



Gary W. Black
Commissioner

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

This is the Georgia Department of Agriculture program outline for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB) through United States Department of Agriculture/Ag Marketing Service (USDA/AMS); the funding will be from the federal allocations of FY2010 through FY2013. The goal of this federal program is to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in domestic or foreign markets.

Specialty crops are defined as "fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture." Attached is a listing of plants commonly considered as fruits and tree nuts; vegetables; culinary herbs and spices; medicinal herbs; and nursery, floriculture, and horticulture crops.

PURPOSE OF GRANTS:

Examples of "enhancing the competitiveness" of specialty crops includes, but is not limited to: increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops; improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems; assisting all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain in developing "Good Agricultural Practices," "Good Handling Practices," "Good Manufacturing Practices," and in cost-share arrangements for funding audits of such systems for small farmers, packers and processors; investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes; enhancing food safety; developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops; pest and disease control; and development of organic and sustainable production practices.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- SCBGP-FB funds shall be used for projects that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops that benefit the specialty crop industry as a whole.
- Grant funds **will not** be awarded for projects that directly benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual as these projects do not enhance specialty crop industry competitiveness.
- GDA will solicit proposals for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, an Evaluation Committee will review and select the qualifying proposals, and then submit those projects in the State plan (GDA) to USDA/AMS in accordance with State plan requirements.
- Applications for grant funds should demonstrate how the project potentially impacts and produces measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry rather than a single organization, institution, or individual.
- Multi-state organizations proposals are permitted.

Examples of Unacceptable Projects

- A company requests grant funds to purchase starter plants or equipment used to plant, cultivate, and grow a specialty crop for the purpose of making a profit, or to expand production of a single business.
- An organization requests grant funds to make grants to individual specialty crop businesses or roadside stands to promote their individual business.

Examples of Acceptable Projects (See Appendix A)

- A university requests funds to conduct research on the feasibility of planting, cultivating, and growing a specialty crop in a particular area, the results of which can be shared with many growers throughout the State.
- An organization requests grant funds to help improve and expand domestic farmers markets, which benefits a wide array of specialty crop producers.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Eligible applicants must be non-profit organizations, local, state, and federal government entities, for-profit organizations, and universities.
- Organizations must be legal entities recognized by the IRS.
- Applicants must reside, and/or conduct their business or organization in Georgia and must be in good standing.

GRANT PROPOSAL CRITERIA (see Application Form for more info):

Grant proposal(s) should contain the following:

1. **Cover page** - Include the organization name, grant dollars requested, contact person, address, phone number, FAX number, Employer Identification Number (EIN), and email address.
2. **Title of Project and an Abstract of the Project** – 200 words or less.
3. **Project Purpose** - Clearly state the objectives of the project. Describe the specific issue, problem, interest, or need to be addressed. Describe project importance.
4. **Potential Impact** - Discuss the number of people or operations affected the intended beneficiaries of the project and the potential economic impact.
5. **Expected Measurable Outcome(s)** - describe at least one distinct, quantifiable, and measurable outcome that supports the project's purpose. It is important that each outcome provides evidence about the accomplishment of a particular program objective. These outcomes are program-focused, measurable, specific, and clear.
6. **Work Plan** - Describe the activities and/or tasks that will be performed to accomplish the objectives of the project. Clearly state who will conduct the work and why this person or organization was selected. Include appropriate timelines for the project and expected date of completion.
7. **Budget Narrative** - Include total estimated cost for the project with a breakdown of grant dollars and match dollars. In the budget narrative, provide detailed information for

the budget categories listed on the Budget Narrative Form to demonstrate that the grants funds are being expended on eligible grant activities.

- This is a cost reimbursement program.
- In-kind funds - will be accepted as match dollars.
- Administration Expenses - The department will not accept any proposal with a budget line of administration expenses. (Pre-award costs, proposal costs; depreciation or use allowances on buildings and equipment; costs of operating and maintaining facilities; general administration and general expenses; and personnel, legal, information technology, and accounting administration.)
- Indirect Costs -Applicants can charge up to 10% of their project's budget as indirect costs

8. **Project Oversight**- describe oversight practices, overseers of project activities and how will oversight be performed

9. **Project Commitment** – describe who will support proposed project and how grant partners (if applicable) commit to and work towards goals and outcome measures.

10. **Multi-state projects** – describe how project in each state will collaborate with related projects (if applicable)

11. **Attachments**- Biographical sketches of person(s) with primary responsibilities, letters of support, and Budget Template Form.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

- Proposals must be *received* (NOT postmarked) by **May 5, 2011, at 5:00 PM** and will not be accepted if received after the deadline.
- **Two** complete copies of your proposal and attachments including the Budget Template Form. **One paper copy, one electronic (email, diskette)**

Please send your proposal to:

***Specialty Crop Grant Project Manager
Georgia Department of Agriculture
19 MLK Jr. Dr. SW
Suite 247
Atlanta, GA 30334
EMAIL: Jeanne.Maxwell@agr.georgia.gov***

- Faxed documents **will not** be accepted.
- E-mail documents **will** be accepted.
- Applications must be limited to six (6) pages -- 8½" x 11" -- with 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Attachments should include the Budget Template Form; this will not count toward the page limit.
- Recommendation of proposals to be awarded will be determined within 60 days after application deadline.
- Once GDA completes the review process, the State plan will then be submitted to USDA/AMS for review and approval.

