

2012 Specialty Crop Block Grant Newsletter!!

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2012 AWARDS ANNOUNCED

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Seven projects selected for 2012 Nevada Specialty Crop Block Grant Program!
- Nevada's CEDA award was highlighted in USDA's 2012 Blog!
- As of October 1, 2012 the 2008 Farm Bill has expired.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2012 Specialty Crop Awards Announced 1
- New GAP/GHP Program in Nevada 2
- Farm Bill Status 3
- NDA Contact Info 3

WHAT ARE SPECIALTY CROPS?

Fruits, vegetables, legumes, floriculture, tree nuts, etc.

October 1, 2012 the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) was awarded Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funding to support seven projects! Awarded projects will work towards increasing specialty crop production, consumption, sales, and awareness throughout the state of Nevada. The following projects have been selected:



Churchill Economic Development Authority (CEDA) will establish a marketing structure that will allow small scale specialty crop farmers to expand the Fallon Small Farm Collaborative through farmer's markets, CSA's and other local marketing venues. Small scale farmers will have shared access to planting, harvesting, and packing

equipment, increasing the availability of specialty crop products. CEDA was one of four projects, highlighted in USDA's 2012 Blog! <http://blogs.usda.gov/2012/10/01/specialty-crop-grants-make-a-difference-for-farmers-and-businesses/>.



Produce from Fallon Small Farm Collaborative in Sparks, NV

The Food Bank of Northern Nevada will conduct a feasibility study on utilizing empty refrigerated delivery trucks (returning from delivering rural charitable food distributions) to transport specialty crops from rural farmers to urban markets in the Reno/Sparks area. If this distribution channel is found feasible, the project would increase the viability of rural specialty crop farmers

by increasing their distribution and decreasing their transportation costs.

Carson City High School Greenhouse project will provide at least 20 students the opportunity to complete one summer school class in Greenhouse Production and Management. Class curriculum will be geared towards floriculture, cut flowers, Community Sustainable Agriculture (CSA) projects, and greenhouse production. This project will also provide 10 students, 17 years or older, stipends to complete work experience training based on their classroom training.



Carson City High School Green House

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) will develop and implement a pilot horticulture education project for youth (grades 9-12). Students will develop specialty crop production and marketing skills during this project.



Previously awarded Friends of Nevada Organics and Urban Roots, Blueberries/beans research project .

Urban Roots Garden Classroom will compare three vegetable growing systems at Earl Wooster High School. Growing systems will consist of a raised bed garden, hydroponic system in a classroom, and aquaponics system in a greenhouse. Students will compare specialty crop production capabilities of each system as part of Wooster's Sustainable Resource Academy Program.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture will offer a pilot farmer assistance program that will encourage small farms to adopt Good Handling Practices (GHP) and Good Agriculture

Practices (GAP). This project will provide assistance to farmers through cost-share and train-the trainer programs. The NDA will also continue to oversee SCBGP projects, perform outreach to program stakeholders, and ensure that Federal and State requirements are being met.



Previously Awarded project to Great Basin Food Cooperative to establish farmer recognition signage.

NEW GAP / GHP PROGRAM IN NEVADA

Nevada We grow things here!



2012 Planting day at Urban Roots

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) and Nevada Cooperative Extension (NCE) are currently working on establishing a Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) program in Nevada. This will be a volunteer program geared towards small farm operations.

Participating farmers will receive training and the necessary resources for receiving GAP/GHP certification. They will also have a competitive market-

ing advantage by demonstrating to consumers successful implementation of GAP/GHP procedures, prompting safer produce. After participating farmers receive GAP/GHP training, the NDA will provide a cost-share assistance program to offset program costs.

Once training dates are selected, individuals on the Nevada SCBGP contact list will be notified. Please contact us if you are interested in being added to the list.

The NDA and NCE will continue to send out program information as trainings approach. Thank you for your interest and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.



STATUS OF FARM BILL?

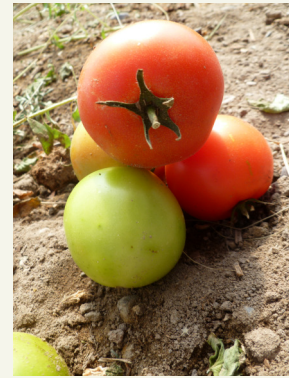
As of October 1, 2012 funding provided under the 2008 Farm Bill for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program has expired. To date Congress has not passed legislation extending the authority for USDA to carry out the program.

Once the Nevada Department of Agriculture receives notification regarding the Farm Bill status, all individuals on the SCBGP contact list will be notified.

If the program is extended or renewed, program staff will provide a grant writing and project development workshop to help prepare applicants for the 2013 Request for Proposal (RFP).

Workshop dates, program deadlines, and the RFP will be released following funding notification from USDA. Program information and eligibility requirements can be found on the website at http://agri.nv.gov/Plant/SpecialtyCrop/Specialty_Crop_Block_Grant_Program.

If you would like any additional information please visit our website or feel free to contact program staff. We appreciate your patience and interest in the Program!



Nevada Specialty Crops!

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Katie Jameson
SCBG Program Coordinator
Phone: (775)353-3639
E-mail: kjameson@agri.nv.gov

Ashley Jeppson
SCBGP Assistant Coordinator
Phone: (775)353-3675
E-mail: ajeppson@agri.nv.gov

Nevada SCBGP Staff Goals: Build partnerships supporting Nevada's agricultural infrastructure to meet evolving specialty crop industry needs through marketing, outreach and literacy.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture's (NDA) mission statement: Promote a sustainable agriculture and natural resources industry which works to protect food, fiber, human health, and safety through effective service, regulatory action and agricultural literacy.



NDA Director, Jim Barbee speaking at 2012 Nevada Small Farm Conference.

