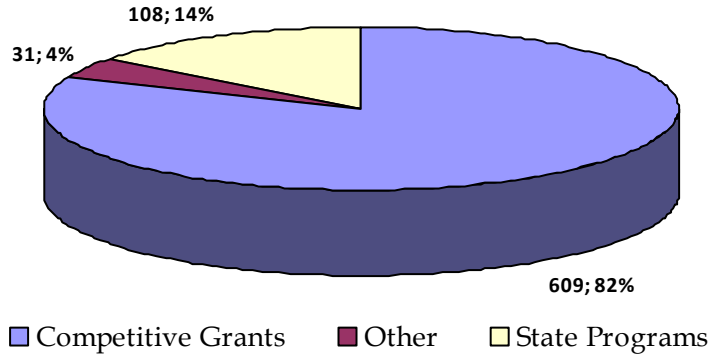




Fiscal Year 2012 Description of Funded Projects

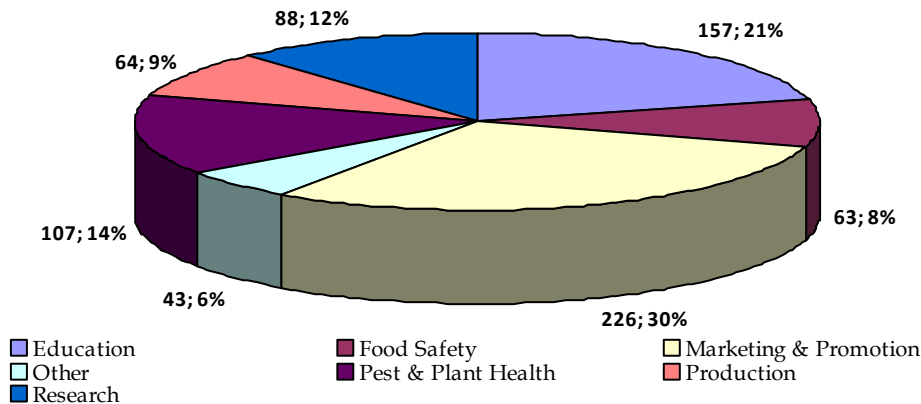
The fifty States, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. Territories were awarded Fiscal Year 2012 funds to perform a total of 748 projects that benefit the specialty crop industry. All the eligible entities submitted their applications by the established deadline of July 11, 2012. The approved awards are listed alphabetically.

2012 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.

2012 Project Types



Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Amount Awarded:

\$401,366.76

Number of Projects:

13

- Partner with Tuskegee University to increase the number of specialty crop producers who have completed farm food safety plans by providing educational opportunities and providing a cost-share for food safety certification for some of the participants
- Partner with the Cullman County Soil and Water Conservation District to provide a cost-share to fruit and vegetable producers in Cullman County, enabling them to become GAP/GHP certified and increase sales
- Partner with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Auburn University to reduce foodborne illnesses from fresh fruits and vegetables sold from local producers by assisting produce growers in understanding food safety issues related specifically to farmers' markets through a targeted training program
- Partner with the Alabama Pecan Growers Association (APGA) to increase sales of Alabama grown pecans and attract new growers to the field by updating the APGA website, providing pecan samples for use at trade shows, and providing educational opportunities for pecan growers and potential pecan growers throughout the state
- Partner with the Alabama Watermelon Association, Inc. (AWA) to promote the consumption of Alabama's watermelon through appearances of the Alabama Watermelon Queen at various events and locations
- Partner with the City of Mobile, Alabama to increase child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops grown in Alabama by implementing a media campaign using USDA Choose MY Plate, social media and other educational and marketing media through which one vegetable will be highlighted in each district of the city
- Partner with the Food Bank of North Alabama to increase specialty crop producers' ability to access local wholesale markets and establish long-term relationships with institutional buyers by developing a local food broker and facilitating a multi-stakeholder network of buyers and producers
- Partner with Dothan Landmarks Foundation, Inc. to explore and develop markets for vegetables that are popular in Hispanic culture but are not available locally for the minority populations in Houston and Henry counties in southeast Alabama by establishing an educational garden where students may come and learn about them
- Partner with the Department of Horticulture at Auburn University to promote the production of hydroponic specialty crops in the state of Alabama by providing an opportunity for interested growers to attend demonstrations of greenhouse and hydroponic technologies locally
- Partner with Auburn University to develop sustainable methods to manage Pierce's Disease (PD), to reduce vine losses and expand the opportunities for locally produced specialty crops in areas where Pierce's disease has been a limiting factor by evaluating PD resistant/tolerant rootstocks for their impact on grape productivity, fruit quality, and stress tolerance and by transferring the newly developed knowledge to growers through outreach and extension education
- Partner with Alabama A&M University to introduce ethnic vegetable crops for commercial cultivation using organic production methods on limited resource and small farms in Alabama by screening various plants for growth and yield performance, and insect and disease resistance in replicated field trials and establishing demonstration plots of selected vegetable crops on at least three farms located in counties with heavy immigrant populations in Alabama
- Partner with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System/Mobile County Office to introduce small family farm operators to the proven technologies of plasticulture, micro-irrigation, and fertigation scaled-down to meet the needs of small operations through on-site demonstrations and field days
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Alaska Division of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$194,916.53

Number of Projects:

8

- Host at least four on-farm food safety workshops in different regions of the State that will include mock Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audits to help producers understand the requirements, an overview of the creation of a food safety plan, as well as input from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Food Safety & Sanitation Program

- 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 incentives 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
- Partner with Ralph Carney, Alaska Chip Company, to work with at least three Alaska Grown potato producers and several school districts to test and compare multiple value-added Alaska Grown potato products to use in the Alaska school lunch program
- Partner with Alaska Rhodiola Products to conduct the research needed to determine the most profitable harvest periods, optimal processing methods to produce high quality dried root material, which is the foundation for all rhodiola nutraceutical products, and develop a marketing campaign to establish Alaska Grown rhodiola as a highly desirable new source for the world market
- Partner with Jeff Smeenk to determine the optimum rhubarb for a juicing product and present the project results to other specialty crop producers in Alaska
- Partner with David Love to identify garlic varieties appropriate for production in Southeast Alaska and share the results of the project with Alaska producers in the area
- Increase communication with specialty crop stakeholders and manage the expansion of the Restaurant Rewards program, food safety workshops, and management of grant projects by hiring a part-time project assistant to provide continued outreach and support

American Samoa Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$215,596.82	Number of Projects:	1
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- Partner with the Native Hawaiian Holding Company, Inc. to implement the Native Samoan Agribusiness Strategic Partnership to develop the cocoa industry in the American Samoa

Arizona Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,265,138.45	Number of Projects:	17
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- Offer and provide one-on-one assistance to fresh fruit and vegetable producers/growers, distributors, wholesalers and handlers so that they can become USDA GHP/GAP certified
- Partner with the Arizona Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (LGMA) Food Safety Committee to provide food safety training resources to leafy green and fresh produce growers, shippers and harvesters and conduct outreach, train-the-trainer workshops and webinars to the fresh produce industry; and to help industry understand and prepare for LGMA food safety audits
- Partner with the University of Arizona to examine the length of time and/or distance from canal dredging operations necessary for settlement of suspended bacteria to help in establishing irrigation water quality best management guidelines for growers impacted by dredging operations
- Partner with the University of Arizona to evaluate currently used water sample collection strategies for the detection of Escherichia coli in canal irrigation waters used in Arizona, and to provide guidelines for a standardized protocol for sample collection of irrigation waters used for produce (leafy greens)
- Partner with the Arizona Farm Bureau in collaboration with Arizona fruit and vegetable farmers to educate and inform consumers about the nutritious nature of Arizona’s top specialty crops by creating and disseminating a video series about Arizona’s “Top Ten” specialty crops
- Conduct a media campaign to educate and engage the public on where and why to buy locally grown produce and nursery plants

- Partner with the Arizona Nursery Association to expand the successful Plant Something promotion with the goal of increasing the sale and use of Arizona grown landscape plants and trees and to develop the campaign into a national nursery campaign
- Partner with the Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association to educate specialty crop producers on the research being conducted that is relevant to their operations by providing a forum where the results of specialty crop research can be disseminated to members of the specialty crop industry
- Partner with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Maricopa County to introduce students to Good Handling Practices (GHP) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) by providing school district personnel with research-based strategies to implement a garden food safety program and ways to introduce agricultural concepts into their current curriculum
- Partner with Western Growers Foundation to increase student understanding of where our food comes from by awarding 50 Arizona schools \$1,500 each to create and sustain their own edible school garden through a competitive application process
- Partner with the Yavapai Community College to assist growers in the production of wine grapes by addressing the workforce training needs of the wine industry by establishing a teaching vineyard where hands-on education will be provided to community college students, wine grape growers, and secondary school agriculture teachers and conducting a two-day Growers Symposium which will provide education on best vineyard management practices adapted for Arizona growers
- Partner with the University of Arizona to evaluate the field-scale application uniformity of water soluble nitrogen fertilizer, applied through fertigation, to vegetable cropped fields under season-long sprinkler use in the Lower Colorado River Region
- Partner with the University of Arizona to quantify the water requirements of mature pecan orchards in Arizona
- Partner with the University of Arizona (UA) to update all UA extension materials pertaining to fertilizer management and recommendations and incorporate these recommendation alternatives into grower-friendly technologies to improve nutrient use efficiency
- Partner with the United States Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service to determine the incidence of Pierce’s Disease in Arizona vineyards, identify the insect vectors responsible for its spread, and devise management strategies to curtail spread
- Partner with the University of Arizona to design, test, and validate a rapid and extremely sensitive detection assay for Citrus Greening, also known as Huanglongbing HLB-causing bacterium
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Arkansas Agriculture Department

Amount Awarded:	\$255,321.09	Number of Projects:	5
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- Partner with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Alcorn State University in Mississippi to train, prepare, and facilitate small, specialty producers to implement Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) to provide access to fresh commercial market opportunity (southern peas, watermelon and greens) and other markets that require GAP/GHP certifications and inspections by training at least 30 GAP/GHP trainers
- Assist up to six Arkansas specialty crop companies in displaying at the 2013 Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit
- Partner with Southern Arkansas University to provide hands-on, multi-departmental learning opportunities for students by establishing the first hydroponic growing system at the University campus in Magnolia, Arkansas and growing lettuce in a learning laboratory
- Partner with the University of Arkansas to provide additional information on the health benefits and nutraceutical qualities of various muscadine grape varieties, aiding growers in their selection of muscadine grapes to produce
- 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

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$18,708,269.31	Number of Projects:	69
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- Partner with the California Cantaloupe Advisory Board to implement a multi-media public relations campaign using promotional devices and frequent outreach to bring more people to a web-based hub of information on social media sites to educate consumers of actions completed by the California cantaloupe industry to ensure food safety for public health
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to develop a rapid, non-destructive optical sensor for aflatoxin contamination in almond as a management tool for reducing fungal contamination, and promoting delivery of high quality almonds
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service, Western Regional Research Center to continue the investigation of recently discovered volatile profile of germinating aspergilli spores on almond and pistachio, including volatile compounds unique to the germinating spores on these hosts; use volatile profile in conjunction with a portable GC-MS system to develop a near real time portable field volatile sampling device capable of early warning detection of aspergilli infected almond and pistachio; remove aflatoxin-producing aspergilli hot spots from almond and pistachio stockpiles and transit containers thus decreasing human health risks and product loss as a result of Aspergillus contamination
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety in collaboration with the University of Tennessee to study novel antimicrobial coating systems to improve the safety and quality of cantaloupes
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety in collaboration with the University of Florida to define genetic diversity among Salmonella enterica strains recovered from wildlife sources and determine their relationship to strains recovered from water and sediment sources in irrigation ponds in a produce production region of the southeastern United States
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety in collaboration with the University of Florida to generate suitable surrogates that could be used to safely model persistence of Salmonella in the pre- and post-harvest environment for specialty crops
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety in collaboration with Cornell University to explore how agents of foodborne disease present in the pre-harvest environment can contaminate produce and enter into the food supply
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to translate well-established laboratory findings that support the effectiveness of hot water pasteurization of cantaloupe and other netted-rind melons into a validated and verified process
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to improve the process control of fresh produce washing and sanitation through the development of a rapid assessment approach to measure antimicrobial efficacy of sanitizers in wash water
- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center for Produce Safety to help the leafy greens produce industry identify domestic and wildlife animal reservoirs of shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli and Salmonella in the desert southwest growing region of the United States and northern Mexico, a region second only to the central California coast in lettuce production
- Partner with Ag Innovations Network to enhance public understanding of and relationship to specialty crop producers in the eight current and four new counties through the provision of support to the existing Food System Alliances (FSAs) and new FSAs to secure the long-term viability of specialty crop agriculture by communicating the importance of agriculture to the broader community, crafting on-the-ground solutions to local issues, and building markets
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to reduce barriers for lower income residents to purchase locally grown specialty crops through the development of point of sale materials, training of specialty crop producers to share nutrition and preparation information with customers, and facilitation of a specialty crop voucher program. Project staff will provide oversight, review, and evaluation to ensure that SCBGP-FB funds will be used solely to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops
- Partner with the Community Alliance with Family Farmers to conduct outreach to Santa County retail outlets, restaurants, worksites, and institutions to solicit participation in “Buy Fresh Buy Local – Santa Clara” (BFBL) campaign; create a BFBL guide to market specialty crops in Santa Clara County; provide technical assistance to businesses interested in sourcing California specialty crops; and launch a public education campaign to inform consumers about specialty crops and the benefits
- Partner with the California Bountiful Foundation to educate consumers about the benefits of California specialty crop production by producing specialty-crop-themed episodes of the California Bountiful television program and maintaining its extended reach through purchases of airtime on commercial television stations

- Partner with Project Apis m. to raise awareness of honey bee Best Management Practices (BMPs) through an easily-accessible social media campaign
- Partner with the Community Alliance with Family Farmers to enhance California specialty crop awareness and education through the replication of the existing “Harvest of the Month” Tasting Kit program in Sonoma County and work with a statewide network of partners to connect their programs to sources of California grown specialty crops
- Partner with Sonoma County Winegrape Commission, Local District 3 to implement a marketing campaign that will provide a unique chance to promote this highly valued winegrapes from this area and build brand value for Sonoma County wines
- Partner with the California Cling Peach Board to promote the taste/health benefits of California canned peaches/apricots and increase consumer understanding and awareness of the nutritional benefits of canned fruit through evaluation of existing research; focus groups; evaluation of communication platforms; online surveys; in-store promotions; and print, TV, and/or social media campaigns depending on the research findings
- Partner with the Lake County Winegrape Commission to raise awareness and educate both the consumer and wine industry about the Sauvignon Blanc winegrape varietal through workshops, web-based and social media, and creative partnership building
- Partner with the El Dorado Winery Association to implement a public relations campaign that will educate media, trade representatives, and consumers about the wines and 90 wineries of the growing El Dorado American Viticultural Area
- Partner with the California Olive Oil Council to expand opportunities for California olive oil by executing a marketing campaign that focuses on two key high-end food markets: California and the region between the District of Columbia and New York City
- Partner with Fresh Approach to implement a Veggie Rx program, which educates low-income families in weight management and diabetes clinic about the benefits of fruits and vegetables and hands out prescription vouchers to purchase fruits and vegetables at local farmers’ markets
- Partner with the Trust for Conservation Innovation to continue to document best practices; enable more markets to accept nutrition benefits; increase the number of nutrition benefit clients who use the markets; increase outreach and communications promoting specialty crops to volume purchasers such as home preservers, chefs and corner stores by offering them special services for shopping at markets; and prepare the transfer of the California Farmers’ Market Consortium to a new coordinating organization. All marketing messages and materials, including incentive tokens, specify that the program applies only to purchase of specialty crops
- Partner with the Ecology Center to increase California specialty crop consumption and market share by: using Ecology Center Farmers’ Markets; city-wide Berkeley Food Policy Council planning focused on linking the School District's food, gardening, and nutrition programs to specialty crop growers; distributing Fruit & Veggie Rx vouchers to low-income families; and providing assistance for wireless electronic benefit transfer (EBT) devices and Market Scrip for more Farmers’ Markets/Associations statewide. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with California State University, Fresno to educate specialty crop growers in the San Joaquin Valley through seminars that discuss new laws, reporting requirements, regulations and how to effectively deliver adequate and good quality irrigation water to their crops
- Partner with the Learning Centers at Fairplex to expand a current agriculture space to a three-acre organic specialty crop farm and provide Fair-time programming, early childhood education, agricultural career education, community plots, and year-round promotion to community members concerning specialty crop production
- Partner with the County of San Joaquin to facilitate three free field days and a periodic farmers’ markets that solely enhances eligible specialty crops where specialty crop farmers, producers, and volunteers educate third graders from around 140 schools about the benefits of locally-grown specialty crops
- Partner with the California Avocado Society to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of California avocado producers through the creation of an agricultural outreach program that provides technical education for critical job skills
- Partner with El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom to expand and enhance specialty crop education programs through a Fields of Learning program and a Teachers’ Ag Summer Institute to reach more K-12 students and teachers in the Sierra Nevada region of California
- Partner with California FarmLink to establish an education series in three California regions that provides small to mid-sized, beginning and low-resource specialty crop growers the tools and resources to overcome challenges including access to land, access to capital, and a lack of business and financial management knowledge

- Partner with the Center for International Trade Development, Fresno to conduct an educational program that develops new exporters of specialty crops, while increasing the skill level of both current and new to export companies, along with activities designed to introduce these new exporters to foreign markets through outbound and inbound trade missions
- Partner with Yolo County to provide California county agricultural commissioners and school food service directors with a set of tools to deliver a “California Grown” School Lunch reflecting the specialty crops of the region
- Partner with the Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation to support a replication of a pilot farm to school program throughout the county and build capacity in the following pilot programs: field trips to local farms; using seasonal, local crops; cooking classes with seasonal harvest; hands on experiential learning using school or community gardens; Farm Docent/Garden Docent training; garden stands to improve fresh food access at school; nutrition based enrichment programs; and student engagement in established community gleaning program. Project activities focus solely on enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops
- Partner with Western Growers Foundation to work with the California Department of Education to implement a competitive grant program that awards mini-grants that provide fruit and vegetable garden supplies and training for child care/pre-school sites
- Partner with the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom to provide third through eighth grade classroom teachers with mini-grants to purchase California specialty crop fruits and vegetables for monthly taste tests and specialty crop nutrition lessons
- Partner with Healthy Eating Lifestyle Principles to implement a multi-faceted nutrition education program targeting primarily low-income, migrant and Latino families in Monterey County to educate children about the nutritional value of the consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Partner with City Slicker Farms to employ a mentoring program that builds food self-sufficiency by empowering low-income households to grow fresh produce in their own yards for their own table
- Partner with Napa County Agriculture in the Classroom to implement the Network for a Healthy California Farm to School “Harvest of the Month” program in Napa County, which will solely promote specialty crops to students
- Partner with the Friends of Independent Living Services of Northern California to support food literacy and economic self-sufficiency in access-challenged populations by increasing their utilization of specialty crop-based resources, such as nutritional assistance programs involving local growers, bio-intensive farming and marketing training, and farmland acquisition. Project staff will ensure that Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funds solely enhance the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops through an internal set of controls
- Partner with the Stanislaus Multi-Cultural Community Health Coalition West Modesto Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative to establish a community garden that provides culturally appropriate crops in the neighborhood by expanding the existing garden, increasing participation in a local farmers’ market, and providing educational opportunities of specialty crops to local residents
- Partner with the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County to improve the berry industry’s conservation outcomes for water quality and quantity in the Pajaro Valley and create tools to provide growers with information regarding strategies to meet conservation targets and create new economic opportunities for farmers by quantifying nutrient reduction
- Partner with the University of California Cooperative Extension at San Luis Obispo to produce improved irrigation management information, which will result in increased vineyard water use efficiency, ultimately reducing the groundwater declines in the Basin
- Partner with Sunsweet Growers to increase California grower returns with a prune-based substitute for phosphates to treat poultry to retain moisture – a product which uses 25 percent pitted prunes plus 75 percent prune juice pulp that would otherwise be waste
- Partner with the California Apple Commission to assess the effect of the removal of the Granny Smith Maturity Standard by the State of California in 2011
- Partner with the American Pistachio Growers to perform consumer research, which will identify new pistachio product opportunities
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Services to develop a quick drying method using infrared for partial drying of almonds and pistachios with reduced energy and drying time, but improved product quality and safety
- Partner with the Almond Board to investigate the potential of using reduced rates of a liquid magnesium chloride (MgCl₂) product to control dust on almond orchard roads and floors