ELIGIBLE COMMODITIES:

This list is not intended to be all inclusive, but rather intended to give examples of the most common specialty crops. USDA will continue to update this list in the future.

List of Plants Commonly Considered Fruits & Tree Nuts

Almond	Grape (including raisin)
Apple	Guava
Apricot	Kiwi
Avocado	Litchi
Banana	Macadamia
Blackberry	Mango
Blueberry	Nectarine
Breadfruit	Olive
Cacao	Papaya
Cashew	Passion fruit
Citrus	Peach
Cherimoya	Pear
Cherry	Pecan
Chestnut (for nuts)	Persimmon
Coconut	Pineapple
Coffee	Pistachio
Cranberry	Plum (including prune)
Currant	Pomegranate
Date	Quince
Feijou	Raspberry
Fig	Strawberry
Filbert (hazelnut)	Suriname cherry
Gooseberry	Walnut

List of Plants Commonly Considered Culinary Herbs and Spices

List of Plants Commonly Considered Vegetables

Artichoke	Mustard and other greens
Asparagus	Okra
Bean Snap or green Lima Dry, edible	Pea Garden, English or edible pod
Beet, table	onion
Broccoli (including broccoli raab)	Opuntia
Brussels sprouts	Parsley
Cabbage (including Chinese)	Parsnip
Carrot	Pepper
Cauliflower	Potato
Celeriac	Pumpkin
Celery	Radish (all types)
Chive	Rhubarb
Collards (including kale)	Rutabaga
Cucumber	Salsify
Eggplant	Spinach
Endive	Squash (summer and winter)
Garlic	Sweet corn
Horseradish	Sweet potato
Kohlrabi	Swiss chard
Leek	Taro
Lettuce	Tomato (including tomatillo)
Melon (all types)	Turnip
Mushroom (cultivated)	Watermelon

Medicinal Herbs

Artemissia	Liquorice
Arum	Marshmallow
Astragalus	Mullein
Boldo	Passion flower

Ajwain	Clary	Malabathrum
Allspice	Cloves	Marjoram
Angelica	Comfrey	Mint (all types)
Anise	Common rue	Nutmeg
Annatto	Coriander	Oregano
Artemisia (all types)	Cress	Orris root
Asafetida	Cumin	Paprika
Basil (all types)	Curry	Parsley
Bay (cultivated)	Dill	Pepper
Bladder wrack	Fennel	Rocket (arugula)
Bolivian coriander	Fenugreek	Rosemary
Borage	Filé (gumbo, cultivated)	Rue
Calendula	Fingerroot	Saffron
Chamomile	French sorrel	Sage (all types)
Candle nut	Galangal	Savory (all types)
Caper	Ginger	Tarragon
Caraway	Hops	Thyme
Cardamom	Horehound	Turmeric
Cassia	Hyssop	Vanilla
Catnip	Lavender	Wasabi
Chervil	Lemon balm	Water cress
Chicory	Lemon thyme	
Cicely	Lovage	
Cilantro	Mace	
Cinnamon	Mahlab	

Cananga	Patchouli
Comfrey	Pennyroyal
Coneflower	Pokeweed
Ephedra	St. John's wort
Fenugreek	Senna
Feverfew	Skullcap
Foxglove	Sonchus
Ginko biloba	Sorrel
Ginseng	Stevia
Goat's rue	Tansy
Goldenseal	Urtica
Gypsywort	Witch hazel
Horehound	Wood betony
Horsetail	Wormwood
Lavender	Yarrow
Yerba buena	

List of Commonly Considered Nursery, Floriculture, and Horticulture Crops

Note: Under the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP), turfgrass sod is not eligible. Under the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB), horticulture was added to the definition making turfgrass sod eligible.

Christmas Trees
Cut Flowers
Honey
Hops
Maple Syrup
Tea Leaves

PROPOSAL REVIEW SCORING AND CRITERIA

	Maximum Points	Points Received
1. Project Description	15	
How well does the applicant describe the project? How well does the applicant define the need for and purpose of the project? Is the approach rational and sound? How feasible is the proposed project?		
2. Goals and Objectives	20	
How clear and appropriate are the project's goals and objectives?		
3. Problem Statement and Specialty Crop Context	20	
Does the applicant define the problem the project is proposing to address Does the project address the problem? Does the project provide a direct benefit and how effective will the project be at enhancing the competitiveness of Georgia specialty crops?		
4. Project Workplan	15	
How well do tasks relate to the goals and objectives? Is the project feasible? Is the timeline reasonable?		
5. Project Outreach and Sharing of Results	5	
How well does the project describe a plan for sharing project results? Does the project clearly identify a target audience? Is the outreach plan feasible and effective?		
6. Matching Funds and In-Kind Contributions	5	
Are matching funds or in-kind donations provided or anticipated? How secure is the match?		
7. Measurable Outcomes	15	
Does the project include at least one measurable outcome? How well will the proposed project allow the applicant to quantify and document the projects benefits and outcomes?		
8. Budget	5	
How reasonable and appropriate is the amount requested and budgeted for the project(s)		
TOTAL	100	
Should the applicant be invited to submit a Grant Proposal	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

REFERENCE LIST

Please refer to the websites below for further information and forms:

www.agr.georgia.gov

or

USDA/AMS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB) –Website:
www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp.