Fiscal Year 2021 Description of Funded Projects – HR-133

Number of Grants Awarded: 56
Number of Sub-award Projects: 590
Amount of Funds Awarded: $97,000,000.00
For more information, please visit the program's website: https://www.ams.usda.gov/scbpg
NOTE: The project descriptions below were provided by the grant recipients. (File updated November 18, 2022)

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	1. Highlighting Alabama Crops in the Wake of COVID-19	Sweet Grown Alabama, in conjunction with the Alabama Department of agriculture and Industries and the Alabama Farmers Federation, will market the state's specialty crop industry by highlighting 18 specific crops through educational videos, marketing efforts, school outreach and restaurant partnerships.	$282,000.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	2. North Alabama Grown	The North Alabama Agriplex will promote specialty crops in North Alabama during the COVID Pandemic through community outreach at farmers markets, schools, adult programming, farmer education, farm tours, outdoor exhibits, local foods dinners, feeding agencies, and social media.	$24,673.54
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	3. Alabama Agricultural Museum Medicinal and Dye Gardens	Alabama Agricultural Museum and Landmark Park will grow plants traditionally used in the production of medicines, fibers, and dyes. The outcomes will include education of the general public on the topics of historical medicines, as well as how cloth is produced. Workshops held in conjunction with this project will teach the public as well as kids on field trips how to create and dye fabrics. The public will also have a chance to learn how to grow herbs for their own use in cooking.	$25,000.00

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Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	4. Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association COVID-19 Response Training and Marketing	The Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association is a member driven, 501(c)(5) association that works to improve the specialty crop industry through research, advocacy, education, and promotion. This project will hold multiple grower meetings across the state, in partnership with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Commercial Horticulture Team, over the duration of the grant to highlight marketing opportunities that arose during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Promote specialty crops through multiple farmer market events, television programming and social media campaigns. Plan and execute an annual conference that will include topics focused on marketing and food safety.	$25,000.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	5. Apiculture Recordings: demonstration of sustainable beekeeping practices.	Auburn University will address the need for accessible learning materials for beekeepers in Alabama by producing demonstration video recordings of evidence-based Good Agricultural Practices for beekeeping. Videos will feature important management techniques throughout the beekeeping calendar year, especially concerning Integrated Pest Management. Videos will be aligned to existing beekeeper lectures provided in winter by Alabama Extension and various regional beekeeper associations in the state. Therefore, these videos will allow for the demonstration of seasonally important beekeeping management practices at any time of the year, and together with traditional lectures, offer a unique experience that addresses different learning styles – auditory and visual. These demonstration videos are particularly timely given that Alabama's beekeepers have lacked formal learning opportunities over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	$38,470.61
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	6. Reaching Alabama Growers and Beginner Farmers Virtually Through the Pandemic	In order to continue to reach existing and beginning farmers through the pandemic, Alabama Extension will create and disseminate digital content throughout the state. Short social media geared videos, webinars and virtual farm tours and demonstrations will provide a highly available outlet for transferring information to growers. Funds will provide Regional Extension Agents on the ACES Commercial Horticulture Team each with video equipment that will better enable self-produced videos. In addition to equipment funds will provide resources to travel to farms within each agent's region to film farm tours and informational videos	$40,000.00

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Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	7. Growing Beyond COVID: Alabama Specialty Crops for Thriving School Garden Programs	Schoolyard Roots brings learning to life for over 4,700 students through hands-on lessons in 11 organic teaching gardens. Through our core program, Gardens 2 Schools (G2S), we bring project-based learning, outdoor exploration, and nutrition education to elementary school gardens in the Tuscaloosa City and County School Systems. Funding will support the G2S program with a full return to in-person garden lessons with our students following Covid-19, as well as an expansion of services to a twelfth teaching garden oriented toward community programming.	$25,000.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	8. Pest Management Training at Gulf States Horticultural Expo	The Alabama Nursery & Landscape Association (ALNLA) will help ornamental specialty crop growers increase their knowledge, efficiency, and profits by hosting an educational conference presenting best management practices (BMPs) for controlling the most common and economically damaging nursery and greenhouse pests. Disseminating the research and BMPs will allow growers to offset input costs, which have risen sharply due to the COVID pandemic, by decreasing the amount of time and chemicals needed to control these pests.	$24,944.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	9. Profitability Analysis and Economic Education of Specialty Crop Production in Alabama	Auburn University and Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) will partner with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, to assess the profitability of specialty crop production in Alabama to demonstrate economic opportunities for producers to adopt or expand local fruits and vegetables. We will perform a holistic SWOT analysis of current fruit and vegetable production and marketing. Five specialty crop products will be identified for further analysis, including the development of in-depth detailed enterprise budgets, with results disseminated through online materials and producer workshops. By assessing and illustrating the profitable specialty crop production opportunities, producers will be better positioned to successfully increase production of local fruits and vegetables in Alabama.	$50,000.00

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Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	10. Estimating Willingness-to-Pay for Local Fruit and Vegetables at Independent Grocers and Restaurants in Alabama	Auburn University and Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) will partner with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, to estimate the willingness-to-pay for local fruit and vegetables sold through independent grocers and restaurants. This effort is to demonstrate economic opportunities for producers to adopt or expand local production. We will perform field experiments and online surveys to estimate consumers' willingness-to-pay for a broad range of local fruit and vegetable products. Studies will determine the main factors affecting the demand for local fruit and vegetables, allowing producers to focus on important production and marketing decisions. The information will also provide specialty crop growers with state specific marketing information that can be used to increase bargaining power and make production decisions to potentially increase farmer income of local fruits and vegetables in Alabama.	$40,000.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	11. Enhancing H-2A Knowledge for Alabama Specialty Crop Producers	The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Alabama Department of Labor, and Alabama Cooperative Extension System will provide grower education on the H-2A guest worker program to fruit and vegetable producers in Alabama. This education will provide guidance on the rules and regulations of the program, process for completing applications, insights into the economics of working with H-2A labor and enhance knowledge of the historical importance of the program. Digital publications will be developed and disseminated online. By enhancing knowledge of the H-2A program, specialty crop producers will be better positioned to evaluate their ability to secure labor necessary to increase production of local fruits and vegetables in Alabama. This is essential as COVID-19 has amplified an already difficult labor situation for specialty crop producers.	$23,314.00

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Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	12. Alabama Specialty Crop Cooking Demonstrations	The Wallace State Future Foundation, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries and Sweet Grown Alabama will partner together to perform cooking demonstrations and promotion of Alabama Specialty Crops at eleven events in Alabama. Wallace State Future Foundation will be the project partner that will be responsible for reporting and grant management. This project will seek to increase at home consumption of Alabama Specialty Crops by performing cooking demonstrations utilizing locally sourced specialty crops and ingredients commonly found in a household pantry. Along with the demonstrations, take home informational brochures regarding where to source the specialty crops, seasons available and recipes regarding how to create the dishes at home will be available at the demonstrations.	$47,207.50
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$698,928.22	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$51,648.89
Alaska Division of Agriculture	$336,787.85	1. Modernization of Alaska Grown Data Repository	The State of Alaska, Division of Agriculture, will conduct development of a data repository for Specialty Crop Producers with interactive capabilities of an online marketplace that will link producers, agricultural interest groups and buyers. This project will further develop and enhance the State of Alaska Division of Agriculture's promotion, support, and development of Alaska's Specialty Crop Industries.	$284,701.76
Alaska Division of Agriculture	$336,787.85	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$52,086.06

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American Samoa Department of Agriculture	$357,277.56	1. American Samoa Essential Food Security Program Specialty Crops. Phase I: Land Preparation Techniques - Increasing Specialty Crop Production by Improved Land Cultivation Practices	The American Samoa Government Department of Agriculture (ASG DOA) will strengthen the territory's food security position and minimize impacts from COVID-19 supply chain disruptions, by promoting the growth of specialty crops by supporting the improved cultivation of available land across the territory. Beginning farmers have unique educational training and needs. Providing technical assistance will support increased production and growth of specialty crops. Technical assistance will include, but not be limited to, the following services: site assessments, soil testing, farm design, crop selection, farm management best practices, conservation strategies, and more. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Best Practices, and other outreach and educational tools & materials will be documented and made available to the public through the Department of Agriculture office.	$357,277.56
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	1. COVID Cost-Share Reimbursement Program	The Arizona Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Consultation and Training (ACT) will offer and provide a cost-share reimbursement program for eligible expenses related to COVID-19 that benefit the production and distribution of Arizona specialty crops. Eligible expenses will include Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), facility adjustments for worker and product safety and vaccination events to provide vaccinations to individuals directly involved in the production and distribution of specialty crops.	$500,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	2. “Adopt-a-Sonoran-Desert-Crop” Marketing and Outreach Campaign	Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture, a Native American-governed 501c3 nonprofit, will partner with Arizona Department of Education, Pancho Farm, San Xavier Co-op Farm, and others to design and implement a marketing and outreach campaign to increase awareness of, access to and knowledge of production and consumption of the draught-tolerant, alkaline-soil-friendly, culturally-significant and highly nutritious Sonoran Desert crops by (1) by leveraging efforts to market, promote and educate about heirloom Sonoran Desert crops on and off the Tohono O’odham Nation; (2) by expanding availability and access to these particular specialty crops for individuals, families, restaurants, school cafeterias, food banks and others, and creating new markets of producers of these crops (institutional markets, e-commerce and mobile market); and (3) by offering technical and business assistance to the heirloom crop producers, including a new seed and business center on the Tohono O’odham Nation.	$218,750.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	3. Increasing Demand and Willingness-to-Pay for Arizona-Grown Pecans	Arizona State University will facilitate increased demand for Arizona’s pecan nuts by developing a demand model and determining key drivers of willingness-to-pay for pecans. This will enable Arizona pecan growers to better understand consumers and to create target-oriented marketing strategies to communicate benefits of Arizona-grown pecans more effectively. Through an online consumer study comprising about 3,000 U.S. Americans, and employing choice experiments, estimates of consumer demand for Arizona-grown pecans will be determined. The data collected will be analyzed using univariate and multivariate statistical methods to provide insight into factors that affect preferences for this crop.	$101,126.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	4. Supervisor Food Safety Training for Leafy Greens Production	The Yuma Safe Produce Council (YSPC) will develop a training program with content and materials that enhance Good Agricultural Practices including Seasonality, Adjacent Land, Health/Hygiene, and Supervisor Responsibility/Documentation through a series of interactive seminars. Training topics will focus on areas identified by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Leafy Greens STEC Action Plan and findings from recent outbreak investigations. Food safety principles to be shared are based on existing scientifically based research and guidelines.	$99,573.00

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Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	5. Correlations Between Height, Width, Caliper and Roots of Desert Tree	Enumeral Research and Consulting, LLC will measure height, width, and caliper (HWC) of nursery growing grounds, established commercial and residential landscape, and naturally growing native desert tree species. Data will be used to determine if statistical correlations exist between these commonly used tree measures and overall tree health, vigor, appearance, and durability. Additionally, with selected nursery grown species, entire root balls of trees growing in varying sized containers will be harvested and assessed to determine if correlations exist between HWC and root maturity, mass, or volume. Data of this kind are critical for making reasoned assessments of HWC measurements for trees grown for sale in specific sized containers.	$38,839.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	6. Determining Water Use of Date Palms - 2021	The University of Arizona will continue to estimate annual water use of date palms using continuously recording sap flow sensors installed in the fronds of date palms. Palms will be flood irrigated. Water use of entire trees will be estimated by multiplying the water use of the target fronds by the total fronds per tree. Results will be a first step in calculating the efficiency of irrigation of palm tree orchards in Arizona. Results will be distributed to growers via e-mail, and growers will use the results to modify their irrigation to make it more efficient.	$70,015.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	7. Development of FSMA Validation and Verification System for Leafy Greens	The University of Arizona in collaboration with several Arizona leafy green producers will develop an Arizona-specific microbial index for on-site validation and verification of antimicrobial wash water systems for the leafy greens industry in Arizona.	$242,960.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	8. Diagnostic Resources for Pests and Beneficial Insects on Specialty Crops	The University of Arizona Insect Collection (UAIC) maintains the largest collection in the world of Arizona insects, including pest and beneficial species associated with specialty crops. In a collaborative effort with the UA's Insect Diagnostics Clinic, Extension faculty statewide, Arizona growers, and Schlinger Ancient DNA Lab, we will analyze pest and beneficial species from specialty crops, update pest species data for Arizona, provide DNA Barcodes to support species-level identifications of pest and beneficial insects, digitize and georeference data of UAIC's extensive holdings of these species, and produce high-resolution images of pest and beneficial species for identification and outreach purposes.	$40,537.00

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Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	9. Die-off Rates of Escherichia Coli O157:H7 in Agricultural Soils	The University of Arizona in collaboration with leafy greens producers will evaluate the die-off rates of Escherichia coli O157:H7 strains in soils from Arizona leafy greens fields. This project will provide Arizona leafy green growers with critical information needed to understand the window of time E. coli O157:H7 could survive in fields after a contamination event like animal intrusion, which allows them to better understand these produce safety risks and improve food safety.	$240,222.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	10. Enhancing Pomegranate Production Across Arizona	The University of Arizona will grow pomegranate (Punica granatum L.) cultivars in seven locations to determine which cultivars are best suited for elevations ranging from 2,350 feet to 4,415 feet in Arizona and disseminate results to stakeholders through field days, publications, and internet. Growers collaborating with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension agents in Yavapai and Cochise counties will establish five trial sites for research and demonstration on their land and two sites will be established at University of Arizona Agricultural Centers in Pima and Graham counties.	$124,149.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	11. Guidelines for Safe Application of Composts in Leafy Greens Production	The University of Arizona researchers will conduct plant growth chamber studies to assess the survival of Salmonella enterica and Escherichia coli O157:H7 over 65 days in three different composts amended in two different soils across two seasons, as well as determine any potential cross-contamination to plant tissue. The findings will provide data on how long pathogens can survive in various types of composts and soils, across seasons, quantitating their possible transfer to leafy greens, and filling in much needed compost safety research. The project goal is to provide guidelines for safe application of composts in leafy green fields based on scientific findings.	$181,547.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	12. Increasing Date Palm Fruit Size	The University of Arizona will attempt to increase ‘Medjool’ date fruit size by application of urea, two potassium (K) sources and boron (B) directly to date palm fruit bunches, then disseminate the results to stakeholders through grower meetings, field days and email.	$60,891.00

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Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	13. Irrigation Water Diversion/Splitter Boxes as Reservoirs of Pathogenic Bacteria	The University of Arizona will determine if irrigation canal diversion boxes (splitter boxes) serve as reservoirs of Escherichia coli. The goal of this study is to determine if diversion boxes can serve as reservoirs of E. coli which can overtime, or following changes in operation, cause spikes in E. coli in the downstream water. Factors studied will include nutrients in sediment/water, sediment composition, biofilms within diversion boxes, debris accumulation, and temperature. The results will be compared to upstream and downstream irrigation water and sediments. If the results suggest that these splitter boxes are reservoirs and cause spikes of E. coli, potential solutions will be recommended.	$73,367.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	14. Real-time Biosensor to Detect Foodborne Pathogens in Leafy Green Production	Dr. Ravishankar at the University of Arizona will work with Dr. Witten of Phoenix Biometrics Inc. (PBI), to refine, test, and validate a biosensor to detect foodborne pathogens in produce processing plants. This project aims to modify the prototype with better light filters and use artificial intelligence (AI) for better resolution and detection of various foodborne bacteria. Extensive testing with numerous trials for each pathogen will be conducted in the laboratory to obtain an accurate AI detection system that will also be validated using cultural methods for accuracy of quantitation.	$202,178.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$2,341,863.88	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$147,709.88
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$477,369.34	1. Arkansas Grown Advertising Campaign	The Arkansas Department of Agriculture proposes launching a paid advertising campaign that will promote Arkansas specialty crops by generating increased exposure for specialty crops, encouraging consumers to purchase Arkansas Grown food, and educating consumers on where to find local food.	$75,819.00
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$477,369.34	2. Kitchen Equipment Assistance Grants for Processing Specialty Crops in Schools	The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program will support the goal of increasing the consumption of specialty crops in school by providing kitchen equipment assistance grants to school nutrition professionals, especially in response to rising needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.	$66,819.00

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Arkansas Agriculture Department	$477,369.34	3. Expanding Arkansas Grown Hops: Collaborations with Breweries and Increasing Production	The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture will collaborate with local breweries to test Arkansas grown hops in local brewing and will evaluate practices to maximize hop cone yield to support the expanding Arkansas-grown hop industry.	$76,762.00
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$477,369.34	4. Arkansas Grown: Expanding Specialty Crop Marketing & Production for Arkansas Producers/Processors	The National Agricultural Law Center will collaborate with and lead statewide project partners (UA System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, Arkansas Department of Health, and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) in providing comprehensive outreach and education in each region of the state on the Arkansas Food Freedom Act and related business and legal specialty crop issues.	$63,819.00
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$477,369.34	5. From the Farm to the Supermarket Shelf	The Food Conservancy (TFC) Food Hub aims to take bulk specialty crops grown by our local farmers/growers into supermarkets in retail packages with PLU and UPC labeling and branding to increase sales and growers' profit margins. Three tools are essential to increase the number of growers and the acreage of specialty produce; a) fruits and vegetables that are retail ready with UPC, b) a strong brand and c) a robust marketing campaign.	$100,000.00
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$477,369.34	6. Arkansas Grown Conference	The Arkansas Department of Agriculture proposes hosting a conference for specialty crop farmers to offer presentations addressing issues due to the COVID pandemic, educational workshops, and networking opportunities with wholesalers/distributors to increase capacity.	$75,819.00
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$477,369.34	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$18,331.34

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California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	1. Grown to be Great	Grown to be Great is a program designed to deepen the relationship between California specialty crop producers and consumers, as well as keep selection of California produce top-of-mind for those consumers who are already inclined to select California grown crops. The Buy California Marketing Agreement (BCMA) will implement a multi-platform digital campaign as well as agritourism, retail and food service promotions to create strong support from the retail and food service trade and increase consumer demand for California specialty crops and specialty crop products.	$6,109,000.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	2. Developing Post COVID-19 Export Markets for California's Specialty Crop Industry	This project will be executed by the Center for International Trade Development State Center Community College District and will address the priority of creating economic opportunities for specialty crop producers, including organic producers, through specialty crop market development activities that focus on local, regional, institutional, national, and international markets by leveraging the unique qualities of specialty crops grown in California.	$449,111.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	3. Zinfandel Live	The Zinfandel Advocates and Producers (ZAP) and the Culinary Institute of America will fuse their enthusiasm for California agriculture to reach a broad consumer audience - increasing Direct to Consumer sales by three percent as measured by Wines Vines Analytics. This project also creates new pathways for customers to discover regional Zinfandel producers and helps wineries leverage technology to adapt to a dramatically shifting marketplace.	$272,818.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	4. Growing Sonoma Winegrape Sales by Cultivating New Vintner Grape Buyers and High-Volume Wine Sales	The Sonoma County Local District 3 Winegrape Commission will execute this project to increase sales of Sonoma grapes to U.S. vintners and boost Sonoma wine sales to U.S. on-premise buyers. Activities include out of state vintner outreach and ads (direct visits/events with these grape buyers); on-premise marketing programs; and trade events.	$450,000.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	5. Growing Sales of California Extra Virgin Olive Oil Among United States Home Cooks	The California Olive Oil Council proposes to create opportunities for specialty crop producers through activities that focus on local, regional, and national markets by leveraging the unique qualities of California olive oil. The project addresses this priority by building sales of California EVOO among United States home cooking enthusiasts.	$446,120.00

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California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	6. Subscription Service Agri-Tourism App “El Dorado Wine Movement,” Solutions for COVID-19 and Wine Market Stresses	This project, in partnership with the El Dorado Winery Association, will directly increase sales of El Dorado wines by expanding consumer access through "The El Dorado Wine Movement" (EDWM). Consumers will become wine club members of an entire agricultural region through a monthly subscription service accessed through a regionally branded geo-tourism, e-commerce application (app.).	$448,698.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	7. Culinary Justice Middle School Garden Program	Presented by the Los Angeles Unified School District- Social Justice Leadership Training Organization, the Culinary Justice program at Armada School District will teach urban farming and culinary arts with an emphasis on cultivating healthy students and healthy communities.	$170,564.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	8. Developing a Workforce Development Program for Underrepresented Farmers: Training, Internship, and Building a Collective	Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League (DSAL) proposes an innovative workforce development program for socially disadvantaged farmers. Through the development of a culturally appropriate Regenerative Agriculture training (in-person or remote) and internship program and a Regenerative Agriculture Collective of producers, distributors, and retailers, DSAL is creating a collective of farmers who are well-trained for specialty crop career opportunities.	$449,980.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	9. Outreach and Training for Urban Farmers in Northern California	The University of California Davis in partnership with Western Institute of Food Safety and Security and the University of California Cooperative Extension, Urban Agriculture and Food Systems Program will work with urban farmers in the Sacramento Valley region and the San Francisco Bay area to conduct education and training with urban farmers.	$384,699.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	10. Sterile Insect Technique Enhancement – Drone Delivery	The California Department of Food and Agriculture will analyze the efficacy of a small scale (40-500 acres) Navel Orangewood (NOW) area-wide sterile insect technique (SIT) release via drone during the 2021-22 growing season. Drone release is an innovative new method for SIT release that is less stressful to the insect and can be targeted in more specific areas at lower altitude than fixed-wing airplanes that are typically used for SIT area-wide release.	$257,545.00

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California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	11. Collaborative Outreach, Education and Training to Improve Nitrogen Use and Irrigation Efficiency in Specialty Crops	The California Department of Food and Agriculture aims to assist specialty crop farmers in implementing efficient nitrogen application and irrigation practices to comply with water quality regulations in the Central Valley and Central Coast regions of California using a collaborative approach to outreach, education, and training.	$751,864.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	12. California Food Security Insights (FSI) Pilot Program	This Fresno Metro Ministry Food to Share Program seeks to apply cutting-edge data science and software technology to increase access to and consumption of healthy specialty crops among vulnerable food insecure California households.	$1,000,000.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	13. Development of Next-Gen Ag Workers Curriculum and Scale Strategy	The Western Growers Associations proposed the following project to address the need for agricultural worker education by developing a curriculum that can be leveraged across the University of California, California State University, and junior college or community college to provide the training needed for AgTech expertise for the next-generation agricultural workforce.	$746,291.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	14. Improving Diagnosis of Grapevine and Diseases of Phytosanitary Significance Using High Throughput Sequencing	The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will select plant samples submitted to the Plant Pest Diagnostics Center (PPDC) for testing for export or trees tested for virus as part of CDFA's fruit tree certification program.	$250,070.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	15. Supporting Economic Resiliency and Recovery for California's Historically Underserved Specialty Crop Growers: Expanding Efforts to Prioritize Needs of Small-Scale and Socially Disadvantaged Producers	The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will create a better understanding of how the pandemic, coupled with other natural disasters related to climate change, are affecting small-scale, socially disadvantaged, and beginning specialty crop growers. This project will also identify specific needs and solutions necessary to foster long-term economic resiliency for California's most underserved specialty crop producers.	$98,592.00