- Partner with the University of California at Davis to assess greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions in production of California tree fruit and nut crops and quantify the potential for alternative orchard practices to offset emissions
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to survey tomato growers' irrigation concerns for climate change adaptation and identify cultivar traits desirable for new crop management strategies under low irrigation water availability
- Partner with the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science to develop integrated approaches to improve water quality, increase water conservation, and accelerate best management practices for olive processing waste water
- Partner with the Calaveras Winegrape Alliance to refine/expand the two promising irrigation models that will improve water use efficiency, test and modify them, and if a successful model is identified, perform a study trial on the model, which will deliver a best management practices manual to growers through outreach presentations to cooperating entities
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to test an easily adaptable practice of fertigating micro-irrigated perennial specialty crops with nitrogen (N) to diminish reactive N mobilization
- Partner with the Coalition for Urban Rural Environmental Stewardship to identify and pilot test methods for measuring movement of nitrates beyond the root zone of irrigated specialty crops with implementation of a nutrient management plan
- Partner with the Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council to breed a new lily variety with an enhanced flower count on a 2 year old bulb and genetically engineer nematode resistance into Easter lilies, which will lower the cost of production and to lower the acreage and pesticide requirements of raising this crop
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service to determine the initial impacts of fumigants on both target (*Pythium* spp. and *Fusarium oxysporum*) and non-target (gram positive bacteria, gram negative bacteria, fungi, Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF), actinomycetes and protozoa) organisms and soil microbial community structure recovery after fumigation with different time frames
- Partner with Garrouette Farms Inc. to research cultural controls, field sanitation, and canopy density management in combination with timely insecticide applications to develop integrated pest management (IPM) practices for control of spotted wing drosophila in specialty crop production
- Partner with Project Apis m. to identify, develop, and test low-water-use wildflower and oilseed mixtures as a means of providing sustainable nutritional sources for the building and retention of honey bees in California
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service to develop a faster, less expensive molecular technique for detection of *Phytophthora* that is flexible enough to be used in the field as well as in commercial testing labs for identifying which *Phytophthora* species are present
- Partner with the University of California at Davis to develop biopesticide-based integrated pest management (IPM) programs to control key arthropod pests on mint thus improving the sustainability and profitability of California mint production
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service to use the olive germplasm collection to identify olive knot resistant selections which will then be used to develop commercially viable olive knot resistant olive cultivars
- Partner with the University of California at Riverside to target Asian citrus psyllid in retail nurseries through monitoring, evaluation of chemical control effectiveness, evaluation of nursery practices, and extension education to nursery employees
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Wetlands Research Center to develop rodenticide bait with increased efficacy in voles, specifically vole populations resistant to current anticoagulant baits
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service to develop effective method(s) for detection and quantification of pathogenic *Pythium* species in Calla lily soils
- Partner with the University of California at Riverside to perform comparative analysis of small RNAs and mRNAs from tolerant US-942 (*C. reticulata* x *P. trifoliata*) and susceptible Cleopatra (*C. reticulata*), and identify components that regulate Huanglongbing resistance/tolerance
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service to improve the profitability and sustainability of lettuce and spinach production in California through the creation of sustainable weed management systems by developing herbicide-tolerant lettuce and spinach varieties
- Partner with the University of California at Riverside to develop a sustainable biocontrol agent for pest gastropods (snails and slugs) of the nursery industry in California that will pose no threat to native mollusk species
- Conduct host range tests, obtain a field release permit, and rear and release the Olive Psylla parasitoid at multiple locations to potentially reduce the population size and spread of the Olive Psyllid, saving the olive industry expensive pesticide costs

- Partner with People United for a Better Life in Oakland (PUEBLO) to open an extensive base of public lands for organic specialty crop production; develop a network of community-owned retailers and distributors in underserved urban markets; cultivate new generations of organic specialty crop farmers through business training programs; and generate demand for local foods through public educational programs
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Colorado Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$681,603.01	Number of Projects:	10
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- Partner with Colorado State University and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to use a systems level approach to understand and develop control mechanisms that will reduce the contamination and subsequent growth of foodborne bacterial pathogens on cantaloupes from field, through harvest, processing, transportation and marketing, to following purchase by the consumer
- Cooperate with major produce associations and growers in Colorado to continue a Colorado Pavilion at the Produce Marketing Association’s (PMA) Fresh Summit Expo to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 18-21, 2013
- Continue Colorado Proud television advertising aimed at helping consumers, restaurants and retailers identify and purchase Colorado specialty crops. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with the Colorado Nursery & Greenhouse Association to conduct the “Don’t Just Stand There, Plant Something” promotion to communicate the values of landscape plant material to the public using print, radio, public events and the internet to reach the broadest audience across geographical and generational ranges positively impacting the sale for retail and wholesale markets
- Partner with Plant Select to develop a mobile website that will be easier to navigate for smartphone users; create QR [Quick-response] codes for all plant tags leading to mobile-friendly web pages that will espouse the benefits and uses of each specific plant; and create videos for web use that will tie in with the mobile website and QR code technology
- Partner with Colorado State University to provide marketing, research and technical support to Colorado’s small acreage, socially disadvantaged and beginning specialty crop producers
- Partner with Colorado State University to accelerate the development of pinto bean varieties that possess the “slow darkening” (SD) trait with disease resistance, upright architecture, and high yield potential
- Partner with Fort Lewis College to plant and scientifically evaluate 13 varieties of hops at the Old Fort at Hesperus (7,600’ elevation) to identify hops that not only grow well in the region but also produce a crop that can be marketed to local brewers
- Partner with the Lavender Association of Western Colorado to evaluate lavender varieties for their quality of essential oils grown at high altitude western Colorado farms
- 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:	\$404,420.22	Number of Projects:	10
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- Improve food safety in Connecticut by preparing and maintaining a USDA-licensed auditor to perform accredited on-farm food safety audits and conducting outreach to specialty crop producers to participate in an audit
- Partner with the University of Connecticut, Department of Extension to help farmers implement Good Handling Practices in packing houses by assessing the potential food safety risks using a microbiological testing protocol in a sample of packing house environments; surveying farmers regarding packing house facilities and practices; conducting a photo survey of packing houses; and developing training programs for specialty crop producers
- In cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT), provide greater access to and marketing for specialty crop farms located off state roadways throughout Connecticut by providing DOT-approved signage advertising specialty crops

- Partner with Wholesome Wave to continue the Double Value Coupon Program, which provides incentives for the purchase of specialty crops at farmers markets to federal nutrition assistance recipients, increasing farmers’ market customer bases into low-income communities
- Partner with the University of Connecticut, Department Extension to increase consumption of Connecticut specialty crops by studying current consumption levels and working directly with grocery stores, school cafeterias, colleges, hospitals, co-ops and restaurants to increase their commitment to procure Connecticut specialty crops
- Partner with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to conduct research to develop effective disease management strategies for control of boxwood blight
- Increase institutional use of Connecticut Grown produce in foodservice operations by conducting a study to determine institutional need, by identifying Connecticut Grown fruits and vegetables best suited for processing, and by determining what infrastructure currently exists and what additional infrastructure would be required to aggregate produce from Connecticut specialty crop producers and transform it into the products needed by institutions
- Partner with the Connecticut Beekeepers Association to support new beekeepers by providing an incentive of inexpensive rental extractors
- Partner with the University of Connecticut, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture to develop commercially viable propagation methods for novel native shrubs
- 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:	4
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- Partner with the Friends of the National Arboretum’s Washington Youth Garden to increase child and adult nutritional knowledge and consumption of specialty crops, increase development of organic and sustainable production practices and improve food access in underserved communities by providing direct gardening experiences for underserved youth and families through the Washington Youth Garden Gardening Program
- Increase the production and consumption of specialty crops among the District of Columbia’s Ward 7 and Ward 8 residents by providing a business-oriented hydroponic education program through which participants will be paired with microenterprise mentors and learn about soilless growing techniques
- Increase production of specialty crops in the District of Columbia by studying the effects of soil quality on the growth of specialty crops and educating residents through six community workshops on soil quality per season
- 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:	\$244,608.68	Number of Projects:	10
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- Increase sales of specialty crops at Delaware’s On Farm by running a collaborative advertising campaign publicizing their locations and making it easier for Delaware residents and visitors to visit and purchase specialty crops. Promotional items, photos and advertising messages will focus only on specialty crops
- Partner with the Food Bank of Delaware to increase access to locally grown sources of fresh produce in targeted low income communities in the city of Wilmington by providing them with a weekly supply of fresh, local and affordable produce during the 18-week growing season and by utilizing an existing farmers market as a new access point. Only specialty crops will be available through this program
- Partner with Delaware Christmas Tree Growers’ Association (DCTGA) to improve the practices of growing Christmas trees and to promote the marketing of Christmas trees and related products to educate members on best growing practices and industry trends; and to educate the general public on the environmental and societal benefits of growing Christmas trees by proposing a marketing initiative which will include enhancement of the DCTGA website and statewide television advertising during the Christmas season

- Partner with the University of Delaware’s Department of Plant and Soil Sciences to provide a research base to increase onion production in Delaware using information from previous small plot research to develop larger scale field trials including overwintering direct seeded, overwintering transplanted, early spring transplanted, and later spring transplanted production
- Partner with the University of Delaware’s Department of Plant and Soil Sciences to conduct research to better understand those factors that affect pollination, fruit set, fruit carry and fruit development in seedless watermelons and develop management strategies to improve pollination and fruit set
- Partner with the University of Delaware’s Department of Plant and Soil Sciences to research and support collection of yield data and the continued maintenance of some of the experiments established on highbush blueberry variety trials to see if plant growth and vigor differences observed early in the experiments translate to yield differences in the future
- Partner with the University of Delaware’s Department of Plant and Soil Sciences to support field and greenhouse screening of breeding lines being developed for resistance to two yield limiting lima bean diseases *Phytophthora phaseoli* and *Phytophthora capsici* which will increase grower profitability by reducing yield loss to these diseases and by reducing fungicide costs
- Partner with Zitvogel Farms to increase the yield of pole limas and avoid bloom drop by testing the use of water misters to cool the plants during high temperatures and sharing results of the study with local growers through Delaware State University workshops, farm tours, and fact sheets
- Partner with Williamsville Farms to increase the availability of blueberries to consumers in earlier and later seasons by collecting early season cultivators and late season cultivators recording any new growth and maintenance performed increasing the production of blueberries
- Partner with T. S. Smith and Sons and the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension to evaluate alternative fruits, fruit production methods, and season extension methods for fruits including the evaluation of dwarf sweet cherries and fig varieties grown in a high tunnel and three season production of day neutral strawberries using shade structures and low tunnels for the potential to grow and market sweet cherries from Delaware to consumers

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Amount Awarded:	\$4,484,161.78	Number of Projects:	24
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- Partner with Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc. to improve food safety among small farms by establishing a cost effective and scale appropriate food safety certification and cost share reimbursement program for small-scale specialty crop producers and processors
- Partner with the University of Florida and the Colorado Department of Agriculture to use a systems level approach to understand and develop control mechanisms that will reduce the contamination and subsequent growth of foodborne bacterial pathogens on cantaloupes from field, through harvest, processing, transportation and marketing, to following purchase by the consumer
- Partner with the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida to improve compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act amongst small and mid-sized fruit and vegetable farmers in Miami-Dade County by producing accepted Good Agricultural Practices and Good Harvest Practices and organizing and presenting a series of workshops, websites and instructional videos on the topic
- Partner with the University of Florida to improve the safety of tomatoes by testing the impact of treatment with iron- and copper- containing foliar sprays on susceptibility of tomatoes to post-harvest contamination with *Salmonella*, testing the susceptibility of existing tomato genotypes with delayed ripening or different pigment production to *Salmonella*, and by developing a multi-faceted web-supported extension outreach program for large producers and urban gardeners
- Partner with Red Hill Small Farm Alliance to lower costs and address risks faced by farmers who sell direct-to-consumer by expanding an innovative web-based distribution system into low-income neighborhoods, and increasing awareness of the availability of locally grown specialty crops through targeted marketing efforts
- Partner with the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association to raise consumer awareness of the benefits of nursery products while providing the floriculture industry with a very visible and public research test site and educational venue for new and improved seed and cutting varieties by partnering with Walt Disney World to develop and execute Annual Floriculture Field Days and Performance Trials

- Partner with the Florida Tomato Committee to increase the sales and marketability of fresh Florida field-grown tomatoes by educating consumers on the versatility and proper handling of Florida tomatoes, promoting Florida-grown tomatoes as well as tomatoes grown in the U.S., and educating consumers on the nutrition and health benefits of fresh Florida tomatoes so as to inspire and create improved diet habits and overall wellness
- Partner with the Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers to increase sales of Florida-grown specialty crops to Florida consumers, providing higher-margin direct markets for Florida's small farmers, while increasing access to and consumption of healthy, locally produced specialty crops for low-income Florida residents by providing double voucher coupons to incentivize the socially disadvantaged to utilize their federal nutrition benefits to purchase specialty crops. Tokens used in the project will be marked "Produce Only" and promotional materials will highlight only specialty crops and the Double Value Coupons, which can only be used for specialty crops
- Partner with Urban Oasis Project, Inc. to increase access to fruits and vegetables within food deserts by developing and running a mobile farmers' market and by providing double voucher coupons to incentivize the socially disadvantaged to utilize their federal nutrition benefits to purchase specialty crops. The Mobile Farmers' Market will only carry specialty crops
- Partner with the University of Florida to enhance the competitiveness of small farm specialty crop growers through quality educational programming and capacity-building by supporting the Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference, continuing Small Farms Food Safety Training, and strengthening cross-cultural networks inclusive of underserved specialty crop farmers, students and extension faculty
- Partner with Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. to provide teachers and schools with the resources required to build and expand school gardens, providing students with the opportunity to learn firsthand about gardening and nutrition by providing small grants to teachers and schools
- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to promote Florida specialty crop consumption and encourage child and adult nutrition awareness through a series of 10 "Kids in the Kitchen" feature editorials, containing at least 3 recipes and a sidebar with nutritional information with a focus on an individual Florida commodity
- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to improve nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops by increasing the number of producers, schools and distributors participating in Farm to School (F2S) initiatives through the development and use of a Farm to School planning tool, research on perceptions of foodservice directors and foodservice distributors, and wide dissemination of research results
- Partner with the Lincoln Center Foundation, Inc. to improve the health and nutrition of youth ages 5-14 by engaging 60-70 at-risk and low income youth in planting fruit and vegetable gardens and conducting quarterly workshops through which to provide learning material on the health benefits of each fruit and vegetable planted
- Partner with the University of Florida to improve the best management practices for environmental sustainability while optimizing and strengthening Florida cabbage production systems by studying and demonstrating the feasibility of converting traditional seepage cabbage production to efficient and sustainable drip irrigation system focusing on optimum irrigation water and fertilizer-rate application and by encouraging the adoption of high efficiency drip irrigation and fertigation practices for cabbage and cucurbits
- Partner with the University of Florida to optimize marketing, sensory and genetic data to produce a pipeline of high-flavor varieties that will position the Florida strawberry industry with a dominant quality advantage in the marketplace by conducting market research using the UF2 breed, running consumer panels and analytical chemistry to further quantify the impact of flavor-enhancing volatile compounds, and investigating the genetic basis for the production of consumer-favorable volatile compounds
- Partner with the Citrus Research and Development Foundation to develop and deliver solutions associated with planting new citrus groves in Florida that will grow to productive age and provide sustainable yields even in the presence of huanglongbing (HLB) by determining the role of nutritional and insecticidal treatments in the mitigation of HLB, developing methods for use of soil-applied insecticides to protect young trees; bringing young trees infected with HLB into production using intensive horticultural management strategies; and developing and testing Advanced Production Systems for efficient, sustainable citrus groves
- Partner with the University of Florida to continue to develop and improve integrated pest management strategies for two major blueberry pests in Florida, by developing a model to predict thrips population development based on temperature, calculating an Economic Injury Level (EIL) for management decisions in southern highbush blueberries, comparing two types of blueberry gall midge monitoring traps to determine midge host-finding cues, surveying blueberry farms throughout Florida for spotted wing drosophila, and conducting experiments to compare trap types for monitoring and selective and/or reduced-risk insecticides for control of spotted wing drosophila

- Partner with the University of Florida to develop an integrated program that minimizes citrus black spot (CBS) infection and spread in the field, controls or eliminates *G. citricarpa* spores/hyphae in infected fruit after harvest, and trains industry statewide to identify and manage the disease effectively by evaluating new fungicides, inducers of systemic acquired resistance (SAR), new vehicles of application (i.e., including WashGard, Polymer Delivery System, etc.), and new management options that may substantially improve CBS management
- Partner with the University of Florida to minimize the impact of laurel wilt by developing a remote sensing technique for the rapid diagnosis through evaluation of the technique during helicopter and ground surveys of the commercial avocado production area, experimental validation of the technique, monitoring of the development and spread of laurel wilt in the commercial avocado production area, and assessment of the economics of the technique
- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to eventually mitigate the losses caused by late blight, by evaluating available late blight resistant tomato lines in Southwest Florida and investigating the mutational potential of *Phytophthora infestans* for resistance to three labeled fungicides
- Partner with the Horticultural Research Laboratory at the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service to mitigate the negative effects of infection by Huanglongbing (HLB) disease on flavor of oranges and orange juice by determining if various nutritional sprays can not only limit the disease symptoms on the tree, but also improve the flavor of oranges from infected trees
- Partner with the University of Florida to develop and optimize a production process that can produce a concentrated, calorie-free, sugar-free nutraceutical extract from blueberries, enabling blueberry growers to raise a profit despite the saturated blueberry market
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$1,132,564.10

Number of Projects:

