



Specialty Crop Bock Grant 2015 Project Awards

Fallon Food Hub/Coop Project for Specialty Crops

This project, submitted by the Churchill Economic Development Authority, will create a food hub where goods from at least 22 local specialty crop farmers can be purchased. This includes the surrounding agricultural communities of Austin, Fallon, Fernley, Gabbs, Hawthorne, Lovelock, Schurz, Silver Springs, and Yerington.

Goals

To promote and market specialty crops from the Fallon area to the local and regional communities. Funding will be aimed at helping consumers access local, fresh specialty crop products at a convenient location. Two key functions of this projects will be to develop a strong local customer base from a wide range of demographics and to create a processing facility for specialty crop products.

Beneficiaries

The local and surrounding communities will benefit by having access to local specialty crops in addition to the farmers and ranchers that choose to market their produce at the Fallon Food Hub.



The Folk & The Farmer



A partnership between two non-profits, Urban Roots and The Folk & The Lore Inc., this project will create curriculum to help develop the next generation farmer. These two organizations are planning to offer field experience, small business mentoring, leadership development, and an introduction to regional food systems.

Goals

To increase awareness of specialty crops in Nevada by creating three videos highlighting specialty crop producers and how their product reaches the market, serving as a means to increase consumer access and demand. This project also plans to increase awareness of the local businesses that support Nevada specialty crop farmers and how to increase consumer support at these businesses.

Beneficiaries

All the featured specialty crop producers, the non-profits dedicating their time to this project, businesses that support the local producers, and lastly the new consumers that are attracted to local specialty crops.

On-Farm Food Safety Training on Produce Safety Rule Regulations

An initiative by NDA, University of Nevada, and Cooperative Extension (UNCE) to help Nevada farmers comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and Produce Safety Rule by hosting trainings specific to on-farm food safety practices, and changes farmers may need to implement in order to comply with the rule.

Goals

Increase knowledge of on-farm food safety specific to Good Agricultural Practices and the FSMA Produce Safety Rule.

Beneficiaries

Nevada farms, consumers and businesses that purchase Nevada agricultural products, and the NDA.



Specialty Crop Bock Grant 2015 Project Awards

High Desert Hops Project, Phase III

A collaborative with Urban Roots, the University of Nevada's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources, Cooperative Extension, and High Desert Farming Initiative will continue into the third phase of experimenting with hops. Currently into its second year of production via a previous SCBGP award, this project aims to provide Nevada farmers with reliable data involving hops.



Goals

To identify viable hop varieties that produce high yields and possess desirable qualities grown in Nevada's bioregion. To develop a network that connects Nevada hop producers with Nevada brewers and to also create an established and locally adapted source of hops for rhizome harvesting to stimulate the installation of new hop yards.

Beneficiaries

Nevada farmers, Urban Roots, the University of Nevada and its affiliates, brewers and ultimately consumers of Nevada brew.

Operation Urban Desert Garden Farming



On The Ranch LLC. plans to reduce poverty-induced food insecurity and health issues through the promotion of specialty crops by increasing access to locally grown specialty crops in low income/low access areas; and by providing nutritional education and healthy lifestyle planning services.

Goals

To increase awareness of the nutritional benefits of specialty crops, creating an increase in consumption of such crops.

Beneficiaries

Nevada specialty crop farmers, underserved families/areas, and urban desert garden farming families.

Promoting Local Honey Consumption and Honey Bee Education in Northern Nevada

An initiative by the Northern Nevada Beekeepers Association, to promote the benefits of the consumption of local honey through county fairs, local farmers markets, schools, hospitals, churches and various clubs.



Goals

To increase consumption and awareness of the health benefits of honey and honey products; increase awareness of honey as an alternative sweetener; increase education to students interested in beekeeping as a hobby or business; and lastly to increase public awareness of different flavors and textures of honey to increase consumption.

Beneficiaries

Nevada beekeepers, consumers, farmers and distributors of local honey.



Specialty Crop Block Grant 2015 Project Awards

School to Farm Youth Education and Specialty Crop Farm Field Trip Trials



A collaboration of the NDA with Urban Roots to coordinate 10 specialty crop workshops and field trips that incorporate Next Generation Science Standards requirements for home-school student groups ages 5-15.

Goals

To increase specialty crop education to home-school groups in northern Nevada on agriculture production and local growers. Increase Nevada specialty crop growers' sales during farm field trips and other outreach.

Beneficiaries

Home-school groups in northern Nevada, their parents, and local farms producing specialty crops.

School Food Service Director and Local Grower Training, Networking, & Field Trips

This project aims to increase awareness of local products that can be incorporated in Nevada schools. The NDA seeks to connect school Food Service Directors with local producers through coordinating field trips and meet your farmer back to school events.

Goals

To increase the knowledge of School Food Service Staff regarding Nevada specialty crop producers and forward contracting.

Beneficiaries

Nevada specialty crop farmers, school districts, staff and students, in addition to local communities.



STEM Integration of Aquaponics in Nevada Schools

STEM



Science • Technology • Engineering • Math

This project, initiated by Aquaponics Systems Consultants, will work towards familiarizing students in Northern Nevada middle and high schools with aquaponics and their viability as a small-scale crop cultivation through hands on agricultural science.

Goals

Diversify and provide an increase in knowledge for students regarding aquaponics and the growth of Nevada specialty crops. This project also seeks to provide an increase in the availability of materials and education to participating students.

Beneficiaries

The Northern Nevada middle and high schools that receive aquaponics systems; the educators and staff that choose to use them; and students that are enrolled in agricultural science courses.

For more information, grant timelines, workshops, descriptions of past funded projects, or to view the 2016 Request for Proposal, please visit agri.nv.gov/SCBGP.



Specialty Crop Block Grant 2015 Project Awards

Under the 2008 Farm Bill, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) receives grant funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enhance the competitiveness of Nevada's Specialty crops. In order to seek out program-enhancing projects, the NDA conducts an annual competitive application process to award grant funds to eligible and top scoring candidates.



On Sept. 7, 2015 the NDA was awarded Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funding to support nine new projects, which will work toward increasing specialty crop production, consumption, education, research, sales, and awareness throughout Nevada.

The 2016 Request for Proposals will be announced in February. For more information, grant timelines, workshops, or to view descriptions of past funded projects, please visit agri.nv.gov/SCBGP.

The NDA is proud to announce the enclosed nine projects which have been selected.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture promotes a business climate that is fair, economically viable and encourages environmental stewardship that serves to **protect food, fiber and human health and safety** through effective **service and education**.

What is a Specialty Crop?

USDA defines a specialty crop as:

- ▶ fruits
- ▶ vegetables
- ▶ tree nuts
- ▶ legumes
- ▶ dried fruits
- ▶ horticulture
- ▶ nursery crops (including floriculture)

Plants must be used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetics to be considered specialty crops.

CONTACT

▶ Ashley Jeppson, SCBGP Coordinator
☎ 775-353-3675
✉ ajeppson@agri.nv.gov
405 South 21st Street • Reno NV 89431

MORE INFORMATION

▶ agri.nv.gov/SCBGP