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California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	16. San Joaquin County AgVenture	The San Juaquin County AgVenture will provide nutrition education that will teach students the importance of San Joaquin County's (SJC) $3 billion agriculture industry and the health benefits related to increased consumption of specialty crops.	$294,250.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	17. Improving the Economics, Productivity, and Sustainability of the California Citrus Industry by Accelerating the Citrus Engineering Process	The Regents of the University of California, San Diego aims to meet the long-term goal of this project to significantly improve the economics, productivity, and sustainability of California's specialty crops by accelerating the plant-engineering process.	$992,791.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	18. Promoting California Processing Tomatoes to Food Insecure Consumers to Support Economic Recovery from COVID-19	Representing 240 California processing tomato growers and processors, the Tomato Product Wellness Council (TPWC) seeks to build new sales by sharing the benefits of California processing tomatoes with food insecure consumers (new target audience) including those participating in the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and similar programs.	$450,000.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	19. Replacing Plastic Mulch with Cover Crops in Organic Vegetable Production Systems for Economic Benefit, Soil Health, and Environmental Stewardship	Rodale Institute's California Organic Center research team will study the agronomic, economic, and soil health benefits of replacing plastic mulch with living mulch and cover crops in strawberry and artichoke production. The goal of this project is to provide an economically viable and environmentally friendly alternative to plastic mulch for effective weed control in organic vegetable systems. The proposed cover crop and living mulch systems combined with reduced tillage will improve the viability and sustainability of organic vegetable production systems by improving farmers' income and reducing plastic waste from farms.	$326,805.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	20. Promoting Economic Recovery to the California Prune Industry by Restoring COVID-19 Related Sales Losses	Sunsweet Growers, Inc. (Sunsweet) seeks to promote economic recovery from COVID-19 and rebuild growers' returns through a multifaceted advertising campaign to increase California prune sales among women in the United States aged 55 and older (the target demographic).	$499,995.00

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California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	21. Assessing the Potential of Regenerative Agriculture to Support Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration	The Regents of the University of California, Davis will determine the efficacy of regenerative agriculture (RA) to build soil carbon (C), soil health, and improve the long-term environmental and economic resiliency of the wine grape industry.	$1,004,522.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	22. Helping Growers Adapt to COVID-19 Impacts by Strengthening Coordinated Business Planning and Environmental Technical Assistance	Kitchen Table Advisors (KTA) and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) have the tools to help growers maintain competitiveness in a new post-COVID market. By leveraging complementary skills, the RCDs and KTA can provide comprehensive support to growers through business advising (KTA) and conservation planning (RCDs), resulting in increased conservation and marketability, as well as improved dollar returns and reduced costs per acre.	$349,154.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	23. Data Knowledge Platform for California Specialty Crops	The California Cherry Board plans to create a Data and Knowledge Platform for California specialty crops. This software will offer specialty crop organizations and producers the ability to track the most important indicators of their respective industries.	$387,505.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	24. Moving Beyond Covid-19: Increasing Sales and Access to SLO Coast Wines in Arizona and Colorado	The San Luis Obispo (SLO) Coast Wine Collective and wine growers will expand access and sales channels in two direct flight markets, Colorado, and Arizona. Expanding and creating new distribution channels for growers will lead to an increase in sales to Arizona and Colorado.	$309,959.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	25. Identifying New Preservation Techniques for Increased Volume of Processed Blueberries in California Resulting from COVID-19	The California Blueberry Commission purposes a project to offset some of the increased costs and losses experienced due to COVID-19 by evaluating a cryo-preservation tool for the California blueberry industry.	$458,009.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	26. Novel Soil Nitrate Sensors for Scalable and Affordable Fertilizer Management in Nut and Vegetable Crops	The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley plan to develop novel soil sensors in order to develop, characterize, and test soil in real use conditions, new inexpensive wireless sensors to accurately measure soil nitrate content as well as its fate and transport in nut orchards and vegetable fields.	$996,651.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	27.Increasing Nutrition and Access in Low-Income and Low-Access Communities through Mobile Farmers' Markets	Fresh Approach proposes a three-pronged strategy with the goals of strengthening specialty crop producers' economic viability, meeting the demand for healthy food, and creating a replicable model for integrating access programs into healthcare systems.	$420,129.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	28. Tomorrow's Vineyards: Advancing Climate Action and Social Equity in the Winegrape Industry	Napa Green proposes the following project to improve the long-term health and resiliency of the wine grape industry by increasing growers' adoption of climate-friendly and equity-focused vineyard practices.	$456,160.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	29. Deployment of a Commercial Early-Warning System for Airborne Pathogens	Root Applied Sciences plans to project to provide reliable airborne pathogen capture and analysis technology for lettuce and spinach growers in the Salinas Valley of California.	$652,759.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	30. Exploring Baby Leaf Germplasm for Disease Resistance, Drought Tolerance, and Nitrogen Use Efficiency	Shamrock Seed Company Inc. will test cultivated arugula (Eruca sativa) and wild arugula (Diplotaxis tenuifolia) plant materials for downy mildew (Hyaloperonospora parasitica) resistance, yield, nitrogen use efficiency, and water use efficiency.	$288,731.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	31. Linking Soil Carbon Building Practices to Almond Nutritional Quality	The USDA Agricultural Research Service will assess two cover crop treatments, a mixture of beneficial plants (non-forage) and alfalfa, a deep-rooting, nitrogen-fixing forage crop that provides an economic incentive for growers.	$453,845.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	32. Oakland Public Schools as Hubs for Specialty Crop Distribution and Promotion	Project Partner Growing Together plans to build on an existing food distribution system that has been making weekly home deliveries to over 5,000 low-income Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) families; the proposed project will create a financially viable model for operating fresh food distribution centers as part of school communities.	$790,716.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	33. Supply Chain Disruptions and Retail Market Concentration: Lessons from COVID-19	Cal Poly Corporation will partner on this project as a team of researchers hypothesize that consolidation in the retail sector has reduced the number of potential buyers for produce growers in California, and that this issue exacerbated supply chain issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed research, which is supported by the Western Growers Association and the Produce Marketing Association, uses a combination of qualitative data from surveys and interviews with growers and quantitative data drawn from Information Resources, Inc. (IRI) and publicly available sources, to investigate this possibility.	$470,170.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	34. Figs + Flour: A California Grown Fig Education Campaign Targeting Artisan Bakers	California figs are an ideal ingredient in the baking sector providing color, texture, flavor, and moisture without added sugar. To ensure artisan bakers are seeking out California grown fig ingredients, the California Fig Industry is requesting grant funds for a "Figs + Flour" education campaign leveraging media and influencers to target artisan bakers.	$492,000.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	35. Growing Sonoma Winegrape Sales by Cultivating New Vintner Grape Buyers and High-Volume Wine Sales	Sonoma County Local District 3 Winegrape Commission (Sonoma Winegrowers), representing all 1,800 Sonoma winegrape growers, will execute marketing efforts to boost awareness and drive Sonoma winegrapes and wine purchases. The goal is a three percent winegrape sales boost, directly benefiting growers, and will be evaluated and measured by crop and crush reports.	$450,184.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	36. A Digital Campaign to Increase Awareness and Drive Consumer Purchase Intent of California Grown Pomegranates	The Pomegranate Council plans to increase demand for and sales of California pomegranates through promotions, awareness, and education. Leveraging the California Grown identity is a critical component to differentiate California pomegranates from imports.	$468,000.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	37. Promoting California Processing Tomatoes to Food Insecure Consumers to Support Economic Recovery from COVID-19	Tomato Product Wellness Council (TPWC), representing 240 California tomato growers and processors (96 percent of the tomato industry in the United States), will launch a multifaceted educational consumer campaign sharing the affordability, versatility, and healthy attributes of California processing tomatoes, a variety exclusively used in tomato products like sauces, paste, and ketchup. Efforts will reach a target demographic of food insecure consumers, namely those receiving SNAP, Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), and similar benefits.	$500,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	38. Creating Demand for California Dried Fruit in New Foodservice Channels	The California Dried Fruit Coalition plans to address the priorities of expanding opportunities for specialty crop producers, marketing orders, and other specialty crop stakeholders through innovative marketing and promotional activities that incorporate multiple specialty crop products. This project will increase demand and sales for California dried fruit, specifically dates, dried figs, prunes, and raisins. Success will be measured by survey data and increased farm gate values.	$475,500.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	39. Enhancing International Collaboration on Climate Smart Agricultural Practices, Innovations and Science-Based Tools.	The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will lead Climate Smart Agricultural Policy Missions to Denmark/Netherlands, and Spain/Portugal to engage with farmers, academia, and government representatives on farm adaptation to climate change within the specialty crop sector. These missions will serve as an educational program to help secure the long-term competitiveness of California specialty crops and enhance the competitiveness of the industry through more sustainable, diverse, and resilient specialty crop systems.	$162,891.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	40. Specialty Crop Agricultural Workforce Development Program	Through the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Specialty Crop Agricultural Workforce Development Program will deliver workforce development programs and services within the agricultural sector to advance career pathway training, regional food system development, and onboarding of climate smart agricultural technology. The goal of the project is to better integrate and align the workforce needs of specialty crop growers and local and regional food systems with the educational pathways provided by California's Community Colleges.	$3,643,742.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	41. Supporting California Specialty Crop Producers, Packers, and Employees through Coordinated Distribution of COVID-19 Relief Supplies	The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will partner with a contractor to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) and/or hand washing stations, or other safety supplies related to COVID-19 relief efforts and distribute them to the specialty crop industry members. The goal in distributing PPE and other safety supplies is to directly keep farm workers and or processing facility workers safe and indirectly keeping the public community safe by stopping the spread of COVID-19.	$972,918.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$31,593,969.03	Grant Admin	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$2,541,231.03
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	1. Drone-Based Plant & Soil Health Monitoring for the Benefit of Colorado Specialty Crop Farmers	AeroScout will use drone technology to provide weekly plant and soil health maps to specialty crop farmers free of charge on Colorado's western slope and will educate those growers on how this technology can save them time and money each season.	$25,000.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	2. Exploring Possibilities of Cold-Hardy Cultivars for Colorado Wineries	The purpose of this project is to provide knowledge about an increasingly important type of winegrape suitable for producing wine in Colorado. The Colorado Wine Board, with the assistance of the Colorado Association for Viticulture and Enology, will organize a series of seminars which will allow Colorado wine producers to gain critical knowledge by learning about and tasting examples of commercially successful wine produced by other U.S. wineries from cold-hardy interspecific hybrid cultivars.	$6,966.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	3. Website Promotion & Development to Support Specialty Crop Producers in Southern Colorado's Food System Networks	Valley Roots Food Hub (VRFH), a program of the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition (SLVLFC), will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased sales due to enhanced website promotion and development. Through this project, VRFH will enhance the platform with system improvements and development to improve current users' experience while also building the system's capacity to bring on new users and extend the Local Orbit service to new users working in Colorado's food system.	$22,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	4. Assessing Canopy Sprays for Efficacy Against Cytospora Canker and Other Fungal Diseases	This project, lead and executed by Colorado State University, aims to develop, test, and validate canopy spray methods and their effectiveness for Cytospora canker control. Canopy sprays are typically used in Colorado to limit foliar and fruit pathogens, like Coryneum blight and powdery mildew, however, their efficacy in canker pathogens has not been well explored in fruit crops. Cytospora canker, caused by the fungal pathogen Cytospora plurivora, is the most damaging disease to peaches in Colorado. We have also detected Cytospora canker in cherry and apple, although the impact is typically less severe. We build on previous research that examined targeted sprays of pruning wounds to reduce Cytospora canker incidence. Canopy sprays, rather than targeted sprays, are more cost and time effective, which is vitally important to growers especially as the cost of labor has increased. The aim of this work is to determine if canopy sprays are effective against Cytospora canker and other fungal diseases in peach, cherry, and apple.	$117,336.95
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	5. Creating Viable Pathways for BIPOC Farmers	Since 2012, Fort Lewis College has operated a Farmer Training program as an alternative entry point for new and beginning farmers. SCBG funds were used to develop education, marketing, and food safety programs; and support the development of a farmer-in-training (FIT) program to support individuals who need more experience before starting their own farm businesses. Beginning in 2022, our program will accept 16 FITs and provide them with a hybrid model of educational courses and field work each year. Once FITs complete their training at the Old Fort, they will pursue a second-year placement at regional incubator farms or additional training through apprenticeships or mentorships. FITs will be paid 12 hours/week for 22 weeks and be required to take 6 Summer Short Courses at a cost of $350/course.	$78,915.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	6. Determining the Microbial Risk Profiles on Onion Production Practices	Colorado State University's Eduardo Gutierrez-Rodriguez and the fresh produce safety research team will determine microbial risk profiles of commercial onion production practices on the survival, persistence, and transfer of Salmonella to onions along the cropping cycle. The overarching goal of this project is to update commodity specific supply chain guidelines for dry bulb onions and to establish pre- and post-harvest production practice risk profiles of onion production practices in Colorado.	$124,688.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	7. Enhancing Self-Sustainable Hop Production	Colorado State University will develop protocols for increased hop flower set for Colorado hop producers by developing scientifically based phytohormone application techniques that significantly increase how flower set and yield. We will disseminate results to stakeholders through grower meetings and publications.	$71,843.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	8. Growing the Specialty Crop Footprint in Logan County, Colorado	Jalin Farms, LLC is a produce farming company that will increase the specialty crop footprint in northeast Colorado by conducting an agricultural education program for people who are not traditionally involved in agriculture. This hands-on experience will provide the skills and knowledge an aspiring produce farmer would need to start their own produce farming operations.	$100,000.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	9. Hydroponic Leafy Greens and Herbs to Diversity Revenues for Small Cold Climate Growers	Mountain Roots Food Project will increase and diversify revenue opportunities for cold climate Rocky Mountain small scale growers by demonstrating the suitability and economic value of producing leafy greens and herbs in hydroponic shipping containers for Colorado central mountain / western slope markets.	$120,000.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	10. In-Dept Training for Farm to Institution Partners (Institutions and Specialty Crop Farmers)	Nourish Colorado has been supporting local institutional procurement since 2018 through two programs: Local Procurement Colorado (LoProCO) and the Local Food Program. This project builds on these two programs and will allow us to provide critical training and TA, which will inform how we expand these programs in the future. These programs have not previously been funded by SCBG. These programs provide training and technical assistance (interventions) for specialty crop growers to diversify to the institutional market and for institutions to sustainably weave local procurement into their meal programs.	$69,200.03