17

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- Partner with the University of Georgia to evaluate a newly developed sanitizer for control of foodborne and bacterial plant pathogens on tomatoes
 - Increase awareness of, and desire for, Georgia Grown specialty crops by educating the consuming public through social media, earned media, point of sales, community organizations, and limited mass advertising. Matching funds will be used to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
 - Increase sales of specialty crops at Georgia's many community-based farmers' markets by providing farmers' markets with promotional materials, signage, and advertisements. All printed materials and advertising will be used only to promote specialty crops
 - Partner with the Georgia Christmas Tree Association to increase sales of Georgian Christmas trees by running commercial spots promoting Georgian Christmas trees
 - Partner with the Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association to help expand the marketing of Georgia produce and increase the competitiveness of Georgia products by supporting the participation of 15 to 20 specialty crop farms and agribusiness organizations at the Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit in October 2012
 - Partner with Georgia Organics to increase sales of specialty crops at farmers markets by driving 15,000 new customers to six target farmers market through the development and execution of a broad marketing effort consisting of farmers market welcome packets, a market email listserv, and the development and implementation of a loyalty incentive plan to incentivize consumers to become repeat customer. Tokens will be imprinted with "Produce Only" and all marketing materials will be branded for specialty crop use only
 - Partner with the Georgia Peach Council to increase the number of retailers selling Georgia peaches by providing retailers with advertising materials such as point of sale materials and by advertising direct to the consumer through print media, billboards, and news releases
 - Partner with the Georgia Pecan Growers Association to increase sales of Georgia pecans by updating and maintaining the website, supporting inbound trade missions, and conducting domestic promotions including advertising in Healthy Living magazine
 - Partner with Georgia Public Broadcasting to increase Georgia specialty crop sales and consumption by creating 10 three-minute vignettes to teach Georgians how to utilize specialty crops for year-round healthy eating

- Partner with the Vidalia Onion Committee to increase retail sales and consumption of Vidalia onions by a younger demographic by developing, producing, disseminating and promoting an integrated baseball-themed campaign that encourages retail stocking and promotion of Vidalia onions
- Partner with Emory University to expand public awareness of Georgia specialty crops and change consumers' awareness by expanding educational food gardens on campus, supporting educational events and chefs' tastings at the Emory Farmers' Market, and developing and disseminating educational materials at the Sustainable Food Fair. Matching funds will be used to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with the Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association to increase specialty crop producers understanding of and ability to overcome the production, marketing and food safety issues they face by providing them with educational opportunities such as workshops and conferences and providing one-on-one technical assistance and consultations
- Partner with the Hospitality Foundation of Georgia to raise awareness of Georgia specialty crops among students and adults by producing and distributing six ten-minute instructional videos designed to engage the students in cooking with specialty crops and to prepare them to conduct live demonstrations at farmers markets
- Partner with the University of Georgia to develop and promote sustainable, low water-use turfgrass systems in Georgia by providing sustainable turfgrass training and publishing articles in the popular press
- Partner with Fort Valley State University to develop technology and innovative horticultural practices for profitable production of stevia in Georgia by studying the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of direct seeding versus transplanting, intercropping of stevia in fruit and tree nut crops, and monitoring and quantitatively exploring the potential to improve sweet agents in stevia leaves
- Partner with the Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association to assist specialty crop producers in controlling weeds by researching the feasibility and profitability of intercropping sweet corn with melons
- Partner with Georgia Tech Research Institute to develop tools necessary to identify volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released by Armillaria root rot, which typically affects peach trees and is responsible for more than \$10 million in production losses each year. In the long-run, the data collected through this research will lead to the development of an early detection sensor, which would allow growers to stop Armillaria before it spread through the whole orchard

Guam Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$182,949.66	Number of Projects:	1
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- Partner with the University of Guam to propagate yam, taro and banana varieties in vitro for local distribution of disease-free planting stock to growers

Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$379,074.17	Number of Projects:	11
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- Partner with the Hawaii Agricultural Foundation to provide Hawaii farmers with an opportunity to market produce and products directly to customers—chefs, hotels, and consumers—by facilitating the annual Hawaii Food and Wine Festival. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with the Big Island Beekeepers Association to promote Hawaiian natural honey through a marketing campaign associated with the Hawaiian Natural Honey Challenge that will utilize electronic media and increase the diversity of events
- Partner with the Hawaii Chocolate Association to support the 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 Hawaii as well as provide outreach to all growers and users of Hawaiian cacao
- Partner with the University of Hawaii to improve consumer knowledge of Hawaii-grown avocados by conducting an education campaign that highlights the nutritional benefits of avocados
- Partner with the Hawaii Homegrown Food Network to strengthen breadfruit markets through the implementation of a breadfruit growers and consumers educational campaign about harvest and postharvest, fruit handling and food preparation, and describe the different varieties
- Partner with Mililani Agricultural Park, LLC to increase producer knowledge of breadfruit production through the expansion of an existing breadfruit farm to include a set of varietal trials that will facilitate the collection of data to create a user guide and conduct a field day for growers

- Partner with the Kohala Center to conduct an organic program office feasibility study and create an economically self-sustaining organic program office in Hawaii based on stakeholder input that would support the educational needs of organic food producers, manufacturers, and purchasers. Specialty Crop Block Grant funding will only support the participation of specialty crop producers in activities proposed under this project
- Partner with the University of Hawaii to establish varietal trials of *Capsicum frutescens* in different locations with different micro-climates and gather data, which will be used to measure specific aspects that determine pungency and sweetness
- Conduct field trials of cashews to determine if cashew trees will grow in Hawaii's Class C (pasture) and Class D (not suited for agricultural use) lands and have potential to become a new crop for Hawaii
- Partner with the Tea Chest to develop The Propagation Initiative that will strategically move to commercialize tea as a specialty crop industry by training farmers in new production practices, improving the distribution system, and reducing the costs of production
- 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:

\$930,205.03

Number of Projects:

13

- Partner with the Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission to increase awareness and consumption of Idaho wine and wine grape products throughout Idaho by developing a strategic public relations and marketing campaign capitalizing on a wide variety of promotional efforts
- 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 awareness and competitiveness of Idaho potatoes (fresh, frozen, and dehydrated) globally by conducting initial market entry activities in pre-selected emerging markets
- Continue the Idaho Preferred® program through television and radio advertising, retail and foodservice promotions, public relations activities, consumer events and educational programs to increase consumer awareness and demand for locally grown and produced specialty crops. To ensure that all grant funding is being used to solely enhance the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops, staff time will be pro-rated based on percent of products or participants that are specialty crop and matching state funding and Idaho Preferred® participant fees will support non-specialty crop salary and fringe as well as many of the actual program costs
- Partner with Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Promotion and Export Committees to develop, create, and distribute a video as a cost effective and desirable way to distribute Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion educational information to onion buyers and consumers
- Partner with the USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council to improve market access and development programs for pulses as mainstream ingredients by using research on the incorporation of pulses to train and disseminate technical processing information to the food manufacturing and food service industry
- Partner with Boise State University to provide the data needed to modify the cold hardiness predictive model in order to be useful for Idaho vineyards
- Partner with the Idaho Hop Commission to collaborate with the University of Idaho specialty crops Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program at Idaho's Southwestern Research and Extension Center to conduct replicated field experiments that establish an economic threshold for twospotted spidermites in hops
- Partner with the Idaho Potato Commission in cooperation with the University of Idaho to optimize the use of beneficial nematode-attacking fungi as protectant seedpiece coatings for potatoes
- Partner with Northwest Nazarene University to develop a remote sensing platform, called Crop Monitoring and Assessment Platform (C-MAP), to help specialty crop growers in Idaho monitor plant status and condition so they are able to manage their farm more efficiently by optimally controlling crop inputs such as irrigation, fertilizer, and chemical application
- Partner with the University of Idaho to conduct extensive monitoring of the psyllid and the Zebra Chip pathogen throughout potato-growing regions in Idaho and provide growers with information needed to implement insecticide control programs in a timely manner

- Partner with the Idaho Bean Commission to increase exports of U.S. varieties of pinto and black bean seed grown and certified in Idaho, by demonstrating to growers in Durango and Zacatecas that their yields will be significantly enhanced if they invest in purchasing fresh, disease-free seed each growing season
- 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 regulation

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$633,820.12	Number of Projects:	13
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- Partner with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to enhance the microbial food safety of locally grown produce by assessing the microbial profiles on produce from farmers’ markets and subsequently suggest the best handling practices that would minimize the risk of microbial contamination
- Partner with The Land Connection to implement a multifaceted social media campaign that uses blogs, Twitter, Facebook, and other online interactions to educate consumers about the Illinois specialty crop growers
- Partner with the CBS Community Partnership Division to continue to provide a targeted multimedia campaign that focuses on the importance and availability of locally grown specialty crops
- Partner with the Illinois Stewardship Alliance to create a marketing campaign to promote local specialty crops to local restaurants and develop new resources for farms to better understand regulatory requirements
- Work with Illinois grocers and farmers’ markets to implement a marketing campaign for Illinois specialty crops through the “Illinois Where Fresh is...” buy local program
- Partner with the Illinois Specialty Growers Association to increase the training opportunities of Illinois specialty crop growers with focus on current food safety requirements through the facilitation of an educational conference. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association to grow educational opportunities through teaching best management practices to Illinois grape growers through hands-on, as well as online continuing education opportunities
- Partner with the Experimental Station to continue to educate low-income urban residents how to grow, prepare, and enjoy Illinois specialty crops by providing at-Market, in-school, after-school and summer educational programming. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with the Gary Comer Youth Center to provide urban youth with additional education on the nutritional value of specialty crops and the opportunity to participate in urban agriculture through developing a youth managed roof top farm
- Partner with Ag in Progress Partnership to facilitate an educational mentoring program for Future Farmers of America members that discusses the intricacies of honeybee biology and behavior as well as agricultural partnering techniques, enhancing the understanding and importance of our most efficient pollinator
- Partner with Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom to support the development of a new “Specialty Crops Ag Mag” and the subsequent classroom lessons and activities, which will feature Illinois specialty crop growers and highlight the many ways Illinois specialty crops are being used, how and where they are grown, and where they can be found locally
- Partner with the Illinois Horseradish Growers Association to ascertain new viable varieties that are the most white, have high heat and flavor, are larger in size, and that are not rotting, but lasting longer than current varieties for the Illinois horseradish industry
- 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

Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$398,449.25	Number of Projects:	13
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- Partner with This Old Farm, Inc. to increase sales (through volume and strong prices) of Indiana grown specialty crops, by promoting GAP certification, marketing, and development of an efficient cooperative distribution system for Indiana’s specialty crops through a GAP certification course
- Increase sales of specialty crops from Indiana by providing booth space for specialty crop producers at the Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit, enabling them to participate and interact with new potential customers

- Increase awareness of availability of Indiana Grown produce by designing and installing specialty crop-specific billboards and organizing a university Taste Off event that will allow consumers to sample Indiana Grown specialty crops. All promotional materials will focus on specific specialty crops rather than the Indiana Grown brand in general and only Indiana produce will be showcased at the Taste Off event
- Partner with the Indiana Cooperative Development Center, Inc. to implement an on-line promotional campaign designed to educate the public and decision makers about the importance of eating fresh, local sustainably-produced fruits and vegetables
- Partner with The Heads Up! to increase the sales of Indiana maple syrup through an aggressive marketing and promotional strategy associated with the National Maple Syrup Festival
- Partner with the Illiana Watermelon Association, Inc. to increase the sales, price, and consumption of Indiana Grown watermelon; provide more wide-spread information on the nutritional value of watermelon; boost the Indiana agricultural economy, including the small family farms that grow watermelon; increase awareness of and adherence to food safety guidelines for watermelons; encourage better practices in pesticide use and disease control in watermelons; and support and increase awareness of the Indiana Grown Program initiated by ISDA by promoting locally grown watermelon through various events, billboards, workshops, and radio/television promotions
- Partner with Growing Places Indy to increase the consumption and production/supply of specialty crops, particularly by and for individuals and families living in low---food---access areas of Indianapolis by providing food safety training for producers and nutritional workshops for consumers
- Partner with the Indiana Cooperative Development Center, Inc. to develop a manual for specialty crop producers on how to market their specialty crops at the farmers' market
- Partner with Victory Acres to support the entry of new farmers into the a small-scale agricultural incubator by training at least 3 new farmers and 5 continuing farmers in the Grow the Growers program. Participating growers will only grow specialty crops and any promotional materials will promote the community-supported agriculture (CSA) that only sells specialty crops
- Partner with the Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture at Purdue University to assist growers in mitigating and reducing the risk associated with weather-dependent specialty crops by organizing a series of education programs for them through the Indiana Horticultural Congress and the Farm to School Program
- Partner with the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service of Hancock County to design and develop a virtual food hub – an online ordering and delivery system that provides farmers with a collaborative ordering, aggregation and distribution system. Participating non-specialty crop producers will be assessed a fee to cover the costs of their participation
- Partner with the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Purdue University to increase sustainable production of cool season crops in Indiana by screening existing crop varieties for viability in Indiana’s growing conditions, gathering preliminary data about crop nutrient uptake needs, and producing an educational workshop for farmers about growing these crops
- Partner with Purdue University to identify management practices that effectively suppress and reduce infection by Phytophthora blight in the absence of fungicides, document the role of soil biology in pathogen suppression resulting from these practices, determine whether biochar amendments can increase efficacy of biocontrol treatments, provide training in sustainable vegetable production and soil microbial ecology to the next generation of farmers and farm advisors, and inform local farmers and other stakeholders about the potential for crop rotation and cover crops to manage soil-borne pathogens including Phytophthora blight

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Amount Awarded:	\$271,296.81	Number of Projects:	12
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- Partner with Iowa State University to develop a sequential, three-level on-farm food safety pilot program designed to provide educational guidance based on the marketing venue of choice to address food safety assurance
- In cooperation with Northwest Iowa Food and Farm Coalition and Iowa State University Extension, create a GAP/GHP cost share program to defray some of the costs of audits for specialty crop producers
- Partner with Iowa Heartland Resource Conservation and Development in partnership with the Drake University Agricultural Law Center to integrate specialty crops into major employers in the Des Moines metro area through introduction to and linkages with central Iowa Community Supported Agriculture producers

- Partner with Local Food Producers Market Association, Inc. to establish a regional marketing campaign that features Minnesota and Iowa area growers with local identities. SCBGP-FB funds will be devoted exclusively to profiling only specialty crop growers
- Partner with Western Iowa Grape Growers Association to establish the “Iowa Loess Hills AVA Wine Trail,” which will serve as the primary vehicle for promoting the unique value added products produced from the grapes grown in this wine region
- Promote the purchase of Iowa’s specialty crops through “Farm to School Chapter” creation and the development of a specialty crops calendar which will highlight the seasonality of specialty crops and provide a grower directory
- Partner with Practical Farmers to improve employee management on fruit and vegetable farms by providing education to Iowa fruit and vegetable farmers on how to recruit, hire and retain employees, learn their legal responsibilities as employers, and improve their employee management skills
- Partner with Iowa State University Dining Services to create awareness of the nutritional value and importance of local specialty crops and increase student consumption of specialty crops by conducting outreach to ISU students, creating educational specialty crop classes, organizing a "farm crawl" event, and establishing a Farm to ISU informational booth at dining centers and retail operations at least once each month
- Partner with Southern Iowa Resources Conservation and Development Area, Inc. to gather both economic and social impact data for compilation and distribution to regional stakeholders in support of building the regional infrastructure necessary for increasing specialty crop production
- Partner with Iowa State University to study the ripening of Aronia berries to determine the optimum time to harvest to maximize antioxidant (phenolics), sugar (brix), acid, sugar/acid ratio, overall color, specific anthocyanins (plant pigments) content
- Partner with Lutheran Services in Iowa to increase specialty crop production by refugee groups by providing them with access to garden plots to grow food and organizing field days and in-the-garden workshops that will increase participants’ knowledge of growing fruits and vegetables in Iowa soils and climate
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Kansas Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$258,514.27	Number of Projects:	7
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- Partner with the Community Foundation of Northeast Kansas/Brown County Healthy Foods Coalition to identify local active and prospective specialty crop producers in the county, create a cooperative marketing and distribution network, expand local production capabilities for specialty crops, and educate producers and consumers about preparation and preservation of healthy foods
- Partner with Cultivate Kansas City to increase the sale and awareness of specialty crops by strategically increasing the number of urban farms, community gardens, school gardens, and home gardens in Kansas City, Kansas
- Collaborate with the Kansas Rural Center to integrate the Our Local Food branding program into the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s trademark program; continue to develop new relationships among specialty crop growers, food businesses, and consumers; and provide technical assistance to specialty crop farmers and buyers. The funds requested will only be used for the specialty crop components of the Our Local Food program
- Partner with Highland Community College to help the Kansas grape and wine industry to grow and improve the fruit and wine quality through consultations and educational workshops
- Partner with Glacial Hills Resource Conservation and Development Inc. to facilitate an educational series in Northeastern Kansas targeted for beginning, socially disadvantaged, and existing growers and execute a pilot project to determine the effectiveness of in-store events at increasing the consumption of locally-grown specialty crops
- Partner with the Rawlins County Extension Office to conduct a market, production, distribution and financial analysis of vegetables production in Western Kansas, which will be used to discuss the possibility of its expansion as a regional food system
- Partner with Stafford County Economic Development to stimulate extended season production of fruits and vegetables for sale in regional commercial channels using a high tunnel growing environment by offering technical assistance to growers, reducing the financial barriers associated with high tunnel production, and promoting locally grown fruits and vegetables

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$261,148.57

Number of Projects:

6

- Partner with the Kentucky Association of Food Banks to implement a targeted education and direct marketing program that will provide information on the preparation of produce to increase nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops among low-income children and adults
- Partner with the Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association to facilitate and advertise the Kentucky Landscape Industries Expo, to market the Kentucky nursery crop industry, as well as offer an educational program for Kentucky nursery crop growers
- Partner with the University of Kentucky to create recipe cards for specialty crops producers to distribute at farmers' markets
- Partner with the University of Kentucky to develop educational materials that integrates high tunnel research findings for specialty crop production and close research gaps that directly affect producer profitability as it relates to high tunnel production
- Partner with the Kentucky Blueberry Growers Association to increase accessibility of blueberry storage to rural farmers through the provision of a grower-shared commercial freezer at a blueberry warehouse in Edmonton, Kentucky
- Partner with Kentucky Specialty Grains to introduce summer flowering chia to Kentucky farmers as a profitable and sustainable crop opportunity through the evaluation of packaging material and containers, equipment, and seed quality as well as the development of best management practices

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Amount Awarded:

\$351,115.72

Number of Projects:

7

- Increase public awareness of the nutritional value of Louisiana grown specialty crops through a consumer awareness campaign at local fairs and festivals
- Partner with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center to promote the selection and evaluation of novel ornamental plants, with emphasis on native and naturalized species, for nursery production and landscape use in Louisiana
- Partner with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center to enhance competitiveness of Louisiana's specialty crop growers through the continued support of MarketMaker, which is a comprehensive interactive database of food industry marketing and business data
- Partner with U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service to characterize and correlate the gene expression profiles that occur during pecan nut development in order to improve the quality and yield of pecans
- Partner with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center to determine the best course of action to mitigate the potential epidemic of the Asian citrus Psyllid by monitoring and studying the organisms and the pathogens involved
- Partner with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center to improve management options for the sugarcane beetle through the utilization of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy that will ultimately benefit all sectors of the Louisiana sweet potato industry
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Amount Awarded:

\$402,794.93

Number of Projects:

7

- Partner with AgMatters, LLC to assist specialty crop growers as they prepare for various food safety certifications for their produce operations due to heightened awareness of the need for certification that food is reaching markets safely
- Partner with the Maine School Garden Network to maintain and expand educational resources for school gardens to increase nutrition knowledge and consumption, good handling practices and food safety, and utilization of integrated pest management while students are growing, preparing, preserving, and eating Maine specialty crops
- Partner with the Oxford Hills School District to increase child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops through a three-acre school farm, partnership with two local farms and through the creation of a new school garden

