

2024 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program



South Dakota Department of
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Purpose: To enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops produced in South Dakota

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

What is a Specialty Crop?

- USDA defines specialty crops as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture)
- List of crops
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop>
- Some recent projects have involved tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, sweet corn, grapes, cucurbits, honey, pulses, and cut flowers

2024 Program

Funds Available: \$374,914.20

Priorities:

1. Increasing Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and Distribution
2. Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops
3. Increase Food Safety Knowledge and Processes
4. Improve Environmental Sustainability of Specialty Crops

Apply by March 24! Selected projects begin 9/30/24

Who Can Apply?

- State, local, and tribal governments
- Nonprofits
- Research and educational institutions
- For-profit businesses and individual producers
- Must be a South Dakota entity!
- Must have a SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier to receive federal funds

Project Categories

1. Increasing **Consumption and Consumer Purchasing** of Specialty Crops
2. Increasing **Access** to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop **Production and Distribution**
3. Increase **Food Safety** Knowledge and Processes
4. Improve **Pest and Disease Control** Processes
5. Develop **New Seed Varieties** and Specialty Crops
6. Expand Specialty Crop **Research and Development**
7. Improve **Environmental Sustainability** of Specialty Crops

Additional Project Guidelines

- Proposals will not be funded if they:
 - Fail to directly address and demonstratively enhance the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops,
 - Focus on or primarily benefit ineligible crops, or
 - Solely benefit a single producer, organization, or business.
- Applicants should incorporate outreach into their projects to disseminate results
- Extra consideration may be given to projects that address SD priorities, benefit beginning/disadvantaged farmers, and/or are below \$75,000

Application Proposal Narrative

- USDA Project Profile Template (fillable pdf)
- Project Purpose: what issue does your project address
- Objectives
- Beneficiaries and External Project Supporters
- Measurable Outcomes and Indicators
- Budget: Personnel, Benefits, Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Other, Indirect Costs

USDA Terms and Conditions

- Important details like cost allowability
- Control all USDA AMS programs including SCBG
- Reference when you develop your proposal, especially the budget
- https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/FY2021_GD_TermsandConditions.pdf

**Application
Deadline:
March 24**

SD Applications Due: March 24

Expert Panel Review: April

Selections Submitted to USDA: May 2

**State Plan finalized and project
agreements signed: May – September**

FY24 Projects Begin: September 30

2024 Funding Available:
\$378,623.40

Year	Award Amount	Projects Funded
FY17	\$ 290,263.43	6
FY18	\$ 326,790.51	8
FY19	\$ 346,909.90	7
FY20	\$ 393,465.56	7
FY21 Farm Bill	\$ 402,137.19	6
FY21 COVID	\$ 534,545.43	4
FY22	\$ 391,432.78	5
FY23	\$ 378,623.40	6
FY24	\$ 374,914.20	TBD

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