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	11. Ninos: Verduras! On-Farm Hands-On Vegetable Education for Immigrant Children	Immigrant women in Buena Vida Farm's Hispanic Women's Farming Proyecto will work with Larimer County 4-H to develop and implement a ten week per year program for immigrant children to gain enthusiasm for fresh vegetables by growing their own on the farm. Close communication with the children's parents will encourage immigrant families to consider fresh vegetables over fast or prepackaged food when making choices for their family meals.	$30,340.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	12. "Regionally Adapted Seed" Vegetable Variety Trials: Connecting Seed Producers, Farmers, and Underrepresented Consumers	The Colorado State University Western Colorado Research Center will perform replicated vegetable variety trials with a unique focus on utilizing vegetable seed from local seed companies. Through educational field days, farmers market tasting events, and produce box distributions to food insecure populations, vegetable variety preference data will be gathered from underrepresented consumers.	$40,814.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	13. Rooftop Agrivoltaics: Leafy Green Yield and Environmental Condition Characterization	Colorado State University will evaluate leafy green crops under solar panels and in adjacent full sun green roof systems (also known as rooftop agrivoltaics). Expected outcomes include leafy green crop yields that are equal in both rooftop growing areas (full sun and under solar panels) as well as lower water requirements for crops grown under solar panels. At least two growing seasons of data will be collected on the crops and environmental conditions.	$35,890.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	14. Testing Dry Edible Pinto Bean Variety Performance in Northeast Colorado	Colorado State University's Crops Testing Program will test pinto bean variety performance in field trials in Northeast Colorado to assist producers with their variety selection decisions. The project will provide unbiased data on plant traits and evaluate them for adaptability to our growing conditions and desired production methods.	$37,326.31
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	15. Testing Dryland Cowpea Variety Performance and Irrigated Management Strategies at Akron, Co	Colorado State University's Crops Testing and Water Center Programs will test cowpea irrigation management strategies along with dryland variety performance to help understand the crop needs and adaptability for Colorado farmers. The project will look at optimal water management in a reduced water climate, which will provide producers with research-based management tools for irrigated cowpea production. The dryland variety trial will allow for screening of varieties for their performance and adaptation to our climate.	$19,815.92

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	16. To Test the Efficacy and Develop Application Methods for Novel Spout Inhibiting Compounds to Potatoes	This is a collaborative project between Dr. Umesh Bhattarai (UB) at Adams State University and Sastry Jayanty (SJ) at San Luis Valley Research Center (SLVRC), Colorado State University. Potatoes begin to sprout after natural dormancy is complete. Our goal is to test a new class of sprout inhibitors and application methods on Colorado potato cultivars to inhibit sprouting. We will test potatoes of all market classes (Russets and Yellows Reds and pecialties). We will try integrated packaging methods to inhibit sprouting at the retail marketing conditions. Early storage studies will be performed under laboratory conditions. This will be followed by large-scale trials at warehouses and storage of cooperating producers.	$59,680.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$1,084,218.33	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$124,403.12
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources	$325,378.30	1. CNMI Specialty Crop Producers' Mini Vegetable Wash Station	The CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources will work with CNMI specialty crop producers to identify an ideal place on their farm to set up a wash station for them to wash their harvest. Each farmer will be provided a 2-compartment sink and a sprayer head that can be useful for washing harvest easily.	$44,237.00
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources	$325,378.30	2. COVID Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies for CNMI Specialty Crop Industries	The CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources will partner with specialty crop industries (producers and retailers) to identify the need of PPE and acquired PPEs to be distributed to specialty producers and retailers' employees. The distribution of these PPE will be given to employees of those specialty crop industries as a needed equipment in light of COVID consequences.	$63,040.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources	$325,378.30	3. Specialty Crops Backyard Farming Promotion Within the CNMI's Community	The CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources will partner with CNMI farmers' association to identify individuals or beginning farmers who are interested in growing specialty crops. These individuals will need to register with the program to get basic garden supplies to start off their specialty crop farming venture.	$100,000.00
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources	$325,378.30	4. Kagman Farm Plot Irrigation System Improvement	The CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources will partner with local farmers of the Kagman Farm plots to assess their irrigation system in place and adjust improve their current systems that will improve production efficiency and improve quality as well.	$83,697.30
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources	$325,378.30	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$34,404.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Connecticut Department of Agriculture	$528,216.15	1. CT Grown Christmas Tree Branding and Marketing Project	Connecticut Christmas tree growers are seeking to address a two-fold issue with this project – the first is educating consumers on the benefits of buying real CT Grown trees in a competitive marketplace while addressing concerns voiced by Generation Y and Z as emerging and future consumers of real trees in regards to sustainability and conservation. The second component is counteracting mainstream media narratives regarding supply chain issues. The COVID-19 pandemic saw consumers return to Christmas tree farms in droves during the 2020 and 2021 holiday season as they sought out new traditions and outdoor, family-friendly activities. Unfortunately, those increased numbers combined with reduced plantings nearly a decade ago along with climate change impacts has created reduced availability of real CT Grown trees on some farms. It is imperative that the industry change the narrative to educate the public on the growth lifecycle, commitment of our growers, and supply availability in a transparent way to maintain the momentum for long-term sustainability of Connecticut's Christmas tree growers.	$34,400.00
Connecticut Department of Agriculture	$528,216.15	2. Study of Morel, A Gourmet Wild Mushroom as An Intercrop of Christmas Trees	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) will develop a new intercrop, morel mushrooms for Christmas tree farms. This will be done using an isolate of morel (Morchella sp.) collected by DeWei Li among the Christmas trees in the Jones Family farms in CT in 2020 and another one (Morchella esculenta) in 2021. The project has dual purposes: 1) to develop a new cash crop, the morel mushroom for Christmas tree farms; 2) to evaluate composted woodchips and other substrates, which are pre-inoculated with the morel isolates. The project will develop a new crop for Christmas tree farmers and improve the health of the trees by breaking down organic matter in the soil. The results will be beneficial to The Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association and its membership.	$87,941.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Connecticut Department of Agriculture	$528,216.15	3. Functionalizing liposomes for controlled delivery of siRNAs to manage potato virus Y infections	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) scientists will work on developing a system to deliver antiviral small interfering RNA (siRNA) molecules to potato plants using liposome carriers. Plant diseases caused by viruses result in over $30 billion in global crop losses annually. Because there are no antiviral treatments, viral diseases are extremely hard to control, and farmers must choose resistant plant varieties or spray pesticides to control virus-carrying insects. Dr. da Silva has identified specific ribonucleic acid (RNA) molecules, siRNAs, that induce RNA interference (RNAi), an evolved plant defense mechanism that we are seeking to activate or enhance, in plants and prime plants to successfully resist viruses. However, siRNAs are unstable, and the effect only lasts for a short period before those biological molecules are degraded. Therefore, to fully harness the potential of siRNAs in fighting plant viral infections, we need to develop an effective delivery system.	$119,980.46
Connecticut Department of Agriculture	$528,216.15	4. Greenhouse industry marketing and branding project	The Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association will implement a digital branding and marketing campaign that will enhance consumer education and brand recognition of Connecticut grown greenhouse specialty crops. The project outcomes will inspire consumer brand recognition, facilitate consumer appreciation through marketing and public education efforts, and foster enhanced retail sales to help maintain the vitality of the state's largest sector of the agricultural economy. The project will realize the intended outcomes of brand recognition, enlightened consumer awareness, and enhanced retail sales through the following project activities: 1) creation and implementation of a marketing plan that will utilize popular digital media platforms containing high quality visual content and creative artistry depicting various facets of the industry and environmental stewardship efforts, 2) utilization of broadcast media, 3) refresh of the CGGA's logo, and 4) creation of the CGGA's first working website that will encapsulate earlier SCBGP projects, communicate the industry's mission, and contain partner links to Connecticut Department of Agriculture, UCONN, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, etc., to communicate crop information, emerging plant disease topics, invasive species bulletins, and other information appropriate for public and industry education and outreach.	$114,850.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Connecticut Department of Agriculture	$528,216.15	5. Development of hydroponic fertilizers for urban specialty crop production	Levo International, Inc., with the support of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and community organizations throughout the state of Connecticut and with the guidance of Dr. Soledad Benitez Ponce, will decrease disease impact in urban hydroponic systems by developing and deploying corn-based hydroponic fertilizers and completing characterization of microbial population shifts correlated with plant morphological changes and disease resist	$85,215
Connecticut Department of Agriculture	$528,216.15	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$85,829.69
University of the District of Columbia	$323,333.33	1. Fresh Produce Access & Education Partnerships in DC Childcare Communities	FRESHFARM is launching our new Childcare Share and Food Education program, designed to increase access to, knowledge of, and opportunities to eat specialty crops within childcare communities, to respond to a range of challenges and barriers that early childhood education centers face in procuring, preparing, and educating about fresh produce. In this proposed SCBGP, FRESHFARM will establish new partnerships with four DC-based early childcare education centers in historically underserved communities to facilitate innovative access to specialty crops for the center's meal programs and integrate edible gardens and food education through professional development and technical assistance.	$82,972.55
University of the District of Columbia	$323,333.33	2. Community Harvest: Creating Lasting Urban Food Hub Models	Building on the success of its two previous USDA/UDC CAUSES specialty crops grants and rising to the urgent challenge of expanding COVID recovery and resilience, Washington Parks & People will for the first time bring on a year-round full-time Food Hub Manager to ramp up production and distribution at our successful Community Food Hubs as models for city-wide innovation and expansion of healthy food access, capacity, and impacts.	$80,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
University of the District of Columbia	$323,333.33	3. Saturday Seed & Culture School (Intergenerational)	The Saturday Seed & Culture School, created by Byrd's Nest Box, LLC., is an immersive program that entails 6 intense seedling growing workshops per year. As part of this course students will learn and practice the process of how to plant and grow specialty crop seedlings. Students will have the rare opportunity to learn about the cultural and historical aspects of African American specialty crops such as okra, lima beans, beets, collards, lettuce, tomato, sweet potato, squash, and peppers. The program also includes a marketing and distribution course that will give students an opportunity to sell seedlings to local farmers. This program is targeted towards all ages and families.	$42,310.00
University of the District of Columbia	$323,333.33	4. Quantification of Environmental, Economic, and Societal Impacts of Specialty Crops Grown in Aquaponics and Hydroponics	The faculty members and researchers of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability & Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) are working together to develop an innovative life cycle sustainability assessment (LCSA) framework that will measure environmental, economic, and societal impacts in quantifiable terms for specialty crops grown in aquaponics and hydroponics systems, compared to a traditional soil-based system at UDC. The LCSA tool can also be utilized to measure impacts of subsequent packaging, transport, and distribution. Our aim is to study end to end impacts, from food production to marketing and distribution, to understand the hindrances to larger adoption of the systems.	$58,612.00
University of the District of Columbia	$323,333.33	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$59,438.68

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Delaware Department of Agriculture	$465,433.78	1. Developing Delaware's Lavender Industry through Grower Trainings and Propagation	Brittingham Farms, in Millsboro Delaware, is in partnership with Dr. Gordon Johnson from the University of Delaware, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. The University of Delaware and Brittingham Farms will create a curriculum for the training of new growers hoping to start lavender farms as well as trainings for the average homeowner. We will also develop a propagation program capable of large-scale field plugs and established plants to start additional Delaware lavender farms, to provide wholesale pricing and opportunities to existing farmers that would like to add lavender plants to their farms, CSAs, farm stores, or farmers markets.	$90,000.00
Delaware Department of Agriculture	$465,433.78	2. Gardening in Motion	The Delaware Department of Education in conjunction with the Delaware Association of Agriculture Educators will develop edible school gardens at middle schools and high schools across Delaware. The school gardens will be utilized to teach plant growth and harvesting concepts within the Plant Science program of study.	$75,000.00
Delaware Department of Agriculture	$465,433.78	3. Delaware Farm Fresh Initiative	Delaware Farm Fresh Initiative (DEFF) is a locally grown food facilitation cooperative working to improve local food distribution in Delaware and combat food insecurity. DEFF will provide Delaware farmers from all over the state with a web-based platform and delivery service that will allow them to market and sell their locally grown and curated products to the retail customer, restaurant industry, commercial businesses, farm market stands, and institutions. The cooperative will facilitate the marketing and organization of the web-based platform which will allow small- to medium-sized farmers to sell their locally grown and produced food throughout the State of Delaware.	$133,199.08

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Delaware Department of Agriculture	$465,433.78	4. Identifying and Evaluating the Performance of Suitable Replacements to Invasive Groundcovers Subject to Delaware Ban	The University of Delaware Botanic Garden (UDBG) aims to identify and promote the use of groundcovers as replacements to four commonly used invasive groundcovers listed on Title 3 §2904. With our research findings, we hope to stimulate both supply and demand of the alternatives through education, and equip landscape professionals, master gardeners and homeowners with viable non-invasive alternatives that perform well in landscape settings. The performance of selected groundcovers will be evaluated in a three-year trial conducted at UDBG using randomized, side-by-side comparisons of selected replacements with their known invasive counterparts.	$85,649.00
Delaware Department of Agriculture	$465,433.78	5. Delaware Grown Road Trips	The Delaware Department of Agriculture will increase sales of Delaware Grown specialty crops by developing three driving tours to farm stands and farmers' markets and by printing brochures of these tours to be disseminated at tourism locations. A billboard advertising campaign will support the Delaware Grown Road Trips. The billboards will direct motorists to www.DelawareGrown.com to download the driving tours and get more information about Delaware farmers markets, farm stands, u-pick opportunities, and recipes for Delaware Grown specialty crops.	$44,350.89
Delaware Department of Agriculture	$465,433.78	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$37,234.70
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	1. Increasing Alico, Inc.'s Orange Yield, Production Efficiency, and Economic Returns through COVID-19 Mitigation	Alico, Inc. will improve orange crop yield, production efficiency, and shareholder returns by ensuring that employees and stakeholders are protected, to the greatest extent possible, from the effects of COVID-19. This will be achieved by providing PPE and testing to all employees and stakeholders on Alico property and sanitation practices, training, and signage. In addition, by ensuring a safe working environment, Alico will achieve operational efficiencies at pre-pandemic levels and maximize possible production and returns.	$48,424.05

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	2. Micropropagation Co-cropping Tuber on Pine	Halo Epic Farms will conduct research trials within a two-acre pine field testing the ability to co-crop tuber borchii truffles on a pine species common to the Florida panhandle. The successful cultivation, annual harvesting and commercial sale of tuber borchii has the potential to create immediate job opportunities and bring long term value to an area with a history of long-term economic disadvantage and further exacerbated by the covid-19 pandemic.	$101,201.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	3. Covid Quarantine Housing for Employees at a Specialty Crop Farm	C&B Farms, Inc. will provide protection from coronavirus by providing quarantine housing to protect the jobs, health and wellbeing of farm workers while minimizing interruptions to the production, harvest, packing, and shipping of Florida specialty crops.	$13,451.25
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	4. Covid Vaccination Reimbursement for 2020-2022 Seasons at a Specialty Crop Farm	C&B Farms, Inc. will work to prevent the spread and impacts of covid-19 by providing a vaccination program for farmworkers by providing on-site vaccinations.	$12,750.85
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	5. Enhance and Expand Opportunities for Specialty Crop Organic Growers to Market to Consumers and Communities Directly	Jubilee Orchards will support the economic survival of small and local specialty crop farms through a regional sales and marketing campaign. This project aims to increase sales of locally grown, Florida organic specialty crops through the development of a regional alliance which will provide resources to both local and online outlets for direct-to-consumer sales.	$302,000.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	6. Pilot Testing Fall Blueberry Production in Florida	The University of Florida will help mitigate the impact disruptions (such as the COVID-19 pandemic) on the Florida blueberry industry, by pilot testing blueberry genotypes that can produce in the off-season. Researchers will evaluate the plant growth, fruit yield, fruit quality, and farm profitability in four blueberry genotypes that can produce fruit in the fall. Having a second production window in the year has the potential to increase farm resilience against future disruptions.	$223,154.66

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	7. Farm Sanitation and Ventilation Improvements for Ongoing Worker and Visitor Safety	Harpke Family Farm will implement critical infrastructure for the health and safety of workers and visitors through enhanced air and water quality in farm greenhouses. Additionally, this project will expand upon and improve safety protocols for food harvest and packaging operations while employing new and advanced techniques for water efficiency.	$55,637.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	8. Establishment of First Coast Fresh Food Hub and Enhancement of Food Safety Certifications	Blue Sky Farms will support Florida specialty crop producers through the establishment of a local food hub. The hub will provide increased community access to fresh, locally grown specialty crops, increase direct to consumer sales, and provide local farmers the necessary resources to pack, store, and market their specialty crops.	$305,722.12
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	9. Product Protection & Integrity for Consumers and Employees through Personal Protection and Product Quality	Hardee Fresh will increase the safety of both consumers of Florida specialty crops and the farmers that grow these crops by strengthening the resiliency of the specialty crop production chain from shocks associated with the current or future pandemics. The implementation of new food safety measures and an infrastructure for increased shelf life will protect Hardee Fresh's farmers, consumers from supply chain and operational disruptions.	$483,603.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	10. Riverfront Packing Company COVID-Response Plan	Riverfront Packing Company will take mitigating steps and provide resources to limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect employees, thereby ensuring a consistent supply of Fresh Florida Grapefruit to both domestic and International Markets. With the limited supply of grapefruit being shipped to export markets, uninterrupted supply supported by this project, will allow the continuity of markets and supply chains that have been developed over decades. Steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will include daily and nightly sanitation, training for employees and providing equipment and supplies to reduce employee exposure.	$57,189.09
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	11. Riverfront Packing Company's Export Shipping of Florida Grapefruit	Riverfront Packing Company will work to ensure the flow of Florida Grapefruit to important, well established export markets despite the enormous global shipping challenges that exist due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This project will help offset some of the significantly increased freight costs, directly supporting the continuity of markets and supply chains that have been established over decades.	$450,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	12. Food Safety Imperative for Specialty Crop Grower in the Time of COVID	This project will support Traders Hill Farm in the expansion of food safety certifications, farm employee education and greenhouse grower upgrades for systems and technology that detect food-borne pathogens and support non-chemical pest management. Increased food safety will meet industry, customer and regulatory requirements for all sectors of the specialty crop and food supply chain – from the farm all the way to the restaurant and retail stores.	$123,978.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	13. Wild Goose Farms COVID-19 Proposal	This project will enable Wild Goose Farms to enhance the competitiveness of Blueberries and Citrus through expansion of food safety certifications. This project will support the development and adoption of industry best practices and protect farm workers and visitors from exposure to covid-19 through purchase and use of PPE, improving facility sanitation practices and employee education.	$55,588.04
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	14. Florida Specialty Crop HR133 Assistance Program	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) will help to address the economic impact of COVID-19 on the Florida's specialty crop industry by assisting with the cost of PPE supplies and facility adjustments for worker and product safety to processors, distributors, and growers of Florida specialty crops.	$2,735,124.99
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$5,043,476.95	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$75,652.15

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,883,068.21	1. Georgia Agriculture Covid Recovery Effort (ACRE)	The Georgia Agriculture COVID Recovery Effort (ACRE) is a multi-faceted economic development program coordinated by Georgia Grown and the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) to increase the production and sales of specialty crops. Specific sectors of Georgia's agriculture industry have been harmed by the COVID pandemic. Traditional sales methods have been upended, especially for small farmers and businesses. Retail, agritourism, and food-service operations have had to shut down. Agriculture commodity sales are disjointed due to extreme supply and demand swings. ACRE will be coordinated by the Georgia Grown Commodity Commission in partnership with governments, farmer associations, universities, and non-profits working collaboratively to address the effects of the COVID pandemic on the agricultural industry.	$1,732,423.00
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,883,068.21	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$150,645.21
Guam Department of Agriculture	$326,711.78	Guam Farmer Support and New Farmer Initiative Program	Department of Agriculture will conduct an assessment of the farming industry through an island-wide survey to ascertain the overall impact of the Pandemic. Through an outreach campaign, this project will encourage and promote new farmer initiatives while providing a wide range of technical field assistance. The project will incorporate best farm management practices to include production, post-harvest, and marketing.	$326,711.78
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$635,521.39	1. Increasing Hawaii's Access to Garlic Planting Material and Value-Added Products	The University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Services (CTAHR) will evaluate and demonstrate through applied field evaluations, workshops and field days, alternative planting material to increase the availability and quality of locally produced garlic for the State of Hawaii. The project looks to identify strategies that will make garlic seed material available locally and enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased access. It also looks to create a new industry in support of the developing garlic industry.	$40,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$635,521.39	2. Increasing Specialty-Crop-Seed-Security Through Training on Sustainable Practices in Seed Saving Techniques	In partnership with the University of Hawaii, this project aims to improve Hawaii's seed-security by conducting training workshops and field demonstrations on seeds saving techniques of major specialty crops. This will improve seeds availability locally and reduce the state reliance on the mainland companies for seeds to grow crops in Hawaii. The project also will help in increasing hiring opportunities locally to collect and process the harvested specialty crop seeds for future use.	$40,000.00
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$635,521.39	3. Iholena Initiative: Revitalizing Production of a Traditional Banana	Big Tree Farm dba Hawaii Banana Source will increase the production of Iholena, a specialty banana variety with promising characteristics for local culinary use, by establishing a network of commercial farm partners and technical experts to conduct a field trial of novel cultural practices and propagation techniques to mitigate disease pressure and maximize productivity. A production and propagation guide will capture the trial results and disseminate promising best practices to organic and other growers via field days, allowing for expanded production.	$40,000.00
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$635,521.39	4. Hawai'i Papahana Lā'au Kalikimaka (Christmas Tree Project), Locally Grown Potted Christmas Trees	The Hawaii Forest Institute proposes the following project to support increased production of Christmas trees, which are popular with local consumers and because they are mainly imported, the supply of trees was negatively impacted by the pandemic. The goal of this project is to expand a fledgling local Christmas tree industry which will lead to reduced imported container stock; reduced alien species introductions; and reduced workload of State Agricultural inspectors.	$40,000.00
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$635,521.39	5. Hawaiian Avocado Market Enhancements	Coxcor LLC, DBA Kane Plantation Avocados, with support from the Hawaii Avocado Association (HAA) will continue to improve the marketability of Hawaiian avocados by providing promotional material, specifically 'Point-of-Purchase' (POP) produce display bins, posters, and printed flyers, to promote the sale of Hawaiian avocados in retail stores. The project will also assist avocados growers to become food safety compliant by establishing an affordable USDA GroupGAP program that avocado growers may join to enable them to meet the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and customer vendor requirements, thereby enhancing the potential for establishing new markets and improving food safety.	$24,994.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$635,521.39	6. Roots Food Hub Mobile Market (FHMM)	Kokua Kalihi Valley's Comprehensive Family Services (KKV) Roots Food Hub will launch a Mobile Market Truck (FHMM) to expand the Hub's customer base, increase marketing, and support local farmers to build sustainable businesses. The Mobile Market will conduct direct-to-consumer sales, support EBT transactions and SNAP incentives, promote local farmers through marketing activities, and educate consumers about specialty crops grown in Hawaii. Expected outcomes include increased sales revenue for local fruits and vegetables, increased EBT sales indicative of greater access to healthy foods for low-income consumers, and the retention of Food Hub farm partners.	$40,000.00
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$635,521.39	7. Localicious Heroes	In the Localicious Heroes project, supported by the Hawaii Agricultural Foundation, high school students from Waianae High School's Seariders Production program will interview farmers and/or chefs to create and produce short videos (30 seconds– 2 minutes) that focus on Hawaii's specialty crops. These Localicious Heroes videos will feature local farmers and chefs teaching consumers about specialty crops and how to cook with specialty crops. The videos will be shared with more 24,000 subscribers on HAF's listserv and through social media platforms including Instagram and Facebook and will be available on HAF's YouTube channel and HAF website.	$20,000.00
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$635,521.39	8. Increasing the Consumption of Hawaii Fruits and Vegetables and Promote Nutrition to Hawaii Children	Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for this project and will partner with the entities that are eligible and will award the project under the procurement rules governing project partner selection. As with previous SCBGP grant cycles, the HDOA conducts a separate RFP for an administration project that recognizes a specialty crop that was not included in the STATE PLAN because the proposals reviewed 1) did not enhance the competitiveness of the specialty crop, or 2) provided profit to a single organization, institution or individual, or 3) were not in compliance with State Procurement Office rules, for example, showing an unresolved issue with state or federal taxes.	$340,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$635,521.39	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$50,527.39
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	1. Online Ordering Platform: Addressing Pandemic Aftershocks and Supply Chain Disruptions by Uniting Producers with Retailers	In response to disrupted supply chains and food access from COVID-19, FARE Idaho will implement an online ordering platform to match Idaho specialty crop producers with restaurants and retail buyers in the Treasure Valley, Wood River, and Magic Valley; offer online sales and transactions; and provide training for effective and strategic use of the platform. Our goal is to improve food access for specialty crop buyers and increase sales for Idaho specialty crop producers.	$66,098.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	2. Bringing Education to Idaho Wine Grape Growers & Wine Producers Post COVID-19	COVID-19 has greatly impacted the Idaho Wine industry's ability to provide education opportunities due to the inability to travel for the past two years, as well as lack of funding on the Grape and Wine Commission level and individual winery and/or vineyard level. With this grant we want to offer additional educational travel opportunities and bring educational opportunities to the state.	$100,000.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	3. Re-investing in Digital Communication in an Increasingly Virtual World	The Idaho Wine Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission is committed to helping wine grape growers, winemakers, and cideries in the state of Idaho produce the best quality wine and cider in the region. This project will focus on creating highly curated digital experiences, implement robust social media and email marketing strategies, and through these targeted efforts, will strengthen consumer and media knowledge of the Idaho wine industry, and expand sales and production within the region.	$250,000.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	4. Enhancing the Success of Specialty Crops at Idaho Famers Markets Impacted by Covid-19	Idaho Farmers Market Association will increase the resiliency of Idaho’s farmers markets and enhance opportunities for increased sales of specialty crops by providing one-on-one mentoring and training for market managers in recruiting and retaining specialty crop vendors, emergency preparedness planning, and risk management. In addition, member markets will have access to advertising funds to promote Idaho specialty crops and receive assistance and resources to increase access to and consumption of locally produced specialty crops at farmers markets statewide.	$50,300.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	5. Navigating COVID-19 Impacts Idaho Preferred Experience Agriculture Idaho Specialty Crop Promotion	Idaho Preferred®, an Idaho State Department of Agriculture program, will continue to successfully promote Idaho specialty crops with traditional and digital marketing strategies. Tactics include business-to-consumer (B2C) and business-to-business (B2B) promotions, resource-targeted advertising, and public relations.	$225,000.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	6. Color-Sorter Technology to Ensure High Quality Spice Mustard and Continued Grower Market Access	Idaho growers are experiencing market and shipping disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic; Mountain States Oilseeds LLC can defend our Idaho grower's long-standing mustard spice markets by installing seed color-sorting technology thereby protecting Idaho's reputation for the world's highest quality spice mustard.	$250,000.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	7. Increase Idaho's Craft Cidery Competitiveness, Quality, and Sales	The Northwest Cider Association (NWCA) will be the organization with the contractual relationship with the state and will lead and execute the project. The NWCA's engaged membership and robust programing can help Idaho cideries improve their cider quality, competitiveness, and grow their business.	$107,578.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	8. Increasing Efficiency of Packaging and Fulfillment of Specialty Crop Seeds through Improved Inventory Management Tools	In response to the growing demand for Snake River Seed Cooperative's (SRSC) specialty crop seeds, we will increase our capacity to process wholesale and online/retail orders by way of making efficient upgrades to the organizational systems in our office, including improvements to our order fulfillment tools, increased storage capacity, and quality and efficiency of packaging these specialty crop seeds.	$12,000.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	9.Crop Protection and Integrated Pest Management Training for Potato Production Post-Covid	The University of Idaho will identify gaps in knowledge, coordinate trainings and develop professional curricula specifically targeting integrated pest management (IPM) in the production of potatoes and seed potatoes.	$125,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	10. Gem Fruit Producers – Value Added Project	Gem Fruit Producers with general partner Lance Phillips from Gem Orchards will oversee the project. The Gem Fruit Producers will process fruit normally lost during the harvest season by dehydrating and freezing the unpicked fruit to be sold year-round. Equipment and signs will be installed and used by the co-op and will increase sustainability of the local orchard industry, while improving efficiency and reducing costs for raising profitable fruit and help with marketing of the fruit growers in Emmett.	$61,560.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	11. Global Gardens Development of New Refugee Farm Site at Spaulding Ranch, Boise	Global Gardens, a program of Jannus, will develop and maintain a 2-3-acre plot of land at Spaulding Ranch Farm Site in Boise. The historic farm is Boise's newest park and a working, teaching farm. In collaboration with the City of Boise, Global Gardens' farmers will cultivate specialty crops to bring to market through CSA, farmers markets and wholesale Food Hub. Spaulding Ranch will increase land access to at least four refugee farmers. The initial focus of the Specialty Grant will be preparing the acreage for planting by spring 2023 with soil enhancements and water systems.	$100,000.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	12. Modernize Sampling and Grading of Idaho Potatoes through processing facilities	The Idaho Potato Commission will hire a consulting firm to study how potato processing facilities in Idaho can modernize inspection processes through the incorporation of optics, robotics, molecular disease detection techniques, and machine learning to increase output. Incorporating new equipment, software, and other technologies to automate the sampling and grading process will result in objective, more consistent results, which will create more certainty for the processors and the growers. Implementation of a more efficient, automated sampling and grading process will reduce the number of inspectors at each processing facility, which, in turn, will create less labor-related issues and improve efficiency and facility throughput.	$544,800.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	13. Rotary-Spiral Sorting Technology to Ensure High Quality Spice Mustard and Continued Grower Market Access	Idaho grows mustard for spice, not oil. Idaho growers are experiencing market and shipping disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic; Mountain States Oilseeds LLC can defend our Idaho grower's long-standing mustard spice markets by installing rotary-spiral sorting technology, and thereby protecting Idaho's reputation for the world's highest quality spice mustard and providing growers with more marketable crop.	$307,829.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	14. Peeling Onions for Increased Consumption and Farm Sustainability	In response to COVID-19, Tamura Farms, Inc., is adding production square footage with COVID-19 workforce recommendations and an onion peeling machine to meet the growing demand of peeled onions to nationwide foodservice end users experiencing labor shortages and supply chain limitations, while increasing farm fiscal returns for area onion growers with product that normally is culled to meet Marketing Order 958 fresh pack quality standards.	$156,150.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,759,920.59	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$403,605.59
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$783,442.37	1. Educational Support, Outreach, and Marketing for Illinois Specialty Growers through conferences and a video library.	The Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA) will offer specialty crop farmers educational programs through their annual Illinois Specialty Crop Conference while building an industry-exclusive virtual resource library available to growers year-round.	$73,946.00
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$783,442.37	2. Flexible Vegetable Processing Line to Expand and Strengthen Illinois Specialty Crop Industry	Rock Creek Ventures, LLC will build a flexible processing line to provide Illinois Specialty Crop producers: An avenue for specialty crop producers to add value to their fruit or vegetable operations. Reduced barriers to entry for specialty crop producers to access new markets. Cost effective processing for specialty crop producers so their new products are competitive, and success is sustainable. Inspire specialty crop producers to expand their product offering through on-site field days and tours.	$75,000.00
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$783,442.37	3. Cost-Effective Off-the-Grid Water Harvesting System to Improve Profitability and Sustainability of Specialty Crops	Three Angels Family Farm will design, and build, a cost-effective off-the-grid water harvesting system to increase lavender crop establishment and decrease direct operational costs and provide a more sustainable and economical way to water lavender. The detailed designs and information and benefits will be disseminated to stakeholders through in- person field days and virtual field days.	$29,888.60

