

RECEIVE FUNDING
TO ENHANCE NE-
VADA'S FOOD
SUPPLY!

- **Who:** Those interested in receiving grant funds to contribute to Nevada's success in the Specialty Crop Industry.
- **What:** The NDOA Specialty Crop Program will be awarding grant funds for specialty crop enhancing projects.
- **When:** A competitive Request For Proposal will be released early January. Application deadlines will be early spring.
- **Why:** We are looking for projects to promote and enhance specialty crop through research, marketing, and Production.

If Interested in more information about the program visit http://agri.nv.gov/PLANT_SCBGP.htm

Look for the 2014 Request for Proposal January 2014!



White Wine Grapes grown, Valley Road Field Lab, Reno Nevada.

Nevada Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Helping to Increase Nevada's Food Supply!

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2013 Awarded Projects

Approximately \$250,731 was awarded to specialty crop enhancing projects working to increase Nevada's food supply. The funding amount has more than doubled since the start of the program in 2006. Each year the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) conducts a competitive solicit for specialty crop enhancing projects. Eligible projects are scored and the highest scoring projects are awarded funding each year for research , promotion, education and marketing of specialty crops in Nevada. The Nevada Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce the 2013 Specialty Crop

Nevada Department of Agriculture Projects

Block Grant Program sub-awards to the following entities:

The Nevada Department of Agriculture will continue to offer the pilot Farmer Assistance Program which encourages small farms to adopt Good Agriculture Practices (GAP). The project will compliment the previous project goals by providing assistance and management to continue to helping farmers adopt safe growing practices in a feasible and affordable way.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture is seeking to

enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops state-wide by offering a pilot export promotion program that will encourage specialty crop businesses, to export specialty crop products. The assistance will be through a cost-share that will help small farmers have access to opportunities in the export market. The NDA will support Nevada specialty crop businesses by off-setting a fee to pay for the Export Tech program which assists businesses in the development of international business plans, market research, matchmaking meetings, and other export promotion activities for specialty crops.

ENHANCING SPECIALTY CROP INDUSTRIES AND PRODUCTION

Nevada Vines and Wines (NV&W)

The Main Station Farm Vineyard (MSFV) is a joint project of NV&W and the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR) at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) designed to demonstrate the potential of wine making in this region. The project will plant and raise 1800 .

Riesling Grape Vines in addition to various red vine variety. Vines will be grown to marketable yields, demonstrate frost protection techniques for Nevada's climate, make commercially salable wines, and analyze the profitability. The project results and outcomes will be shared with interested stakeholders.

Education, Nutrition, and Youth



Students in Carson City Greenhouse, FFA Agriculture Education day.

“Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own”
Samual Johnson

Eastern Nevada Food Bank 4H/FFA Hydroponic Laboratory Program will work with White Pine University Extension to focus on developing agricultural hydroponic systems and agricultural based education within the school facilities to promote specialty crop development with advanced agricultural growing techniques and new system applications. The project will create youth interest in agricultural farming, while addressing Child Obesity, Nutrition Awareness and Food Desert issues in the community.

Urban Roots Classrooms will work to create the Young Farmers & Farm Stands Initiative: a cross-curricular project that will establish school “Farm Clubs”, develop an “Adopt-a-School” program for area farmers, assist schools in developing student operated farm stands and CSA’s, and provide comprehensive curriculum development workshops for teachers. The project is a hands-on learning experience that will introduce students to agriculture as a career. This project will be piloted at the Academy of Arts, Careers

and Technology (AACT) in Reno. The results of this project will develop a comprehensive model that will be available for adoption by other schools in Washoe County. It will provide interdisciplinary curriculum education of specialty crops to the high school student population.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Youth Education on Specialty Crop Consumption, Production, and Local Farmers Project will provide education in schools on specialty crop growth, nutrition, and farming to encourage more consumption of fruits and vegetables. A series of classes will be provided to Nevada schools to help children and their families identify local farmers, nutritional benefits of consuming spe-

cialty crops, and how these crops are grown.

Lammel & Bake Urban Farms will enhance the competitiveness of Nevada specialty crops by demonstrating the viability of small-scale, year-round sustainable gardening methods of specialty crops in an urban setting. The production setup will allow growers to expand the growing season to year round. Year round production has been a struggle for

new producers and hobby farmers. This program will educate producers and will provide a model that will encourage individuals in urban areas to create their own Urban Organic Farm, which will increase knowledge, sales, and consumption of Nevada specialty crops.

Local Initiatives

Wooster Highschool Students, Hydroponic, Aqauponic, & in-ground comparison study.



Nevada Grown will increase consumer awareness and sales of Nevada specialty crops by identifying and establishing a bank of information on Nevada specialty crops and producers; promoting Nevada-grown specialty crops and producers through media outlets and attendance at special events; and creating a seasonal eating chart showing Nevada specialty crops.

Gardnerville Main Street Program Corporation will establish a community supported educational garden at the Heritage Park Gardens to teach youth and parents about the health benefits of consuming fresh, locally grown produce

The Carson City Harvest Hub intends to provide food insecure children and families with healthy, organic, locally grown food. Additionally, the Hub will

residents with easier access to products that are good for their family, the environment, and their community. Through this project, the Harvest Hub will specifically enhance the competitiveness of Specialty Crops in Nevada through outreach, increasing consumption, access, and education.

New and Emerging Crop Research

Through collaboration between Urban Roots, the University of Nevada's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources (CABNR), the Cooperative Extension (UNCE) and High Desert Farming Initiative (HDFI) a hop research project at the University Main Station Field Lab (MSFL) in east Reno will be conducted to identify hop varieties that will thrive in Nevada's high desert ecology and yield highly desirable qualities for Nevada brewers. The results of this study will provide Nevada farmers with reliable data (production, maintenance, harvesting, selling, etc.) that will encourage and guide producers to grow hops successfully, thereby advancing the economic impact of specialty crops in Nevada.



Hops, Workman's Farm, Fallon, NV

Together the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) High Desert Farming Initiative (HDFI) Collaborative project between the Colleges of Business (COB), Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR), Nevada farmers, and community Groups will use the HDFI facilities to test the high desert, hoop house potential of Salanova lettuce, a patented differentiated lettuce variety that produces leaf lettuce on a head lettuce core. This will evaluate the labor savings and differences in yields of Salanova lettuce compared to the known production of common lettuce varieties. The project will also measure consumer acceptance of this new specialty crop. The HDFI will conduct a field day open to rural and urban farmers to demonstrate growing, harvesting, packaging, and sales methods. Project findings will be presented at the 2015 Nevada Small Farm Conference. The efficiency gains or losses for high-value seeds will be analyzed in addition to equipment versus yield gains, labor savings, and premium potential. Analytical results will be available in fact sheets for wide distribution.

Lyon County University Extension (UNCE)
Vegetable and fruit production in Nevada can be difficult, as pest insects, rodents, fluctuating temperatures and dryness put stress on plants. Hoop houses can alleviate plant stressors and extend growing seasons. UNCE will conduct a study on cold crop production in a hoop house while educating and demonstrating to the public about how to grow crops during the early winter through springtime using a hoop house. In addition schoolchildren will be educated about the nutritional value of these crops grown during the project. Vegetable and fruit production in Nevada can be difficult, as pest insects, rodents, fluctuating temperatures and dryness put stress on plants. Hoop houses can alleviate plant stressors and extend growing seasons.



Hydroponic Lettuce, Wooster High School