

# 2025 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

South Dakota Department of  
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)
- Some recent projects have involved tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, sweet corn, grapes, cucurbits, honey, pulses, and cut flowers
- List of crops  
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop>

# 2025 Program

**Funds Available:** \$340,000 (anticipated – USDA yet to announce)

## **Priorities:**

1. Increasing Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and Distribution
2. Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops
3. Improve Environmental Sustainability of Specialty Crops

**Apply by March 23!** Selected projects begin 9/30/25

# Funding Trends

| 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           | \$ 378,919.97 | 6               |
| FY24           | \$ 375,506.08 | 4               |

## 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

## 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

# 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 will be given to projects that address SD priorities and are below \$75,000
- See the [Request for Proposals](#) for full program details.



# Application Proposal Narrative

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

# South Dakota Application Components

- USDA Project Profile Template pdf
- DANR Cover sheet
- SAM.gov UEI
- (Optional) Any supporting documents including letters of support or additional application figures/data
  
- Helpful Resources:
  - DANR Application Checklist
  - SD Planning Districts

# 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

OMB No. 0581-0240



---

***Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)***  
***Grants Division***  
***General Terms and Conditions***

---

Effective Date: September/October 2024

**Application  
Deadline:  
March 23**



# Contact

Timothy Schoonhoven

DANR

[timothy.schoonhoven@state.sd.us](mailto:timothy.schoonhoven@state.sd.us)

605-773-6690