional needs; utilizing tested incentive programs to bring CalFresh/EBT recipients to farmers' markets and to local community-supported agricultural farms (CSA's); providing technical assistance to farmers' markets and CSA's to become EBT-enabled; covering up-front operating costs for farmers' markets serving low-income growers and areas; expanding existing community gardens; and bringing interactive culinary exhibitions to workshops and farmers' markets to demonstrate low-cost, ethnically rich techniques to prepare and preserve produce. Tokens used at the farmers' markets will have "fruits and vegetables only" printed on them and all participating farmers' markets will certify that funds will be used only to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops
- Partner with the People's Grocery to build community and leadership amongst individuals suffering from the worst health effects of poverty while creating opportunities for residents to increase their knowledge of, access to, and interaction with specialty crops by further developing a garden space, which will be used to educate the local population about specialty crops
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to prepare small, Latino, and Hmong/Mien specialty produce growers in California on how to avoid market risk while profiting from the new markets for values based regionally grown food, through a series of four workshops focusing on branding, food safety protocols, pack/grade standards and buyer contacts
- Partner with Kids Growing Strong/California Garden Clubs to train volunteers on how to educate children and families on the use and preparation of California specialty crops and to demonstrate the connection between grower and food through a number of "hands-on" workshops and food-to-kitchen demos
- Partner with the San Joaquin County Office of the Agricultural Commissioner to educate children in San Joaquin County about specialty crops by organizing AgVenture field days for students and offering one-hour workshops for teachers about how to integrate information from the field day into lesson plans. AgVenture staff will ensure the program solely enhances specialty crops by recruiting only specialty crop farmers and producers to host field day activities
- Partner with the Centennial Farm Foundation to create gardens, exhibits and curriculum designed specifically for teaching young people in an urban area of Southern California about the importance of California specialty crops in their daily lives through guided tours for children from kindergarten to 3rd grade, Ranch After School for 4th to 6th graders and self-guided tours for the general public. Staff will ensure that funds are expended solely to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through rigorous oversight and third-party funds to support other components of the program
- Partner with the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science to develop 'best practices' for olive orchard management, processing, storage, and sensory evaluation to help olive growers and processors increase production efficiency; expand food industry knowledge of the qualitative differences between California olives and olive oil and imported products; and help improve United States Department of Agriculture enforcement of quality standards
- Partner with San Benito County Ag in the Classroom to implement a specialty crop-focused education and outreach campaign, including expanded work on school gardens and teacher training; development of a more detailed Harvest of the Month program; and increased specialty crop signs along major roadways
- Partner with the Stanislaus County Ag Center Foundation to promote California specialty crop production through four, standards-based, interactive science education curriculums geared for middle school students taught in the mobile agriculture classroom: Ag in Motion
- Partner with the Calaveras Winegrape Alliance to develop a Best Management Practices Manual that will provide guidelines to approximately 1,300 high elevation growers (and potentially all vineyard growers) on how to increase water use efficiency and thereby improve grape quality and tonnage

- Increase sales of California specialty crops and enhance compliance at certified farmers' markets through the institution of mandatory annual market manager training and certification. Benefit to non-specialty crops will be funded through a match of \$85,000 in the form of personnel and benefits for program oversight and development
- Partner with the Life Lab Science Program to assist teachers as they use school gardens to educate students, by providing “Creating and Sustaining Your School Garden” workshops; developing and implementing the “Plant It, Grow It, Eat It” workshop for educators on the use of school gardens to increase student interest in and consumption of specialty crops; and providing statewide collaborators/school garden promoters with resources to promote garden-based nutrition education in their communities
- Partner with North Coast Opportunities, Inc. (NCO) to increase purchase and utilization of locally-produced specialty crops by assessing infrastructure needs and making adaptations; providing training in procurement and utilization; training farmers to produce for the institutional and business markets; and developing a distribution system for locally-produced specialty crops. NCO will ensure sole benefit to specialty crops by monthly monitoring and signed certifications from all participants
- Partner with the Ceres Community Project to teach 8-12th graders about preparing and eating California specialty crops by engaging them in the preparation of plant based meals for people with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses, thereby teaching them how to cook California specialty crops and illustrating the critical link between a healthy diet and long-term health outcomes
- Partner with the Soil Born Farms Urban Agriculture Project to provide a comprehensive program to train prospective urban farmers to meet the increasing demand for local fruits and vegetables in urban environments by focusing training sessions on small-scale sustainable farming practices including diverse crop planning; fertility planning; pest management; public engagement; direct marketing and sales; land tenure; and business planning. All materials developed and distributed by this project will focus exclusively on specialty crop production and interested stakeholders
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to evaluate cover crops for their ability to reduce nitrate leaching and improve soil properties in drip-irrigated tomato rotations through an assessment of the effects of physical, chemical, and hydraulic properties on fibrous-rooted and leguminous cover crops and tomato crop yields
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to develop methods which use cold press to extract oil with high quality and value from fruit and vegetable seeds
- Partner with the University Corporation at Monterey Bay to enable California specialty crop growers to better utilize the state's existing California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) data network for improved water use efficiency by better defining biologically-driven water requirements for certain specialty crops, developing/validating techniques & tools to support reduced water applications, and quantifying associated economic benefits and tradeoffs
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to evaluate the impact of reduced irrigation on the profitability of the various berry crops by quantifying the effects of reduced irrigation on yield and normal growth parameters on strawberries, blueberries, and blackberries, while also assessing changes in soil salinity levels, nutritional content, shelf-life, taste and consumer appeal
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to develop a novel multifunctional pilot-scale IR dry-peeling system built with flexibility to peel a variety of fruits and vegetables including tomato, apple, peach, pear, apricot, and grape
- Partner with the USDA Agricultural Research Service to screen, study, and develop drought-tolerant lettuce and spinach germplasm and cultivars with higher water use efficiency, which will help enhance water conservation, reduce production costs, and improve the profitability and sustainability of lettuce and spinach crops in California
- Partner with the University of California Cooperative Extension to assess the springtime temperature inversion conditions in winegrape vineyards in Sonoma, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties to find out if wind machines, which require temperature inversions to work, are a viable alternative to using sprinkler frost protection in regions facing serious water availability restrictions
- Partner with the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Western Regional Research Center (USDA-ARS-WRRC) to optimize the torrefaction process for different pomaces, examine alternative heating methods for torrefaction, such as microwave heating, and will use computer modeling software to determine energy requirements for the torrefaction process at different processing scales
- Partner with the Wine Institute to increase California wine's competitiveness by developing a full Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) for the California wine industry, adding Scope 3 GHG emissions to an existing web-based GHG calculator, and identifying and developing emission factors for all significant material and energy inputs to the production, use, and disposal of winegrapes and wine as well as outputs (air and water emissions, materials, and waste)

- Partner with the University of California at Davis to identify and quantify the population dynamics of yeast and lactic acid bacteria in commercial Sicilian-style olive fermentations during processing, validate that pectinolytic-yeast induced spoilage of olives can be prevented by the addition of lactic acid bacteria starter-cultures originating from California-grown olives, and provide preliminary assessments on how modifications to bacterial and yeast populations can influence olive sensory quality
- Partner with the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science to develop innovative methods to assess the quality of olives and olive oil, and facilitate the adoption of improved quality standards for the United States by determining the chemical values of a variety of olives grown in California, identifying chemical markers for sensory defects, developing standards based on the chemical markers, and leading a stakeholder effort to develop and adopt improved standards and methods based on this research
- Partner with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments to assess the feasibility of building a local food hub, with a specific focus on creating the volume and transport of local specialty crops needed to supply food banks and others with an ongoing supply of local specialty crops. Stakeholders interested in developing or receiving data, tools and analysis from the project will be required to verify their status as specialty crop operation in writing
- Partner with the USDA Agricultural Research Service to develop effective fumigation methods with reduced environmental impacts, which will help maintain the availability of soil fumigants to growers for establishing productive almond orchards and staying competitive in the global markets by demonstrating the potential for low permeability tarps (e.g., totally impermeable film or TIF) to improve soil fumigation efficacy while simultaneously reducing emissions and by determining the efficacy and fumigant distribution when reduced fumigant rates are applied under TIF
- Partner with the San Luis Obispo Bee Company to provide orchard pollination and additional blue orchard bee production to serve as an additional agricultural commodity, while developing best management practices for native wildflower seed production in Central valley orchards and coastal vineyards
- Partner with the USDA Agriculture Research Services, Western Regional Research Center to implement recently discovered and optimized, non-pheromonal lures for female naval orangeworms (NOW) by providing an efficacious lure that will significantly increase the reliability of detection of female NOW in both almonds and pistachios and by providing a new tool for substantive control of NOW
- Partner with the University of California at Riverside to develop a scientifically sound, economically viable, and sustainable Integrated Pest Management strategy for the production of potatoes in standard and organic potato grower operations that reduces reliance on pesticides
- Partner with the University of California at Berkeley to study the biology and behavior of resident natural enemies to determine both their strengths and short-comings with respect to naval orangeworm (NOW) control; renew a classical biological control program for NOW using modern techniques, such as molecular tools to help determine the origin of the California population of NOW and an evaluation of parasitoids from closely related moth pests, such as the Carob moth; and to determine the impact of common insecticides on resident and imported natural enemies to determine how best to manage both pests and beneficial arthropods in a modern Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to develop transgenic citrus, grapevine, walnut, and almond rootstocks that provide broad-spectrum resistance to related bacterial pathogens and testing and validation of the disease resistance provided by these rootstocks
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to reduce the number of pesticide applications by demonstrating the feasibility of sustainable production practices for bedding and container color plants and working with individual growers to offer a la carte recommendations to meet their individual needs
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to develop and demonstrate improved Integrated Pest Management strategies and tools that nursery operators could implement to control Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) more effectively including improving field inspection efficiency to detect LBAM, developing a practical field guide for identification and detection, determining plant-host preferences, evaluating nursery-perimeter controls with sterile insect moth release and trap/kill techniques; and improving control of LBAM with insecticides
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to study the exotic plant virus, Tomato apex necrosis virus, and its relatives, before they enter California and develop strategies for rapid and accurate identification so that effective measures can be implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment in California
- Partner with the University of California at Riverside to optimize applications of plant systemic insecticides against Vine Mealybug by determining activity profiles of five systemic insecticides in grapevines; evaluating the influence of environmental (soil texture, temperature, etc.), agronomic (irrigation, application timing, insecticide formulation), and cultural (variety, rootstock, age) factors on the titers and persistence of systemic insecticides in grapes; and synthesizing findings into a set of user guidelines for growers and pest managers

- Partner with the University of California at Riverside to identify and release several parasitoid species targeting the Asian Citrus Psyllid, the major vector of the bacterial pathogen which causes Huanglongbing (HLB) – the most serious disease of citrus worldwide – with the intention of preventing the spread of HLB into California
- Partner with the University of California at Riverside to research the Red Palm Weevils (RPW) that threaten California’s palm trees, identifying where California RPW originated, categorizing differences and similarities between California RPW and those found in other parts of the world, determining the appropriate types and levels of pheromones to be used as bait in traps, and identifying natural RPW enemies
- Partner with the Mandela Market Place to increase consumption of California grown specialty crops by a minimum of 150,000 pounds while providing a distribution network for minority-operated specialty crop producers and educating local retailers and an emerging low-income consumer base about the benefits of sustainably produced California fruits and vegetables
- Partner with the Ag Innovations Network to reduce the cost of regulatory compliance for California specialty crop growers by working with environmental, agricultural, and other interested groups to identify a broadly supported set of solutions based on a careful demonstration of the issues that will simultaneously reduce costs and preserve California's ecosystem services; disseminate those solutions broadly, focusing on permit streamlining at the county level; and improve communication and problem-solving capacity between specialty crop producers and regulators
- Partner with Central Coast Ag Network (CCAN) to support local specialty crop production by identifying surplus government agricultural land and documenting the steps necessary to make it available for lease to local for-profit farmers; distribution networks by continuing the present efforts to link growers with institutional buyers; and consumption by continuing to educate the public about their benefits for health, the local economy and the environment through the CentralCoastGrown Website and Newsletters, and Know Your Farmer marketing campaigns. Outside funding will be used to cover costs for any aspects of the program that do not solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops
- 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

Colorado Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$712,222.02

Number of Projects:

14

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- Partner with Colorado Association of Viticulture and Enology to increase the use of the Fruit and Wine Byway as the primary means of tourist ingress, by making signage and information infrastructure even more robust
 - Continue to educate consumers, retailers, and restaurants about the wide range and availability of Colorado specialty crops, resulting in increased purchasing of locally grown products
 - Develop and promote a Colorado Pavilion at the Produce Marketing Association’s Fresh Summit Expo to assist Colorado’s produce industry to increase awareness of Colorado as a reliable supplier of fruits and vegetables, and to grow and expand international sales
 - Generate national and local exposure for Colorado’s wine industry the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board by hosting the next Drink Local Wine Conference in Colorado in April 2012
 - Partner with Plant Select® to continue to enhance a successful brand awareness marketing campaign to educate the public on sustainable landscaping and gardening practices through identification of the best local plants for western gardens
 - Partner with Plant Select® to develop a new program entitled Small Wonders™ to increase awareness and create strong consumer demand for smaller plants through program development and branding, marketing, and outreach campaign
 - Partner with Colorado State University to establish a statewide produce growers non-profit organization through the development of by-laws and a mission statement, obtaining a 501©(3) organization status, identification of the board of directors, and network members based on web-related technologies
 - Partner with Colorado State University to continue support for a Specialty Crop Coordinator as part of CSU’s Specialty Crops Program, to provide marketing, research and technical support to Colorado’s small acreage, socially disadvantaged and beginning specialty crop producers
 - Partner with Colorado Potato Administrative Committee to develop and promote a branded potato that is unique to Colorado to help increase sales and enhance the long-term sustainability of Colorado’s potato industry
 - Partner with the Colorado Foundation for Agriculture to provide educational materials to elementary school teachers with resources to help students learn about the importance of specialty crops and to encourage them to buy local

- Partner with Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado to educate new specialty crop farmers in Southwestern Colorado who have shown an interest in vegetable production by presenting hands-on practical experience through renting market garden incubator plots at the Fort Lewis College Field Station
- Partner with Colorado Sweet Corn Market Order and Colorado State University to look at the feasibility of expanding Olathe sweet corn market by producing a quality processed product that leverages the reputation developed by Olathe sweet corn growers, packers, and marketers
- Partner with Yuma Conservation District to continue research on the potential for the production of lower water use, high-value vegetable, floral and nursery crops in eastern Colorado and develop a strategic plan to access the marketplace through a variety of means including but not limited to: direct sales, consumer supported agriculture, wholesale, and cooperative sales approaches
- 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:	\$429,936.10	Number of Projects:	9
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- Partner with Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection to provide food safety training to registered specialty crop farmers who produce processed foods, such as jams and jellies. Training on FDA’s Good Manufacturing Practices and Process Control will educate on-farm producers on the sanitary processing requirements for producing safe and wholesome food
- Provide a bilingual English/Spanish cookbook customized to promote Connecticut specialty crops by featuring local fruit and vegetable recipes along with incentives for Women, Infant and Children Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program participants to purchase their fruits and vegetables at local farmers markets. The project staff has established checks and balances to ensure that the specialty crop cookbook and incentives only benefit specialty crops
- Partner with Wholesome Wave Foundation to provide Wholesome Wave’s Double Value Coupon Program so Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program recipients can double the value of benefits redeemed for fruits and vegetables at farm-to-market retail venues. The project staff has developed specific guidelines that state the program partners can only use doubling incentives to pay for locally grown fruits and vegetables
- Partner with Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association to determine what motivates Connecticut consumers to purchase landscape plants, and then encourage local growers to meet those expectations in the plants they choose to produce; in efforts to increase demand and purchase of ornamental plants grown by Connecticut nurseries and greenhouses
- Partner with Rhode Island Center for Agricultural Promotion and Education to provide Connecticut’s specialty crop producers with the knowledge and understanding of agritourism activities that they can incorporate into their day to day operations to increase traffic and therefore sales of specialty crops. This will all be done by providing training, marketing, and technical support services, in the areas of general business, product and enterprise development, marketing, and tourism development
- Partner with CitySeed Inc to deliver a creative, buy local marketing campaign via free space on BuyCT Grown; to give access to print media; such as recipe cards and point of sale materials that target maple syrup, nursery products, summer berries, pick-your-own apples, tree fruit, pumpkins and Christmas trees to provide an increase of resources to specialty crops producers as well as their consumers
- Partner with Connecticut Northeast Organic Farming Association to increase the sales and consumption of specialty crops by increasing the number, success, season length and size of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) projects in Connecticut, educating the public about the benefits of belonging to a CSA, reducing the turnover in membership by providing education and resources to understand what a CSA is and what membership means, and highlight the role community Farms’ play in CSAs and in providing healthy food access
- Partner with Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, Inc. to enhance the competitiveness of Connecticut fruit and vegetable producers by identifying barriers to in-state distribution, facilitating interaction with institutional and retail buyers, and exploring business opportunities that can impact full-time, volume 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

District of Columbia

Amount Awarded:	\$181,109.88	Number of Projects:	2
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- Partner with Bread for the City to provide a specialty crop resource in DC's food desert communities, by planting a micro-orchard and harvesting apples, Asian pears, tart cherries and blueberries for distribution to DC's low-income population
- 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:	\$242,281.33	Number of Projects:	8
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- Develop a Farm-to-School Implementation Plan to increase local fruit and vegetable consumption, increase student awareness of the benefits of healthy eating and improve food access in underserved communities
- Work with the University of Delaware to conduct research to develop an accurate determination of the water requirements for lima beans
- Partner with the University of Delaware to examine a range of vegetables commonly planted after a sweet corn crop and assess the rotational crop safety of impact and laudis herbicides
- Partner with the University of Delaware to conduct evaluation of breeding material from the breeding program to develop improved lima bean cultivars
- Partner with the University of Delaware to conduct research on crop culture for yield and quality improvement and cost reduction in the production of lima beans
- Work with the University of Delaware to conduct research to determine if there are supersweet sweet corn varieties that are better suited to early planting and more tolerant of poor storage conditions and to compare the yield of several commercial processing varieties at different plant populations in order to determine what percent of stand may be lost and still attain an acceptable yield
- Work with the University of Delaware to develop and test molecular markers associated with resistance to downy mildew race F, conduct field screening necessary to develop markers for resistance to race E resistance, and to set up a system to use these markers in the UD Lima breeding program
- Work with the University of Delaware to conduct a study to determine if rootstocks for watermelon production are well adapted to Delaware conditions and that have resistance to Fusarium diseases and root knot nematode

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Amount Awarded:	\$4,385,464.97	Number of Projects:	24
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- Partner with the Florida Tomato Committee to help reverse sales erosion of Florida tomatoes while identifying opportunities to expand new markets by developing customized promotions with a strong educational component for television, radio, and news media
- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to improve the promotion and marketing of Florida-grown specialty crop fresh produce by positioning it as a "local" choice with consumers. The project will center on market research, including an economic impact analysis and a variety of focus group studies
- Partner with Florida Agriculture in the Classroom to develop a book about Florida specialty crops to be used to teach students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade the benefits of healthy eating habits and to introduce them to specialty crops grown in Florida. Only specialty crops will be included in the curriculum and in the materials
- Partner with Florida Small Farms to improve dialog among farmers, policy makers and industry members regarding the critical needs of the small farms specialty crops industry by expanding outreach efforts, expanding the Small Farms Food Safety Implementation Team, and providing partial support for the statewide Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference. Careful record-keeping will be employed to ensure that specialty crop block grant funds are used only for conference activities that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops

- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to provide a unified context under which Farm Labor Contractors and farm managers can understand their roles and responsibilities in employing and managing farmworkers by further developing the Farm Labor Contractor training program and making it sustainable into the future. Attendance to the FLC Core Training program will be restricted to personnel employed by specialty crop operations
- Partner with the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association to deliver training in production, marketing and financial risk to specialty crop commodities in Florida and provide general financial information as well as address commodity specific issues through the Florida Agriculture Financial Management Conference. Matching funds will be used to cover any costs of the conference that do not solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops
- Partner with the University of Florida to test the feasibility of using harvest aids to increase the efficiency of harvest labor and using hydrocooling to cool strawberries more quickly, thereby reducing strawberry and vegetable harvest losses
- Partner with the University of Florida to expand blueberry production in Florida by identifying molecular markers associated with low chilling requirements that would ultimately allow selection of low-chill cultivars through a marker-assisted selection strategy
- Partner with the University of Florida to increase blueberry production in Florida by studying the effects of time and intensity of summer pruning and developing pruning recommendations for growers throughout the state
- Partner with the University of Florida to investigate possible replacement of Temik aldicarb for managing soil-born nematodes and disease problems in potatoes
- Partner with the University of Florida to find effective crop protectants for avocado threatened by attacks from the red bay ambrosia beetle, the vector of laurel wilt, and to determine if these protectants cause secondary pest outbreaks
- Partner with the University of Florida to evaluate several new nematode management tools for control of root-knot nematodes on cut foliage and ornamental crops
- Partner with the University of Florida to establish best management practices for nitrogen rate and application methods on peach tree growth and fruit quality
- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to develop an improved understanding of the basic biology of Groundnut ringspot virus (GRSV) and its thrips vectors in Florida and to facilitate development and testing of management practices to reduce grower losses
- Partner with the University of Florida to determine the combination of cultivation and herbicides during the fallow period that best reduces nutsedge populations
- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to develop integrated strategies that incorporate non-copper bactericides with bacteriophage and plant defense elicitors, and to improve application strategies to limit disease development while minimizing bactericide resistance in *Xanthomonas* populations
- Partner with U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to combat huanglongbing (HLB) by eliminating HLB bacteria from nursery stocks using highly sensitive detection technology, coupled with effective Las-eradicator compounds and thermotherapy; applying thermotherapy to the *Murraya* nursery industry to eliminate low titer infections of Las, thereby revitalizing the *Murraya* industry; large scale verification and implementation of chemical and thermal control of citrus HLB by developing and using cost-effective technology; and improving Las culture in vitro, conducting functional genomics to elucidate molecular mechanisms of HLB disease
- Partner with the University of Florida to increase the breeding efficiency of new nematode resistant peach rootstocks through horticultural evaluation
- Partner with U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to develop an antimicrobial treatment to reduce a psyllid-vectored bacterium that causes citrus greening, by optimizing the penetrant/antimicrobial mixtures based on tree size and the most effective combination of compounds
- Partner with the University of Florida to help Florida tomato growers reduce yield losses due to whiteflies and Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus (TYLCV) and to provide guidelines for integrated control of whiteflies attacking tomatoes grown in protected agriculture
- Partner with the University of Florida to test and verify the Predator-In-First approach, which involves the release of specific predatory mites on uninfested seedlings before transplanting, for effective and environmentally sound control of invasive thrips on pepper and potentially similar crops including tomato and cucumber
- Partner with the University of Florida to develop production guidelines and cost savings for the use of reclaimed waste water to grow containerized ornamentals

- Promote the development of community gardens by providing micro-grants to local governments, school districts, food banks, and other charitable organizations, for the development of community gardens in urban areas in Florida. Agreements will be signed with grantees in which they certify that funds will be used solely to enhance the competitiveness of Florida specialty crops
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administer the 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:

\$1,134,876.58

Number of Projects:

19

- Partner with the University of Georgia to provide a new technique for safeguarding Georgia tomatoes from contamination of foodborne pathogens, including E. coli O157:H7, Listeria monocytogenes, and Salmonella. The first phase of this project was funded under SCBGP 2010
- Expand Georgia's Agritourism program through hiring an Agritourism ombudsman that will create informational/promotional materials marketing specialty crop Agritourism; attend and/or coordinate meetings, conferences, workshops, and tradeshow; and renovate the current GDA Agritourism website and handle its day-to-day management. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with Emory University to expand public awareness of Georgia specialty crops and build purchasing habits by expanding the popular educational food gardens on campus to increase seasonal visibility of non-traditional horticultural crops and the knowledge of production methods; by holding six special educational events and chef's tastings at the Tuesday Emory's farmers market, highlighting specialty crops; and by expanding consumer awareness and seasonal purchases of nontraditional crops through new educational materials and activities at the annual Sustainable Food Fair on September 30. Matching funds will be used to cover expenditures for activities and promotion related to non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Pecans to promote Georgia pecans and the importance of its antioxidant and health benefits by continuing with the placement of Heart Healthy billboards in strategic locations throughout Georgia and by featuring approximately two minutes of pecan-branded content on all Delta Flights during the month of November 2011
- Partner with the Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association to expand the marketing of Georgia produce and increase the competitiveness of the Georgia products by building on a 2010 project to develop collaboration between Georgia commodity commissions and joint marketing of the GEORGIA GROWN brand. Only specialty crops will be featured in marketing materials
- Partner with the Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association to expand the marketing of Georgia produce and increase the competitiveness of Georgia products by providing a pavilion for Georgia's Fruit & Vegetable producers at the Produce Marketing Association's Fresh Summit
- Partner with the Georgia Pecan Growers' Association to promote Georgia Pecans through the organization of farmer educational meetings, the distribution of pecan samples and promotional materials, website maintenance and updates and by conducting regional conferences and events
- Partner with the Georgia Watermelon Association to educate consumers about the nutritional and health benefits of watermelon by developing a broad-based marketing plan including in-store promotions, media and special events appearance by the Georgia Watermelon Association Queen, feature ads, videos, YouTube promotions, and a pilot study to identify markets for #2 melons to be sold as fresh-cut options
- Partner with the Vidalia Onion Committee to develop, produce, disseminate, and promote an integrated campaign that encourages retail stocking and promotion of Vidalia onions as well as consumer consumption of and familiarity with Vidalia onions. The promotional campaign will include in-store point of sale (POS) materials, themed consumer packaging, consumer radio, in-store radio, consumer print and online ads, trade ads, consumer print drive, video billboard advertising, retail display contest, first-ever Vidalia Onion Jingle Contest and more
- Work with the Georgia Department of Education to promote the sale of specialty crops in schools by exposing children and staff to a wide variety of produce by providing a school and/or a school district with locally grown, high quality, nutritious specialty crops over a 5-day period through a program called "Feed My School for a Week"

- Partner with Carroll County Department of Community Development to increase the knowledge base of the Vineyard and Winery Association of West Georgia by bringing in experts on wine-grapes and cooperatives to meet with and train the local group; to develop a business plan for a wine-grape cooperative; and continue with DNA testing of the disease resistant grapes
- Partner with Fort Valley State University to raise awareness of Georgia organic fruits and vegetables by estimating the market demand for fresh and frozen organic fruits and vegetables in Georgia and the Southeast, surveying fruit and vegetable producers in Georgia to determine production potential within the State, and conducting workshops for current and potential organic producers to assist in minimizing risks and maximizing income potential
- Partner with the Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association to help Georgia and southeastern growers increase their knowledge and risk management skills through workshops, training, consultation and dissemination of up-to-date information
- Partner with the Hospitality Education Foundation of Georgia to raise awareness of how Georgia specialty crops can be used to create healthy meals through chef demonstrations and the development of an educational video to be used to educate high school students on the use of specialty crops
- Partner with the Center for Applied Nursery Research to digitally link the information to growers, retailers, landscape contractors, and consumers and broaden the scope of research programs into new plant development and plant evaluation programs; both of which can be fed into a digital stream to growers, retailers, landscape contractors, and/or consumers
- Partner with Georgia Olive Farms to support the Georgian olive industry by identifying what infrastructure, capital and marketing efforts are needed to establish the southeast as a significant olive oil producer
- Partner with the University of Georgia to develop and promote sustainable, low water use turfgrass systems in Georgia
- Partner with the University of Georgia to increase the competitiveness of Georgia's cut flower and greenhouse industry by addressing limiting problems in pest management through the validation and implementation of pest management options identified in phase 2 of this project, which was funded through previous grants
- 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

Guam Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$182,997.95	Number of Projects:	1
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- Partner with the University of Guam to obtain resistant, certified, disease-free yams now available from international germplasm banks and propagate them via tissue culture in a relatively short time, making them available at cost to local yams growers

Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$392,026.77	Number of Projects:	10
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- Partner with the Hawai'i Chocolate Association to support the second annual Hawai'i Chocolate Festival and the surrounding activities as part of Hawaiian-Grown Cacao Month to inform and educate the public regarding the emerging cacao industry in Hawai'i as well as provide outreach to all growers and users of Hawaiian cacao
- Partner with the Hawaii Coffee Association to increase awareness and subsequent sales of Hawaiian coffees in the international arena, with an emphasis on direct connections between buyers and farmers through a professional cupping process and disseminating the information through international media streams
- Partner with the Hawaii Pacific Export Council to provide opportunities for all small and medium Hawaiian specialty crop producers to travel to their target markets to more effectively identify worthwhile trade opportunities and subsequently engage in successful trade transactions as well as provide additional training opportunities through Advanced Export Training Seminars
- Partner with Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers to introduce unusual native Hawaiian tropical fruits to the local population not familiar with them by hosting a series of 14 taste tests and chef demonstrations utilizing these fruits at host grocery stores around the state

- Partner with the Maui Flower Growers' Association (MFGA) to develop new markets and alternative marketing channels for Maui flower specialty crops by expanding the current Maui-grown flower ad campaign, developing new promotional and collateral material highlighting Maui's Floriculture Industry, and providing website and Internet commerce training for MFGA members in order to increase their Internet presence and improve their competitive edge
- Partner with the Hawaii Export Nursery Association to propagate five new cultivars of Dracaenas through tissue culture methods that will then be promoted at trade shows in target markets across the mainland United States to garner interest and sales throughout the floriculture and nursery industry
- Partner with the Hawaii Tropical Flower Council to implement the next steps of an innovative marketing strategy aimed at increasing "Hawaii Tropical Flower" brand awareness and sales
- Partner with She Grows Food to provide an easily accessible, free, constantly evolving, web-based database for consumers and businesses to find and purchase locally grown produce. The database will be comprised of informational listings of produce, the farms that grow them, shops and restaurants that carry them, a complete listing of all farmers markets in the state, and Community Supported Agriculture farms as well as establish an interactive web-based network to connect chefs with specialty crop farmers to cultivate direct marketing partnerships. Grant funds will solely be used to promote specialty crops
- Partner with the Permanent Agriculture Resources to produce a comprehensive, free, 48-page guide with strategies for adding value to crops that will be distributed and promoted throughout Hawaii to small farm enterprises as well as provide a series of related workshops to area farmers. Grant funds will solely be used to promote specialty 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

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$1,016,020.71

Number of Projects:

9

- Partner with the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association to promote and encourage the production, sale and use of Idaho-grown regionally adapted landscape plant material
- Partner with the Idaho Potato Commission to enhance the competitiveness of Idaho potatoes in international markets by conducting promotional activities aimed at educating the international food communities on the quality, versatility, and benefits of using Idaho potatoes and Idaho potato products
- Continue the Idaho Preferred® program through television and/or radio advertising, retail and foodservice programs, as well as consumer education events designed to increase consumer demand for Idaho specialty crops. To ensure that all grant funding is being used to solely enhance the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops, television ads will feature only images of eligible products including fruits, vegetables, herbs, and wine
- Partner with the University of Idaho Pomology Program to evaluate various new tree architectures in combination with new dwarf rootstocks to enhance precocity and produce fruits with balanced mineral nutrients and increase yield and fruit quality of 'Aztec Fuji' apple
- Partner with the Idaho Potato Commission to enhance competitiveness of the Idaho potato industry by developing new varieties that can be produced and utilized more efficiently than existing ones through optimizing pesticide, fertilizer, water, and energy inputs, which will also address consumer's requests for more sustainable production practices
- Partner with U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to enhance the long-term sustainability of grape production by identifying cultivar variability in cold hardiness and providing new information to guide management decisions in response to extreme weather events that will reduce revenues loss due to cold injury
- Partner with the University of Idaho and Oregon State University to conduct additional research on Bean common mosaic virus (BCMV) and Beet curly top virus (BCTV) resistance for all dry and snap bean classes by creating one or more virus-resistant Mayocoba (yellow bean) advanced breeding lines in a 4 year period using market-assisted selection and virus screening
- Partner with the University of Idaho to control Potato Virus Y (PVY) and eradicate necrotic PVY strains from Idaho by surveying all seed potato lots that undergo winter testing for the virus and subsequently removing those lots containing necrotic PVY
- 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:

\$650,221.24

Number of Projects:

14

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- Partner with the University of Illinois Extension to offer training in Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices, provide technical assistance in writing food safety plans, and subsidize third-party audit costs for specialty crop producers
 - Partner with the Carbondale Convention & Tourism Bureau (CCTB) to improve the sale of locally grown specialty crops by increasing consumer knowledge and use of produce through a series of educational workshops. Matching funds will be used to offset the costs of the inclusion of any non-specialty crops
 - Partner with the 61st Street Farmers' Market to develop marketing materials to draw South Side Federal Nutrition Benefit (SNAP) residents to the Market to purchase specialty crops, provide education on specialty crops to youth and school children, and provide specialty crop-focused cooking classes in the community
 - Partner with WBBM TV, a subsidiary of CBS Inc., to launch an integrated, multi media campaign, "Illinois Where Fresh Is!" designed to bring "Specialty Crops" to the forefront of consumers' minds and promote healthier eating habits – ultimately boosting industry sales and keeping Illinois dollars in the state. Only eligible specialty crops will be included in the promotions
 - Partner with Southern Illinois University's Department of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems to study the impact of variety selection, harvest timing and storage duration on nutritional/antioxidant content of fruits and vegetables and to provide grower outreach through pre-educational project surveys, field production and sample collection, fruit and vegetable tissue assays, development of specialty crop factsheets and post-educational outreach surveys
 - Partner with the Illinois Stewardship Alliance to increase specialty crop sales to restaurants and developing new resources to connect farms to restaurants by educating restaurants and farmers, promoting local foods through the "Buy Fresh Buy Local" campaign, providing technical training to chefs and facilitating a farm-to-restaurant series. Matching funds will be used to cover the costs of any non-specialty crops
 - Partner with the Illinois Specialty Growers Association to organize the Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organic Conference, designed to assist 500 specialty crop producers in managing their production and price risk; educate specialty crop producers in developing "Good Agricultural Practices," "Good Manufacturing Practices," and "Good Handling Practices"; increase consumer knowledge of the nutritional advantages of consuming specialty crops; assist specialty crop producers in incorporating agritourism as a value-added opportunity; promote food safety practices to growers throughout the production and marketing chain; encourage consumers to buy local and fresh produce; provide educational programming on disease and pest management control in the production of fruits and vegetables; provide a tract of workshops on organic production and marketing; and assist organic growers become compliant with the National Organic Standards. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
 - Partner with the Illinois Farm Bureau's Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program to develop and print a new Apples Ag Mag to increase awareness of the specialty crop grown in Illinois, and to introduce more students and consumers to the ideas of locally grown foods, and the farmers that grow them
 - Partner with the Southern Illinois University and the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association to develop management guidelines for crop level, nitrogen fertilization rate and canopy and vineyard floor management strategies that will significantly improve the marketability of Illinois grapes and wine
 - Partner with the University of Illinois to study *Xanthomonas cucurbitae* as the cause of bacterial spot in pumpkins, providing data necessary for the development of effective methods of managing the disease including survival factors of *Xanthomonas cucurbitae* in the field, pathogenic variation among isolates of *Xanthomonas cucurbitae*, and the host-range of *Xanthomonas cucurbitae*
 - Partner with the University of Illinois to conduct research and deliver educational programs on the use of a portable steam generator to sterilize soils in high tunnels to prevent tomato and pepper losses to soil-borne diseases where high tunnels are used repeatedly
 - Partner with the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association to educate Illinois grape growers on the best practices for vineyard management to ultimately increase their yield and the quality of Illinois-grown grapes by offering educational workshops that address pest management and disease control in Illinois vineyards

- Partner with the University of Illinois Department of Crop Sciences, Illinois Specialty Crop Growers Association; and Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association to support an outreach and research program designed to define the risk of damaging pesticide drift to specialty crops producers, and assist specialty crop growers in managing such risk by providing them with a series of outreach presentations, special tools and guidelines for properly addressing a drift incident, and access to existing resources, including the Driftwatch program
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities 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:	\$408,367.52	Number of Projects:	10
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- Partner with the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service to assess the potential and need for an economically viable Food Hub in Hancock County by conducting a feasibility study consisting of interviews and public meetings. Only eligible specialty crops will be included in this study
- Partner with Upland Grape Growers Cooperative to more effectively market Indiana wines and wineries in the changing communications environment by conducting a review of marketing strategies and developing a joint marketing plan for local wineries
- Create a marketing and promotional plan that includes assisting specialty crop producers in promoting their products at the Produce Marketing Association’s Fresh Summit, by establishing a specialty crop booth
- Partner with the Indiana Humanities Council to create a day-long event that promotes 75 specialty crops as fresh, local, and high quality through involving local restaurants to highlight their fresh specialty crop menu options in a large scale open to the public event
- Partner with Purdue University’s Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture to develop and implement a series of educational programs for specialty crop producers on reducing and mitigating risk for producers through the Indiana Horticultural Congress, Indiana Horticultural Society Summer Program and Indiana Flower Grower Program
- Partner with Indiana Flower Growers Association to provide educational opportunities to Indiana garden centers, greenhouses and nursery growers, through a series of modules designed to target growers at appropriate times in the production cycle, raise their awareness of issues such as temperature and light management, energy efficiency and water quality. The team will also offer energy audits to 10 Indiana greenhouses and garden centers. Only those greenhouses and garden centers which produce qualifying specialty crops will be able to receive this audit
- Partner with Purdue University to apply and validate advanced sensor technologies for nondestructive detection of hollow-heart in watermelons and to develop and evaluate computer-based models to correlate the incidences of hollow-heart problems of watermelon to other agronomic parameters and weather factors
- Partner with Indiana Flower Growers Association to create production protocols for cut flower species adapted to growth under field and high tunnel conditions, increasing opportunities for agriculture producers to enter the market, diversify their operation and increase income
- Partner with Victory Acres to develop a small-scale agricultural incubator called Growing Growers and provide beginning farmers with an experienced Agricultural Coach, a Community Liaison, affordable land, durable tools, water, seed, a pre-existing market through Victory Acres’s established CSA base, and weekly instruction emphasizing sustainable farming techniques, farm management, marketing, and nutrition fundamentals. Victory Acres will ensure sole benefit to specialty crops by establishing a separate account for grant funds and expending them only on budgeted, specialty-crop focused items and activities
- 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:	\$276,526.15	Number of Projects:	13
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- Partner with Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development to increase the ability of local businesses to access fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables through the creation of a sustainable specialty crop value chain dedicated to the promotion, use, and production of specialty crops

- Partner with Southern Iowa Resources Conservation and Development Area and Iowa State University to increase specialty crop purchases through education activities; expanded institutional food sales; and the creation of fresh food purchasing programs
- Promote the purchase of Iowa’s specialty crops through the establishment of additional chapters and other initiatives established within the Iowa Farm to School program
- Partner with Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association to develop a series of five webinars on advanced training topics such as, but not limited to sustainable landscape management practices, trends in developing outdoor living spaces, marketing and business management
- Partner with Iowa State University to develop web-based “virtual field days” that will broaden access to specialty crop farmers and growers by re-creating them on the internet, in both English and Spanish language versions
- Partner with Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association to conduct a two-day conference featuring sessions aimed at beginning fruit and vegetable growers that will train them about the business and production aspects of specialty crops farming
- Partner with the Iowa Nut Growers Association to produce a tree nut growing video and conduct education and outreach and promotion of tree nuts to current and prospective growers
- Partner with Iowa Food Systems Council, Iowa Department on Aging, Iowa State University, and Regional Food Systems Working Groups to conduct a feasibility study that will outline the steps necessary for existing licensed kitchens to become potential specialty crop value-added processing sites. Only specialty crop producers will be included in the survey and the focus group meetings which will be completed as part of the project
- Partner with Iowa State University to prepare Iowa grape producers for the management of a new pest, the brown marmorated stink bug, by conducting field research to determine pest activity, potential affects to grape varieties grown in Iowa, and the most effective pest management treatment options
- Partner with Iowa State University to evaluate a biofumigation technique on ginseng, which utilizes biocidal chemicals released during Brassica plant tissue decomposition
- Partner with Iowa State University and the Iowa Christmas Tree Growers Association to determine fertilization levels necessary for optimal growth and to determine if cone production is related to excessive fertilization application
- Partner with Iowa State University to trial experimental and newly released cultivars of peaches and pears and disseminate that information to Iowa growers to encourage the production of locally grown produce and increase fresh fruit to Iowa consumers
- 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

Kansas Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$273,998.65	Number of Projects:	3
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- Partner with Kansas Rural Center to develop new relationships between specialty crop growers, food businesses, and consumers; generate sales of local produce by providing information; and provide technical assistance to specialty crop farmers and buyers while educating the population about the diversity and value of locally grown products
- Partner with Highland Community College to provide in-field workshops and individual guidance in an effort to continue to educate vineyard and winery owners and workers in Kansas
- Partner with Salina Downtown Inc. to develop a shared-use commercial kitchen incubator and a small retail market within the incubator for specialty crop producers, which will provide education in value-added food products, marketing, business management, and good agricultural practices

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$263,903.40	Number of Projects:	9
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- Partner with Kentucky Association of Food Banks to increase nutrition knowledge and consumption of 22 specialty crops among low-income children and adults through targeted education and direct marketing programs, which will provide information on how to prepare produce as well as cooking demonstrations at points of distribution

- Partner with Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association to enhance its website's online membership directory, which will strengthen the marketing opportunities for Kentucky's growers, retailers, and landscape companies
- Partner with University of Kentucky 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 University of Kentucky to conduct a short course at key locations around Kentucky, which will provide advanced educational opportunities to Kentucky vegetable growers in the subject areas of irrigation management, produce marketing, and disease management
- Partner with the University of Kentucky to increase the competitiveness of Kentucky growers by investigating the methods necessary to increase the production of ground-cover plants (such as European ginger) in Kentucky
- Partner with the University of Kentucky to develop sustainable nitrogen practices that will provide invaluable information to reduce both vineyard and winery costs and fine tune cultivar specific recommendations
- Partner with the University of Kentucky to provide growers with research-based recommendations to successfully add rhubarb as an early, high value crop to their gardens
- Partner with the University of Kentucky to provide Kentucky growers with needed research and guidelines on how to adopt a successful plasticulture strawberry production 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

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Amount Awarded:	\$341,212.54	Number of Projects:	5
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- Partner with the Louisiana State University AgCenter to develop a media campaign to increase "Louisiana Super Plants" logo recognition and expand it into all markets in Louisiana
- Partner with 1stCo Inc. Video Productions to develop and produce a TV series to educate consumers on the types of specialty crops available in Louisiana and then demonstrate new and delicious ways to prepare them. All recipes and actual cooking on set will focus only on listed specialty crops
- Partner with Marketumbrella.org to introduce underserved children living in urban areas to Louisiana specialty crops via educational field trips to the Crescent City Farmers Market with a specific focus on strawberries and citrus
- Partner with the Louisiana State University AgCenter to evaluate disease and insect resistance, yield and time to market of the increasing number of vegetable and fruit varieties available for production in local markets and educate local growers on results
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer the 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, Food and Rural Resources

Amount Awarded:	\$398,738.07	Number of Projects:	7
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- Partner with AgMatters to continue to offer a Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) audit cost-share program to all Maine specialty crop growers who successfully obtain an annual farm review, field harvest and field packing activities, house packing facility, or storage and transportation certification in 2012
- Partner with AgMatters to offer educational meetings, materials, and guidance to over 100 Maine specialty crop growers to keep them abreast of the new FDA rules for improved handling and processing of specialty crops, especially those that are eaten raw, and help them apply the rules to specific operations
- Partner with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Potato Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program to ensure an adequate response to the potential pest-related hazards confronting potato growers through field monitoring, disease forecasting, and the distribution of educational materials
- Partner with the Maine Potato Board to breed, select, and develop new potato varieties that will provide marketing opportunities for Maine potato growers at all scales of production while also placing a high priority on developing disease-resistant varieties that can enhance Integrated Pest Management (IPM) efforts and/or reduce the need for pesticide applications

- Partner with the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine to develop integrated pest management (IPM) practices to improve the management of mummy berry blight and Valdensinia leaf spot, two serious diseases that are of immediate economic concern to wild blueberry growers in Maine
- Partner with the Wild Blueberry Commission to develop and implement a blueberry thrips integrated pest management (IPM) program for Maine's 575 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

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$420,123.75	Number of Projects:	8
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- Partner with Crossroads Farmers Market to provide additional access to fresh fruits and vegetables to low income families; provide additional revenue for farmers by accessing new customers; and provide fresh fruits and vegetables to neighborhoods with limited availability of locally grown produce
- Partner with Maryland Christmas Tree Association to increase customer traffic at the Christmas tree farms and deliver increased sales of real Christmas trees in Maryland to support the over 200 real Christmas tree farms across the state
- Continue to reinforce that preference for local through effective, timely advertising, promotional events and marketing will strengthen consumer awareness of local specialty crops in Maryland and connect specialty crop farmers with markets. Any promotions/advertising not connected to specialty crops will be paid for from State General Funds
- Partner with the Delaware Department of Agriculture to develop the market for Mar-Del watermelons in New England, by working together, Maryland and Delaware will combine scarce state resources with federal resources to establish a marketing program in order to increase sales of watermelons
- Continue to offer technical assistance through training programs and one to one assistance to producers developing Good Agricultural Practices programs, increase the number of producers participating in the state Good Agricultural Practices program and continue offering economic assistance to producers implementing Good Agricultural Practices programs
- Continue to implement educational and promotional programs to increase student awareness and consumption of Maryland-grown fruits and vegetables through the use of posters and bookmarks and promote partnerships involving local businesses, parents, and other interested citizens
- Provide a basis for an efficient monitoring program and cost-effective, environmentally-acceptable management strategies of the Brown Marmorated Stick Bug to control costs and crop losses and protect the value of sweet corn sales
- 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

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Amount Awarded:	\$451,441.91	Number of Projects:	17
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- Provide growers with cost-share for initial Good Agriculture Practices/Good Handling Procedures (GAP/GHP) audits in order to facilitate an increased rate of adoption of food and farm safety initiatives
- Partner with Franklin County Community Development Corporation to establish and market a safe efficient, cost effective from farm to institution for specialty crops and value added products outside the normal season for specialty crops in Massachusetts
- Partner with Massachusetts Farm and Winery Grower's Association to capitalize on the unlimited growth potential by improving awareness through market opportunities such as facilitating a Massachusetts Wine Festival and a variety of education opportunities for the industry
- Partner with University of Massachusetts to enhance Massachusetts Apple Growers opportunities to market and sell their crops in Central and South America
- Partner with Massachusetts Nursery Landscape Association and Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association to reframe how the public thinks about horticulture by creating an environmental movement to provide the Massachusetts specialty crop industry with additional revenue
- Continue to support the Commonwealth Quality Program by providing education and outreach as well as extended brand awareness through promotional starter packages for specialty crop producers

- Partner with the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) in cooperation with Boston Collaborative for Food and Fitness (BCFF) to increase consumption and access to specialty crops at Boston Farmers' Markets by alerting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants to the opportunity to utilize their benefits at farmers' markets to purchase specialty crops through advertising and by incentivizing them to take advantage of the opportunity through a double value voucher that makes the produce affordable without reducing farmer income. At the same time, BPHC will work with farmers' markets to ensure that they have the technology required to participate in the program. Eighty-nine percent of all SNAP dollars in 2010 were expended on specialty crops. Therefore, to ensure that Specialty Crop Block Grant funding is not used to cover non-specialty crop expenses, 11 percent of all SNAP related expenses will be paid for by private donors and in-kind donations
- Promote specialty crops to the large commuting audience by advertising a featured seasonal specialty crop every month on Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority posters in and around the Boston Metro area
- Collaborate with Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to provide the public with greater access to specialty crops by hosting farmers markets within the state parks and providing chef demonstrations of new ideas to incorporate specialty crops into campground friendly meals and snacks. The project staff will monitor and review all project activities to ensure that the activities only benefit specialty crops
- Partner with Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom to provide teachers with the needed resources to educate students on the benefits of growing specialty crops
- Partner with Massachusetts Farm Bureau Agricultural Preservation Corporation to provide a comprehensive education program that uses Massachusetts specialty crop snacks and specialty crop farm visits to teach students about healthy eating and where and how specialty crops are grown. SCGBP funds will only be used to pay for field trips to specialty crop producing farms; other sources of funding will be used if a school takes a field trip to a non-specialty crop farm
- Partner with Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture to conduct a feasibility analysis and business plan for a new collaborative stand to allow for specialty crop growers to sell on the new Boston Public Market
- Partner with Northeast Organic Farming Association, Massachusetts chapter to provide specialty crop producers with classes and workshops on methods to forgo pesticides and take advantage of organic growing methods for specialty crops
- Partner with the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture to continue research to increase acreage in hops production and provide outreach to local hop growers as well as set up a local hops quality testing facility and provide a product evaluation and comparison on packaging methods to preserve hop quality and to determine best management practices that will preserve quality while pelletizing hops
- Partner with the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture and New England Apple Association to develop profitable long-term food service markets for fresh-sliced apples; and to build the region's capacity to meet the increased demand
- Partner with Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association to create a database and a secure internet based tracking system where growers can track their inputs of fertilizers, pesticides, and water to monitor volumes and results and create reports for handlers and regulatory agencies
- 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

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Amount Awarded:	\$1,352,337.37	Number of Projects:	25
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- Address the important priority of food safety for Michigan residents by implementing a specialty crop food safety program designed to educate direct-market producers, evaluate on-farm practices, provide food safety technical assistance and recognize small/locally grown fruit and vegetable growers who follow safe food practices
- Partner with Michigan Food and Farming System to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop producers by providing important and timely food safety education on traceability, develop a group audit process that allows smaller scaled specialty crop growers to pool their resources to create a cooperative on-farm food safety plan and audit process for field and hoop house growers, and to assist farmers in expanding into new and existing specialty crop markets by providing them with opportunities to meet the buyers for retail and wholesale institutions
- Promote Michigan specialty crops into the export market and increase the demand for products by supporting the participation of specialty crop producers in domestic and international trade shows including ANTAD, Food Marketing Institute Show, the National Restaurant Show American Food Fair, the USA Pavilion at Americas Food and Beverage Show, and SIAL Paris. These trade shows will only be open to Michigan specialty crop commodity groups and companies producing products with specialty crops

- Promote specialty crops to the Michigan retail, food service industries, and school institutions by supporting the participation of specialty crop producers at Michigan trade shows including the Michigan Grocers' Association Trade Show, the Michigan Restaurant Association Show, and the School Nutrition Association's Annual National Conference. Specialty crop producers will receive a discount on the fee for participation
- Partner with the West Michigan Tourist Association to promote Michigan specialty crops through a marketing campaign including brochures, website updates, Google advertising campaign, participation in consumer travel shows, and billboards. Only specialty crops will be utilized in this promotional campaign
- Partner with the Michigan Plum Advisory Board to improve communication and marketing of the Michigan plum industry through the development of educational materials and information delivery to growers, marketers, and buyers of Michigan plums; develop new guides, educational materials and Michigan plum industry web site presence to help growers, buyers, and the general public to gain awareness of the new varieties and help to connect growers and buyers of Michigan plums; and to use the new Michigan plum industry web site to communicate research-based information about best plum varieties and rootstocks suitable for growing under Michigan climatic conditions to growers, consumers and potential buyers
- Partner with the Cherry Marketing Institute to increase awareness of cherries' unique recovery advantage and bundle of researched health benefits by developing "The Red Report: A Scientific Look at the 'Power of Cherries' - a 2nd edition of the Cherry Nutrition Report that was originally published in 2006
- Partner with Michigan Farm Bureau to improve the competitiveness of Michigan's fruit industries by conducting a fruit inventory survey about the acreage, varieties, age and other important production trends
- Partner with the Michigan Christmas Tree Association to increase awareness among consumers about the role Michigan plays in the production of trees and poinsettias, improve understanding about the environmental implications of buying artificial trees and poinsettias, and increase awareness of the emotional benefits of real flowers and plants in the home, by conducting an educational-media relations campaign that includes product placement at high profile events, media appearances, PSAs, point-of-purchase materials, logo development and website development
- Partner with Food Bank Council of Michigan to increase the number of farmers' markets accepting Bridge Cards, increase awareness among food assistance recipients of the opportunity to use their Bridge Cards at Michigan farmers' markets to purchase specialty crops, and increase the number of specialty crop producers who accept Bridge Cards, by providing training and technical assistance to farmers' markets and specialty crop producers and by conducting statewide consumer outreach. Matching funds and a registration process will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with the Michigan Apple Committee (MAC) to improve the competitiveness of fresh Michigan apples in the Chicago market by building on MAC's 2010 research and extending marketing efforts scheduled for Fall 2011 and by targeting decision-makers at large restaurant chains through a "chef road show"
- Partner with the National Grape Cooperative to increase the sustainability and economic development of the Michigan juice grape industry by continuing to assist Michigan juice grape growers with completion of the Grape*A*Syst program, development of an action plan for increasing the sustainability of Michigan's grape industry, and by increasing grape grower participation in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program
- Partner with Michigan State University Department of Horticulture to investigate the effects of temperature, light and yield on Concord grape antioxidant capacity and accumulation of polyphenols by evaluating the effect of canopy management techniques on basic fruit chemistry composition, total phenolics, total anthocyanins, antioxidant capacity and total resveratrol content (trans- and cisomers and their glycosides) in berries during 3 growing years in Michigan
- Partner with Peterson Farms to evaluate the efficiency of a land application (via spray irrigation) wastewater treatment system during winter and non-winter months and generate data that will help make a science-based determination of appropriate hydraulic loading rates, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) loading rates, irrigation scheduling, and general irrigation management during extended periods of sub-freezing air temperatures
- Partner with Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board to develop and implement novel pest management systems for Michigan asparagus growers that reduce reliance on pesticides classified as carcinogens by screening new reduced risk fungicides for both purple spot and rust disease control, developing a rust forecasting system similar to the TOM-CAST predictor used for purple spot, and identifying asparagus varieties that are resistant to both foliar and soil-borne diseases
- Partner with the Michigan State University Entomology Department to identify key Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) "invasion fronts" where pest management programs can be enacted and identify effective control treatments for Michigan tree fruit that fit into integrated pest management programs

- Partner with the Michigan Carrot Industry Development Program to enable growers to improve the effectiveness of their spray programs and use the knowledge about variety resistances in planting decisions and disease management by testing registered and experimental fungicides for effectiveness against foliar diseases, conducting trials of carrot varieties to determine their levels of natural resistance to two fungal diseases and to a bacterial foliar disease and by conducting carrot sampling in Michigan fields to document disease incidence and gather pathogen isolates for future testing
- Partner with the Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association to maximize preemergence herbicide efficacy by evaluating specific herbicide/weed interactions in two major nursery growing regions of Michigan, identifying preemergence herbicides safe for a broad range of cultivars of *Viburnum* sp., *Hydrangea* sp. and *Buxus* sp., identifying specific weed control approaches for highly specific weed issues in MI nurseries such as mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris* L), creeping yellow field cress (*Rorippa sylvestris*), Red Stem Filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), Wild Garlic (*Allium vineale*) and marestail (*Conyza canadensis*), and by continuing evaluations of the propagule banks at 4 sites
- Partner with Chestnut Growers Inc. to reduce internal kernel breakdown (IKB) of chestnuts by determining if the genetic background of the pollen and mother trees predispose a tree to IKB, if IKB is graft transmissible to certain genotypes, and if antibiotic treatment will alleviate symptoms of IKB
- Partner with Michigan State University to conduct a concept study on the efficacy of utilizing x-ray computed tomography scanning technology to identify pits and insects in cherries and then identifying commercial level research and development collaborators and partners to form a complete team to bring this technology into commercial application
- Partner with Michigan State University Plant Pathology to provide diagnostic support to grape and blueberry growers in Michigan and help increase the longevity of vineyards and blueberry plantings by identifying causal agents of virus-like symptoms and grapevine decline in Michigan, establishing in-state DNA-based testing capability for grapevine virus and phytoplasma diseases, monitoring blueberry scorch and shock viruses in Michigan blueberry fields and identifying the cause of blueberry bronze leaf curl in Michigan blueberries
- Partner with Michigan State University Plant Pathology to provide environmentally friendly nematode control options for small fruit and vegetable growers in Michigan by evaluating rotation crops for management of plant-parasitic nematodes as well as the effect of tarping broccoli crop residues for management of plant-parasitic nematodes
- Partner with the Michigan Bean Commission to assess the potential for adoption and use of ‘narrow row technology’ by Michigan dry bean growers by evaluating row width and plant density at several levels and sites, assessing impact and adaptability of suitable dry bean cultivars and breeding lines, assessing plant desiccants and disease control strategies, and improving quality of direct harvest beans
- Partner with the Michigan Potato Industry Commission to minimize potato losses by building four new weather stations in areas farmed by potato growers and by developing modeling and programming of Enviro-weather stations that enable growers to easily and fully comprehend the weather stresses endured by their crops
- 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

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$738,767.32	Number of Projects:	11
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- Partner with Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association to increase the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) through workshops and demonstration audits in an effort to improve food safety
- Partner with Minnesota Grown Promotion Group, Inc. to improve efficiency and reduce costs of distribution systems through the development of a mobile phone friendly version of the online Minnesota Grown Directory systems for the more than 1,100 specialty crop producers that are licensed to use the trademarked Minnesota Grown logo
- Partner with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy to create new selling opportunities for Minnesota growers of fresh fruits and vegetable by addressing key barriers in the burgeoning K-12 school marketplace
- Partner with Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association to promote and increase sales of Minnesota Grown regionally-adapted landscape plants and trees
- Partner with Minnesota Turf Seed Council to introduce and market fine fescue grass seed into Minnesota in an effort to provide a reduced input grass variety that has economic benefits for growers and consumers alike
- Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops by continuing to develop and deliver workshops and seminars to improve the financial management literacy of specialty crop growers

- Partner with University of Minnesota to reduce the barriers that separate specialty crop growers from school nutrition programs by educating consumers about locally grown specialty crops and creating incentives for school programs to serve more Minnesota specialty crops
- Partner with Minnesota Farmers' Market Association to conduct a Farmers' Market Manager Certificate Program to address the legalities and complexity of operating a sustainable farmers' market. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Prepare Minnesota fruit and vegetable growers for management of the brown marmorated stink bug by conducting field and laboratory research and disseminating research results to growers through presentations at grower meetings and field days as well as via on-line and printed fact sheets
- Partner with North Dakota Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota to help develop nitrogen management practices in Minnesota and North Dakota to reduce Acrylamide levels in processed potato 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

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

Amount Awarded:	\$269,262.99	Number of Projects:	9
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- Partner with the Mississippi Pecan Growers Association to develop a website to improve grower access to research, training and other educational tools, as well as to enhance the local consumer's knowledge of the benefits and availability of Mississippi pecans
 - Partner with the Mississippi Sweet Potato Council to improve the quality of sweet potatoes and to promote them through a combination of research on packing sheds and reduction of tip/end rot and promotion at the Produce Marketing Association's annual trade show
 - Partner with Farm Families of Mississippi to develop and implement a promotional campaign to educate the public about the benefits of buying and consuming locally grown specialty crops. The promotional campaign will include television and radio ads as well as billboards
 - Partner with Mississippi Hospitality & Restaurant Association (MHRA) to create local supply chains between local specialty crop producers and area restaurants through workshops and promotions to increase specialty crop revenue for both. The MHRA will require all restaurants to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that defines the Specialty Crop Utilization requirements and also identifies the specific product and supplier/producer to ensure that all participants of this initiative utilize specialty crops
 - Partner with Rankin County Board of Supervisors to provide at risk youth with intensive hands-on training and demonstrations in establishing and growing their own specialty crop garden
 - Partner with the Mississippi Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association to provide growers with intensive education in many aspects of specialty crop production and marketing through the use of lectures from well respected growers and keynote speakers
 - Partner with Mississippi State University to identify suitable perennial specialty crops and their production requirements to help diversify small farmers' produce profile, prolong their production time, and improve their profits and competitiveness
 - Partner with Mississippi State University Extension Service to develop a management system that will adequately delay bloom and fruiting in primocane blackberries
 - 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

Missouri Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$353,743.06	Number of Projects:	17
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- Partner with the Farmers' Market of the Ozarks to expand the customer base of specialty crop farmers through a regional city market and increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables by educating the public on the nutritional value of locally available specialty crops, where to buy local specialty crops and how to select and prepare them
 - Partner with the University of Missouri to facilitate the first international elderberry symposium

- Partner with Columbia Farmers' Market to continue to grow markets and conduct an advertising campaign that will promote the sale and distribution of specialty crops by providing the local farmer and consumer a reliable, regulated marketplace for the direct exchange of high quality and safe food
- Partner with the Menorah Legacy Foundation to expand a mobile market campaign which makes fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables available and affordable for low-income persons living in urban “food deserts” without access to grocery stores or farmers’ markets
- Partner with River Hills Elderberry Producers to continue grower education and market enhancement through the investigation of distribution and supply chain options and development of a marketing plan, facilitation of a comprehensive elderberry workshop and farm tour, and promotion of elderberries at applicable farm shows and conferences
- Partner with the University of Missouri to provide a two day school that would include in-depth presentations on issues of interest to blueberry producers (both current and prospective), marketers, and consumers
- Partner with the University of Missouri to evaluate the relative cold hardiness of Redhaven peach floral buds
- Partner with Lincoln University to conduct research on maturity groupings of edamame to enable producers to better select cultivars that allow them to supply fresh edamame to consumers for a longer period of time each year
- Partner with Lincoln University to determine the best agronomic and management practices to employ to successfully produce quality sweet corn grown in a living mulch
- Partner with Lincoln University to test the performance of heirloom tomato varieties and newly released hybrid tomato varieties in high tunnels
- Partner with Missouri Wine and Grape Board to identify barriers that impact the purchase and consumption of the wine and grapes
- Partner with the University of Missouri to conduct research on the effects of black walnut curculio (*Conotrachelus retentus*) and bacterial isolates associated with black walnut kernel necrosis
- Partner with the University of Missouri to conduct research on the effects of black walnut curculio (*Conotrachelus retentus*) to plant volatiles and sex pheromones to determine whether potential exists for the development of monitoring programs utilizing the volatiles as a tactic for pest management
- Partner with Lincoln University to investigate the effectiveness of rapeseed meal in protecting edamame from soybean cyst nematode (SCN) damage
- Partner with University of Missouri to develop effective sustainable management of chestnut weevils for the continued growth of the Missouri chestnut industry
- Partner with the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County to create an urban vegetable farm that demonstrates the viability of an innovative “tiered Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)” marketing strategy that includes education, food preparation classes and workshops on tiered-CSA management
- 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:

\$296,701.95

Number of Projects:

7

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- Educate specialty crop producers and other interested stakeholders about the market and food safety need for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP), which will include an introduction to GAP/GHP, follow-up educational training to develop grower GAP/GHP plans, and further assistance with audit preparation upon request of training participants
 - Partner with Lake County Community Development Food and Ag Center and the Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Processing Facility to increase the capacity to meet Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) standards for the Farm to Institution Program and the specialty crop clients that utilize the processing center, deliver a technical assistance program in the GFSI standards to specialty crop processors throughout Montana, and deliver education programs that build a foundation for meeting GFSI standards to specialty crop processors throughout Montana. SCBGP funds will be used solely for specialty crop producers and other funding resources and cost-sharing will be utilized to deliver technical services to non-specialty crop processors

- Partner with the Montana State University’s Seed Potato Certification Program to develop a garden seed directory for distribution to all nurseries, garden centers, and produce distributors in Montana; obtain four new specialty varieties to expand the selection of varieties available to gardeners; and conduct an educational campaign to inform the public of the importance of growing Montana seed potatoes
- Partner with USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council to improve market access and development programs for pulses (dry, edible peas, lentils, chickpeas, and beans) as mainstream ingredients through training and a hands-on product/menu development course targeting food scientists and executive chefs from food manufacturers and food service entities from around the world
- Partner with Montana State University Extension to establish cold hardy grape varietal trails in western Montana, which will establish data that will help small acreage and commercial grape growers as well as local wineries determine the requirements to develop and grow the wine industry in Montana
- Partner with Montana State University to identify low glycemic index potato cultivars that may be adapted for production in Montana as a value-added crop
- Partner with Montana State University to develop and provide a range of pest and disease diagnostic services for commercial and amateur beekeepers to support the honey bee industry in Montana

Nebraska State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$346,205.53	Number of Projects:	11
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- Partner with Old Cheney Road Farmers’ Market to provide a series of workshops and webinars for farmers’ market vendors and managers to learn about Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- Grow the demand for dry edible beans in the Chinese market through the development of different ways to incorporate the use of U.S. dry edible beans in the Chinese diet
- Partner with the University of Nebraska to reduce the negative effects of water stress on the marketability of potatoes through the investigation of irrigation timing and nitrogen fertilization options
- Partner with the University of Nebraska to investigate the benefits of cold storage and determine if combining normal harvest with root storage will achieve a longer processing window for chicory root
- Partner with the University of Nebraska to increase demand for pinto and great northern beans by determining their ability to modulate DNA to an anti-inflammatory conformation
- Partner with the University of Nebraska to evaluate fenugreek as a new alternative crop in Nebraska with excellent market potential in the nutraceutical industry
- Partner with the University of Nebraska to create and demonstrate a cost effective greenhouse prototype for growing strawberries and vegetables during the winter months in Nebraska
- Partner with the University of Nebraska to improve the market potential of Great Northern (GN) beans by developing a food ingredient/pre-mix from GN beans to be used in other food items
- Partner with the University of Nebraska to identify resistant germplasm to Ascochyta blight and root rot so that growers have the option of planting chickpea varieties with better resistance
- Provide a comprehensive survey to document the presence or absence of the Japanese Beetle in Nebraska, which will allow Nebraska nurseries, sod farms, and other plant producers to implement best management practices, to mitigate the damage caused by this plant pest
- Partner with the University of Nebraska to explore new avenues to extend the produce growing season by awarding mini-grants to Nebraska specialty crop growers to investigate a variety of season extension options

Nevada Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$265,319.45	Number of Projects:	7
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- Partner with the Great Basin Community Food Cooperative to continue building a farmers’ network and promoting specialty crop producers, as well as host educational workshops and incorporate a specialty crop ordering and inventory update system for specialty crop producers
- Partner with Project Solution to cultivate the idea and mentality of healthy living, eating, and cooking in low income families by providing education through classes and garden resources to grow, cultivate, cook, and eat specialty crops

