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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grant Funds Available at the Nevada Department of Agriculture

In an effort to achieve specialty crop initiatives throughout the state, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) will open a competitive solicitation to award funds to projects that seek to improve the specialty crops industry. Specialty crops are defined as "fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture)."

Individual producers, non-profits, tribal organizations, minority groups, disadvantaged farmers, agricultural associations, industry groups, community based organizations, and academia are encouraged to apply.

Nevada is looking for projects that promote and enhance the competitiveness specialty crops by increasing knowledge and consumption of specialty crops, improving distribution systems, enhancing produce safety, eradicating pest and plant health issues, specialty crop research, developing new and improved crop varieties, fostering organic and sustainable production practices, marketing and promotion of specialty crops, enhancing trade, improving access to fresh produce, increasing awareness and education of specialty crops.

For details about SCBGP and upcoming deadlines contact, Katie Jameson at (775) 353-3639 or kjameson@agri.nv.gov or visit us <u>http://agri.nv.gov/SCBGP/</u>