- Partner with the University of Maine Highmoor Farm Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station to determine the effectiveness and economic feasibility of orchard platforms for apple tree pruning and harvest
- Partner with the Wild Blueberry Commission, the Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Association, and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association to develop and implement a spotted wing drosophila Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to prevent devastating crop and economic damage to Maine small fruit growers
- Partner with the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine to develop an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for preventing weed control resistance in Maine wild blueberry fields
- Partner with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Potato Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program to provide potato growers with current information on specific and timely pest management strategies in order to minimize pesticide applications and maximize potato yields

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$393,851.31	Number of Projects:	6
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- Continue offering technical assistance through training programs and one to one assistance to producers developing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) programs, increase the number of producers participating in the state GAP program and continue offering economic assistance to producers implementing GAP programs
- Partner with Crossroads Community Food Network to conduct a healthy, seasonal eating marketing campaign at farmers’ markets tailored to the target audience; provide technical assistance for Maryland farmers’ market managers, who in turn provide support to specialty crop producers at their markets; and create a bilingual, multimedia marketing campaign promoting specialty crop consumption amongst Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants. All marketing materials, outreach, education, and technical assistance will exclusively promote specialty crops
- Partner with Garrett County Board of Commissioners – Economic Development Department to develop a culinary heritage event, which can be replicated in different regions in Maryland celebrating the different unique historically significant specialty crop foods of those regions
- Continue to reinforce that preference for local through effective, timely advertising, promotional events and marketing to 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 Maryland Wineries Association to increase the credibility and marketability of Maryland grape and fruit growers through media coverage and buy-in from traditional and new-media journalists
- 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:	\$439,437.20	Number of Projects:	18
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- Partner with the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Agricultural Preservation Corp to launch a Farm to School Harvest of the Month campaign to alert institutional buyers and their consumers to the availability and value of a seasonally appropriate specialty crop each month and provide trainings and outreach tailored to farmers, food service professionals to increase sales, communications, and purchasing relationships between specialty crop producers and buyers.
- Partner with the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Boston to conduct a Specialty Crop Buy Local Trade Show in 2013 to address and overcome barriers to specialty crop grower and buyer collaboration including seasonality, quantity, and cost; to establish new business partnerships between local specialty crop growers and buyers; and to increase the sales of specialty crop products in Massachusetts
- Partner with the Massachusetts Farm Winery Growers Association to develop an interactive wine trail mobile for iPhone, Android and Blackberry smartphones and promotional materials containing a QR code and application download instructions.
- Partner with Nuestras Raices to increase sales of Massachusetts–grown specialty crops at Holyoke farmers’ markets while also increasing redemption of federal nutritional benefits and use of EBT and elder coupons and increase availability of ethnic specialty crops by assisting immigrant and refugee beginning farmers to sell at farmers’ markets for the first time

- Partner with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Agriculture and the New England Apple Association to educate consumers with photography of apples now grown in Rhode Island, including a New England Apples wall calendar; the New England Apple Association Web site newenglandapples.org, the weblog newenglandorchards.org; and the newsletter McIntosh News, and develop a pilot program to introduce new varieties to the region's growers
- Partner with the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscaping Association to collect information and research on all of the existing water management and conservation practices and technologies from around the country and then educate Massachusetts industry and consumers about the options so that consumers are able to garden without fear that their plants will die during droughts
- Develop an interactive and educational MassGrown & Fresher booth display, develop specialty crop related incentives, purchase advertising, and fund applicable event booth fees for consumer events targeting youth and families, tourism markets and home owners to market specialty crops focusing on agri-tourism businesses
- Partner with the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture in partnership with the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association, Berkshire Grown, and Northeast Harvest to conduct a marketing campaign focusing the public's awareness on two specialty crops per month and provide practical information about purchasing and eating specialty crops
- Partner with Massachusetts Farm Bureau Agricultural Preservation Corporation to continue 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. SCBGP funds will be used to provide visits to specialty crops farmers, provide in-class specialty crop farmer and mobile farmers' market visits, and create trading cards featuring specialty crop farmers who are supplying snacks, visiting classrooms, and hosting farm visits
- Partner with the Northeast Organic Farming Association to hire writers to attend 15 key workshops at each of two annual conferences and write detailed summaries of the sessions for publication in the NOFA/Mass newsletter and on their website that will grow into an essential library for any vegetable, fruit and herb grower in the state
- Partner with Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom to develop an expansive garden-based education program to support school garden programs across the state
- Partner with the Holyoke Health Center to provide a sensory-based nutrition education program that uses specialty crops to teach very young students and their families about healthy eating and local farming
- Partner with Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association to develop a process and database to organize the pond/bog interactions, pond water quality, and identify likely Total Maximum Daily Load standards regulatory issues prior to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection involvement
- Partner with University of Massachusetts, Amherst to evaluate and promote the multiple benefits of growing fava beans as a new cash crop for Massachusetts by demonstrating the feasibility of growing fava beans for double cropping and determining basic agronomic practices suitable to Massachusetts conditions
- Partner with the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project to increase production and sales revenues for 30 + beginning, immigrant and minority farmers who participate in area farmers markets and the New Entry-sponsored World PEAS CSA, by expanding their skills and performance in field greens and tomato production from seed to market through training and technical assistance
- Partner with the University of Massachusetts, Amherst to allow specialty crop growers the opportunity to participate in a Better Process Control School course through a scholarship in effort to encourage them to expand their specialty crop business through producing value-added products
- Partner with the University of Vermont Extension Agronomist to increase the quantity and quality of hop production in the Northeast through locally relevant research and outreach programs to identify hop varieties that are appropriate for this region and to develop proper harvesting and post-harvest strategies to improve the yield and quality of locally grown hops
- 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:

\$1,339,490.14

Number of Projects:

25

- 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
- Partner with the Michigan Bean Commission to assist specialty crop commodity groups and companies to promote their products both domestically and internationally by providing an opportunity for specialty crop groups to exhibit at major domestic and international shows. Booth space paid for by specialty crop block grant funding will only be available for specialty crop companies, commodity groups and producers
- Increase the number of retailers purchasing specialty crop products for their stores and food service providers by enabling specialty crop commodity groups and companies to participate in a Michigan pavilion at two Michigan trade shows. Discounted space will be provided only to specialty crop producers while non-specialty crop producers who wish to participate will have to pay the full cost of their participation
- Partner with the Michigan Christmas Tree Association to increase awareness and sales of Michigan-grown Christmas trees and poinsettias by conducting an extensive media campaign consisting of public service announcements, website updates, high visibility events, and television, radio and print advertisements
- Partner with the Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association to increase sales opportunities, increase distribution of crops, and assist Michigan's nursery growers in their marketing efforts by providing an online product/services catalog (Buyers' Guide), a locator for plants and their sources, and an inspiration gallery of videos and photos
- Partner with the Michigan Apple Committee to continue to develop Chicago markets by leveraging the "locally-grown" movement, focusing consumer promotions on premium varieties, and promoting apples for health and nutrition benefits
- Partner with the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program and the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program at Michigan State University to help Michigan grape growers improve their economic viability and environmental responsibility by providing them with resources to help increase the sustainability score of their farms and meet the verification requirements of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program and by developing a web-based sustainability program to streamline efficiency of data collection, reporting and action plans for growers
- Partner with the Departments of Geography and Marketing at Western Michigan University to identify best agri-tourism and other direct retail sales marketing practices of specialty crop growers and identify issues and concerns related to the consumer marketing of specialty crop products by adopting a multi-method research approach, including organizing focus groups, conducting a survey of specialty crop producers participating in retail activities, and the development of a GIS that displays the location and amenities offered by all participating farms
- Partner with the Cherry Marketing Institute to support cherry producers by providing access to information on disaster relief programs through workshops, speakers, and a booth at the Great Lakes Expo and the Grant Traverse Farm and Orchard Show
- Partner with the Michigan Farm Bureau to update Michigan's fruit inventory data for use by growers, handlers, input suppliers, governmental agencies, commodity groups, university specialists and policy makers
- Partner with the Michigan Potato Industry Commission to generate precise soil data through a survey, correlation analyses from a database, soil sampling, laboratory tests and comprehensive analyses that will provide a base of information upon which recommendations for production modifications to achieve higher yields can be built
- Partner with the Michigan State Horticultural Society to keep Michigan fruit crops economically competitive and environmentally sustainable in the 21st Century, through the establishment of innovative fruit research plantings at key MSU research centers
- Partner with Michigan State University to evaluate the effects of poplar tree growth on metal mobility and wastewater treatment effectiveness under actual field conditions and complement ongoing column studies, providing specialty crop processors with results that demonstrate the technology and developing a design tool with site specific design recommendations and cost estimates

- Partner with Lakeshore Environmental, Inc. to assess the effectiveness of passive aeration of soils in a food processing wastewater treatment system and determining whether the success observed in a pilot scale version of the previously funded study will translate into the full scale and, if so, determine the effectiveness of the treatment method compared to background/control conditions; tracking the effectiveness of the passive aeration system at various BOD/COD and hydraulic loading rates (inches of wastewater irrigated per acre per day); tracking the effectiveness of the passive aeration system during the winter months; and providing real-world costs for use in system design and the comparison of food processing wastewater treatment systems
- Partner with Michigan State University to help growers better understand practical vineyard strategies that have a great impact on fruit ripening and quality by investigating the effects of temperature, light and yield on fruit antioxidant capacity and accumulation of polyphenols and 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 cis-isomers and their glycosides) in berries during three growing years in Michigan
- Partner with the Michigan Onion Committee to provide onion producers with tools to manage onion diseases and remain economically viable by studying the environmental conditions required for infection of onion by *C. coccoodes*, determining whether there are differences in susceptibility of onion cultivars to *C. coccoodes* and *S. terrestris*, identifying effective fungicides for managing leaf and neck anthracnose of onion with foliar sprays, and evaluating the efficacy of fungicides for control of onion pink root using soil drenches
- Partner with the Michigan State University Entomology Department for year two of a project to identify key Brown Marmorated Stink Bug “invasion fronts” where pest management programs can be enacted and identify effective control treatments for Michigan tree fruit that fit into Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs
- Partner with the Michigan Bean Commission to increase the competitiveness of narrow row production of dry beans in Michigan by evaluating the impact of a black bean desiccant system applied at varying stages of bean development, assessing suitable dry bean cultivars and breeding lines for black color retention and white mold tolerance, assessing white mold tolerance of dry bean varieties on grower’s farms, and evaluating new fungicides to control white mold disease
- Partner with the Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board to build a long-term, economically and ecologically sustainable asparagus miner management strategy by developing a degree-day model and a new population-monitoring tool (trap bait), identifying biological control agents, and evaluating chemigation as a tool to suppress larval populations, providing recommendations and data to enable growers to time asparagus miner management actions, thereby maximizing the impact of pest management inputs and minimizing costs and harmful environmental effects
- Partner with Western Michigan University to provide standard analyses of hops to farmers, co-ops and brewers for early disease detection, to determine readiness for harvest, and final quality of processed product, enabling hops producers to overcome a key barrier to entry for wide scale adoption of Michigan grown hops
- Partner with the Michigan Vegetable Council, Inc. to provide growers with an economically viable management program that limits diseases caused by *Phytophthora capsici* by investigating the differences in susceptibility to *P. capsici* for various hard squash types (butternut squash and pie pumpkins) and determine the effects of fruit age and wounding on disease development; testing soil application of fungicides (in-furrow and drench applications) to control *Phytophthora* crown and root rot of processing pumpkin; testing registered and new fungicides to reduce *Phytophthora* crown and fruit rot of processing pumpkin fruits and determining whether fungicide applications should be continued once the majority of fruits are mature; and determining the optimal fungicide application interval for fungicides applied through the drip irrigation system to manage *Phytophthora* crown and root rot of fresh market winter squash
- Partner with Michigan State University to reduce dollar spot and improve turf quality by studying lightweight rolling frequency, different initiation timings for lightweight rolling regimes, and the effect lightweight rolling frequency has upon decreasing pesticide inputs
- Partner with the Department of Plant Pathology at Michigan State University to help growers optimize the application of chemical fungicides to control fungal diseases that attack small fruit crops by determining effects of rainfall, residue age and temperature on fungicide efficacy in blueberry; determining effects rainfall intensity and frequency on fungicide wash-off potential in grapes and blueberries; and determining effects of application timing on fungicide efficacy against anthracnose in blueberries and *Phomopsis* in grapes
- Partner with the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association to recommend ways to cut the costs of weed control for Michigan nursery crops by 30 percent by researching the supplementation of low-rate herbicides with methyl bromide alternative fumigants, identifying pre-emergence herbicides, identifying bio-rational herbicides in specialized and traditional container nurseries, evaluating propagule banks in various environments, and surveying nursery growers on their current weed control strategies

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

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$704,279.27	Number of Projects:	10
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- Partner with the University of Minnesota 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 Promotional Group Inc. to increase the reach and efficiency of the online Minnesota Grown Directory, develop and distribute point of sale materials to identify and promote Asian vegetables primarily grown and marketed by Hmong farmers, as well as increase demand by educating children about the importance of locally grown produce
- Partner with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy to assist in creating new opportunities for Minnesota growers of fresh fruits and vegetable to sell their produce by addressing key barriers in the child-care marketplace
- Partner with Renewing the Countryside to provide Minnesota specialty crop growers with increased opportunities to develop business relationships with institutional buyers
- Partner with the Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association to provide educational opportunities to Minnesota specialty crop producers through reasonably priced, full day, hands on, interactive workshops
- Partner with the Minnesota Farmers Market Association to assist specialty crop producers, in coordination with their local farmers' market, in obtaining the training and equipment to safely demonstrate food selection and preparation
- Evaluate the role of soybean aphid, *Aphis glycines* Matsumura as a vector of Potato Virus Y (PVY) in Minnesota seed potato fields and to develop pest management recommendations for growers to use to protect the competitiveness of this valuable specialty crop
- Partner with the University of Minnesota to provide information to Minnesota strawberry growers on new production methods using low tunnels
- Partner with the University of Minnesota to address critical needs of high tunnel growers through a dynamic website that promotes grower and researcher interaction
- 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:	\$282,041.69	Number of Projects:	12
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- Implement a cost-share reimbursement program for Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) with the goal of increasing the number of Mississippi farmers with GAP/GHP certification
- Partner with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Alcorn State University in Mississippi to train, prepare, and facilitate small, specialty producers to implement Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) to provide access to fresh commercial market opportunity (southern peas, watermelon and greens) and other markets that require GAP/GHP certifications and inspections
- Partner with Mississippi State University to conduct research to enhance the marketability and value of specialty crops in the state of Mississippi, especially berries, sweet potatoes, and nuts and to conduct training in food safety, quality, and other priorities to enhance marketing and consumer protection
- Partner with Farm Families of Mississippi to implement the ongoing promotional campaign that educates the public about the benefits of buying and consuming locally-grown and produced specialty crops including, but not limited to, sweet potatoes, honey, sweet corn, and pecans
- Continue the Mississippi Certified Farmers Market Program to identify and promote markets for Mississippi grown fruits, vegetables, and plant materials processed in Mississippi. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce will implement guidelines to verify that specialty crops are only promoted
- Partner with Mississippi State University to implement a regional produce consumer survey with the intent to provide locally-grown, direct-to-consumer marketing strategies for Mississippi growers that will improve profitability

- Partner with the Mississippi Sweet Potato Council to influence the purchasing decisions of produce buyers by promoting Mississippi sweet potatoes at the Produce Marketing Association’s annual trade show
- Partner with the Alliance for Sustainable Agricultural Production in collaboration with Mississippi State University, Alcorn State University, the National Center for Appropriate Technology, and others to help to enhance the competitiveness of farmers/producers of local sustainably grown specialty crops, through the provision of regular and on-going education, training, and technical assistance
- Partner with Mississippi State University to support basic cut flower, culinary herb, and vegetable cultivar trials at the Truck Crops Branch at Crystal Springs to determine the best performing varieties for growers
- Partner with Mississippi State University, Truck Crops Branch Experiment Station, to create and deliver preliminary recommendations on using shade cloth with different colors to modify the microenvironment of high tunnels and evaluate the impact on specialty crop yield and quality for summer production
- Partner with Mississippi State University to study and define the relationship between reniform nematodes and fungi that are associated with end rot disease of sweet potatoes
- 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:	\$350,925.40	Number of Projects:	14
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- Partner with Cultivate Kansas City to support an outreach team for the Get Growing Kansas City project that is comprised of eight people with a comprehensive skill set relative to growing, marketing, and distributing locally produced specialty crops. Project staff will use internal controls to ensure that SCBGP-FB funds solely enhance the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops
- Partner with the Missouri River Bluffs Association to encourage more producers to grow food in the five county Missouri River Bluffs Association region and encourage more customers to buy locally grown food through the implementation of a marketing campaign for locally grown food, development of a regional local food database, and facilitation of educational events at a farmers’ market. SCBGP-FB funds will not be used to invite, register, or promote products that are not defined as specialty crops
- Partner with the Missouri Wine and Grape Board to continue to increase winery tourism and wine sales by maintaining the Missouri Passport Program for another year
- Partner with the Menorah Legacy Foundation to expand a mobile market campaign which makes fresh, locally grown food available and affordable for low-income persons living in urban “food deserts” without access to grocery stores or farmers’ markets. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with the Western Nursery and Landscape Association to facilitate an educational program for Missouri nursery crop growers to help them meet the requirements set forth by the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) for sustainable plant production
- Partner with the St. Patrick Center to conduct an urban agriculture educational program, which will increase the horticulture skills of the Center’s clients
- Partner with Saint Louis University to establish a teaching orchard with emphasis on organic growing techniques, which will be utilized to host workshops and discussions with community members, teachers, and other interested stakeholders
- Partner with In2Action to increase local production, accessibility, and awareness of honey through the development of a sustainable test-model and educate low-income families about the nutritional, health, and medicinal benefits associated with honey consumption
- Partner with the Webb City Farmers’ Market to provide a conference that includes in-depth presentations and tours that cover issues of interest to specialty crop growers (both current and prospective), marketers, and consumers
- Partner with EarthDance to increase low-income and minority individuals’ knowledge of specialty crop sustainable agriculture opportunities and benefits through the continued implementation and expansion of an organic farming apprenticeship program and facilitation of food safety workshops for area specialty crop farmers
- Partner with the University of Missouri to determine the nitrogen needed to maximize yields and enhance profitability of chestnut production while avoiding the potential for contaminating of groundwater aquifers

- Partner with Missouri State University to provide molecular genetic support to expedite a Norton grape breeding effort with the ultimate goal of improving viticultural performance and enological quality of new grape varieties well adapted to Missouri conditions
- Partner with Lincoln University to develop organic management options for Japanese Beetle, *Popillia japonica*, and deploy monitoring systems for the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, *Halyomorpha halys*, and Spotted Wing *Drosophila*, *Drosophila suzukii*
- 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:	\$328,766.49	Number of Projects:	9
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- Partner with Lake County Community Development Corporation to increase knowledge and consumption of specialty crops by developing an effective marketing campaign that highlights the benefits of specialty crop consumption, assisting specialty crop producers enter local, regional markets; improving specialty crop producers' and processors' efficiency in product aggregation and distribution; providing expertise in food safety regulations; and assisting local coops in meeting the new regulatory requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act. Matching funds will be used to cover any inclusion of non-specialty crops
- Promote the use of local specialty crops among Montana restaurants by providing advertising funds for restaurants when they purchase specialty crops from local growers. Receipts will be checked to verify that restaurants have purchased the required amount of specialty crops and all promotional items developed with the advertising funds will only promote specialty crops
- Partner with Montana State University to promote increased production and higher levels of consumption of organic lentils in Montana by creating opportunities for collaborative relationships among lentil producers and chefs at two conventions, providing training for Montana's dietetic professionals on the benefits of organic lentils, and by creating new visually appealing marketing materials
- Partner with the USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council to improve market access and development programs for pulses as mainstream ingredients through the training and education of food industry professionals at an educational, informative, and hands-on product/menu development course targeting food scientists and executive chefs from around the world
- Partner with Montana State University to increase the market share of U.S. dry pea in China by screening the populations of dry peas and selecting or breeding dry pea cultivars with suitable starch characteristics for Chinese vermicelli production
- Partner with Montana State University to develop sterile cultivars of the Russian olive for use as an ornamental, without the noxious invasiveness characteristic of non-sterile Russian olive trees
- Partner with Montana State University to provide growers with alternative strategies for managing *Ascochyta* blight in lentils by studying how far *Ascochyta* blight spores can move from the previous year's infected residue; determine how large fungicide buffer strings should be; quantify the impact of *Ascochyta* blight on yield and quality; and educate growers about crop rotation, seed health, and fungicides that are effective against *Ascochyta*
- Partner with Montana State University to minimize the effects of pathogens such as late blight, powdery scab, potato cyst nematode, ring rot, and others on potatoes in Montana by adopting the use of real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and protocols which will then be included in a laboratory manual with detailed instructions for assays for each pathogen. In addition, the team will collect samples of seed potatoes from garden centers throughout the state to determine the source of the pathogens
- Partner with Montana State University/Lewis & Clark County Extension to determine which cultivars of apples, pears and plums would thrive best in Montana by planting and studying six apple varieties, five pear varieties, and three plum varieties in various regions of Montana and creating a fruit tree growers' guide based on the results of the study

Nebraska State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$332,134.13	Number of Projects:	14
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- Teach Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants how to incorporate specialty crops into their daily diets through educational cooking demonstrations using locally grown produce

- Partner with the City of South Sioux City and the Center for Rural Affairs to add a community orchard to the existing community garden in an effort to recruit a minimum of ten new farming entrepreneurs, who have expressed an interest in learning how to grow, care for and market fresh fruits
- Partner with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln to conduct a replicated experiment with four different strawberry cultivars including cultivars specifically developed for the short day photoperiods to create and demonstrate a cost effective prototype for growing horticultural crops in greenhouses during the winter months in Nebraska
- Partner with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s Food Processing Center to develop functional food ingredients, with Nebraska grown dry-edible beans as the primary raw material, to improve the nutritional value and quality of commonly consumed commercial food products in international markets, East Asia/China in particular
- Partner with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s Panhandle Research and Extension Center to identify sources of heat tolerance from tropical germplasm and related species to promote genetic improvement of common beans for tolerance to high temperatures as a cost-effective and practical approach for increasing production and quality in high temperature environments
- Partner with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s Panhandle Research and Extension Center to determine if it is economically feasible for potatoes to be raised for starch production under drought-like conditions in western Nebraska using organic farming practices
- Partner with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s Panhandle Research and Extension Center to continue with additional field experiments to confirm if fenugreek can be a new and industrially (nutraceutical) important alternative crop in western Nebraska
- Partner with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s Panhandle Research and Extension Center to identify the amount of irrigation needed, the best planting date in the spring, and the optimal nitrogen requirement for high seed yield and pharmaceutical properties of fenugreek produced in western Nebraska
- Coordinate a comprehensive survey to document the presence or absence of Japanese Beetle populations statewide that will be used to determine eligibility for certification to ship nursery stock to other states and foreign countries that have imposed trade restrictions due to the potential spread of this pest. Detection of Japanese Beetle populations will also allow for the implementation of best management practices, to mitigate the damage caused by the plant pest
- Partner with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s Panhandle Research and Extension Center to evaluate a number of available fungicides to identify the most effective product for managing sunflower rust for improving confection sunflower producers’ profitability
- Partner with the Potato Certification Association of Nebraska to coordinate a regional network to better manage potato psyllids, an insect pest that causes psyllid yellows disease and can transmit the plant pathogen *Liberibacter*, both of which can cause significant, devastating damage to potato crops
- Conduct soil surveys throughout the state to determine if Nebraska remains free of the Columbia Root Knot Nematode (*Meloidogyne chitwoodi*) (CRKN), a potato crop damaging soil nematode that can reduce crop yield and make potatoes unmarketable to international markets with a CRKN quarantine in place
- Partner with the Nebraska Forest Service to integrate hybrid hazelnuts into profitable, sustainable, perennial-based woody agricultural, or agroforestry production systems and set the stage for the full-scale commercialization through the development of three commercial-quality hybrid hazelnut selections, which are field-ready cloned plants for field trials
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Nevada Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$259,627.50	Number of Projects:	7
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- Offer a pilot Farmer Assistance Program that will encourage small farms to adopt good handling practices (GHP) and Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) by providing assistance through cost-share and train-the-trainer programs
- Partner with the Churchill Economic Development Association (CEDA) to establish an official marketing structure that will allow small scale specialty crop farmers to jointly use planting, harvesting, packing equipment, and facilities to expand the Fallon Small Farm Collaborative marketing through farmer’s markets, CSA’s and other local marketing venues

- Partner with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether and how it would be possible for refrigerated Food Bank trucks, which today return empty from rural charitable food distributions, to increase the viability of small rural farmers of specialty crops by transporting their crops from the rural areas to the urban markets of Reno/Sparks for sale
- Partner with Carson City High School Greenhouse to provide a minimum of 20 students the opportunity to complete one summer school class in Greenhouse Production and Management geared towards floriculture specialty crops, cut flowers, Community Sustainable Agriculture project (CSA) and greenhouse production; and provide up to 10 students 17 years or older stipends to complete work experience training based on their classroom training
- Partner with the Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) to develop and implement a pilot horticulture education project for youth (grades 9-12)
- Partner with Urban Roots Garden Classrooms to set up three vegetable growing systems – raised bed garden outside, hydroponic system in a classroom, and aquaponics system in a greenhouse - and compare specialty crop production capability of each system as part of Earl Wooster High School’s Sustainable Resource Academy 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:	\$238,572.00	Number of Projects:	10
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- Partner with the Cheshire County Conservation District in cooperation with The Farmers’ Market of Keene and Walpole Farmers’ Market to expand the customer base of NH fruit and vegetable producers at farmers markets by creating an awareness campaign and offering “Veggie Bucks” incentives to those using federal nutrition benefits to buy fruits and vegetables at key farmers’ markets in Cheshire County
- Partner with the New Hampshire Farmers’ Market Association (NHFMA) to increase public awareness via television advertisements about the importance of buying fresh locally grown specialty crops at farmers markets in New Hampshire. The NHFMA will provide matching funds to cover the promotion of non-specialty crops at farmer’s markets
- Partner with the University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension, Belknap County in cooperation with Prescott Farm Environmental Center and Belknap County Conservation District to publish a local food guide with information regarding specialty crop seasonality, farm stands, pick your own and CSA farms, and when and where to shop at a local farmers’ market. Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funds will only be used to fund producers of eligible specialty crops
- Continue to build upon previously established efforts to promote the purchase of local agricultural products under a common logo. Specialty Crop Block Grant Program 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 the Northeast Organic Farming Association in cooperation with the National Center for Appropriate Technology to conduct training that will target beginning and advanced growers to provide information on tools and equipment specific to planting, maintaining, and harvesting specialty crops in order to help farmers increase crop production efficiencies and farm profits
- Partner with Small & Beginner Farmers of New Hampshire to present a series of workshops to help small and beginning specialty crop farmers develop agricultural, mechanical and business skills needed to transition into commercial production
- Partner with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension's Agriculture Staff to serve the New Hampshire specialty crop community more quickly, efficiently, and effectively by equipping the Extension staff with iPads which will reduce the time producers have to wait to receive information, diagnoses, or recommendations by allowing field-based staff to carry entire reference libraries with them to site visits
- Partner with the Hillsborough County Conservation District in cooperation with University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension to conduct a full scale analysis and needs assessment of institutions and of specialty crop farmers who have an interest in expanding their operations into new markets, particularly institutions
- Partner with Merrimack County Conservation District to build a mobile flash freeze unit, train producers in its use, and make available the unit to NH producers in order to increase specialty crop sales and extend the availability of locally produced food in off-season months
- 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:

\$816,127.41

Number of Projects:

14

- Partner with the Cooperative Growers Association, Inc. to increase produce and horticultural sales for local specialty crops and CSA members by participating in the New Jersey Vegetable Growers Convention in February 2013 and providing a venue in the Cooperative's Greenhouse where growers can sell their produce
- Partner with the Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc. (GCNJ) to increase awareness and appreciation of organic gardening, fruits and vegetables, locally grown produce and the "Jersey Fresh" and "Jersey Grown" brands by providing small grants to as many as 65 new or existing community gardens for community garden development and educational outreach activities
- Partner with the Garden State Wine Growers Association (GSWGA) to increase awareness and branding of the NJ Wine Industry by developing technology based marketing tools such as a mobile web site, a free downloadable app and a statewide billboard campaign which will give wine consumers immediate access to the member wineries of GSWGA
- Partner with the Middlesex County Board of Agriculture to increase the county's direct agricultural producers' market share by increasing their sales using enhanced internet marketing techniques to locate direct marketers and growers
- Promote the "Jersey Fresh" and "Jersey Grown" brands through print and radio advertisements, point of purchase materials, and other marketing activities
- 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 Trenton Farmers Market to increase consumer purchase and consumption of specialty crops by providing them with the opportunity to taste various specialty crops through Jersey Fresh Days at the Trenton Farmers Market
- Partner with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cape May County to provide entrepreneurial, production and management training to women who operate greenhouses for the production of specialty crops through interactive workshops on financial management, cost accounting, marketing, estate planning, labor management and production techniques
- Partner with the New Jersey Agricultural Society's Farmers Against Hunger (FAH) to educate low-income families and the general public about the nutritional value of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as methods of preparing healthy meals using these crops by providing workshops; preparing a book for low-income families describing where produce may be purchased and including simple recipes on how to prepare the produce; and by holding educational workshops for these individuals
- Partner with the New Jersey Beekeepers Association to reverse the decline of pollinators such as bees, wasps, butterflies and flies by fostering practices that support them throughout the growing season through an educational video and presentation, the free distribution of 50,000 late summer and fall pollen and nectar-producing perennial forage plants to the public, and the establishment of test plots to determine effectiveness and maintenance of various plants as an ongoing source of forage for honey bees and other pollinators
- Partner with the New Jersey Farm Bureau to facilitate linkages between school food service providers and specialty crop producers by organizing training sessions for farmers and piloting an effort with a select number of New Jersey farmers and farmers' cooperatives to facilitate communication through the use of social networking tools such as smart phones and Twitter
- Partner with the American Cranberry Growers Association to optimize irrigation of cranberries for conservation of water and other resources by developing better methods to monitor canopy temperature through the use of infrared sensing technology, which will measure leaf temperature directly, rather than just the temperature of the air around the leaf
- Partner with the New Jersey Blueberry Growers Association to develop monitoring and management tactics for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) in blueberries by identifying potential sources of infestation within blueberry farms, developing effective monitoring tools, and evaluating various insecticides
- 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:

\$515,303.91

Number of Projects:

9

- Partner with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture's Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program to prepare New Mexico specialty crop suppliers for audits required by buyers by providing a food safety consultant to help New Mexico Specialty crop suppliers and food manufacturers navigate the process and by conducting workshops and mock audits
- Increase sales of New Mexico's specialty crops and value-added products in both food service and retail markets through product demonstrations, exhibits at tradeshow, participation in or creation of special events, and implementation of the current Market Introduction Program
- Partner with New Mexico State University's Los Lunas Center, NMSU Santa Fe County Extension Office, NMSU Rio Arriba County Extension Office and NMSU Bernalillo County Extension Office to eliminate late frost threat, demonstrating a reliable crop annually, high nutrition content and wide weather and soil adaption, by establishing a jujube demonstration with 30 cultivars at two locations in central and northern New Mexico, studying cultivar self-compatibility, making cultivar recommendations, hosting workshops and fruit tasting sessions, and publishing jujube extension publications to educate the public and promote jujubes in New Mexico
- Capture new target markets for New Mexico green chile by incorporating new collaborative marketing strategies and creating a new DVD demonstrating green chile recipes
- Partner with New Mexico State University's Department of Extension Plant Sciences to increase grower knowledge of the landrace chile varieties needed for the production of uniform, high-quality seed by conducting various workshops
- Partner with New Mexico State University's Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences to develop onion cultivars that are resistant to fusarium basal rot (FBR) by using various disease screening methods, coupled with mature bulb artificial inoculation and recombining them with open-pollinated populations
- Partner with Española Community Market and Española Farmers' Market to increase gross sales of specialty crops at the Española Farmers' Market (EFM) and the Española Community Market (ECM) by installing a walk-in cooler in which specialty crop producers can store their produce. Matching funds will be used to cover expenditures for the inclusion of non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service's National Clonal Repository, John Henning, Colorado State University Agricultural Experiment Station/Cooperative Extension, NMSU Agricultural Economics Department to increase the competitiveness of New Mexico hops by expanding hops cultivar evaluations, characterizing hop cone chemistry, undertaking a thorough economic/market analysis of producing hops in New Mexico, and conducting an intensive workshop on the opportunities and challenges of small-scale hop production
- 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:

\$1,115,918.48

Number of Projects:

13

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- Partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Clinton County to extend best management practices and the latest research results to high tunnel growers through research trials, on-farm demonstrations, field meetings, farm visits, online posts and formal educational events
 - Partner with Cornell University to explore labor alternatives that will help ensure a qualified and legally authorized workforce for New York specialty crop production as well as to identify the economic implications of policy proposals that address issues regarding labor availability in agricultural markets
 - Partner with Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York, Inc. to increase specialty crop grower competitiveness in the marketplace by creating a series of learning courses designed to focus solely on organic and sustainable specialty crop farmers seeking new or improved production and management skills
 - Partner with Cornell University to assess the impact of major flooding on the spread of Phytophthora blight while using traditional breeding to improve pepper, zucchini, and summer squash varieties with resistance to the pathogen, using on-farm trials to obtain feedback on new varieties, and extending to growers information on how to prevent contamination of clean fields and how to manage fields contaminated with Phytophthora
 - Partner with Cornell University in cooperation with New York Nursery growers to assess and test vines to be used in establishing disease-tested increase planting blocks
 - Partner with Cornell University to quantify the effects of natural environmental stress upon the development of powdery mildew and evaluate findings in other crops

- Partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County – Agricultural Stewardship Program to engage Suffolk County’s tree fruit industry in adopting a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management program specific to the pest pressures of the tree fruit grown in Long Island’s maritime climate
- Partner with Cornell University to improve the detection of streptomycin-resistant fire blight bacteria, *Erwinia amylovora* (SR Ea) and understanding of the outbreaks of SR Ea in New York
- Partner with Cornell University to assess Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) adult abundance and larval infestations in small fruit crops through growing season, test alternative lures for monitoring adult SWD, evaluate wild plants near fruit farms as potential hosts for SWD, evaluate the efficacy of insecticides for control of SWD in small fruit cups, and evaluate landscape risk factors associated with SWD
- Partner with Cornell University to develop new mixtures of grasses that enhance weed control by using fine fescue grasses capable of producing weed suppressing compounds from their roots
- Partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County to increase the amount of New York hops being used by brewers by concentrating on developing and disseminating information and appropriate scale technologies to assist hop growers in growing and processing hops of the quality that brewers require
- Partner with Cornell University to increase the production value of vine crops by identifying whether a greater stocking density of bumble bees will result in greater yield and profitability for pumpkins and other vine crops in New York
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Amount Awarded:	\$1,153,175.52	Number of Projects:	23
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- Increase the sales of North Carolina grown horticultural crops through the continued facilitation of a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and water analysis cost-share program and the implementation of a series of grower tours and marketing campaign to solely promote specialty crops
- Partner with the Columbus County Extension Service to conduct an advertising campaign to recruit new farmers to the Down East Connect Farmers’ Fresh Market, a virtual farmer’s market, bringing together rural farmers and urban consumers of Southeastern North Carolina, and perform training sessions for season extension of specialty crop commodities. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with the North Carolina Blueberry Council to implement a marketing campaign that optimizes social media to further enhance the presence of North Carolina blueberries online
- Partner with the North Carolina Christmas Tree Association to increase demand for real North Carolina Christmas trees by focusing promotional efforts on the industry’s record of environmental stewardship
- Partner with the North Carolina Commercial Flower Growers Association to increase the sales of spring flowering plants through the implementation of a marketing campaign that promotes flowering plants that thrive in North Carolina
- Partner with the North Carolina Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Association to implement a marketing campaign that promotes North Carolina greenhouse vegetables crops thereby changing the purchasing behavior of consumers and retailers when buying North Carolina vegetables
- Partner with the North Carolina Potato Association to implement a marketing campaign that promotes North Carolina grown and new varieties of potatoes so that new conventional and specialty-type potato varieties’ potential can be realized sooner
- Partner with the North Carolina Sod Producers Association to enhance the marketing of turfgrass sod grown and sold in North Carolina through the implementation of a promotional campaign that will continue to focus on relaying the benefits of sod to consumers
- Partner with the North Carolina Sweet Potato Commission to implement a marketing campaign that measurably increases consumer awareness of the versatility and nutritional benefits of North Carolina sweet potatoes and encourage families to eat NC sweet potatoes at least once a week
- Partner with the North Carolina Vegetable Growers Association to increase awareness of North Carolina grown produce by exhibiting at a national produce industry trade show, conducting a regional trade exposition, and coordinating a related cooperative advertising campaign

- Partner with the North Carolina Watermelon Association to educate consumers and trade members about North Carolina watermelon by sending a watermelon representative to in-state and out-of-state industry events
- Partner with the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association to enhance the competitiveness of North Carolina specialty crop producers through the facilitation of an innovative training program to small, diversified farmers across North Carolina, which uses a new Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) guidance manual that is oriented to small fruit and vegetable farmers
- Partner with the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association to assist specialty crop farmers interested in transitioning to certified organic production by providing organic guidance and training. Sole priority will be given to writing job scenarios and payment schedules that pertain to fruit and vegetable production
- Partner with the North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association to improve the North Carolina nursery crop worker knowledge of plant marketing and customer service skills through the use of new or revised training materials and resources
- Partner with the North Carolina Strawberry Association to implement a two pronged campaign that will focus efforts to market the nutritional benefits of strawberries to children in North Carolina through lesson plans, a DVD/CD, and website information, and to help strawberry growers develop and implement Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) programs on their farms
- Partner with Preserve Heritage Agriculture and Regional Markets Now (PHARMN) to facilitate a series of educational workshops on sustainable methods for growing wine grapes in the mountains of North Carolina
- Partner with North Carolina State University to evaluate peach rootstocks and soil management strategies to minimize the potential for peach tree short life, develop commercial recommendations for growers of apples and peaches on rootstock selection and preplant strategies, and educate North Carolina growers and county extension agents on peach and apple replant issues and how to minimize the potential for replant problems through rootstock selection and preplant soil management
- Partner with North Carolina State University to help farmers meet the growing demand for locally grown hops through the continuation of trials to identify the best performing hop cultivars and by conducting an educational program on hops for growers, agricultural advisors, and brewers
- Partner with North Carolina State University to expand value-added uses of North Carolina's sweet-potato crop through the creation of a fortified sweet-potato flour and by increasing the existing nutrition knowledge of sweet potato in children and adults
- Partner with North Carolina State University to assess resistance in Turkish and Trojan firs to a broader array of Phytophthora genotypes and use next generation sequencing technology to develop DNA markers to select for resistance in genetic field trials
- Partner with North Carolina State University to address the development of integrated management tools that will minimize the incidence, severity, and spread of a new boxwood disease known as 'boxwood blight' caused by the fungus *Cylindrocladium buxicola*
- Partner with the Polk County Office of Agriculture Economic Development to upgrade the current temporary cooling systems for specialty crops, provide a small refrigerated box truck along with washing, sorting, and packing stations for specialty crop 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