- Partner with Steve Robertson to develop a demonstration hoop house to educate youth and youth organizations how to overcome adverse weather conditions to sustain specialty crops in the harsh desert heat of the Las Vegas climate
- Partner with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension to teach community members how to set up a community supported agriculture organization through educational workshops to increase local specialty crop production and sales
- Partner with Western Nevada College, Specialty Crop Institute to increase specialty crop production, sales, and increase awareness of locally-grown foods via eight workshops throughout Nevada and specialty crop training at the Nevada Small Farm Conference in 2012
- Promote and enhance the competitiveness of specialty Crops in Nevada by covering costs for personnel services, outreach, and associated overhead to properly manage the Nevada Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
- 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:	\$249,921.18	Number of Projects:	9
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- Partner with Cheshire County Conservation District University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension to build the capacity for New Hampshire farm-to-school and farm-to-institution programming through networking opportunities and business management assistance designed specifically for specialty crop growers
- Partner with Southern New Hampshire Resource Conservation & Development Area to provide technical assistance to New Hampshire Apple Growers in the establishment of a marketing cooperative that will allow them to aggregate their apples for sale into institutional and wholesale markets and increase their ability to grow more apples, expand, and become more profitable
- Partner with the New Hampshire Fruit Growers Association to attract new customers for New Hampshire apple and tree fruit farms by exhibiting at two events and providing promotional activities and materials
- Partner with New Hampshire Plant Growers Association to sponsor a joint meeting to serve members of both New Hampshire Plant Growers and New Hampshire Landscape Association, through both educational sessions as well as a trade show to provide an opportunity for participants to network with associates in the green industry
- Partner with the New Hampshire Division of Travel & Tourism Development to continue to promote the purchase of local agricultural products under a common logo. The SCBGP funds will be used specifically for the benefit of specialty crops. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with Small and Beginner Farmers of New Hampshire to organize a series of workshop to teach practical skills for successful production and marketing of specific specialty crops
- Partner with Merrimack County Conservation District to provide structured guidance to specialty crop producers and agricultural service providers on how to choose a specific and effective combination of practices such as conservation rotations, cover crops, deep tillage, and biomass plantings based on assessed soil health constraints and soil health maintenance needs
- Partner with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and the New England Apple Association to develop profitable long-term food service markets for fresh-sliced apples and build the region's capacity to meet the increased demand
- 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:	\$792,245.45	Number of Projects:	20
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- Partner with the Cumberland County Board of Agriculture to implement a Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) training program for New Jersey fruit and vegetable growers
- Partner with Jersey Fruit Cooperative Association to implement an efficient item-level produce traceability initiative (PTI) for all Jersey Fruit blueberry grower/packers and a PTI compliant case-level traceability solution for all Jersey Fruit blueberry packers and for all Jersey Fruit peach packers

- Partner with the New Jersey Farm Bureau to increase the accessibility of food safety training information for specialty crop producers through the development of a producer distribution list focused on food safety issues; the establishment of a web-based outlet for pertinent food safety information; and the facilitation of a food safety summit
- Improve the promotion and market value of locally grown specialty crops through an expansion of the Jersey Fresh advertising and promotion program
- Partner with the New Jersey Blueberry Growers Association to enhance a consumer oriented advertising campaign that will promote the nutritious attributes of New Jersey grown blueberries
- Partner with Outer Coastal Plain Vineyard Association to educate the New Jersey grape growing community on how to meet the increasing demand for unique, high quality, locally grown wine grapes and to foster continued growth of the industry by creating tools to market this uniqueness
- Partner with Rutgers Cooperative Extension to encourage specialty crop production and consumption through a series of public service announcements
- Partner with the Garden State Wine Growers Association to assist with the development and execution of multi-faceted branding and marketing campaign, development of a secondary logo, website redesign and creation of point-of-sale collateral materials
- Partner with Landisville Cooperative Association to increase the sales of fresh vegetables through an on-site direct-to-consumer and business-to-business market enterprise by implementing a web-based promotional site
- Partner with the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council to expand the scope of a promotional campaign by incorporating new promotional activities, updating the marketing theme and website to provide more information and interaction for users, and continuing several educational outreach and dissemination campaigns of industry information
- Partner with the New Jersey Council of Farmers and Communities to strengthen the competitiveness of specialty crops through small niche farmer assistance, marketing specialty crops at community farmers markets, while educating consumers on the health benefits of eating “local to table” Jersey Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Partner with the Trenton Farmers' Market to promote Jersey Fresh and educate customers to both buy and eat local specialty crops through the facilitation of Jersey Fresh Days at the market and through cooking demonstrations
- Partner with the Garden Club of New Jersey to develop an outreach and education program that will enhance the awareness of garden centers and nurseries about local fruits, vegetables, floriculture and horticultural products while increasing their consumption
- Partner with the New Jersey Christmas Tree Growers Association to create a publicity campaign that will increase public awareness and encourage purchase of locally grown trees
- Partner with the Atlantic County Board of Agriculture to increase the public’s awareness of the economic and non-economic benefits of a strong and viable specialty crop industry
- Partner with the Middlesex County Board of Agriculture to revise and update an informational brochure featuring local agricultural producers and the products and services they offer
- Partner with the New Jersey Agricultural Society to facilitate a training program for specialty crop producers that will increase their production efficiency and enhance their ability to market their specialty crop products
- Develop a “how to” course for producers interested in learning about the organic certification process. The course registration process will be used to ensure that only specialty crop producers benefit from the funding provided for the project
- Partner with Tri-County Cooperative Auction Market Association to upgrade office computer system to facilitate quick sale of specialty crops through the co-op
- 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:

\$458,542.31

Number of Projects:

8

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- Continue to work to enhance the marketing, development, and competitiveness of value-added specialty crop food and beverage products for the food service industry
 - Continue to increase market share for New Mexico green chile in the national market by providing technical training seminars, webinars, as well as demographic analysis and innovative taste and preference

- Partner with the New Mexico Chapter of the Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association to unify the state’s independent nursery and greenhouse industry, so that they can share best practices and project a focused message to consumers through a certification program, advice services, and additional services to existing and new customers
- Partner with the New Mexico State University to explore the possibility of implementing a certification program in an effort to increase the value of New Mexico Chile peppers
- Partner with the New Mexico Dry Onion Commission to increase sales of New Mexico specialty crops through participation in the 2011 and 2012 Produce Marketing Association shows
- Partner with New Mexico State University’s Sustainable Agriculture Research Center to provide cultivar and production-system information that will directly benefit local fruit growers and other small farmers by giving them another option to diversify their operations and increase their revenue
- Partner with New Mexico State University to determine the feasibility for establishing a regional wholesale/retail market facility to supply the greater Albuquerque metro area with locally grown specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, herbs, and ornamentals) to meet growing consumer demand through direct, retail, and restaurant sales
- 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:	\$1,060,084.09	Number of Projects:	10
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- Increase awareness of the newly developed on-line directory/database of producers and value-added processors through a concerted outreach, marketing and public relations campaign to consumers and commercial buyers; develop a new mobile application for smart phones, I-phones and other mobile devices; and create a targeted commercial trade component/portal that will be able to systematically address a complex array of purchasing specifications and other sourcing needs of large commercial buyers, institutions and their distributors, including quality, packaging, delivery, payment terms, consistency, volume, etc.
- Enhance the marketing and promotion of regional “Buy Local” campaigns by raising consumer aware of regional specialty crops. All media purchased with grant funds will feature and promote specialty crops only and any non-specialty will be covered by matching funds
- Partner with Cornell University to develop a tool which will predict chemical thinning of apples to maximize crop value of apple orchards
- Partner with Cornell University to test budwood for latent fire blight bacterial which threatens nursery trees and new plantings
- Partner with Cornell University to conduct a statewide survey to determine whether corn earworm populations are resistant to pyrethroids and then provide timely information to growers about the potential effectiveness of other insecticides with different modes of action; and to test insecticides against the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)
- Partner with Cornell University to develop cost effective and practical management options for controlling stem and bulb (bloat) nematode (*Ditylenchus dipsaci*) on garlic
- Partner with Cornell University to enhance the profitability of growing grapes in New York through the development of a sustainable, cost-effective approach to managing Japanese beetles
- Partner with Cornell University to evaluate the potential of a biological control program for plum curculio using entomopathogenic (insect-attacking) nematodes in apple orchards using organic production practices
- Partner with Cornell University to develop a comprehensive statewide brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) monitoring network across multiple specialty crop commodities employing the Cornell Cooperative Extension infrastructure for data collection and information exchange
- 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

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Amount Awarded:	\$1,206,771.88	Number of Projects:	23
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- Maintain grower participation in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification in North Carolina by promoting GAP and water analysis cost share to growers across the state; reducing the costs of certification through a cost-share program that will enable more growers to participate; and creating three applications for mobile devices to promote roadside stands and farmers' markets. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with North Carolina State University to develop a wash for fresh produce, which will function as an effective control measure for removing pathogens from the plant; to determine how compounds which affect the binding of the pathogens to the plant may work with or increase the efficacy of the sanitizers currently used in the industry; and to determine how the compounds may best be used in the production environment to help reduce the incidence of foodborne illness associated with fresh produce
- Partner with Carolina Farm Stewardship Association to publish a report documenting the wholesale demand for organic produce grown in North Carolina, to provide organic transition support services to specialty crop producers, and to work with North Carolina Fresh Produce Safety Task Force small-farm workgroup on the Local Produce Safety Initiative to identify pathogen control best management practices for small farmers
- Partner with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Rockingham County Center to increase sales volume and average price per pound of North Carolina chestnuts through the utilization of a marketing campaign designed to educate the public and investigate the development of new chestnut products and markets
- Partner with the North Carolina Green Industry Council to enhance sales opportunities for growers through the creation of a website that will provide professional landscape management guidelines that contain immediate and scheduled maintenance tips, weather data, plant data, and a direct connection to industry professionals
- Partner with the North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association to improve growers' ability to regain markets and provide growth opportunities for the North Carolina nursery industry through targeted marketing to wholesale buyers and consumers and the introduction of new plant varieties
- Partner with North Carolina State University to improve the cut flower industry by providing up-to-date research to established and new cut flower growers; conducting a production and marketing survey of North Carolina's cut flower industry, which will evaluate major cut flower crops and cultivars grown in NC for yield, flower quality, pest and disease constraints, and vase life; evaluating and updating weed management recommendations and practices; and establishing a Cut Flower Information Portal to serve as a clearinghouse of information, fact sheets and guides
- Partner with North Carolina Sweet Potato Commission to expand marketplace usage of sweet potatoes within dining establishments in North Carolina and the southeast through the creation and implementation of a trendy menu promotion program that engages food service operators
- Partner with the Surry County Economic Development Foundation to increase marketing efforts to promote locally grown specialty crops, thereby supporting sales and distribution of specialty crops at Pilot Mountain Pride
- Partner with the North Carolina Commercial Flower Growers Association to promote North Carolina grown plants and increase the sales of top performing bedding plants by promoting plants that thrive and bloom in North Carolina
- Partner with the Haywood County Economic Development Commission to confront the obstacles to healthy eating by teaching consumers in western North Carolina about the benefits of local fruits and vegetables through cooking demonstrations, media promotions, and recipe and nutritional handouts. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with North Carolina State University to develop high quality raspberry cultivars that can be grown in the southern United States and are suitable for both local sales and commercial shipping
- Partner with North Carolina State University to investigate the adaptability and best production practices to grow Evangeline sweet potatoes in North Carolina through several intensive greenhouse and field studies as well as a sensory/taste test to determine consumer preferences between different varieties of sweet potatoes when they are either microwaved or baked
- Partner with Rural Advancement Foundation International to complete an assessment of crop insurance that is needed to protect and encourage growth of North Carolina specialty crops industry
- Partner with North Carolina State University to produce new varieties of tomatoes with enhanced resistance to mannitol secreting fungal pathogens and validate Mannitol Dehydrogenase as a fungal resistance gene to facilitate the screening of breeding stocks expressing high levels of this gene for use in conventional crosses
- Partner with North Carolina State University to screen Fraser fir and other fir species to identify trees with resistance to balsam wooly adelgid; to clarify the host-insect interactions of balsam wooly adelgid; and to determine the mechanisms related to the variability of resistance/susceptibility between and within fir species

- Partner with North Carolina State University to improve the marketability and quality of fresh-packed blueberries in North Carolina by reducing berry diseases, enabling grower adoption of better cultivars, and reducing pesticide use
- Partner with North Carolina State University to determine the range and seasonal biology of spotted wing drosophila in North Carolina, assess crops at greatest risk of spotted wing drosophila damage, and develop management tools for spotted wing drosophila
- Partner with North Carolina Vegetable Growers Association to develop an interactive diagnostic key for web-based technology to identify production problems and minimize crop loss for cabbage producers
- Enhance Fraser fir production by evaluating and improving tissue analysis as a tool to detect nutritional problems and fine-tune fertilization management and develop a strong educational outreach program to Fraser fir farmers
- Partner with Operation Spring Plant to assist in the installation of a specialty crop packing facility for specialty crops grown by North Carolina's underserved farmers and to train specialty crop producers on the use of the packing equipment and on Good Handling Practices (GHP) and Good Management Practices (GMP)
- Partner with Yancey County to establish a facility and support services to increase sales of locally-grown specialty crops and to provide training for farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- 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:

\$641,925.69

Number of Projects:

11

- Partner with the Foundation for Agricultural & Resources Management and Sustainability (FARRMS) to conduct a survey of school food service coordinators in order to gauge the usage of local produce in North Dakota schools and the number of farmers that sell produce to the schools
- Partner with the North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association to increase the number of fruit and vegetable growers within North Dakota that sell via farmers' markets through the development and facilitation of farmers' market manager training and increasing necessary supplies for new fruit and vegetable vendors
- Partner with North Dakota State University-Carrington Research Center to provide cultivation and production information to the public so that they can act on their enthusiasm for locally grown, unusual and nutritionally-rich fruits
- Assist local communities in developing Local Food strategic plans, utilize the North Dakota Department of Agriculture's mobile food processing unit to promote specialty crops for local consumption, increase the production of fruits by promoting community orchards, and educate all interested in local foods through a state-wide conference and the use of social media. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with Williston Ag Diversification Group to develop, evaluate and advance newly bred and improved "niche" market potato varieties; provide innovative new potato products for test marketing and creating new and expanding markets for the North Plains region growers, processors and fresh pack suppliers; and allow expanded potato production and potato acreage expansion to newly developed irrigation areas in western North Dakota, eastern Montana and Minnesota
- Partner with Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota to help develop nitrogen management practices in Minnesota and North Dakota to reduce Acrylamide levels in processed potato producers
- Partner with the National Sunflower Association to develop a rust resistance in confection hybrids, incorporate identified genes into two acceptable confection genetic backgrounds, and make them available to the private seed industry for incorporation into finished commercial hybrids
- Partner with North Dakota State University to determine the genetic make up of PVY strains in North Dakota seed potatoes
- Partner with North Dakota State University to provide better quality pinto beans through the evaluation of their agronomic performance and adaptation, their positive or negative associations with other important traits such as cooking quality, and the identification of lines that would offer a good combination of high seed yield, good agronomic performance in North Dakota environments, and the slow darkening trait
- Partner with Northharvest Bean Growers Association to develop food menu items utilizing North Dakota specialty crops, find manufacturers to manufacture these products, and develop a wholesale system within North Dakota to distribute the products to the marketplace
- 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:

\$703,287.80

Number of Projects:

16

- Partner with the Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association (OPGMA) to conduct food safety education and outreach to specialty crop producers. As part of this project, OPGMA will provide a full day of food safety education at the 2012 OPGMA conference focused on the critical role of growers in food safety, state and federal food safety regulatory updates, produce traceability, the ins and outs of the Ohio Produce Marketing Agreement's (OPMA) food safety standards, and options and strategies for meeting OPMA standards. OPGMA will also organize a food safety educational session at the 2012 OPGMA Summer Tour & Field Day in June, 2012. In addition, OPGMA will include OPMA and food safety articles in the quarterly OPGMA newsletter, OPGMA Today, and in OPGMA's website, e-newsletter and Facebook pages
- Partner with the Ohio Grocers Foundation to promote the safety of locally grown produce by developing a training module that focuses on specialty crop food safety and prevention of foodborne illnesses. This new module will include information on food safety exclusively for specialty crops. Matching funds will be used to pay any expenses that are not directly related to specialty crop initiatives. Program income will be used to promote the specialty crop module
- Partner with Ohio State University to prepare growers for the coming adoption of the Ohio Produce Marketing Agreement (OPMA) in 2012 and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) in 2013 by providing incentives such as subsidies for produce safety training before it is mandated and by presenting more enticing messages about food safety through the integration of GAP messages into highly esteemed advice on other farm topics
- Partner with the Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association (OPGMA) to continue working on the Ohio Produce Marketing Agreement (OPMA) to vet the standards and compliance processes associated with OPMA through beta inspections of various farms, complete certifying body requirements in accordance with ISO 65, finalize the business plan, obtain official/legal recognition of OPMA within Ohio, and market OPMA to produce buyers
- Partner with the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACENet) to assist specialty crop producers to increase wholesale market access and annual sales/profitability for fresh and processed specialty crops to restaurants, grocery retailers and educational institutions by providing Market Ready, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) training; regional brand promotions; and improved processing and packaging technologies
- Partner with the Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc. to develop and implement a year-round marketplace connecting Ohio producers of nursery crops with volume wholesale buyers by creating a web-based nursery crop buyers' guide that will increase sales opportunities, increase distribution of crops, and assist Ohio nursery growers in their marketing efforts
- Partner with the Ohio Wine Producers Association to promote Ohio grapes and wine by producing a coloring book about Ohio grapes, an Ohio Wine trivia board game and at least 65 short winery/vineyard videos to raise awareness and stimulate more visits to local vineyards
- Partner with Growhio to promote the availability of Ohio's specialty crops at the Cleveland Farmers' Market Guild's eight farmers' markets and educate consumers about the health and local economic benefit of Ohio specialty crops by conducting a marketing plan including billboards and other advertising, a pocket guide to Ohio specialty crops, and a web-based database for connecting producers and farmers' markets. All materials developed, such as a pocket guide to specialty crops at farmers' markets, will be focused solely on specialty crops and will not promote or mention non-specialty crops or other foods products
- Partner with the Ohio Christmas Tree Association to encourage additional Christmas tree production in Ohio and increase sales of Christmas trees and value added products by revising the Ohio Christmas Tree Grower's Manual and producing an on-line video series and DVD that provide resource information for potential new growers, encourage existing growers to expand production acreage and species diversification, and promote sales/purchase of Ohio grown Christmas trees
- Partner with the Center for Innovative Food Technology to increase the use of Ohio-grown specialty crops by Ohio's food processing establishments by identifying potential relationships and by defining and documenting the requirements for product quantities, condition including grade, size, form, and other essential items. Any and all questionnaires, personal interviews with processors, and other communications will discuss only those items designated as Specialty Crops. All reporting of results will similarly be limited to specialty crops
- Partner with the Center for Innovative Food Technology to produce a plan for the establishment for a central processing and distribution facility for specialty crops that is of sufficient size to be economically viable. Facility design will include only processing equipment that is suitable for specialty crops only

- Partner with Ohio State University to increase the sustainability and profitability of Ohio's container nurseries by reducing the amount of petroleum-based products used in production and by reducing labor cost and herbicides through the use of a novel container production system consisting of a traditional wire basket lined with a non-absorbent polyester fabric and filled with a pine-barked substrate
- Partner with the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association to maximize preemergence herbicide efficacy by evaluating herbicide/weed interactions in major nursery growing regions, investigate strategies for controlling liverworts, reduce preemergence herbicide phytotoxicity for a broad range of cultivars, and characterize bark cracking due to glyphosate in Ohio nursery fields
- Partner with Ohio State University South Centers to evaluate new and superior blueberry cultivars, increase the acreage of commercial blueberry production, improve production and marketing skills of commercial blueberry growers, and develop blueberries as a new nursery crop in Ohio
- Partner with Ohio State University to reduce costs of sod production for sod producers by determining microclover's ability to reduce fertilizer, water, and pesticide inputs; determining the economic gains experienced from implementing microclover on sod farms; and implementing the new practices across five Ohio sod farms
- 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:	\$380,851.06	Number of Projects:	6
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- Continue a state-wide advertisement campaign through funding local promotional grants, OK Grown tote bags, and advertisements to increase awareness of Oklahoma's specialty crops in order to stimulate supply of these commodities and the general public's demand for them. Project staff will ensure that this project solely benefits specialty crops through the utilization of progress reports, onsite visits, and other contact as deemed necessary to ensure that funds are solely enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops
- Utilize Ag in the Classroom resources to introduce Pre-K through eighth grade students to the health benefits of specialty crops through the integration of these commodities via a core curriculum that incorporates technology including SMARTBoard lessons, healthy connection links, and PowerPoint presentations
- Partner with the Oklahoma Grape Industry Council (OGIC) and Frank, Rimerman + Co. LLP to determine the economic impact of the Grape and Wine Industry in Oklahoma
- Partner with Noble Foundation to evaluate the use of colored shade cloths on vegetable production as a potential method to lengthen the growing season and increase production of locally grown specialty crops
- Partner with Copper Bear Farms to offer free salad bar options to children grades Pre-K through fifth grade and produce a business model for local farmers/growers to grow reliable and quality salad bar crops for distribution to local schools
- Fund participation in a program that allows small (less than 40 acres), limited resource specialty crop farmers to apply for a plasticulture program, assist in the installation of up to one acre of plasticulture, fund land preparation, animal depredation, wildlife fencing, fertilizer, scales, irrigation systems, plants and plastic

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,724,046.73	Number of Projects:	24
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- Partner with Organically Grown Company to provide Oregon organic specialty crop growers with training, guidance, third-party food-safety certification, and follow-up that will preserve their future market access to wholesale, export, retail, and food service channels
- Improve the effects of the economic recession and expand global marketing of Oregon specialty crop products by hosting trade meetings and educational seminars in the influential cities of Hong Kong and Shanghai China
- Partner with Adelante Mujeres to provide economic viability for local Latino farmers by increasing access to farmland, training in small-scale diversified organic agriculture, and direct market outlets as well as build momentum for healthy foods within the Latino community by creating more low-income producers and consumers of regionally sourced whole foods. All budgeted expenses listed in the grant are directed at assisting Latino farmers with the cultivation, packaging, and promotion of specialty crops

- Partner with Certified Onions to institute an aggressive marketing campaign to promote onions grown in Treasure Valley that have been voluntarily tested for pesticide residue and pathogens
- Partner with Corvallis Environmental Center to increase purchases of Oregon specialty crops by school districts, promote Oregon fruits and vegetables to children and their families, and serve as a model for emerging farm to school programs in Oregon
- Partner with Curry Soil and Water Conservation District to assist with implementation of a marketing plan and establish long-term, high-volume sales channels for Oregon cranberries in China
- Partner with Ecotrust, to enhance a new membership category within FoodHub, an online directory and marketplace designed to make it easy and efficient for regional food buyers and sellers to connect and conduct business. Specialty crop funds will be isolated and applied only to activities benefitting specialty crop producers through FoodHub analytical and reporting software that segments users by crop type
- Partner with Friends of Zenger Farms to increase the number of community supported agriculture (CSA) farms that accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funds for specialty crops at CSAs as well as determine effective marketing strategies, the cost and time to set-up and administer a SNAP program, extra support needed to retain SNAP members through the season, and raise public awareness about CSA farms accepting SNAP payments
- Partner with Grow Portland to help beginning and disadvantaged vegetable farmers succeed by jointly marketing and distributing naturally grown vegetable crops through diverse direct-marketing channels including restaurants, food service, farmers markets, and community supported agriculture
- Partner with Low Input Viticulture and Enology (LIVE) to expand LIVE Winery Certification, which verifies sustainable production of wine, including responsible water management, worker health and safety, reduction in energy use and emissions, and sustainable wine grape sourcing
- Partner with Oregon Association of Nurseries to implement and promote a robust online buyers guide to create awareness of the Oregon and northwest nursery industry and help streamline purchasing from regional growers for buyers in an increasingly competitive environment
- Partner with Oregon Hop Commission to develop educational and promotional materials and exhibits, which will be used at tradeshow and events to promote U.S. hops and open lines of communication between hops purchasers and the public hop breeders
- Partner with Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission to increase the promotion of Oregon's individually quick frozen (IQF), dried, and canned berries in both foreign and domestic food service markets to stimulate industry growth and develop emerging markets
- Partner with the Rogue Initiative for a Vital Economy to increase specialty crop sales in the Rogue Valley by connecting consumers with beginning and established specialty crop growers through targeted education and outreach campaign centered around a new online farmers market, Rogue Valley Local Foods, as well as existing farmers markets and Community Supported Agriculture programs. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Provide quality market information and export training to Oregon's specialty crop producers and processors to develop and expand international sales
- Partner with Gorge Grown Food Network to provide vegetable growers with hands-on season extension education classes and workshops on highest-priority grower-determined topics, utilizing the expertise of extension professionals and producers; develop and maintain a demonstration site that will house several season extension method demonstration plots; and conduct a targeted marketing campaign to local vegetable purchasers to increase market opportunities and sales
- Partner with Oregon State Beekeepers Association to develop a Master Beekeeper program to educate and train agricultural professionals, beekeepers and farmers and other interested citizens; explore tools and strategies that enhance pollination efficiency of honey bee colonies and increase overall pollination; and evaluate the potential of synthetic honey bee brood pheromone to enhance pollination efficiency of honey bees in specialty crops such as carrot seed, blueberry, cherry, and pear
- Partner with Salem-Keizer Education foundation to expand the Learning Gardens program to serve five schools in the district, which actively promotes healthy eating and nutrition while exposing children to Oregon specialty crops and create the first K-12 Learning Gardens program
- Partner with Ascent Agricultural Services and the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to increase the adoption and accreditation of United States Nursery Certification Program (USNCP) by four small and mid-sized nurseries through training, manual documentation, and the development of a systems approach to control pests and pathogens

- Partner with Oregon Seed Council to investigate and develop new products and technologies to manage rodent population in turf seed storage and shipping facilities through studying previous research and current technologies to identify options to manage rodent damage to bagged and stored turf seed
- Introduce minimal processing capabilities into school cafeterias in an effort to increase procurement and consumption of Oregon specialty crops in one small, rural district in northeastern Oregon
- Pilot a new national service program, FoodCorps, through the coordination of the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Program with the Oregon Department of Education and extensive public-private partnerships around the state; support specialty crop agriculture, food and environmental literacy in the state, and foster new career entrants into farming and food processing of specialty crops
- Ensure continuous and successful pollination of Oregon’s specialty crops through the development of native bee identification aides for specialty crop producers and establish native bee restoration demonstration sites in specialty crop settings in order to enhance native bee population
- 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:	\$1,043,305.42	Number of Projects:	17
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- Partner with Pennsylvania State University to conduct an evaluation of microbial food safety risks associated with the use of surface water intended for irrigation of specialty crops in Pennsylvania and to develop and validate the accuracy of procedures farmers can use to test their water
- Partner with American Mushroom Institute to continue the development of the Pennsylvania’s mushroom growers’ food safety activities and to provide practical educational and training tools they need to understand and comply with food safety requirements
- Partner with Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Board to serve the farm direct market segment of the Pennsylvania Apple Industry by building consumer awareness of farm markets and by providing a vehicle for consumers to find Pennsylvania Orchards and Markets
- Partner with Pennsylvania Wine Association to continue the development of the Pennsylvania Wine Quality Initiative and provide training to industry members to improve the overall quality of wine produced
- Partner with Fay-Penn Economic Council to establish a Local Economy Initiative that focuses efforts to rebuild a local sustainable food system and promote direct farm-to-consumer sales, farmers markets, and other sustainable agriculture marketing practices. Only specialty crops will be promoted in the advertisements, marketing tools, and signage funded through this project
- Partner with Serman Masser and the Pennsylvania Co-Operative Potato Growers to develop generic brands of potatoes, specific to Pennsylvania growers, which can be trademarked and marketed throughout the region, which will be tailored to Pennsylvanian grown round white and round yellow varieties of potatoes
- Partner with Fair Food to promote, serve, and provide educational opportunities concerning Pennsylvania grown specialty crops to Philadelphia school children and continue to provide a steady, viable market to Pennsylvania fruit and vegetable growers
- Partner with Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program to provide “Simply Delicious” point-of-purchase materials to direct-marketing vegetable growers and enhance the program’s consumer website
- Promote and develop new markets or expand existing outlets for the sale of fresh fruits and vegetables and other specialty crops and provide increased access for food insecure persons who are in underserved areas that are in need of food assistance to supplement their diet
- Provide a variety of marketing assistance, educational outreach and promotional efforts to solely support specialty crops through programs such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) cost share program, the Penn State University Market Marker, and the state branding program, PA Preferred™
- Host chef demonstrations to educate the public on healthy eating habits and food safety by providing step-by-step food preparation demonstrations on how to prepare Pennsylvania grown specialty crops during the Pennsylvania Farm show on the PA Preferred Culinary Connection stage

- Partner with Pennsylvania State University to improve the detection and management of three major pathogens, bacterial spot of tomato and pepper, Puccinia horiana that causes chrysanthemum white rust, and Phytophthora isolates collected from ornamental samples
- Assess and update Pennsylvania’s virus certification program for fruit tree nursery stock to ensure that Pennsylvania tree fruit growers have access to healthy trees that produce competitive crop yields with lower input costs
- Partner with Pennsylvania State University to train conifer growers in pest management techniques which lead to reduction of pesticide use and/or incorporation of reduced-risk pesticide products for control of invasive armored scale pests
- Partner with Pennsylvania State University to continue to assist with the purchase and/or construction of seven additional high tunnels and provide hands-on training on construction, production and operation of these high tunnels to produce vegetable crops for an extended year round production of greens and other cool season vegetables to help eliminate the food deserts that exist in the city of Philadelphia
- Partner with Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture to plan and implement the development of a Northeast Pennsylvania “Food Hub”, which will increase the production and sales of Pennsylvania grown specialty 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

Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$375,524.79	Number of Projects:	11
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- Build capacity of eligible specialty crop producers to meet widely-accepted food safety standards by providing food safety and best practices training, followed by one-to-one mentoring on food safety, Good Agricultural Practices, and Good Manufacturing Practices for food industries
- Partner with La Tierra Prometida to train participants and other persons from the community in best agricultural and produce handling practices and to prepare a produce packing area that conforms to the regulations of FDA and local agencies
- Promote sales of local Puerto Rican specialty crop produce through the use of a local produce logo identifier as well as provide international marketing opportunities for specialty crop producers with export potential at numerous trade shows
- Impress a buy-local message in the public consciousness and provide the tools for consumers to make decisions to purchase local specialty crops through a marketing campaign consisting of television cooking shows and magazine advertising
- Promote farmers markets that benefit specialty crop producers by providing necessary market access through promotional activities that can draw the public to the markets
- Partner with Cali Nurseries, Inc. to create a bilingual digital platform through which ornamental producers may connect with potential consumers via an online database of ornamental plants and retail sales points and connectivity to various media networks
- Partner with Offeecay to provide six courses about quality coffee to individuals seeking to obtain Level 1 Specialty Coffee Association of Europe certification
- Partner with Hidrocultivos Carolinenses and MDJ Management Services to provide gardening skills required to create and maintain a home garden to preschool children and their families as well as provide best practices training related to Good Agricultural Practices, Good Handling Practices, and Good Manufacturing Practices to individuals to become self-sufficient in the agricultural market, specifically in hydroponics production
- Partner with Organización Boricuá de Agricultura Eco-orgánica to produce and present a series of promotional documentary videos that will foster the following: the exchange of information between experienced and beginner farmers on crop improvement methods, an increased public awareness and consumption of locally grown specialty organic and agro-ecological crops, and provide additional means for marketing local organic specialty produce
- Partner with Guaynabo Municipality to increase the consumption and production of specialty crops in the area of Guaynabo through a Municipal program providing specialty crop promotion and education and preparation of land for specialty crop production
- Partner with Núcleo de Apicultores de Puerto Rico to provide the initial establishment of a queen bee production so that the quality of queen bees available to producers can be upgraded

Rhode Island Division of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$221,007.27	Number of Projects:	8
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- Collaborate with the University of Rhode Island to continue to provide Good Agricultural Practices training and consultation with growers and promote the program to consumers
- Partner with Farm Fresh Rhode Island to update its website (www.farmfreshri.org) to ensure that the data accurately reflects the most current information for Rhode Island specialty crop producers and adapt listings on the website to easily convert for mobile device usage. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with the Rhode Island Farm Bureau to develop videos that promote Rhode Island grown specialty crops through a variety of social media platforms
- Partner with the Kids First Group to increase sales and enhance the competitiveness of Rhode Island grown specialty crops through the development of a statewide Farm to Hospital Program that increases the amount of locally grown, fresh produce offered at local hospitals
- Continue to expand on Rhode Island's specialty crop promotional activities, which include “Rhode Island Grown Get Fresh Buy Local” initiative by conducting produce preparation demonstrations featuring local celebrity chefs at all RI farmers markets and participating roadside stands, update its RI Agricultural Display, enhance the marketing program by making point of purchase advertising material available to farmers, and introduce electronic benefit transfer banking to Farmers Markets to allow USDA Food Stamp recipients to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Matching funds will be used to cover non-specialty crop commodities and producers
- Partner with the Genesis Center to establish a community garden; develop curriculums that pertain to the preparation, planting, maintenance, and usage of locally grown produce; provide nutritional education concerning the inclusion of specialty crops as healthy alternatives; and launch a pilot horticulture/floriculture enterprise endeavor that educates student to grow, market, and promote locally grown plants
- Partner with the North East Organic Farming Association of Rhode Island to provide training and establish an advisor program for farmers interested in the use of organic specialty crop production techniques
- Partner with the University of Rhode Island to conduct variety trials that evaluates the production methods for alliums (e.g., leeks, onions, and garlic) in Rhode Island and develop recommendations for varietal best practices

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$510,787.31	Number of Projects:	13
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- Partner with South Carolina Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Association to provide training in marketing and food safety for specialty crop producers and handlers in South Carolina through a series of workshops
- Continue to assist specialty crop producers with the cost of quality water testing and the receipt of certification in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP)
- Partner with South Carolina Nursery and Landscape Organization to provide a combination of marketing, promotional, and educational activities designed to enhance nursery growers and other specialty crop stakeholders through a field day, trade shows, seminars, grower marketing, and an online directory
- Partner with South Carolina Sod Producers Association to educate South Carolina sod producers on better stewardship and sustainability of sod production and promote sod sales through advertising efforts, participation at industry trade shows, and internet presence
- Provide a diversified marketing campaign for specialty crops that includes signage at retail food stores to encourage local consumers to purchase South Carolina Grown fruits and vegetables
- Partner with Carolina Farm Stewardship Association to improve outreach to South Carolina specialty crop producers about resource conservation programs and increase adoption of conservation practices; allow them to reduce the cost of implementing organic pest and disease control practices; and provide organic/transitioning producers with the tools they need in order to be in compliance with the National Organic Program
- Partner with South Carolina Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crops Association to provide additional resources to community based farmers markets to increase their marketing and promotional programs for specialty crops

- Collaborate with the specialty crop industry to promote fruits and vegetables at a variety of events through the development and distribution of promotional materials and broadening the scope of products promoted at the state, regional, and national level
- Partner with Clemson University to increase knowledge, consumption, and utilization of locally grown specialty crops by mentors and workshops, increase access to specialty crop preservation and nutrition training for limited resource individuals and provide hands-on specialty crop preservation workshops
- Partner with Lowcountry Local First to offer farmers, distributors, buyers, chefs, and the general public demonstrations concerning the latest sustainable farming and food handling techniques to enhance and sustain the market presence of specialty crops. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with United Farmer USA to provide innovative agricultural techniques to small disadvantaged farmers, beginning farmers, and youths with the benefit of transition from traditional crops to specialty crops and promote agriculture to rural communities and local schools youth program through outreach, education and training
- Partner with Clemson University to investigate the marketing potential of the South Carolina peach products form premium niche markets and the evaluation of best post-harvest practices for analyzed 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

South Dakota Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$208,878.23	Number of Projects:	16
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- Partner with the South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service to provide training to specialty crop growers and extension personnel which will focus on safe food production and writing farm plans based on Good Agricultural Practices
- Partner with Aronia Acres to design and implement a marketing campaign that focuses efforts to increase consumer awareness about the nutritional benefits of locally grown Superberries (aronia berries, elderberry, cranberry, black currant, blueberry, etc.)
- Partner with the Value Added Agriculture Development Center to develop a statewide Online Marketplace to connect specialty crop growers and buyers
- Partner with the South Dakota Specialty Producers Association (SDSPA) to develop a centralized website designed to foster communication amongst SDSPA members and facilitate public outreach
- Partner with the South Dakota Department of Health to raise consumer awareness of fruits and vegetables, specifically South Dakota grown specialty crops, by conducting a telephone survey, the results of which will be the basis for a future marketing campaign
- Partner with South Dakota Specialty Producers Association to promote the Buy Fresh Buy Local South Dakota program. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Increase the number of consumers who are exposed to and sample South Dakota wines by hosting a Wine Pavilion at the South Dakota State Fair
- Partner with South Dakota State University to demonstrate the feasibility of maple syrup production in South Dakota and educate potential producers to inspire rural landowners to pursue maple syrup production as a value-added product within their existing windbreaks and native woodlands
- Partner with the Lakota Ranch, Beginning Farmer/Rancher Program to make fresh vegetables readily available to all local residents, including underserved populations, by providing education on gardening, purchasing convenience, and affordability of vegetables
- Partner with the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service to extend the growing season and to increase the amount of locally grown fruits and vegetables by raising awareness and utilization of movable high tunnels through an on-site workshop, field days, public presentations at conferences and Extension publications
- Partner with Hebda Family Produce to enhance the relationship between local specialty crop producers and school officials through the identification of locally grown specialty crops, development of a tool that connects local producers with schools, improvement of product delivery and presentation, and dissemination of specialty crop information to school officials and children

- Partner with South Dakota State University to study cold tolerance of grape cultivars and provide growers with comprehensive cultivar winter hardiness performance information collected under South Dakota climatic conditions
- Partner with Dakota Hops to investigate effective non-thermal strategies for preserving hops including cryogenic or standard freezing
- Partner with Black Hills State University to research a hop-based anti-fungal agent for the aquaculture industry, which has the potential to open a new market for local hop growers
- Partner with the South Dakota Specialty Producers Association to increase the entry of young growers into commercial production, while increasing local food production as a whole, by assigning mentors and providing small grants for soil tests, purchase of specialty crop seeds, and tools to cultivate specialty crops to promising young 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:	\$521,452.24	Number of Projects:	8
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- Establish a new initiative called “Know your Tennessee Farmer” using creative marketing strategies, which will include an App for smart phones, inform and educate consumers about local Tennessee specialty crops by increasing their awareness of the Pick Tennessee Products program, and connect consumers to the program’s online specialty crop directory
- Partner with the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation to purchase point-of-sale promotional items as well as conduct state-wide advertising for the Tennessee Farm Fresh program. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with the Tennessee Farm Winegrowers Alliance to increase the number of Tennessee grape growers that sell directly to Tennessee wineries through its grape harvest placement program as well as provide education seminars to grape growers to maximize a harvest output that meets the wineries’ standards
- Partner with the Tennessee Horticultural Exposition to facilitate and promote its annual Expo conference
- Partner with the Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA) to promote the TNLA members by attending other tradeshows and distributing membership directories, Tennessee buyers guides, Mid-States Horticultural Expo (MSHE) show information, updating both the MSHE and TNLA websites and allowing TNLA growers an opportunity to market their products to a national and/or international marketplace at MSHE
- Partner with the University of Tennessee Extension to enhance the marketing knowledge and skills of specialty crop producers in Tennessee directly marketing products to consumers through publications and workshops
- Partner with the University of Tennessee to train growers and greenhouse transplant producers how to produce high quality grafted tomato transplants and set up demonstration systems at several grower locations where grower and extension agent training will be provided to reach as many growers as possible
- Partner with the University of Tennessee Extension to provide Tennessee specialty crops producers with clarification of the tax system’s rules and regulation related to the sales of specialty crops

Texas Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,738,232.80	Number of Projects:	24
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- Partner with Texas AgriLife Research to ensure the safety and quality of fresh leafy vegetables through training, education and workshops to provide guidelines to Texas State producers
- Partner with University of Houston and the Fort Bend County Office of Texas AgriLife Extension Service to investigate inexpensive and effective sanitizing protocols as well as shelf life extension of leafy greens to enhance specialty crop growers’ ability to meet consumers food safety needs
- Partner with Texas State Floral Association to provide education and advertising to increase the number of certified local florists and increase demand of Texas plants and floral arrangements
- Partner with Sustainable Food Center to provide a double voucher system in order to gain specialty crops sales through the use of SNAP & WIC benefit recipients in order to boost sales from producers and healthy eating habits of benefit recipients

- Partner with Texas Olive Council to increase awareness and acceptance of Texas Olive Oil through an enhanced website, promotions, and demonstrations as well as grower training and education so growers may obtain guidance and share experiences and information
- Partner with Texas Vegetable Association to build on current successes from the GO TEXAN Vegetable Marketing Campaign with media spots, support of local produce consumption in restaurants and tout the health benefits of including fresh Texas vegetables at every family's meal
- Partner with Ecology Action of Texas to evaluate area-specific approaches to specialty crop distribution in the underserved Montopolis neighborhood and engage the community in specialty crop nutritional education through a one-year community market assessment
- Partner with the Texas Watermelon Association and the Texas Vegetable Association to conduct a multimedia advertising campaign using television and the internet to promote Texas watermelons to consumers
- Partner with TexaSweat to conduct education and promotional programs to generate awareness that will translate into increased sales and consumption of Texas Grapefruit
- Develop creative marketing programs to increase consumer visibility and awareness for Texas produce through enhanced produce demonstrations and culinary educational events to showcase fresh produce available at Texas retail outlets, farmers markets and local restaurants
- Increase the awareness and visibility of horticulture crops grown in Texas by hiring a Specialty Crop Program Specialist to coordinate activities within the industry such as signage to identify nurseries as a source for Texas plants, develop an educational seminar for multiple industry conferences, provide tools to identify nurseries and landscapers using Texas plants
- Partner with La Junta Heritage Center, Presidion Valley Farms, Presidio area farmers, and Texas AgriLife Extension Service to train local producers to transfer technical knowledge on successful cultivator management, processing transportation and marketing of fruit
- Partner with San Antonio Food Bank, Trinity United Methodist Church & Volunteer Engineers to educate area farmers markets on the impact of accepting electronic benefit transaction cards so they may increase their sales as well as provide an increase in availability of specialty crops in urban food deserts and increase community gardens to provide additional supply of specialty crops to area food banks in order to increase production and consumption in food insecure neighborhoods
- Expand knowledge of Texas grape production through workshops for growers in order to boost production of Texas grapes by teaching how to overcome major production issues, such as disease, pest control, and equipment
- Partner with Texas Tech University and Texas Olive Oil Council to investigate field grown olive tree physiology, growth, sustainability, and productivity in response to several irrigation regimes
- Partner with Texas Tech University to research and examine seed production capabilities of several cool-season and warm-season turfgrass species in West Texas
- Partner with Texas AgriLife Research, South Tex Organics, Texas Citrus Mutual, and Speedling Inc. Nursery to identify papaya varieties that are suitable to the Texas climate and develop propagation methods
- Partner with Texas AgriLife Research and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to develop a monitoring tool that will protect Texas potato growers from bacterium transmitted by the potato psyllid
- Partner with Texas AgriLife Extension Services to address critical deficiencies in the understanding of Texas Root Rot in wine grapes to provide concise data to help growers manage the disease
- Partner with Texas AgriLife Research and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to develop and educate growers with the information necessary to protect their crops from the Zebra Chip disease through fact sheets based off field studies best practices
- Partner with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service to develop a spatially explicit website in which producers of all pesticide-sensitive specialty crops can use to mark the location and activities of their operations in Texas
- Partner with Wintergarden and Rio Grande Valley Growers, University of Texas – Pan American, and the Texas Mexico Border Coalition to establish and evaluate artichoke and specialty melon crop production sites with producers in the Wintergarden and Lower Rio Grande Valley regions of Texas, and develop crop production budgets and consumer preferences
- Partner with Texas Tech University, Texas Pecan Growers Association, and Texas Pecan Board to develop production methods for truffles in Texas through evaluation and assessment at existing orchards
- 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

U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$182,295.73

Number of Projects:

4

- Increase consumer awareness of locally grown specialty crops grown in the U.S. Virgin Islands through the utilization of The Virgin Fresh marketing campaign
- Partner with the University of the Virgin Islands to measure the growth, development, and flowering of 25 pitaya (dragon fruit) varieties established in a trellis system and distribute information compiled and analyzed about this specialty crop to farmers and backyard gardeners
- Partner with the University of the Virgin Islands to enhance sweet potato production by providing education and outreach with regard to sweet potato weevils, the use of pheromone traps, and good rotation, and sanitation practices to limit weevils
- 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:

\$311,704.94

Number of Projects:

20

- Partner with Wasatch Community Gardens to educate urban youth on specialty crops through classes and hands on experience year round working in two community gardens
- Partner with Utah State University to develop sustainable propagation techniques for native plants as a step in the ultimate goal of fostering additional nursery crop production in Utah
- Partner with Utah State University to provide locally adapted solutions to help conventional fruit growers reduce purchased inputs and improve economic stability
- Partner with Utah State University to evaluate new methods for high density tart cherry management to take advantage of benefits such as increased yields, improved fruit quality, and reduced labor inputs that are found in high orchard systems used for other specialty crops
- Partner with Utah State University to evaluate jujube as an alternative fruit crops for diversifying opportunities for Utah's commercial and private horticulture population
- Partner with Brigham Young University to evaluate high quality accession of two uncommon fruit tree species to provide drought tolerant fruit bearing options to urban and suburban landscapes
- Partner with Brigham Young University to develop a sterile, full summer blooming plant that will satisfy consumer demands and conserve water resources
- Partner with Utah State University to develop production practices that will allow for the production of high value crops through an extended season
- Partner with Utah State University to help producers save plants from frost or drought conditions, reduce pesticide inputs and pollution, and ultimately improve fruit yields through the use of weather stations
- Partner with Utah State University to investigate inoculative releases of insect-attacking nematodes for billbug control, and examine the effectiveness of combining beneficial nematodes with resistant varieties for billbug suppression in order to support and protect the turf grass industry
- Partner with Utah State University to evaluate different insecticide programs for their efficacy against both cherry insect pests and develop revised recommendations for cherry pest management programs
- Partner with Utah State University to perform research and facilitate workshops and presentations to provide specialty crop orchardists with knowledge required to make better-informed decisions concerning fungicide applications and tank mixes during the pre-bloom and bloom periods
- Partner with Utah State University to determine if the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug is already in Utah and continue to monitor for its introduction, which will enable Utah fruit growers to take swift action to protect their crops if the pest is detected
- Partner with Utah State University to identify alternate inoculum source of *Erwinia amylovora* populations that contribute to infection of trees in apple and pear orchards in Utah

- Partner with Utah State University to identify parameters to reduce costly spring and summer fungicide applications to fruit tree orchards in Utah
- Partner with Utah State University to investigate pathogen occurrence and severity, and the potential of thrips and other insects to vector identified plant diseases, educate specialty crop growers so they may be proactive when diseases occur, and implement sustainable pest management practices
- Partner with Brigham Young University to provide genome sequences to be used in ongoing efforts of berry improvements such as disease resistance and molecular breeding
- Partner with Bear Lake Raspberry Company to increase accessibility of raspberry storage to rural farmers through the provision of a grower-shared commercial freezer that will be used to store raspberries as well as a refrigerated trailer to transport those berries to major population centers areas throughout the intermountain west
- Partner with Utah State University to expand strawberry production in Utah, by providing management recommendations for growers to obtain commercially viable yields in spite of spring and fall weather conditions
- 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:

\$230,394.89

Number of Projects:

14

- Partner with the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College to develop a dual-track food safety training program, one for Vermont produce growers interested in obtaining a Good Agricultural Practices certification and another for Vermont produce growers seeking practical food safety training to implement on their small or mid-scale diversified farms that form the basis of the local food system
- Continue cost-share program to provide Vermont fruit and vegetable growers with the opportunity to gain Good Agricultural Practices certification by offsetting audit costs
- Partner with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont to develop a strategic marketing and outreach campaign to increase consumer awareness and purchases of certified organic fruits and vegetables in the marketplace and increase the value of the certified organic brand to both new and veteran organic farmers
- Partner with the Vermont Foodbank to help it source Vermont-grown apples for subsequent distribution to its statewide network of hunger relief agencies, while supporting Vermont apple producers by increasing visibility of and participation in “You Pick” programs statewide
- Continue to fund the Harvest Health Coupon program, which provides incentives for the use of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits at farmers’ markets and explore the feasibility of streamlining the electronic benefits transfer at farmers’ market operations
- Partner with the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College to provide a three-fold education program that provides education on nutrition and healthy food choices, growing, cooking, and food preparation through workshops to low-income residents of Caledonia County, explores the connection between garden scale bean production and workshop participants’ knowledge of healthy food choices, and provides the opportunity for experienced bean growers in the Northeast Kingdom to present their work to both workshop participants and other professional growers not yet growing dry beans
- Partner with Vermont FEED to provide greater benefit from the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to school food service personnel and staff and students through training on purchasing a variety of local fruits and vegetables and incorporating them into fun educational activities for students as well as provide specific information and recipes that highlight the availability and use of local fruits and vegetables grown in the northeast climate
- Partner with the Vermont Beekeepers Association to provide a hands-on classroom experience to ensure a statewide cadre of successful beekeepers and pollination services and ensure that honey is available to market
- Partner with the Vermont Grape and Wine Council to increase awareness of wines made in Vermont among consumers and provide education to existing and potential industry members which will improve quantity and quality of grapes grown and wines produced in Vermont
- Partner with the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College to establish an organic orchard containing the most promising new apple varieties that are disease resistant to research their potential for enhancing the sustainability and competitiveness of organic apple production in Vermont

- Partner with the Kingsbury Market Garden to design three wiggle weeder tools, which control weeds on specialty crop products, such as vegetables and berries, producing a significant economic impact on those who use it, as the use of mechanical weed control is considerably less costly than hand weeding
- Partner with the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to continue research to increase acreage in hops production and provide outreach to local hop growers as well as set up a local hops quality testing facility and provide a product evaluation and comparison on packaging methods to preserve hop quality and to determine best management practices that will preserve quality while pelletizing hops
- Partner with Mad River Food Hub (MRFH) to increase local farmers' salable crops by reducing wastage through the provision of a small blast freezer to freeze specialty crops that are harvestable, ripe, and remain unsold. This freezer will be monitored by MRFH through a sign-in protocol to ensure it is only used to freeze specialty 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

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Amount Awarded:	\$522,044.40	Number of Projects:	19
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- Partner with Appalachian Sustainable Development to provide Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training for new and transitioning farmers and develop a manual and training course for growers and packinghouse operations for Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP)
- Partner with the Farmers Market Company/Quin Rivers to increase sales of locally grown specialty crops to low-income populations in the Fredericksburg region through the creation of a targeted, multilingual community marketing plan and materials; provision of onsite staff resources and program oversight for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) redemption at three Farmers Markets; and the demonstration of the effectiveness of “matching incentives” or bonus tokens at driving SNAP shoppers to use the famers markets. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association to support activities that will expand the relationships between growers and buyers, further educate both groups, and promote sales of Christmas trees and other Virginia grown specialty products
- Partner with Local Food Hub to provide a comprehensive educational program for existing and aspiring Central Virginia specialty crop producers learn the skills they need to farm using organic and sustainable methods
- Partner with Northern Neck Vegetable Growers Association to increase producer awareness of production and marketing of specialty crops for the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula region of Virginia through the provision of a forum for members to make business contacts with potential buyers and receive the information and make decisions about marketing; open new doors to the food chain at the Produce Marketing Association as well as focus educational efforts to foster product development at the organization’s annual meeting
- Partner with Piedmont Environmental Council to host a series of workshops for organizational administrators to help identify opportunities to incorporate Virginia grown fruit and vegetables into institutional menus. Workshops will focus exclusively on purchasing and preparing local fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables
- Partner with Virginia Tech to develop new fertilizer application practices and rates for Virginia tomato production to ensure fertilizer efficiency and reduce nutrient losses to the environment, while maintaining productivity
- Partner with Virginia Tech to develop sustainable mulch practices to control broadleaf and grassy weeds in nursery production, which will enhance weed control and decrease herbicide usage and irrigation volume while improving nutrient management and grower profitability
- Partner with Mount Rogers Area Christmas Tree Growers Association to continue work in establishing a genetically improved seed orchard to preserve Mount Rogers’ strain of Fraser fir
- Partner with Virginia Pumpkin Growers Association to assist Southwest Virginia in becoming a prominent cilantro growing region and conduct research using a monosem type planter to provide producers with the best available data concerning cilantro production
- Partner with Eastern Mennonite University to document best organic agricultural practices that enhance sustainable profitable blueberry production in the Shenandoah Valley
- Partner with Virginia Tech to investigate short and long-term management and monitoring approaches for brown marmorated stink bug, involving insecticide and behaviorally-based tactics

- Partner with Virginia Tech to determine the role of winter climate and surrounding habitat on the population ecology of the brown marmorated stink bug and develop management strategies to minimize crop losses in vegetables
- Partner with Virginia Tech to establish an online, map-based disease risk assessment system for major fungal and bacterial diseases of grape and apple in Virginia
- Partner with Virginia State University to assess the feasibility of organic viticulture in Virginia using recently developed organic pesticides and grape varieties
- Partner with Virginia Foundation for Agriculture, Innovation and Rural Sustainability to determine the feasibility of designing, developing and operating a multi-use cannery/food processing facility in Central Virginia specifically for specialty crops
- Partner with Nelson County to support the production and expansion of fermented apple juice in Virginia by conducting feasibility studies on the market for and economic viability of hard cider as a beverage and growing specialized hard cider apple varieties and making this technical information publicly available
- Partner with Patrick Henry Community College to investigate the suitability of a hydroponic production of various greens that include lettuces, garlic, chives, and cilantro in an underused commercial manufacturing structure in Martinsville and Henry counties
- 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

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$3,110,237.07	Number of Projects:	21
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- Partner with the Washington State Horticultural Association to conduct pre-audits to ensure Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audit readiness among orchard growers as well as educate the grower community and workers as to the need for GAPs that will help ensure delivery produce that is free from biological contaminants to the warehouse
- Create a cross departmental team, consisting of Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Fruit and Vegetable Inspection, Food Safety and Organic Programs that will develop and provide both resources and tools to WSDA auditors and effective education for small to mid-sized farms about Good Agricultural/Good Handling Practice requirements that will help the farms meet the standards in a way that is logistically and financially feasible
- Study the feasibility of applying ultraviolet (UV-C) light to tree-ripe fruits (i.e., apricots and/or peaches) to assess the efficacy of UV-C in inactivating common enteric human foodborne bacterial pathogens that will enable the fruit industry to meet the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act while maintaining fruit quality during post-UV storage
- Partner with Washington State University to increase implementation of on-farm food safety practices and documentation through interactive workshops with specialty crop growers
- Partner with the Washington State Fruit Commission to create an event promoting Washington fruit through cooking recipes and demonstrations by “Celebrity Chefs” to build consumer awareness and increase product distribution in Indonesia
- Partner with the Washington Apple Commission to create a professional DVD that will contain the fundamentals of the Washington Apple Commission’s Retail Care, Handling and Merchandising seminars for use as a reference by retailers and produce staff as well as provide seminars to key retailers in at least four emerging international markets in produce department layout design and produce handling
- Partner with the Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources to enhance Washington growers’ ability to tap into expanding organic specialty crop markets by providing current, detailed statistics on the organic specialty crop sector for use in business decisions
- Educate, inform and support Washington buyers and sellers to increase farm-to-institution purchases of Washington-grown specialty crops by sharing up-to-date knowledge and prioritizing continued analysis of changing regulation and appropriate market response for buyers and sellers
- Partner with Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance to expand direct-market opportunities for Washington State farmers through production of on-site specialty crop events and outreach to low income shoppers at farmers markets. Funding for the on-site special events will only be used for the events directly related to specialty crops; no other crops will be included
- Partner with Washington State University to maintain market presence and retail shelf space accessibility for Washington State Concord grape products through the development of a comprehensive sustainability assessment tool for Washington State Concord producers that will assess current on-farm practices, provide a ranking in terms of the sustainability of these practices, and offer an action plan of alternative management strategies to improve practices when needed

- Create eight specialty crop fact sheets for the Washington State Department of Agriculture Small Farm and Direct Marketing Handbook that cover new trends in small-scale specialty crop production as well as update existing fact sheets and build the online Handbook into a client-friendly web toolkit featuring concrete examples of excellent marketing and regulatory compliance via photo examples and embedded videos that exemplify best practices
- Partner with the Hop Growers of America to conduct a series of technical seminars and meetings in China in order to increase awareness and knowledge on American hop varieties amongst Chinese brewers, and ultimately to increase the U.S. market share of the hop trade in China, the world's leading beer producer
- Partner with the Northwest Agriculture Business Center to conduct key cider apple research to include mechanical harvest, variety descriptions, juice characteristics, and quality assays; develop business models and marketing strategies for enterprises that will support the increased production of cider apple varieties in Washington; and provide hard cider education to cider making entrepreneurs and cider apple growers through world renowned hard cider experts
- Partner with the Pacific Coast Cranberry Research Foundation to bring the Washington cranberry industry into regulatory compliance by improving their irrigation/chemigation/pest management strategies
- Partner with Washington State University to augment the ability of Washington tree fruit growers and pest management decision makers to make timely, informed and effective pest and disease management decisions by improving existing elements and adding new functionality to the web-based Washington State University Decision Aid System (DAS) and providing training to growers and pest management advisors in the use of DAS
- Partner with Washington State University to develop and implement practical disease management approaches that will optimize economic, horticultural, and environmental aspects related to the management of hop powdery mildew
- Partner with the Washington State Potato Commission to conduct a study that aims to add tools and information to plant-parasitic nematode management in potatoes, allowing a more integrated management approach than is currently possible
- Partner with the Washington State University Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center to develop information on the basic ecology of spotted winged drosophila, a newly introduced pest to the State of Washington, that will cover seasonal phenology, monitoring, and status of commercial fruit hosts as well as address crop risk and pre-harvest protection measures
- Partner with the Washington Wine Industry Foundation to conduct a statewide survey of grapevine plants in certified nurseries for presence of viruses and then use these results to conduct a statewide Clean Plant Campaign to create and disseminate information to industry stakeholders and regulatory agencies for control, prevention, and management of viral diseases
- Partner with the Washington State Horticultural Association to provide spring and fall Fruit Frost Forecasts via radio and web formats for 2012 and 2013 that will allow for a morning forecast and the customary evening forecast as well as expanded fall and winter coverage as better advanced warnings will allow for adequate preparation to ensure that wind, water, and supplemental heaters are ready to prevent partial or total crop loss from damaging frosts and freezes
- 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

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$214,393.62	Number of Projects:	12
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- Develop and implement a comprehensive specialty crop education program that includes the facilitation of training, certification, and networking sessions at the 2012 West Virginia Small Farms Conference, Better Process Control School, and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) training as well as provide cost-share opportunities for specialty crop producers to attend the North American Farmers Direct Marketing Conference and a cost-reimbursement program for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) audits. All training sessions will solely focus on specialty crop issues and topics
- Partner with Gilmer County Economic Development to target area youth to enhance their understanding of the need for specialty crops, proper nutrition through the consumption of specialty crops and the importance of beekeeping to maximize pollination for a better harvest through a variety of specialty crop oriented activities
- Partner with the Tamarack Foundation to provide a high traffic, consumer location which will feature specialty crops and value added specialty crop items to provide southern West Virginia specialty crop growers a much needed outlet for sales
- Partner with South Morgantown Community Farmers' Market to increase the availability and sale of specialty crops to the local community, especially during early spring and late fall through chef demonstrations, incentives to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants and various marketing techniques

- Partner with Arnettsville Community Center to encourage the creation and expansion of local specialty crops businesses through the identification of interested specialty crop producers, facilitation of specialty crop business training, and establishment of a small farmers' market at Arnettsville Community Center. All project participants will be required to certify that they are specialty crop growers
- Conduct marketing activities to increase market access and distribution for West Virginian grown specialty crops through participation in the 2011 Southern Christmas Show, 2012 DC Fancy Food Show, and 2012 Kentucky Crafted Trade Show as well as the development of outreach documents for specialty crops and a specialty crop agritourism publication. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with North Central West Virginia Beekeepers Association to provide training opportunities to young people that will educate them about beekeeping in West Virginia
- Partner with Liberty High School to teach young adults how to raise and market specialty crop produce through the creation of a "Future Farmers Market"
- Partner with West Central Beekeeping Association to introduce 360 fruit trees, brambles, and/or blueberries into the local food system by giving plants to beekeepers who participate in classes about planting and caring for crops that promote a healthy environment for honeybees
- Partner with West Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association to provide a series of 12 regional workshops to promote the cultivation, management, and marketing practices necessary to successfully produce quality West Virginia grown Christmas trees
- Partner with West Virginia University Research Corporation to develop integrated pest management strategies for growers to manage Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs on specialty crops in West Virginia
- 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:

\$977,022.39

Number of Projects:

23

- Increase best business practices, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), and sales for underserved farmers by providing educational workshops, follow up with workshop participants, training for consultants who will mentor underserved growers, and facilitate "Producers First" one-on-one technical assistance in best business practices from trained consultants for select growers
- Provide third-party Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) through a cost-share arrangement to small and medium-size Wisconsin producers as well as provide pre-audit educational opportunities to growers
- Promote and increase the awareness of Wisconsin specialty crops and the producers through cutting-edge technology by updating SavorWisconsin.com to be mobile web capable
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association to develop a retail promotional potato bin for use primarily in Wisconsin grocery stores to increase awareness and sales of Wisconsin grown potatoes within the state of Wisconsin as well as in neighboring states
- Partner with the Wisconsin Grape Growers Association to continue to build marketing relationships between Wisconsin grape growers and Wisconsin wineries to expand the number of wines made with Wisconsin grown grapes and to work extensively to educate the consumer about Wisconsin accredited wines to include the types of cold-climate grapes they are made from and the unique characteristics they possess
- Partner with the Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association to educate the public and promote the environmental, economic, emotional, and social benefits of buying Wisconsin farm grown Christmas trees
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato Industry Board to improve the raw product value and improve finished product quality of processed potatoes by minimizing the negative effects of sugar end defect
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato Industry Board to develop potato production systems with drip irrigation and bed configuration to improve water and resource use efficiency
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin System to develop a user-friendly economic and risk-based sustainability software program for cranberry growers that will satisfy buyer demand for data-driven metrics, as well as address economic sustainability for cranberry producers by accounting for production cost relative to crop value and economic risk associated with adopting more "sustainable" production processes

- Partner with the Wisconsin Apple Growers Association to measure the pollination contributions of native, wild bees to apples, assess how pesticide use in apple orchards affects native bees, and identify floral resources utilized by these bees outside of apple blossoms
- Partner with the Midwest Food Processors Association to conduct a study to improve the sustainability of sweet corn production by promoting grower adoption of best management practices that reduce nitrate leaching to include new sweet corn hybrids, increasing seeding densities and use of slow-release nitrogen fertilizers
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin at River Falls to create new horticulturally superior and novel strawberry, plum/apricot, and Aronia cultivars with wide adaptability and pest tolerance to improve the profitability of Wisconsin growers and address the needs of consumers for safe, locally-produced, desirable fruit
- Partner with Bayfield County to expand the Bayfield Fruit Production Trials to provide essential performance data, cultivar recommendations, and crop management information to assist growers in production of wine grapes, fresh-eating currants, machine-harvested raspberries, black raspberries, and sweet cherries as well as provide fruit quality information from these new crops for the region's value-added processors
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin at Madison to validate optimal placement of soil moisture probes in cranberry beds as well as evaluate the feasibility of an online tool for growers to schedule irrigation based on evapotranspiration rates of the crop in order to manage water use as efficiently as possible
- Partner with the Midwest Pickle Association to determine the optimum type, dosage and timing of calcium fertilizer application to pickling cucumbers to promote the best quality product
- Partner with the Wisconsin Ginseng Board to implement and integrate a multiple-class fungicide rotation program with frequent scouting and a disease forecasting system to reduce the overall amount of pesticides applied to ginseng that have been identified by the Food Quality Protection Act as high risk
- Partner with the Wisconsin Mint Board to develop integrated management systems that improve the persistence of spearmint and peppermint
- Partner with the Commercial Flower Growers of Wisconsin to evaluate the effectiveness of two new low-risk bio fungicides to control foliar diseases on rudbeckia, sunflowers, and echinacea as well as assess cranberry leaf mulch as a weed barrier
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato Industry Board to continue to assess the efficacy and feasibility of several fumigation, crop rotation, cover cropping, and cultural practices on disease control of potato production
- Conduct a statewide survey to include laboratory diagnostics of Christmas tree fields to determine the spread of a new tree root rot disease that was detected for the first time in 2010 in two Wisconsin Christmas tree fields
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin at Madison to provide cranberry growers with tools (best management practices workbook and on-line database) for easy access to region-specific regulatory information, nutrient management recommendations, pest management tools and strategies that are specifically focused on Wisconsin cranberry production as well as evaluate current production practices and the impact of changing production practices
- Continue to fund the Specialty Crop Block Grant Manager position to maintain primary responsibility for the timely review and oversight of the individual Wisconsin Specialty Crop Block Grant Program grant awards
- 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:

\$204,661.09

Number of Projects:

13

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- Partner with Country Pride Potato to increase the market share that is available to the company through certification of the potato crop
 - Partner with Wyoming Farmers Market Association to provide scholarships to 20 market manager trainees to attend the 2012 Farmers' Market training and conference in Jackson Hole, WY and to increase the knowledge of Western Wyoming producers on specialty crop production and marketing by providing expert speakers on topics of interest. Project staff will ensure that funds will solely enhance the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops by surveying the scholarship applicants to determine the percent of specialty crop vendors at their respective markets
 - Partner with University of Wyoming to provide practical information to producers on ways to cost effectively incorporate heat sink and enhanced solar collection methods that will further extend the season of specialty crop production in hoop houses in Wyoming

- Partner with Town of Saratoga to introduce and encourage the growing and eating of specialty fruits, herbs, flowers, and vegetables in a community garden by students and citizens in Platte Valley
- Support opportunities to present specialty crop information and assist in related conferences in Wyoming that focus on the five key areas of marketing, education, season extension, research, food safety and product distribution
- Partner with University of Wyoming to investigate ways to successfully grow fresh brown and gold cut sunflowers, as a quick turn-around specialty crop that can be grown in greenhouses and high tunnels for sales at local venues such as retail florists, farmers' markets, and to make available to Wyoming growers the methods used including the days to emergence for sowing days to harvest, stem length and which cultivars perform best in greenhouses and high tunnels
- Partner with Wyoming Community Network to award small grants to increase specialty crop education, production, and consumption through season extension techniques, water conservation efforts, and other projects
- Partner with Wyoming Community Network to award small grants to nonprofits and schools that plan on creating a garden project or build a hoop house to grow specialty crops
- Partner with University of Wyoming to create a database of sweet apple producers, orchards, hardy and prolific individual trees and varieties of apples for the state of Wyoming; work with producers and individual land-owners to obtain scions from the best, most hardy most productive trees for grafting onto hardy rootstock, establish a sweet apple specimen (germplasm repository) orchard at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds in Douglas; and develop a series of educational deliverable designed to educate potential producers about growing sweet apples in Wyoming
- Partner with Wyoming State Fair to provide an opportunity for local specialty crop producers to expand their preservation and value-added product by upgrading the underutilized Fort Casper kitchen at the Wyoming State Fair grounds. A log of users will be maintained by the State Fair to ensure that the percentage of time the shared-use kitchen is used for specialty crop training and by specialty crop related value added businesses is equal to the percentage of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill funding to solely enhance the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops
- Partner with University of Wyoming to support five high tunnel workshops that will include construction of one high tunnel per location and the education of producers on the reality and benefits of specialty crop production using high tunnels
- Support a position within Wyoming Department of Agriculture where 26 percent of their time will be devoted to provide information, promotional assistance and technical assistance to specialty crop growers. In addition the person will monitor the subgrantees through site audits, develop specialty crop promotional material, and coordinate state wide marketing efforts
- 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