

South Dakota Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Project Priority Outcomes for FY2026

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service provides annual SCBG funding to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources sought input from specialty crop industry stakeholders and partners prior to release of the 2026 request for proposals to identify priority outcomes for program funding in 2026.

Outcomes are used to measure project performance, allowing South Dakota and USDA to evaluate the success of funded projects. A full list of the measurement indicators supporting each outcome can be found here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/SCBGPPerformanceMeasures.pdf>. These Outcomes and Indicators are metrics to measure project performance, allowing South Dakota and USDA to evaluate project success.

Based on input from partners in the specialty crop industry across the State, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources is prioritizing three of the USDA AMS Outcomes for proposals funded under the 2026 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Request for Proposals:

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

Proposals are welcome for projects working to accomplish any of the seven AMS outcomes below, and SD DANR welcomes projects that target multiple outcomes and indicators. Projects that meet at least one of South Dakota's three priority areas will receive priority. This is the third consecutive year that South Dakota's specialty crop industry has indicated to DANR that these three project outcomes should be prioritized.

SD DANR will consider projects that address **AT LEAST ONE** of the USDA AMS Outcomes:

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

2026 Survey Results

1. Please select your top three 2026 priority specialty crop project outcomes for South Dakota:

● Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops	10
● Increasing Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and...	17
● Increase Food Safety Knowledge and Processes	3
● Improve Pest and Disease Control Processes	3
● Develop New Seed Varieties and Specialty Crops	3
● Expand Specialty Crop Research and Development	8
● Improve Environmental Sustainability of Specialty Crops	10