North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$615,836.96

Number of Projects:

10

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- Increase the demand for specialty crops through the marketing and promotion of local foods through a multimedia campaign. Personnel funded through this project will solely promote specialty crops
 - Increase access to local fruit by conducting a community grant program to enable the establishment of local orchards throughout North Dakota
 - Partner with the Northern Pulse Growers Association to increase the consumption of pulse crops by providing education to representatives from the foodservice industry and by developing new recipes that incorporate pulse crops

- Partner with the Foundation for Rural Resource Management and Sustainability to reduce the barriers to using specialty crops for school lunch and other fresh fruit and vegetable programs by creating a Farm to School coordinator half-time position, documenting three or more working models in the state, and fulfilling requests of the National Farm to School program to publish information for other states to use. This position will also facilitate the collection of data on specific wants, needs, barriers and tastes of students enabling the creation of materials specific to North Dakota Farm to School Programs to be used statewide
- Partner with North Dakota State University to develop cold-hardy grape varieties that will and flourish in North Dakota
- Partner with North Dakota State University to determine prospective potato genotypes for increased production
- Partner with National Sunflower Association to develop multiple rust-resistant confection sunflower hybrids
- Partner with Williston Ag Diversification Group to enhance the competitiveness of specialty potato variety MonDak Gold by evaluating multi-state potato breeding lines for french fry processing for limited commercial production and test marketing
- Partner with Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society to increase the accessibility of vegetable varieties by evaluating promising vegetable varieties against varieties farmers are currently using through replicated variety trials at North Dakota State University, identifying breeding goals for cultivar improvement and development and providing variety trial data and project results to North Dakota farmers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources

Amount Awarded:	\$95,701.78	Number of Projects:	4
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- Partner with Northern Marianas College to establish gardens at 10 elementary schools and teach the foundations and techniques of field planting and harvesting to get the youth involved and take ownership in the planting, caring for, harvesting and marketing of specialty crops
- Partner with the Northern Mariana Islands' Division of Environmental Quality and the Northern Marianas College to test for chemical residue on locally grown produce sold in market place, stores or farmer's premises to eliminate the excessive use of farm chemicals
- Partner with Northern Marianas College to produce higher yield and higher quality crops with little land required through the use of hydroponics system as an alternative method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions, in water, without soil
- 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:	\$642,925.36	Number of Projects:	9
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- Partner with Ohio State University to quantify suppressive characteristics towards E. coli O157 and other foodborne pathogens found in various soils used to produce small fruits and vegetables and to determine empirically the effect of different soil characteristics on the survivability of these pathogens
- Partner with Ohio State University to develop an interactive “best management practices” guide for tomato transplant production, develop processing tomato varieties resistant to bacterial diseases, and improve tomato transplant production processes to reduce or eliminate bacterial pathogen populations on plants before they reach the field
- Partner with the Ohio Produce Grower and Marketers Association (OPGMA) to provide specialty crop growers, handlers, and other industry professionals with instruction (at no charge) that could preclude food safety lapses by increasing the number of food safety sessions at the annual OPGMA Congress
- Partner with the Ohio Grocers Foundation to enhance the competitiveness of Ohio's specialty crops through the implementation of a marketing campaign that utilizes advertisements, in-store signage, and in-store product tastings

- Partner with the Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy to increase specialty crop production and profitability by building relationships with growers and distributors in two Ohio regions to increase the volume of local specialty crops being distributed through the community-based food systems and offering educational and technical assistance to specialty crop growers
- Partner with Ohio State University to conduct applied research through the inclusion of new bramble cultivar trials, season extension methods using high tunnels and Rotatable-Cross-Arm trellis system, distance and onsite problem diagnostics, grower visits and workshops, and demonstration of berry marketing tools
- Partner with Ohio State University to conduct research to develop specific hops production protocols for Ohio growers; measure consumer, grower and marketer knowledge of hops; survey Ohio beer manufacturers regarding their specific demands and requirements for hops; and enhance marketing tools, materials, and training programs for hops growers
- Partner with the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association to maximize preemergence herbicide efficacy by evaluating specific herbicide/weed interactions in two major nursery and Christmas tree growing regions of Ohio and plant tolerance; identify preemergence herbicides safe for a broad range of cultivars of Viburnum sp., Hydrangea sp. and Buxus sp.; and identify specific weed control approaches for highly specific weed issues in Ohio
- 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:	\$384,558.77	Number of Projects:	11
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- Partner with Oklahoma State University to conduct a comprehensive microbiological survey of native pecan in the farm environment during production harvesting and handling to determine natural occurrence and prevalence of Salmonella and Shiga toxin-producing E. coli
- Partner with Oklahoma State University to enhance the profitability of Oklahoma green industries by evaluating and promoting plant material suited to Oklahoma, improving landscapes, and helping the buying public make informed decisions
- Partner with Oklahoma Fruit and Vegetable Association to disseminate information and educate its membership about specialty crop varieties and advancements in the specialty crop industry; conduct a field day on growing techniques and marketing opportunities for producers who are new or wanting to expand the scope of their current operations; and increase knowledge of their members and the general public through social media outlets
- Continue a state-wide advertisement campaign including funding local promotional grants, OK Grown tote bags, and advertisements to increase awareness of Oklahoma's specialty crops and stimulate the supply of and demand for these commodities. 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
- Create an easy to access and understand set of wine trails throughout the state using the existing Agritourism website and distribution of printed materials
- Print 500 copies of the Oklahoma Farm to School Cookbook that provides kid friendly and large serving recipes using locally grown produce and provides resources about Farm to School, school gardens and food safety and distribute to school child nutrition professionals
- Provide funding to ten teachers or schools to implement a school garden to provide a hands-on learning experience for students and promote healthy fresh fruit and vegetable choices
- Partner with Oklahoma State University to conduct research to provide growers with quantitative values associated with floriculture crop production to ensure maximum production efficiency and consistency as related to nitrogen fertilization
- Partner with Oklahoma State University to increase the availability and quality of locally produced fresh tomatoes for market during hot weather by trialing varieties with heat-set capabilities and using plasticulture to manage soil temperature and moisture levels in a more efficient manner
- Partner with Oklahoma State University to "create" clean Canna lily plants for field production of rhizomes (bulbs) by Oklahoma growers or for greenhouse production by Oklahoma nurseries

- 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 irrigation systems and plastic to expand the repertoire of fruits and vegetables grown in Oklahoma

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,490,475.88	Number of Projects:	22
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- Partner with the Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission to offer food safety training workshops and educational outreach to all produce farmers and harvesters in Oregon during calendar years 2013 and 2014
- Partner with Oregon State University, Food Innovation Center to increase understanding and implementation of food safety management systems and documentation through interactive workshops with Pacific Northwest growers, packers and processors
- Partner with Wy'East Resource Conservation & Development to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops locally and regionally through networking and a marketing campaign and by providing educational opportunities for specialty crop farmers and value-added producers to increase their knowledge of production, farm management, marketing, and Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices
- Conduct a trade development mission to Singapore, Vietnam and Indonesia to expand the market penetration and introduce new specialty crop products from Oregon and Washington State to overseas markets through specialty product technical seminars and buyer meetings
- Partner with Ecotrust to develop a solution for efficiently getting product from local specialty crop producers to regional wholesale buyers
- Partner with Klamath Basin Fresh Direct, LLC to expand existing marketing efforts for potatoes - promoting innovative new organic potato products locally, nationally, and internationally by providing brand packaging and targeted point of sale materials for family farms in the Klamath Basin
- Partner with North Powder Charter School to increase the amount of Oregon specialty crops served in schools by establishing a food hub which will strengthen the purchasing power of participating Eastern Oregon schools and by educating students and school food service staff on the techniques available to preserve specialty crops so they may be used year-round
- Partner with Northwest Food Processors Association to increase the number and amount of Oregon specialty crop exports and enabling processors to remain globally competitive by providing a series of training events focused on international exports and marketing
- Partner with Oregon Essential Oil Growers League to increase demand for Oregon mint oil by creating a branding program consisting of brochures, banners, a website and the use of social media
- Partner with Oregon Hop Commission to educate both Craft Brewers and Home Brewers about the importance of publicly available hop varieties grown in Oregon by hosting a booth at the Fresh Hop Beer Tastival, designing and printing a Public Hop Variety Manual, and printing an "Oregon Hops" promotional brochure
- Partner with Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility to coordinate institutional food buyers (healthcare, education, government, non-profit, and business) through a regional network to create an increased, consistent demand for Oregon specialty crops and send strong market signals to producers and suppliers to increase supply
- Partner with the Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission to promote processed NW berries for use in manufacturing, food service, restaurant/hotel applications in East Asia and China
- Partner with Oregon Rural Action to identify barriers to purchasing local specialty crops, conduct a regional supply chain assessment, provide business training, conduct a regional consumer education campaign, and develop a farmer network to address long-term opportunities for produce-members in Eastern Oregon
- Partner with Portland Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition to market the fresh vegetable and fruit component of CSA shares directly to consumers in the Portland area
- Partner with Portland Farmers Market to conduct a broad-based advertising campaign promoting farmers markets in the Willamette Valley and educating consumers about the benefits of purchasing fresh local food directly from the growers

- Partner with the Washington Department of Agriculture and Seattle Wholesale Growers Market Cooperative to develop and deliver resources to train a minimum of industry stakeholders in methods for achieving high quality cut flower production, with emphasis on season extension, marketing techniques and sustainable growing practices; and assist in providing Washington and Oregon floricultural producers with reliable volume sales opportunities to Puget Sound area supermarkets and chain stores, aiding the Seattle Wholesale Growers Market Cooperative in building a self-sustaining marketing program for large scale buyers
- Partner with Oregon State University Extension, Small Farms Program to provide comprehensive training and education for beginning specialty crop growers who will contribute to Oregon’s agricultural economy and increase regional food security
- Partner with Willamette Farm and Food Coalition to provide farm to school and school garden programs in Oregon with training, technical assistance and resources to incorporate more Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables into meals served in schools and to provide effective educational programming to promote these crops
- Identify the specific native bee species that actually pollinate selected specialty crops in Oregon and to assist in the development of conservation efforts for specific native bees essential to the pollination of specialty crops
- Develop boxwood blight education and outreach materials for Oregon nurseries describing current best management practices for disease mitigation and a voluntary nursery cleanliness program for Buxus and Sarcococca plants
- Partner with Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development to develop culinary truffle production by establishing a three-acre demonstration truffle orchard and conducting truffle production outreach and training activities for farmers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,029,172.45	Number of Projects:	22
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- Partner with Pennsylvania State University to develop practical methods to reduce E. coli levels in surface water used for irrigation of specialty crops and to compare decreases in bacteria that cause post-harvest spoilage
- Increase the number of specialty crop producers participating in Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) audits through outreach efforts, which will increase the level of food safety, familiarize producers with the concepts of the Federal Food Safety Modernization Act, and open up broader markets for their produce
- Partner with the American Mushroom Institute to provide guidance and training to the mushroom farm community on implementation of the provisions of the Food Safety Modernization Act pertaining to mushroom production, including, but not limited to hazard analysis and risk-based preventative controls, performance standards, and standards for produce safety
- 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
- Increase consumer awareness of Pennsylvania specialty crop producers through the PA Preferred program by attending tradeshows and utilizing a social media campaign that promotes Pennsylvania farmers
- Partner with the Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Program to expand the reach of the existing consumer marketing campaign for Pennsylvania apples by including media markets across state lines to increase consumer awareness of Pennsylvania Farm Markets and to promote Pennsylvania Apples and apple products
- Partner with the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program to increase consumer awareness regarding the local produce season and the availability of fresh locally-grown vegetables by expanding the Program’s “August is Pennsylvania Produce Month” promotion
- Partner with Hunger-Free Pennsylvania to establish a safe, fast and convenient system for Pennsylvania’s specialty crop food industry to donate nutritious products to the private charitable food assistance network operating within Pennsylvania
- Partner with the Pennsylvania Winery Association to implement a marketing campaign that rebrands Pennsylvania wine to help increase recognition for the State as wine destination and provide cohesion for the growing number of wineries
- Work with Strategic Contracting, Inc. to allow local farmers and food suppliers to showcase their specialty crops to local consumers; educate the patrons on the health benefit to their families as well as the impact on their community’s local economy by highlighting the quality and accessibility of those products; reach out to the restaurant community and encourage Chefs to use Pennsylvania-sourced fruits, vegetables and herbs in their establishments; and increase the overall demand for locally grown, sustainably produced specialty crops

- Partner with the American Mushroom Institute to expand the market for mushrooms by determining the viability of new products using mushroom/meat blends that can be used in school meal programs
- Partner with SHARE Food Program, Inc. to expand an existing fresh food distribution program for low-income residents from a limited number of northern Philadelphia zip codes to the rest of the city. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with Pennsylvania State University to conduct potato field research to develop best field management under Pennsylvania conditions and provide up-to-date potato management and production education to growers
- Partner with PAgrows to provide scholarships for the AgBiz Masters program to young and beginning farmers, defined as less than 10 years of experience and under 35 years of age, that currently operate or work on a farm producing specialty crops or plan to begin a specialty crops farm
- Partner with Pennsylvania Farm Link, Inc. to educate beginning and established specialty crop farmers through the implementation of a series of workshops that discuss creative marketing strategies that will provide increased profits for their farm businesses
- Partner with Fay-Penn Economic Development Council to promote and improve the access to locally grown fruits and vegetables, other specialty crop products and processed produce for distribution to local restaurants, farmers' markets, landscapers and floral shops, and public schools. All the marketing photos, print ads, banners, radio ads, newsletters and signage will promote bedding plants, fresh cut flowers, fruits, and vegetables
- Partner with Muncy School District to increase nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops, as well as market development for local specialty crop growers through school lunch offerings, parent cooking classes, student cooking classes, farm tours, school gardens, parent gardening, and composting classes
- Partner with Pennsylvania State University to investigate key characteristics that will help interested individuals understand the factors that affect fresh and value-added peach purchases and identify barriers that prevent consumers from purchasing the amount they desire
- Partner with the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program to collect feedback from all segments of the Pennsylvania vegetable industry to strategically plan how stakeholders could work together to strengthen and advance the industry
- Partner with Pennsylvania State University to continue to evaluate table grape vines installed on vertical cordon trellis systems and the associated fruit for insects and diseases at Beechwood Orchards, Biglerville and the Penn State Fruit Research Laboratory, Biglerville
- Partner with Linvilla Orchards to develop a method of maintaining ideal field moisture through the use of drip irrigation and develop a schedule for running overhead irrigation to reduce field heat during the hot Pennsylvania summers
- 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

Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Amount Awarded:	\$381,790.04	Number of Projects:	7
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- Increase exports of Puerto Rican specialty crops by providing specialty crop producers with opportunities to travel to local and international trade shows, participate in promotional activities, and advertising the buy-local brands. Matching funds will be used to cover the inclusion of non-specialty crops
- Partner with International Coffee Vendors, Inc. to improve coffee grower growing practices by establishing a cupping facility, providing feedback from consumers who participate in cupping events, and sharing results with the growers
- Partner with the Municipality of Guayama to increase awareness and understanding of specialty crops among students, parents and teachers by establishing a school garden program and organizing workshops on basic gardening skills
- Partner with the University of Puerto Rico at Utuado to assist coffee farmers in obtaining premium prices for organic coffee at local, national and international markets by providing training for growers focused on U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Organic Program standards and organic management practices, providing an introduction to tropical agroforestry, establishing a model certified organic coffee nursery and continuing to develop a knowledge network in organic coffee production
- Partner with Metzgermeister to increase the fruit production per plantain plant and the availability of plantain seeds by producing and distributing 50,000 plantain seeds to 20 farmers, enabling them to build their own tissue culture laboratories

- Partner with De Rustica Farm to determine which varieties of dragon fruit are most adaptable to the south eastern region of Puerto Rico, which have the best agronomic qualities given the climate of the region, and what level of monetary expenditure will be required to establish and maintain a plot
- Partner with the School of Apiculture of Puerto Rico to maximize the bee wax that is processed in Puerto Rico by establishing a small processing plant where students and apiculturists may process the bee wax produced from their hives free of charge using solar panels

Rhode Island Division of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$217,327.69	Number of Projects:	5
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- 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 federal nutrition benefit recipients to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Matching funds will be used to cover non-specialty crop commodities and producers
- Partner with Farm Fresh Rhode Island to encourage institutional buyers (such as schools, hospitals, and worksites) and Rhode Island farmers to develop sustainable purchasing agreements through enhancing online specialty crop producer listings, information, and Market Mobile program as well as educating interested stakeholders about the availability of locally grown specialty crops
- Partner with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and the New England Apple Association to educate consumers with photography of apples now grown in Rhode Island, including a New England Apples wall calendar; the New England Apple Association web site newenglandapples.org, the weblog newenglandorchards.org; and the newsletter McIntosh News, and develop a pilot program to introduce new varieties to the region’s growers
- 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 the University of Rhode Island to collect soil data related to turfgrass sod and balled and burlap nursery stock, which will be used to analyze the economic effects of management alternatives

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$553,180.25	Number of Projects:	16
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- Organize a food safety team of experts to provide guidance to specialty crop producers in South Carolina; hire a GAP coordinator to increase the number of GAP certified farmers in the state; provide training and technical assistance in the GAP certification process; develop a food safety manual; and assist farmers in establishing business relationships with local schools, food service personnel and food distributors
- Partner with the Freewoods Foundation to promote the sale of fresh locally grown vegetables; encourage the consumption of fresh local vegetables; provide information on the health benefits of eating more vegetables; and educating the public on how to grow and cook them. Only eligible specialty crops will be promoted through this project
- Partner with the South Carolina Association of Farmers Markets to assist the community-based farmers' markets in designing promotions to make locally grown specialty crops more accessible to nutritionally at-risk families and individuals in the poverty stricken areas of the state. Promotional materials developed will showcase only specialty crops
- Increase ornamental horticulture sales at the six plant and flowers shows held at the three South Carolina Department of Agriculture Farmers Markets by providing promotional support at festivals and by publicizing opportunities to purchase locally grown ornamental plants and flowers from local producers
- Increase demand for and facilitate movement of South Carolina specialty crops through retail and food service channels by supporting collaborative efforts between individual producers and commodity groups to build a stronger presence at foods shows and industry events
- Increase sales of locally branded produce by using positive messaging and merchandising strategies to aid consumers in identifying locally grown specialty crops and understanding the value and nutrition of eating more fruits and vegetables in their daily diet via several media and direct marketing efforts

- Partner with the South Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association to provide a timely and informative three-day conference on issues that affect the ornamental horticulture industry in South Carolina and topics that can help meet the business, environmental and marketing demands of the market place
- Partner with the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association to assist specialty crop producers in taking advantage of the high-value market for organic produce by providing financial and technical assistance for organic and transitioning-to-organic farmers based on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program Organic Initiative, which enables farmers to invest in conservation practices that also enhance their ability to manage pests and disease in compliance with the National Organic Program. Workshops and consulting assistance will solely be directed to specialty crop farmers
- Partner with GrowFood Carolina to link rural producers of specialty crops with local markets through an outreach campaign and assist their entry into the market by conducting an outreach campaign consisting of four educational workshops
- Support targeted marketing programs for specialty crop producers under the Certified SC, Fresh on the Campus, and Fresh on the Menu programs by implementing an internship that will identify and promote farms that grow SC specialty crops, as well as increasing markets for those crops through stores and schools. Managers will work closely with the intern to ensure that all activities are dedicated to solely increasing the competitiveness of specialty crops within the state
- Partner with United Farmers USA to educate and train 300 Small Disadvantaged Farmers, 50 Beginning Farmers and 100 youths in the next year to be able to produce Specialty Crops to meet rural consumer demands in their communities
- Partner with Clemson University to develop a strategy by which a grower can build organic rich soils through summer southern pea cropping, while reducing weed pasture. This will allow for a fall crop of broccoli and cauliflower followed in the spring with sweet corn and tomatoes in a plasticulture setting, thereby growers may utilize the plastic mulch twice to reduce costs and maximize profits
- Partner with Trusted Farms to conduct a research study on the feasibility of creating a fruit and vegetable processing and distribution facility in an existing South Carolina prison
- Partner with Clemson University to establish the fungicide concentrations that inhibit isolates of *Didymella bryoniae*, the gummy stem blight fungus, not exposed to newly registered fungicides containing cyprodinil, fludioxonil, and fluopyram so the concentrations can be used as the baseline for future sensitivity monitoring on melon crops
- Partner with Clemson University to increase breeding efficiency for brown rot tolerant/resistant peach varieties producing high quality fruit and suitable for the southeastern United States by discovering markers associated with brown rot resistance in green and ripe peach fruit and enabling marker assisted breeding
- 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:	\$207,652.24	Number of Projects:	13
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- Partner with South Dakota State University Extension to reduce the risk of unsafe food handling practices by developing and implementing a food preservation training program including on-line self-study modules and hands-on food preservation workshops. Matching funds will be used to cover the inclusion of non-specialty crops
- Increase the awareness of South Dakota wines among consumers by hosting a Wine Pavilion at the South Dakota State Fair
- Partner with the Value Added Agriculture Development Center to increase access to locally grown specialty crops by building the foundation of support among specialty crop growers and buyers necessary to develop and launch an Online Marketplace Central Order System
- Partner with Dakota Rural Action to promote processing of South Dakota specialty crops by developing a tool kit to highlight the use of light agricultural processing facilities for specialty crops
- Partner with the South Dakota Specialty Producers Association (SPA) to educate specialty crop producers on production practices through webinars, visits to successful farms, and the SPA growers' conference
- Partner with Muddy Pumpkin Farms to educate specialty crop producers and school and community garden managers by testing various equipment and tillage techniques and holding field day events to disseminate the results of the research
- Partner with Anderson Hop Farm, LLC to demonstrate the potential to successfully establish, produce and market hops in South Dakota by educating potential hops producers on the specifics needed to obtain and market quality hops through field days and other technical assistance

- Partner with the South Dakota Department of Health to use a formative assessment developed under a previous grant to plan and implement an initiative focused on increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables within the state
- Partner with Buy Fresh Buy Local South Dakota to increase access to locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables by supporting the start-up of a fruit and vegetable farmers' markets on Indian Reservations and in other rural areas
- Partner with the Vermillion Area Farmers' Market to increase child and nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops by providing consumer and vendor education programs and increasing the availability of specialty crops at the Vermillion Area Farmers Market. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with Dakota Hops to educate South Dakota hops producers on the potential to use a sorter for use in small-scale hops production by designing and building a custom hops sorter for which the design will be shared with local producers
- Partner with Crocus Industries to provide specialty crop crushing and juicing services to specialty crop producers in a controlled and safe food processing environment
- 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

Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$527,803.23	Number of Projects:	12
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- Partner with the University of Tennessee to develop fruit and vegetable food safety guidelines for farm-to-school in Tennessee and disseminate these materials to growers through in-service trainings, workshops, and electronic resources
- Increase exposure and sales potential of Tennessee specialty crop producers and companies to a national buying audience through attendance at the two Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summits
- Partner with Grow Farms to expand the market for tomatoes grown in Grainger County, Tennessee through the implementation of a marketing campaign that utilizes a video that features these tomatoes and opportunities at industry tradeshows
- Partner with Mountain Valley Vineyards, Apple Barn Winery, and Hillside Winery to implement a marketing campaign consisting of brochures, print ads, TV ads, social media, and point of sale materials to promote the grape growing industry directly along with the Tennessee wineries that make up the Rocky Top Wine Trail
- Partner with the Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association to increase the industry's visibility by facilitating nursery grower participation in the Mid-States Horticultural Expo and organizing an educational workshop to increase the industry's understanding of the challenges and/or opportunities facing the industry now and in the future
- Facilitate a tour to help educate buyers and increase market share of Tennessee Christmas trees in the Eastern United States
- Partner with the Upper Cumberland Tourism Association to increase consumer awareness of locally produced wine through the implementation of a marketing campaign for the Upper Cumberland Region wineries
- Partner with the University of Tennessee to initiate a Tennessee Master Nursery Program, which will improve the ability of Tennessee nursery producers to compete regionally, nationally, and internationally by providing research-based curriculum in plant production with an emphasis on long-term economic, environmental, and rural community sustainability
- Partner with the University of Tennessee to expand a fruit and vegetable planning, production, and marketing training program (SproUTing Growers) through the implementation of a train-the-trainer curriculum, where the Extension agents are given the modules to deliver to beginning growers of specialty crops in their area
- Partner with Tennessee State University to provide education and training in e-marketing, integrated marketing ideas, and posturing nursery websites for optimal sales and promotion through the facilitation of a workshop for Tennessee nursery producers
- Partner with the University of Tennessee Extension, Center for Profitable Agriculture to develop a publication and facilitate workshops designed to educate Tennessee specialty crop growers about product liability issues
- Partner with the University of Tennessee Extension, Center of Profitable Agriculture to supply educational publications, tools, and workshops to the growing numbers of farmers interested in the production, marketing, and/or value-added processing of fruits and vegetables

Texas Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$1,854,056.53

Number of Projects:

26

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- Partner with University of Houston to increase the use of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) / Good Handling Practices (GHP)/ Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) by growers of specialty crops in Texas by developing a set of videos and a workbook to demonstrate behaviors that reduce the risk of pathogenic contamination on fresh produce
 - Partner with the Sustainable Food Center to increase the sales of specialty crops by Texas farmers and increase healthy food access among low-income families in northeast Austin, by doubling the dollar value of federal nutrition benefits used to purchase specialty crops at participating farmers' markets
 - Partner with Texas Olive Oil Council for a media awareness campaign to educate consumers regarding the benefits, uses, and availability of Texas grown extra virgin olive oil, and to educate growers regarding research, information, practices, and news relating to Texas olive agriculture
 - Partner with Texas A&M AgriLife Research to use smart phone technology to link consumers to a Web site with video or text information about each Texas Superstar® plant as an efficient way to increase consumer awareness and educate consumers about the plants' growth requirements and the added value they bring to the landscape
 - Partner with Dallas Farmers Market Friends to increase the number of specialty crop vendors at the Dallas Farmers Market who accept federal nutrition benefits by providing outreach to local specialty crop producers to accept these benefits while encouraging disadvantaged residents to use their benefits toward local, fresh produce. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities. In addition, project staff will monitor the use of funds to ensure SCBGP-FB funds are used solely to enhance the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops
 - Strengthen and grow the specialty crop industry through the Fresh From Texas Project to expand produce visibility and awareness through industry-specific marketing campaigns resulting in increased sales and consumer consumption of Texas specialty crops
 - Increase overall sales of Texas horticulture products, such as landscape and floral plants, by incorporating specific product promotions, consumer educational programs, in-store retail events and advertising campaigns
 - Partner with the San Antonio Herb Market Association to increase awareness and knowledge of herbs that grow well in the area, differentiate landscape plants from culinary ones, promote healthy eating and nutritional awareness across the city through classes at educational venues, channel information through chefs and growers, and increase the number of visitors to the San Antonio Herb Market
 - Partner with the Texas State Florists' Association to increase sales of Texas floriculture products, train more students to successfully pursue a career in the floral industry and educate consumers on importance of plants and flowers by organizing a high school design competition and increasing media promotional activities
 - Partner with Texas A&M AgriLife Research to generate data needed for developing best management guidelines for sod production of native grass blends, thus opening the door to a value-added market for Texas sod producers and an alternative to traditional turfgrass sod for Texas consumers
 - Partner with Texas AgriLife Extension Service to actively engage elementary-aged students in specialty crop production so that they are aware of where food comes from, the nutritional value of each specialty crop of interest, pests and diseases that limit crop production, soil and plant nutrition, and differences in growing crops under field, greenhouse, hydroponic, and aquaculture conditions
 - Partner with the Brownsville Farmers Market to establish the first of several community gardens in low-income neighborhoods in the Brownsville area. Families will learn about growing produce, improving their own nutritional intake and earning extra money by selling produce at the Brownsville Farmers Market
 - Partner with the Texas Wine and Grape Association to expand grape growing workshops to increase knowledge of Texas grape production at the grower level in order to boost production of Texas grapes
 - Partner with Texas Tech University to continue the identification of environmental impact and management practices for initiation and continued cropping of sustainable olive orchards in Texas, and to develop a budget model allowing for economic analysis of olive production decisions
 - Partner with Texas AgriLife Research to expand commercial production of specialty melons and artichokes in Texas; evaluate planting systems, season extension strategies and variety adaptation; develop enterprise budgets and marketing strategies for both crops; and conduct a consumer preference study for artichokes

- Partner with Texas A&M AgriLife Research to evaluate the ability of salt-accumulating species to mitigate problems associated with saline soils in watermelon production systems
- Partner with Texas A&M AgriLife Research to establish an alternative commercialization path for stone fruit and pecans targeting high value markets oriented to human health including functional foods, dietary supplements, pharmaceutical, cosmetics and functional fresh produce by studying the use of stone fruits and pecans against insulin resistance
- Partner with Texas AgriLife Research to develop a new method for screening large numbers of samples of citrus over wide areas in an effort to reduce the risk of infection with HuanglongBing (HLB or citrus greening) by developing high-specificity antibodies against ‘Ca. Liberibacter spp,’ using the newly-developed antibodies to develop HLB-specific TBIA detection protocols, cross-validating the new technique with PCR and visual diagnostic methods, and developing prototype grower-friendly kits for field screening trees for HLB infection
- Partner with Texas AgriLife Research to streamline the LAMP-PCR (Loop-mediated isothermal amplification) protocol for on-site testing of psyllid vectors and plant samples, and validate its reproducibility and sensitivity in detecting the Las and Lso pathogens
- Partner with Texas A&M University- Kingsville to mitigate the spread of citrus greening (Huanglongbing) by developing scientifically-based practical measures to implement in the quarantine area
- Partner with Texas AgriLife Extension Service to establish a pecan screening nursery with conditions favorable for cotton root rot disease to compare diverse populations and identify and cultivate cultivars resistant to the disease
- Partner with Texas AgriLife Extension Service to aid in the development of long-term approaches to the management of Pierce’s Disease, to increase productivity, and to expand the opportunities for commercial grape production in Texas by identifying Pierce’s Disease-Resistant grape varieties and rootstocks
- Partner with Texas AgriLife Extension Service to continue to maintain and monitor established research plots in an experimental vineyard to evaluate the efficacy of three different fungicide treatments along with two rootstocks in reducing losses to the Texas root rot pathogen
- Partner with Texas Tech University to support the development of a specialty crop industry for truffles that also adds value to the pecan industry by evaluating the effect of pecan seed-stock, inoculum concentration, and irrigation on truffle species and pecan growth, assessing the presence of pecan truffle in pecan orchards, determining the concentration of heavy metals and pesticide residues in pecan truffles and by conducting cost and return analyses of harvesting pecan truffles in established pecan orchards
- Partner with Texas AgriLife Research to increase production of Texas grown tomatoes by distributing new, high quality Texas AgriLife tomato cultivars to growers, gardeners and nurserymen throughout the state
- 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:	\$182,265.40	Number of Projects:	5
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- Partner with the University of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Experiment Station to research and evaluate the potential for and quality of ginger production in the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Partner with the University of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Experiment Station to assist cucumber producers in the Virgin Islands in reducing their economic losses from downy mildew through the use of varieties that have been determined to be downy mildew resistant
- Aid in the establishment or enhancement of local fruit orchards or fruit plot planting (e.g. pineapples, passion fruit, etc.) farms which produce specialty crops on the islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John
- Increase specialty crop production in residential areas through the establishment of community gardens in underserved areas
- 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:	\$289,267.13	Number of Projects:	17
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- Partner with the Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development Council to support the growth of the Utah Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program by maintaining and updating the CSA website; coordinating, advertising, and hosting two mid-winter open house events where prospective CSA customers can meet the farmers; developing and hosting a CSA workshop for new and current CSA farmers; providing additional advertising and promotion of CSAs; and hosting a summer informational tour of CSA farms. Matching funds will be used to cover the inclusion of non-specialty crops
- Partner with Utah State University to facilitate increased sourcing of local small-scale and specialty food items through Utah-owned restaurants by training restaurant owners and chefs on effective communication and web marketing techniques in working with local farmers, training farmers on best practices in direct marketing and collaboration with restaurants, and hosting local restaurant tours through which farmers and chefs can network with one another. Only specialty crop producers and chefs that work with specialty crops will be eligible to participate
- Partner with the City of South Salt Lake Department of Urban Livability to increase child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of fruits and vegetables in an underserved area by creating a farm stand, working with a local produce company to bring a mobile produce market into the neighborhood, connecting residents who wish to grow fruits and vegetables with relevant programs and resources, and organizing and recruiting fruit and vegetable vendors for the South Salt Lake Farmers' Market. The mobile unit will exclusively sell fruit and vegetables and the grant expenditures on the farmers' market will be proportionate to the number of vendors who specifically sell specialty crops
- Partner with Wasatch Community Gardens to promote the consumption of fruit and vegetables among socially disadvantaged youth by providing opportunities for youth participants to access healthy local food, offering unique outdoor experiences and physical activity, and teaching basic organic gardening skills to youth. Only eligible specialty crops will be included in the nutritional program
- Partner with the Department of Plants, Soils and Climate at Utah State University to use state-of-the-art automated monitoring techniques to determine water stress in tart cherry and apple trees, enabling growers to increase yield by maintaining optimal water stress levels
- Partner with Utah State University to document the benefits and/or tradeoffs of reducing/substituting inputs in peach production in Utah as a means of improving resource use efficiency and improving net income to growers
- Partner with Utah State University to evaluate jujube as an alternative fruit crop for diversifying opportunities for Utah's commercial and private horticulture population
- Partner with Utah State University to increase pepper production by conducting a study to improve early pepper growth through the use of targeted heat additions, to better understand the fluctuations of high tunnel pepper yields based on records of fruit set and fruit development over time, to evaluate the influence of abscisic acid on color formation in high tunnel peppers, and to improve nitrogen management for optimal productivity
- Partner with Cornaby Farms to investigate techniques to minimize or eliminate sunscald while at the same time maintaining or increasing yield, berry size, berry sweetness, and berry quality by experimenting with various shade cloths and misting levels
- Partner with Utah State University to better characterize the nitrogen need requirements of onions, monitor the severity of onion thrips damage, identify micronutrients affecting the severity of iris yellow spot virus (IYSV), monitor IYSV incidence in seeded onions, and assess the impact of prior cropping history on onion productivity by establishing a replicated field trial designed based on the growing experience of a local onion grower
- Partner with Utah State University to collaborate with commercial cherry producers and home orchardists in three fruit-production counties of northern Utah to evaluate the efficacy of killing stations treated with GF-120 for protection of fruit from cherry fruit fly
- Partner with Utah State University to enhance the ability of fruit growers to profitably produce quality produce by disseminating pest biology and management information through a text messaging alert system and mobile application to connect growers with information on pests in their region, including a searchable list of 150 fruit pests and beneficial insect
- Partner with Utah State University to educate Utah fruit growers on the threat and management of two serious invasive pests - the spotted wing drosophila and the brown marmorated stink bug - by providing a one day invasives workshop
- Partner with RoseRed Wildflowers LLC to identify and implement an efficient method for producing Africanized Honeybee-free queens through instrumental insemination and making them available to local and regional beekeepers at a cost effective price

- Partner with Utah State University to develop methods for producing tart cherry and apple nursery plants better suited to high density systems, establish a new high density tart cherry orchard on a commercial farm in Utah, and visit orchard system research programs in different production regions of the US
- Partner with Castleland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) to determine the feasibility of developing a commercial asparagus crop in Utah by planting asparagus and partnering with the Utah State University Extension to manage alkaline soil problems
- 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:	\$223,835.65	Number of Projects:	15
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- Partner with Food Works at Two Rivers Center to improve food safety by upgrading the root cellar at Two Rivers Center and by supporting Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) training, assessment and certification
- Partner with Vermont Fresh Network to increase the number of visitor interactions with Vermont farms and food producers and translate those interactions into economic benefit for the local food system by implementing an outreach campaign driving people to the DigInVT.com website
- Partner with Green Mountain Farm to School to improve and expand the Lunchbox, a mobile farmers market serving Orleans and Essex Counties of Vermont by expanding food access in food desert communities, increasing nutritional knowledge and specialty crop consumption, and providing on-farm culinary experiences for Vermonters and visitors
- Partner with Intervale Center to increase consumption of local specialty crops by implementing a marketing study to better understand individual consumer buying/eating habits and workplace food culture and creating a targeted marketing campaign to promote local specialty crops through the Intervale Food Hub
- Increase export sales and international recognition of Vermont maple by providing education and financial assistance for maple producers to meet foreign buyers at trade shows and through trade missions
- Partner with Vermont Tree Fruit Growers' Association to improve its marketing support for the 2013 apple crop by attracting consumers to orchards and farm stands during the harvest season, supporting Vermont direct-to-store delivery apple vendors through participation in the Vermont Food Industry Convention & Expo, and providing membership & communications support culminating in the creation of a long-term strategic plan for Vermont's apple industry
- Partner with Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont to enhance the competitiveness of certified organic fruits and vegetables by adding value to certified organic specialty crops in the marketplace and within the farming community
- Partner with Rutland Area Farm and Food Link to increase consumption of locally-grown specialty crops by creating hands-on educational experiences and by helping specialty crop producers incorporate agritourism activities like farm tours into their businesses
- Partner with Shelburne Farms and Vermont Food Education Every Day to increase purchase of, consumption of, and education about specialty crops in schools and among families in Vermont by providing training in five schools for food service personnel on how to purchase and prepare local fruits and vegetables; modeling for teachers how to use the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program snacks as part of a nutrition education experience in the classroom; and piloting food and nutrition lessons and other curricular resources to educate students about these foods' benefits
- Partner with Vermont Grape and Wine Council to increase the acreage and number of growers of Vermont grapes by sponsoring a two-day educational workshop and by providing field consultations with an individual or small team of experienced viticulturists and business consultants
- Partner with New Hampshire-Vermont Christmas Tree Association to assist growers in producing and marketing quality Christmas trees by sponsoring regional field meetings and seminars aimed at producing, marketing and distributing a fresh, quality product
- Partner with University of Vermont to identify suitable replacements for Chilean nitrates, as well as to provide technical recommendations for the timing and rate of applications of organic fertilizers in different Vermont soil types
- Partner with University of Vermont to increase grower awareness of the root aphid problem in Christmas tree production by determining the aphid species attacking roots of Vermont Christmas trees, assessing the efficacy of *Hypoaspis miles* against these aphids, and sharing the results of the research with growers at a regional meeting of the Christmas Tree Growers Association

- Partner with High Mowing Seeds to increase the production of biennial brassica seed crops (including kale, cabbage, turnips, broccoli, mustard greens, Asian greens) in unheated high tunnels in Vermont by researching methods for successful production and developing specific guidelines to disseminate to Vermont 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

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Amount Awarded:	\$495,635.04	Number of Projects:	23
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- Partner with Appalachian Sustainable Development to assist farmers in transitioning from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification to the Harmonized Audit, which will help small, medium, and large famers of specialty crops remain competitive
- Partner with the Virginia Wineries Association Cooperative to establish an e-commerce web site where consumer can tour the state’s wineries and order from one or more wineries at one time
- Partner with the Commonwealth Quality Alliance to market the Commonwealth Quality Alliance program, a quality standards initiative of the Virginia Wineries Association that works to reward and promote Virginia-grown wines, to wineries, consumers, and the restaurant and retail trade
- Partner with the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association to increase marketing opportunities for Virginia Christmas tree growers by helping all tree growers across the Commonwealth locate civic, non-profit groups, and retail customers that are interested in buying ‘Virginia Grown’ Christmas trees
- Partner with the Virginia Green Industry Council to expand the “Plant More Plants” education campaign to increase Virginia ornamental nursery grower, vendor, and consumer awareness of the need for the sale and installation of appropriate plants for the control of runoff into the Chesapeake Bay
- Partner with Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture to increase the market access of Virginia produce farmers in the Washington Metropolitan Area through the development of a food hub. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with Pittsylvania County Beekeepers Association to increase honeybee colonization in Pittsylvania County by establishing a brand identify, design a new beekeepers course, and establish new beekeepers and bee colonies in Pittsylvania County
- Enhance the managerial skills and competitiveness of Virginia strawberry growers through the facilitation of educational sessions that will help growers increase the profitability of their enterprises
- Partner with the Virginia Farmers’ Direct Marketing Association to provide the technological tools needed to enhance direct farm marketers and their ability to promote produce online through the implementation of a mini-grant program and facilitation of workshops. Mini-grants will only be awarded to those members growing specialty crops
- Partner with the Local Food Hub, Inc. to prepare specialty crop farmers to enter the institutional market through education, outreach, and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training that will enhance the competitiveness of Virginia’s specialty crop farmers in the marketplace
- Partner with the Virginia Pumpkin Growers Association to initiate a series of grower meetings for pumpkin farmers designed to educate growers about the latest information on seed varieties, pesticides, fungicides, disease control, food safety regulations, labor issues, risk management, and industry trends
- Partner with Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development Council to establish a well-designed high tunnel structure that will be utilized as a teaching tool during educational events aimed at increasing fresh market vegetable production on small farms, increasing healthy living habits for school age children and increasing the amount of fresh produce grown for distribution at a Food Bank on the Eastern Shore
- Partner with Virginia Tech to conduct an evaluation of the current Virginia Cooperative Extension nitrogen (N) fertility recommendations for pumpkin production in Virginia and investigate conservation tillage/high residue cover crop practices to increase N fertility, which will be used to update guidelines and provide support for Virginia pumpkin growers
- Partner with the Virginia Pumpkin Growers Association to conduct varietal trials of ornamental gourds to determine the best varieties for increased production, quality, and sales of ornamental gourds in Virginia
- Partner with Virginia Tech to determine the residual field efficacy of various soil-applied neonicotinoids for controlling the brown marmorated stink bug in fruiting vegetables

- Partner with Virginia Tech to research the ripe rot pathogen lifecycle, which will be used to develop a sound management strategy for specialty crops affected by this pathogen
- Partner with the Virginia Association for Biological Farming to evaluate the economic benefit for small organic growers of grafting tomato varieties on strong root stock to determine if the rootstock will confer disease resistance, increase yields through better physiology within the plant, and avoid toxic chemicals
- Partner with Virginia State University to provide a demonstration that illustrates high tunnels (Heygrow high tunnels) as an effective means of growing profitable organic strawberries by reducing pests and weeds
- Partner with the Sustain Floyd Foundation to create a new market for regional specialty crops by continuing the development of a local food processing facility in Southwest Virginia
- Partner with the Prince William Regional Beekeepers Association to decrease the annual loss of honeybee colonies by establishing beekeeping operations and multiple mating apiaries that produce and sell regionally adapted queen bees
- Partner with the Norfolk Beekeepers to develop a successful local queen bee breeding program that will increase the sustainability of apiculture in Virginia
- Partner with Nelson County to increase the production of hops in Virginia by reducing the barriers to hops production through the creation of a targeted cost-share program that will reimburse growers 75 percent of qualified hops yard establishment costs
- Partner with Nelson County to increase the acreage of hard cider apple varieties planted in Virginia by developing a cost-share program that incentivizes the production of these crops

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$3,327,010.30

Number of Projects:

26

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- Partner with the University of California at Davis, Center of Produce Safety to evaluate current sanitation practices for reducing overall microbial levels and food safety risks in tree fruit storage bins (wood and plastic)
 - Partner with Washington State University to evaluate irrigation practices in order to reduce crop contamination and provide assistance to growers for irrigation water evaluation
 - Partner with Washington State University to increase understanding and implementation of food safety management systems and documentation through interactive workshops for Washington growers, packers, and processors
 - Partner with the Pear Bureau Northwest to implement an educational marketing campaign that promotes USA pears in schools and retail facilities in select cities throughout the United States
 - Partner with the Washington Apple Commission to encourage consumer engagement and increase consumer selection of Washington Apples by developing a mobile phone application that provides in-depth information on Washington apple varieties, nutrition, usage, and recipes
 - Partner with Sustainable Connections to increase sales, enhance market options, and reduce market barriers for new and existing Whatcom and Skagit County specialty crop producers through employer-specific outreach and education for community supported agriculture (CSA); by offering beginning and existing specialty crop producers enhanced marketing strategies and opportunities; and by researching and reporting best management practices for specialty crop farmers and Workplace CSA participants
 - Partner with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Seattle Wholesale Growers Market Cooperative to develop and deliver resources to train a minimum of industry stakeholders in methods for achieving high quality cut flower production, with emphasis on season extension, marketing techniques and sustainable growing practices; and assist in providing Washington and Oregon floricultural producers with reliable volume sales opportunities to Puget Sound area supermarkets and chain stores, aiding the Seattle Wholesale Growers Market Cooperative in building a self-sustaining marketing program for large scale buyers
 - Partner with the Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association to increase plant sales through branding and marketing focused on demonstrating the importance of buying locally grown plants
 - Cooperate with the Oregon State Department of Agriculture to increase awareness of Northwest fresh and processed specialty crop products and build trade relationships between buyers and sellers—targeting importers, wholesalers, and retailers—in order to increase sales in three market areas in Southeast Asia

- Partner with the Washington Dry Pea and Lentil Commission to educate food industry members on the benefits of utilizing pulse crops as ingredients by hosting a two-day training course that introduces new applications for pulse products
- Partner with the Washington State University Small Farms Program to improve Latino specialty crop producer knowledge of direct marketing opportunities by implementing a comprehensive specialty crop direct market training and consultation program
- Partner with Community Farm Connection to increase specialty crop small and mid-sized producer access to previously inaccessible markets through education, technical assistance, and improved product aggregation and distribution
- Partner with the Cloud Mountain Farm Center to enable specialty crop producers to overcome the market barriers of seasonality and pricing by identifying more cold hardy varieties that are appealing to consumers, extending the harvest into spring and fall, developing cropping strategies that utilize automation, assisting farmers in developing farm plans and becoming Good Agricultural Practices certified, developing institutional and wholesale markets, and providing specialty crop producers the opportunity to participate in educational farm walks, educational workshops, and web-based education
- Partner with the Cascade Harvest Coalition to increase specialty crop producers' understanding of specialty crop production, networking, and marketing opportunities by conducting targeted workshops
- Partner with the Washington State Farmers' Market Association (WSFMA) to provide education and resources to both specialty crop farmers and market managers; build better market displays; improve signage; develop outstanding customer service, an online presence, quality products; and expand payment methods to increase their sales of specialty crops at farmers' markets. The WSFMA will tailor all of its programming only to specialty crop farmers and processors
- Partner with Tilthe Producers of Washington to teach growers sustainable and organic crop production practices through the facilitation of an education program
- Partner with the Washington State Conservation Commission to increase succession planning among families in order to support sustainability for specialty crop farms through the development of a succession planning workbook and facilitation of regional workshops for specialty crop producing landowners and other specialty crop stakeholders
- Partner with Washington State University to develop and support new small-scale specialty crop producers by conducting workshops and organizing an educational outreach program
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to develop a monitoring tool that will protect Washington potato growers from bacterium transmitted by the potato psyllid
- Partner with Washington State University to evaluate varieties of true fir Christmas trees to select species that may reduce losses from Phytophthora root rot, thus improving the economic viability of the industry
- Partner with Washington State University to evaluate plow-down and cover crops for effectiveness in controlling winter annual weeds and soil borne diseases in tulip production and aid in nutrient management
- Partner with Washington State University to provide clear articulation of the financial benefits of grapevine leaf roll disease management, which will be used to promote rapid adoption of best management practices by individual growers and foster sustainable growth of the grape and wine industry in Washington State
- Partner with the Washington Hop Commission to evaluate and demonstrate whether pesticide residue levels in beers made from Washington hops are consistent across various hop regimes and then inform hops growers of the residual effects of pesticides on different varieties of hops
- Deploy pheromone traps across the state, concentrated along the northern border with Canada (where the Cherry Blossom Moth and Grape Tortrix - new pests threatening Washington fruit trees - are suspected to have originated) to define the extent and density of populations and determine if they are strongly established in the state
- Partner with the Greenbank Farm Management Group Agriculture Training Center to make seed cleaning and production resources available on a shared basis to participants, train farmers on conducting on-farm variety trials and seed production, find vegetable varieties suitable for organic farm conditions, and encourage the exchange of farmer knowledge and experience thereby encouraging organic specialty crop farmers to begin their own seed trialing efforts and to establish their own development, production and marketing networks
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$217,231.02

Number of Projects:

12

- Partner with the West Virginia University Research Corporation to measure the amount of coliform bacteria in the aquaponic system and to determine if treating the water with ultraviolet light is an effective strategy to improve food safety of lettuce grown in the system
- Partner with Davis & Elkins College’s Center for Sustainability Studies to bring edible public open-space to the Elkins community through the creation of a low-maintenance, high-yield, permaculture-based public park
- Partner with the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department to implement a multi-media marketing campaign—Mid-Ohio Valley Edibles—that highlights the benefits of consuming locally grown specialty crops, which will help consumers learn how to use these products and more easily identify local produce
- Support the Farm to School efforts both educational and production efforts for four southern West Virginia schools systems (Fayette, Cabell, Wayne, and Putnam Counties) to encourage youth involvement in specialty crop agricultural enterprises and healthy lifestyles during the school year
- Provide promotional support at all ends of the specialty crop promotional spectrum for new, developing, and established West Virginia value-added specialty crop entities
- Partner with the West Virginia Eastern Panhandle Beekeepers Association to attract young adults to beekeeping through the implementation of a six week educational/mentoring program that provides instruction about the basics of beekeeping to youth
- Partner with Downstream Strategies to convert an unused area of Island Park in the City of Ronceverte into a community garden, which will be used to provide specialty crop educational opportunities for community programming
- Partner with the Morgan County Association for Food & Farms to increase the supply of and improve the marketing for specialty crops by providing technical training on co-op marketing for existing and new specialty crop producers in the West Virginia Eastern Panhandle counties
- Partner with the West Virginia University Research and Development Corporation to offer a small fruit workshop series to the residents of the southern regions of West Virginia that concentrates on crop specific information including site selection, planting, food safety, pruning techniques, fertilization, irrigation, and pest management
- Continue and expand specialty crop production by increasing producer access to current and relevant training and market development opportunities
- Partner with the Williamson Redevelopment Authority to improve integrated pest management (IPM) techniques by hosting an IPM strategy session with Mingo County Orchard stakeholders and facilitating a marketing campaign to encourage consumers to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables. Project staff will ensure that all Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funds solely enhance the competitiveness of eligible 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

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Amount Awarded:	\$883,592.01	Number of Projects:	19
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- Continue a cost-share program to offset the costs of Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices audits and provide pre-audit educational opportunities to Wisconsin Growers
- Partner with Gorst Valley Hops, LLC to establish proper hop processing procedures consistent with Good Manufacturing Principles expectations such as food processing facility regulations, quality control, documentation practices, and inventory management/product recall logistics and to share the documented procedures with other interested parties
- Partner with the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to develop and promote Wisconsin-produced, minimally processed, and healthy vegetable blends geared primarily to school food service and secondarily to other institutional markets, such as hospitals and colleges/universities
- Partner with the FairShare CSA Coalition to develop and launch creative outreach and marketing strategies to engage new members in Community Supported Agriculture. Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funds will be used exclusively for the promotion of specialty crop vegetable CSA shares. Additional funding to develop programs and promotion dedicated to non-specialty crop CSA shares will be contributed through organizational general operating funds
- Partner with the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to develop a producer-led strawberry sustainability assessment program and accompanying Best Management Practice workbook

- Partner with Dane County University of Wisconsin-Extension to help owners of mid-size fresh fruit and vegetable farms in Southern Wisconsin to access the intermediate (middle) market for local produce by organizing a local produce sales meeting to help farmers and intermediate buyers network
- Partner with the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to develop a correlation between tissue nutrient content in cranberry and environmental parameters in order to confirm or modify existing recommendations
- Partner with the Wisconsin Sod Producers Association in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Madison to develop integrated pest management strategies that do not rely on chemical inputs to manage rust diseases in turfgrass
- Partner with the Wisconsin Apple Growers Association to measure the pollination contributions of native, wild bees to apples and assess how this contribution varies over different growing seasons and weather conditions; continue to evaluate the effects of pesticides, and begin to assess how pesticide use and landscape features interact to impact bee abundance and diversity; and increase tree-fruit growers' awareness and knowledge of wild bees through the development of outreach materials and presentations
- Partner with the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin to implement reduced-risk, pest management programs that reduce the amount of pesticides applied to ginseng; incorporate at least one newly-registered product into the pest management program; and investigate the potential for increased disease and insect resistance in ginseng using vermicompost and anaerobic digester solids mulch
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association and the Wisconsin Fresh Market Vegetable Growers Association to mitigate disease and insect risk of onion and carrot through optimization and integration of forecasting models to trigger protectant applications of pesticides in Wisconsin
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association and the Wisconsin Fresh Market Vegetable Growers Association to develop integrated, best management pest practices for production of tomatoes in high tunnels in Wisconsin for enhanced yield, quality, return on investment, and environmental sensitivity
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato Industry Board to identify the regional and statewide scope of neonicotinoid resistance, describe the relationship of use patterns and the movement into potato plants, and document the potential for increased groundwater contamination resulting from various neonicotinoid use patterns
- Work with industry organizations in registering pesticide applicators on the Driftwatch.org Pesticide Sensitive Crop Registry that assists producers in mapping their field(s) and identifying sensitive fields in the area of their scheduled applications
- Partner with the Board of Regents at the University of Wisconsin System (UW Madison) to develop timely information about integrated pest management and fruit development and also provide growers with training workshops to ensure that they have the foundational principles of grape production
- Partner with the Commercial Flower Growers of Wisconsin to evaluate the effectiveness of low-risk bio-fungicides; monitor a trial of cranberry leaf mulch reported to provide a eco-friendly weed barrier resulting in a cleaner crop; and maintain a blog and web site where information garnered from the trials will be posted, providing a valuable resource to growers
- Determine the spread of Phytophthora root rot problems in Christmas tree plantations in Wisconsin, offer free diagnostic services to more tree growers, and determine if there are additional species of Phytophthora associated with root rot disease in conifers
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato Industry Board to implement a cooperative screening program with potato farms and packing sheds across multiple locations in Wisconsin to identify potatoes with the greatest production potential
- 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

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$205,549.63

Number of Projects:

12

- Partner with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Technical Services to increase the ability of Wyoming growers to market their seed potatoes domestically and internationally by providing the mandatory testing and certification by the Potato Certification Association of Nebraska

- Partner with the Wyoming Community Network to increase specialty crop education, production and consumption by providing opportunities for specialty crop producers to attend workshops, trade events and conferences geared towards specialty crop education, promotion, marketing, processing, or food safety
- Partner with the Wyoming Farmers' Market Association to increase farmers' market manager and vendor knowledge of specialty crop production, marketing, and food safety by providing expert speakers on topics related to specialty crop education, production, and consumption
- Partner with Jeff Edwards to increase interest in and knowledge of the use of high tunnels, encourage the adoption of the use of high tunnels, and train an agricultural educator by constructing three new high tunnels and providing high tunnel workshops
- Partner with the University of Wyoming's Sheridan Research & Extension Center to establish a sustainable mint essential oil production industry in Wyoming by evaluating productivity and oil quality of mint oils produced in Wyoming, studying optimizing nitrogen fertilization, and demonstrating new crops and practices to students and potential growers
- Partner with the University of Wyoming to develop sustainable nutrient management strategies (both organic and conventional) for optimal high tunnel vegetable production by comparing the agronomic and economic benefits of such practices and demonstrating the advantages of using high tunnels for both organic and conventional vegetable production through field days and workshops
- Partner with the University of Wyoming to implement an integrated approach to producing nuts and mushrooms together in a high elevation environment with a short growing season that will test crop adaptability; develop a technology to extend the growing season; and provide practical information for producers, backyard gardeners, and students
- Partner with the University of Wyoming's Sheridan Research & Extension Center to overcome obstacles to initial vineyard establishment and increase production of grapes by evaluating promising cultivars for the diverse soil conditions and climatic zones in Wyoming and determining the influence that these conditions have on grapevine yield and quality
- Partner with the Wyoming Community Network to increase specialty crop production and consumption by providing small grants to producers to develop methods and strategies for season extension and water conservation
- Partner with the Wyoming Community Network to increase specialty crop education, production, and consumption through community projects that will expand the specialty crop growing season by providing small grants to nonprofit organizations for the creation of gardens, planting of fruit orchards, or hoop house season extension projects
- Increase the availability of specialty crops within Wyoming by providing support for marketing, education, season extension, research, food safety, and product distribution
- 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