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$783,442.37	4. Leveraging Food System Collaboration to Increase Statewide Access to Specialty Crops Grown in Illinois	Building on years of shared experience and existing relationships, DeKalb County Community Gardens (DCCG) spearheaded the establishment of a statewide network in early 2021 for the betterment of specialty crop farmers and their associated regional supply chain stakeholders. This network, the Illinois Food System Collaborative (Collaborative), seeks to create opportunities for farmers and equitable access to specialty crops in Illinois by conducting an analysis of the regional supply chain, strategizing future regional investments, and serving as an ongoing convener and connector.	$74,600.00
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$783,442.37	5. Growing Community: Expanding our Community Farm for Enhanced Sustainable Fresh Food Production, Engagement and Consumption	Sola Gratia Farm plans to expand our offerings as a community farm with investment in additional crops including perennial fruits and nuts, both increasing our revenue stream, diversifying our offerings, and addressing food insecurity; as well as Allowing for an expansion of our educational programming.	$74,998.00
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$783,442.37	6. Strategies for Improving Biological Control of Insect Pests for Vegetable Growers Utilizing High Tunnels	The University of Illinois will utilize research high tunnels to examine strategies for improving the effectiveness of biological control measures against insect pests. The goal of this project is to investigate additional seasonal plantings that could be added to high tunnels to enhance pest control by natural enemies in tomato and pepper production.	$61,739.00
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$783,442.37	7. Increase Awareness of Illinois Grape Varietals, Grape Growing and Winemaking Careers	Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance (IGGVA) will Promote grape growing and winemaking as career choices. Promote both grape growers and winemakers by selecting 12 in each field to promote with photos and storytelling. Develop an Illinois Wine Month brand standards toolkit for dissemination to member wineries and vineyards, creating a uniform marketing approach for industry use in general, with specific emphasis each September during Illinois Wine Month.	$72,673.00
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$783,442.37	8. Illinois Department of Agriculture Expansion and Relaunch of the IL Product Program and Promotion of IL Specialty Crops	The Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Products program has been in existence for more than 30 years and is ready to be recharged and updated to meet current market trends and opportunities. After conducting market research, a campaign plan has been put together to grow the programs base, increase participants, and promote access, consumption, and support of Illinois specialty crops.	$315,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$783,442.37	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$5,597.78
Indiana State Department of Agriculture	$644,108.30	1. Hoosier Young Farmers Coalition Specialty Crop Mentorship Program	The Hoosier Chapter of the National Young Farmers Coalition will create a statewide mentorship program to connect experienced specialty crop farmers with beginning and under-represented farmers. Our mentorship program pairs Mentors and Mentees to learn, share knowledge, and build community with other specialty crop growers. The ten-week program starts with an on-farm kick-off event. Farmers will meet their Mentor/Mentee and build connections with their fellow mentors and mentees. Over the next ten weeks, each Mentor/Mentee pair will visit each other's farms and communicate weekly as they work through a Specialty Crop Grower Mentorship Handbook. The ten Mentor/Mentee pairs will gather one last time at a Wrap Up Gathering, to share what they've been learning from each other and what new skills and ideas they plan to implement on their farms in the coming year.	$128,031.98
Indiana State Department of Agriculture	$644,108.30	2. Snacks, Dips, and Salsas: Ready-to-Eat Veggies from Beginning Farmers	Wild Pansy Farm will create a Southern Indiana brand for ready-to-eat foods, derived from local specialty crops. During the project period, Wild Pansy Farm will coordinate with area regenerative farmers to create a line of locally sourced value-added products (sauces and dips), to be sold in Southern Indiana grocery stores. The success of this project will demonstrate the viability for future investment in a local vegetable processing facility, and the ability of such a business to rely on local farms to meet their production needs.	$151,936.10
Indiana State Department of Agriculture	$644,108.30	3. Building Equitable Local Food Systems and Increasing Access to Healthy Food and Neighborhood Ownership	Flanner House of Indianapolis will grow specialty crops (Collard Greens, Mustard Greens, Salad Greens and 2 types of tomatoes-heritage and heirloom) in three greenhouses in the Near NW Neighborhood of Indianapolis. We will train opportunity youth (16 to 24 year old's) who are out of school and out of work, as well as community residents, in applying aquaponic and hydroponic technologies.	$193,988.14

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Indiana State Department of Agriculture	$644,108.30	4. Specialty Crop Block Grant (COVID supplement)	At Ease Orchard is a non-profit 501C3 that supports equipping, training, and marketing assistance for Veterans, Military, First Responders, and their family in order for them to produce and market honey. This grant will focus on supporting beneficiary beekeepers that were impacted by lack of hands-on training due to COVID-19 and will highlight the safe production of honey for sale in the market. This grant will provide hands on visits, additional training, add beneficiaries, refresh honeybees that were lost due to lack of training, and grow better beekeepers. The desired outcome is over 40 beneficiaries capable of producing a regular supply of honey connected to selling their product thru farmers markets or military commissaries.	$131,625.76
Indiana State Department of Agriculture	$644,108.30	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$50,071.06
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$470,079.50	1. Researching and Piloting Regular Distribution Routes in Iowa's Food Hub Network	Allamakee New Beginning (dba Iowa Food Hub), in partnership with the Iowa Food Hub Managers Working Group (FHMWG), will research and pilot a route connecting food hubs and farmers across Iowa to strengthen infrastructure and increase sales of specialty crops. This project will identify and/or create a 3rd party distribution program to connect food hubs to each other and to additional farmers across the state. By having a regular, weekly distribution route, food hubs can access produce grown outside their region to sell to their local customers. More farmers will have access to a distribution network to sell their products. By increasing consistency and capacity in Iowa's local food distribution systems, this project will grow specialty crop markets.	$74,984.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$470,079.50	2. Identifying and Building Aggregation Nodes in Iowa's Food Hub Distribution Network	Iowa Food Hub Managers Working Group partners collaborate every week to cross-dock, deliver or store each other's products to ensure the success of each other and build customers for their own vendors across Iowa. At least $60,000 in Iowa produce is cross docked annually just at the Iowa Food Coop in Des Moines. Yet, while cross-docking is critical to moving Iowa farm products to larger markets, the network's capacity for cross-docking and storage is currently minimal. The Working Group would like to strengthen and expand nodes for aggregation and cross docking so that more farmers across Iowa can benefit from a robust distribution network.	$75,000.00
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$470,079.50	3. Increasing Fruit and Vegetable Sales in Iowa Farmers Markets, Farm Stands, and CSA's	The Iowa Healthiest State Initiative will recruit farmers markets, farm stands and/or CSA's that do not currently accept payment from customers utilizing SNAP EBT or DUFB as payment. The selected locations will receive technical assistance and financial support from the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative to increase each market's capacity for implementation of SNAP and DUFB including help with SNAP and DUFB program authorization and implementation, sustainability planning for the farmers market and associated programs, and digital marketing support and strategies to engage new customers that may be interested in using SNAP EBT and nutrition incentives to purchase specialty crops at the farmers market or farm stand locations.	$149,040.00
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$470,079.50	4. 2023 Iowa Commercial Horticulture Survey for Edible Food Crops to Understand Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Specialty Crop Producers	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will determine how to best support specialty crop producers in Iowa by conducting a survey to understand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on specialty crop farm viability and financial health, collecting novel data as well as data comparable to a survey conducted in 2015 for longitudinal analysis.	$140,418.70
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$470,079.50	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$30,636.80

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$449,908.70	1. Children1st Fresh Food Matters	Over twelve months, Children First CEO Kansas (Children1st) and its partners will increase knowledge of specialty crops to low-income, mostly minority students, their families, and the neighbors through educational programs in three low-income neighborhoods located in Sedgwick County. Partners in the project include Farm Shop LLC, Wichita State University AmeriCorps Program, USD259 School District, and the Catholic School District.	$66,280.00
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$449,908.70	2. Kansas' First American Viticultural Area (AVA) Petition Project [KAVAP]	The Kansas Viticulture and Farm Winery Association (KVFWA) aims to increase competitiveness and sales of specialty crop businesses that support the wine industry in Northeast Kansas by conducting research and submitting a petition to US Department of the Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) to create an American Viticultural Area (AVA). The expectation is that the perfected petition will delineate an AVA generally located in Northeast Kansas.	$31,196.00
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$449,908.70	3. Helping Kansas Farmers Fill Students' Food Plates with Fruits and Vegetables	The Kansas Rural Center will work with partners to create a comprehensive and accessible resource hub for all specialty crop stakeholders interested in Farm to School across the state. The resource hub will include a statewide cohesive Farm to School marketing campaign, as well as the tools and skills to help specialty crop producers and schools/early childhood education centers build sustaining Farm to School partnerships. These tasks will work towards the outcome that all Kansas youth have access to healthful foods in school meals, regardless of upsets to the supply chain, and that school procurement practices prioritize local specialty crops, ultimately strengthening market opportunities for specialty crop producers and building a more equitable and resilient regional food system.	$51,172.08
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$449,908.70	4. Building Networking: Grower Connectivity toward Meeting Evolving Market Opportunities	The goal of Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association (KSCGA) in this proposal is to develop an online networking platform for Kansas growers to augment efforts to address current food access, availability, and supply concerns.	$37,755.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$449,908.70	5. Exploring Cowpea Production for Western Kansas – Resilience through diverse cropping options	Kansas State University proposes a pilot project to establish baseline recommendations for cowpea production in western Kansas. The proposed pilot project will evaluate a wide range of genetics for adaptability to western Kansas and explore the basic bounds of production practices as it specifically relates to inoculation, seeding rates, and planting dates. Extension activities will communicate findings to potential cowpea growers.	$33,793.00
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$449,908.70	6. Enhancing Specialty Crop Farmer Competitiveness Statewide Through Online Education and Mentorship	K-State Research and Extension will lead a collaborative group of specialty crop growers, educators, and not-for-profit farms through an established network surrounding the Growing Growers Kansas City Program. We will develop an online course to train beginning and socially disadvantaged specialty crop farmers.	$54,194.00
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$449,908.70	7. Evaluating Electrostatic Spraying to Improve Food Contact Surface Disinfection and Produce Safety and Quality	Kansas State Research and Extension will evaluate the efficacy of electrostatic spraying technology for disinfection of food contact surfaces and for postharvest treatment of produce. The overall goal is to determine the effectiveness of commercially- available electrostatic sprayers using the recommended dosage of commonly used food-grade sanitizers (chlorine and Peracetic acid).	$66,705.00
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$449,908.70	8. Controlling the Growth of Foodborne Pathogens in Soil-Substitute Microgreen Production Systems	Kansas State University is proposing a project to use titanium dioxide (TiO2) as disinfection step to reduce the risk of foodborne pathogens contamination during microgreen production; thus, improving safety and quality, and making this specialty crop sustainable, more affordable, and attractive to consumers. TiO2 has been used to inactivate microorganisms through photocatalytic generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS).	$56,679.00
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$449,908.70	9. Increasing Prairieland Market Off-Season Specialty Crop Value-Added Products	Prairieland Food Coop, Inc., dba Prairieland Market, is a food cooperative with a retail store, CSA program, and inhouse prepared foods (soups, casseroles, sides, snacks, etc.). Prairieland will expand its programs to offer value-added specialty crop products in the off-season. It will teach its volunteers and the public how to preserve and prolong the freshness of local specialty crops for year-round use and will promote and market these programs and products using expanded traditional, social, and digital media.	$39,243.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$449,908.70	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$12,891.22
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$463,571.71	1. University of Kentucky- Integrating Post-Covid Cut Flower Demand into Market Education	Through this project the Center for Crop Diversification, the University of Kentucky will work with selected partners to evaluate the changing market condition for cut flowers in Kentucky during the post-covid period, integrate this information into a Cut Flower Marketing School, and support a cut flower on-line marketing promotion program to complement the growing focus of on-line engagement by cut flower farms.	$75,730.00
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$463,571.71	2. Kentucky Vegetable Growers- Kentucky Specialty Crop Producers' Learning Academy	The Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association (KVGA) and Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) will develop and launch a virtual learning academy to provide an online learning system for specialty crop growers in Kentucky. Courses will be led by educators, farmers, and farming experts with in-depth knowledge of the subject matter.	$66,167.46
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$463,571.71	3. American Farmland Trust- Enhancing the Competitiveness of Kentucky Winter Squash Production Through Sustainable Practices	American Farmland trust intends to increase the economic viability of growing squash and help Kentucky farmers be more competitive in the marketplace by determining which crop production methods produce higher yields, improve soil health, and increase net farm income on five farms across the state. We will be trialing several novel crop production methods throughout this project. As a result, AFT will provide significant technical assistance, monitor farmer progress, and assist in mitigation and rescue cultivation on the farms. We will seek assistance from the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension and/or Horticulture Department when necessary. This grant will help make winter squash more economically viable for Kentucky vegetable farmers and increase consumer access for locally grown foods in the winter.	$50,110.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$463,571.71	4. Kentucky State University- Addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Kentucky Organic Agriculture Sector	Kentucky State University will run a project that will address three primary issues: 1) A lack of information on organic agriculture certification and production practices as well as information on careers in other aspects of organic agriculture, such as inspection, being made available to minority stakeholders in Kentucky; 2) A lack of information on barriers inhibiting adoption of organic agriculture by minority producers in Kentucky; 3) A lack of Black and other minority farmers producing organic specialty crops within the state of Kentucky and by extension a lack of access to organic specialty crops among Black and other minority consumers; 4) A lack of minority inspectors in organic agriculture in Kentucky.	$60,010.00
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$463,571.71	5. University of Kentucky- Characterizing Nutrient Disorders and Developing a Multi-access Compendium for Vegetable Transplants	The University of Kentucky seeks to characterize nutrient disorders of popular vegetable genera and cultivars grown in Kentucky; develop a multi-access online diagnostics key; and prepare an all-in-one nutrient disorder compendium to assist growers in identifying and mitigating nutrient disorders of vegetable transplants destined for conventional and organic production fields, gardens, high tunnels, and greenhouses.	$65,257.00
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$463,571.71	6. University of Kentucky Research Foundation- Organic Strawberries: Production of Plugs & Low Tunnel Fruit	The University of Kentucky will run a project that will focus on production of organic strawberries in both low and high tunnels. Tunnels are one method to produce high quality berries with an earlier fruiting window.	$52,921.00
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$463,571.71	7. Community Farmers Market- Strengthening Specialty Crop Access Through Safe and Efficient Supply Chains	The Community Farmers Market plans to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops for farmers in South Central Kentucky through direct-to-consumer sales and wholesale chains such as food pantries, schools, restaurants, retail stores and co-ops. This will be done by enhancing the consumption of at least 18 specialty crops throughout the four-year grant period.	$74,632.00
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$463,571.71	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$18,744.25

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry	$542,919.08	1. Advertising Campaign to Increase Louisiana Specialty Crops Sales Affected by Pandemic Related Conditions	The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry will develop and implement a statewide advertising campaign focused on increasing sales of specialty crop produce sold in Louisiana to address the decline in sales experienced since the onset of COVID-19. Sales of fresh specialty crop produce have been negatively affected due to consumer purchasing patterns brought on by pandemic conditions and the Department plans to establish a targeted advertising and marketing campaign to increase specialty crop sales that will focus on informing the public of the availability of fresh specialty crops, the preparation of such and the nutritional benefits of adding these fresh produce options to their diet.	$479,485.56
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry	$542,919.08	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$63,433.52
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$809,567.26	1. Business of Farming: Improving Profitability and Sustainability of Small-Scale Wild Blueberry Growers	Over the course of two years, Maine Farmland Trust will work with a cohort of 10 small-scale wild blueberry growers who are innovating new business models, products, and markets for better profitability and sustainability.	$100,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$809,567.26	2. Enhancing Consumer Education and Markets of Pure Maine Maple Syrup	The Maine Maple Producers Association (MMPA) will increase sales and consumption of Maine maple syrup through the improved branding and advertising of Maine Pure Maple Syrup. This project will aggregate existing data related to the health benefits, ecologically sound production practices, cultural relevance, and the wide diversity of uses of maple products, paired with results from past maple consumer survey data, to create targeted marketing tools aimed at the more than 35 million tourists who travel to Maine each year, in addition to Maine residents. These tools will include newly developed videos, social media resources, and other maple promotional materials and will be housed and shared through an on-line marketing toolkit. These marketing resources will be used by both MMPA and individual producers throughout the year for the promotion of maple events, which draw both existing maple consumers and untapped maple consumers into direct-to-consumer sales.	$100,000.00
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$809,567.26	3. Maine Soil Health Technical Assistance Project	The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association will improve soil health on at least 300 farms in Maine through the “Maine Soil Health Project,” by providing multiple soil health resources (including financial), increasing knowledge about the importance of soil health to the future productivity of Maine’s farms, and by helping farmers adopt critical and timely soil health practices. The program will establish a central Soil Health Resource Hub, a series of educational workshops and farm tours, technical assistance (TA), and administration of a farmer grant that will award 17 farmers approximately $5,000 each to implement practices on their farms.	$100,000.00
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$809,567.26	4. New Approaches to Identify and Control Fungal Diseases of Wild Blueberry	This University of Maine project will develop new methods to identify emerging and existing pathogens of wild blueberries and develop and implement new methods of control for these diseases. This project will enhance the sustainability of the wild blueberry industry by providing growers with information to identify pathogens affecting their fields and the methods to control these diseases. Growers will be surveyed at educational sessions to determine their interest in adoption of the recommended disease management strategies developed in this program.	$73,862.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$809,567.26	5. Diversifying Maine Vegetable Farms with Enhanced Celery Production	University of Maine's Cooperative Extension at the Highmoor Farm research station will expand and diversify the Maine vegetable market by evaluating improved celery varieties and cultural practices in a replicated trial for their effects on quality, yield, consumer preference, and storability. On-farm demonstration plots will also be installed to introduce farmers to new varieties and alternative growing practices. Results will be shared with Maine farmers at the 2022 Highmoor Farm field day, in Winter 2022-23 state and regional grower meetings, and through Extension and academic publications.	$68,058.00
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$809,567.26	6. Breeding Cold Hardy Peaches for Maine	The University of Maine's Highmoor Farm will breed new cold hardy peach varieties to reduce risk of winter injury and increase the feasibility of commercial peach production in Maine. The challenge of low seed germination rates common to peach breeding will be overcome by embryo rescue, a technique in which seeds are ripened and germinated in sterile culture. This approach will increase the likelihood of developing high quality, hardy varieties of peaches for Maine.	$12,720.00
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$809,567.26	7. Wild Blueberry Weekend: Building Consumer Loyalty for Maine Wild Blueberries Through Agritourism	The Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine is building upon a successful 2021 Maine Wild Blueberry Weekend, establishing the weekend as an annual Maine agritourism event where visitors will Eat. Drink. Experience. the Maine wild blueberry brand. In 2021, earned media coverage surrounding the event reached millions nationally, driving consumer awareness, education, and loyalty and bringing an estimated 5,000 visitors to 14 wild blueberry farms across the State. In 2022, the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine proposes implementing lessons learned in 2021 to grow and improve event promotions, reaching a wider audience and doubling the number of participating farms.	$100,000.00
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$809,567.26	8. Market Expansion Support for Maine Agritourism Operators	Agricultural Resources Development Division of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry will help Maine agritourism operators and farms to enhance their risk management planning.	$50,900.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$809,567.26	9. Healthy Fruit and Vegetable Educational and Marketing	The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Division of Agricultural Resource Development will create new educational and publicity materials to promote consumption of Maine-grown fruits and vegetables. This will include document translation, in-person interpretation, seasonality brochures, publicity via various forms of media (including radio and newspaper), and cooking classes & videos. Many of these materials will be targeted toward increasing consumption of Maine-grown fruits and vegetables amongst Maine senior citizens, but all materials will be available and usable for across age span.	$42,000.00
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$809,567.26	10. Promoting Maine Specialty Crops via Video Promotion Project	In order to promote the sale of Maine specialty crop fruits and vegetables both within Maine and across the region, the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry will work with a professional marketing firm to continue to develop a series of educational videos and public service announcements for use on television, internet, and social media. The series will educate consumers about what specialty crops are grown in Maine, where to purchase them, and the value of selecting locally grown. The project will benefit the small growers who raise a variety of crops, and we'll work to ensure it supports the messaging of the larger grower/producer groups.	$92,262.00
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$809,567.26	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$69,765.38

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Maryland Department of Agriculture	$642,545.47	1. Cost Share Reimbursement of Equipment Purchases and/or Improvement for Food Safety Implementation	The Maryland Department of Agriculture will provide cost share reimbursement to specialty crop growers who purchase and/or improve equipment, tools, or technologies in order to implement food safety practices on their farm that help to mitigate food safety risk and meet the requirements of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and Harmonized GAP/GHP Standards. The project will address specialty crop grower's food safety needs by providing cost share reimbursement for the purchase or improvement of tools, or technologies in order to meet the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements and Harmonized GAP/GHP Standards. Growers that are fully covered by the rule need to have tools that are of adequate design, construction, and workmanship to enable them to be adequately clean and properly maintain so that it is not a source of potential contamination. Instruments or controls must be accurate, precise, and adequately maintained.	$373,915.00
Maryland Department of Agriculture	$642,545.47	2. Maryland's Best - Promoting Maryland Specialty Crops to Consumers and Distributors	Maryland specialty crop producers compete against worldwide suppliers of specialty crops. The Maryland Department of Agriculture will build upon existing State assets to distinguish local products from the competition to consumers and distributors through a new website and a new marketplace of promotional products to be used as marketing aides for producers.	$212,205.00
Maryland Department of Agriculture	$642,545.47	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$56,404.00
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$607,789.89	1. Increasing Environmental Justice Population Communities' Knowledge About, Access to, and Consumption of Locally Grown Specialty Crops	Grow Food Northampton and partner Northampton Survival Center, through their joint Community Food Distribution Project, will decrease pandemic-related food insecurity amongst Environmental Justice Population communities in Northampton, MA by increasing the communities' knowledge about, access to, and consumption of nutritious locally grown specialty crops. By promoting increased purchase and consumption of locally grown produce, this project will raise up the local economy with a targeted focus on procurement from socially disadvantaged and beginning specialty crop farmers, as well as other local farmers, chefs, restaurants, farm stands, and retail mark	$73,914.45

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$607,789.89	2. North Central MA Food Hub Project - Growing Specialty Crop Culture	Growing Places seeks to create a buy-local culture in our region by building upon the North Central MA Food Hub project's momentum, a comprehensive food system assessment conducted in the 27 communities of North Central MA, and to address the inequities further exposed and exacerbated because of COVID-19 in the local food system.	$80,030.00
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$607,789.89	3. Increasing Institutional Purchases of Minimally Processed Massachusetts Grown Specialty Crops	Health Care Without Harm's Increasing institutional purchases of minimally processed Massachusetts grown specialty crops will promote the year-round availability of locally sourced produce to institutions, creating new markets for Massachusetts grown specialty crops.	$89,212.00
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$607,789.89	4. Hilltown Community Farm Share distributed via the Hilltown Mobile Market	Hilltown Community Development seeks to expand sales of – and access to – specialty crops grown in the Hilltowns by the marketing, promotion and delivery of a farm share aggregating produce from 8-10 local small-scale farms.	$73,756.00
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$607,789.89	5. Increasing Sales of Specialty Crops through Promotional Email Marketing and Social Media Channels	The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Division of Ag Markets will initiate a year-long specialty crop marketing campaign by creating targeted professional quality promotional content for specialty crops on a seasonally appropriate basis that will be disseminated through monthly emails and weekly sponsored posts on MDAR's various social media channels, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram	$50,000.00
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$607,789.89	6. Re-Fresh and Recover: Healthy Kids and Healthy Classrooms After COVID-19	Massachusetts Farm to School will provide farm to school professional development to school nutrition professionals in three communities that experienced disproportionate impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, including significant increases in childhood food insecurity.	$60,989.00
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$607,789.89	7. Growing and Preserving Culturally Appropriate Produce in Springfield's Tapley Court Community Garden	Building on successful existing collaborations, NOFA/Mass (the Massachusetts Chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association) will work with youth leaders and other community members in Springfield on a project that combines urban organic farming and gardening with food preservation to increase nutrition knowledge, availability of culturally appropriate vegetable crops, and food access.	$74,787.63

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$607,789.89	8. Substrate Water Content Management in Vegetative Cutting Propagation	The University of Massachusetts will improve water management and rooting success of vegetative cuttings during propagation by using substrate water content to control irrigation.	$56,477.62
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	1. Developing Regional Specialty Crop Supply Chain Connections and Innovations to Support 10 Cents a Meal Grantees	The Michigan Department of Education, in collaboration with the Michigan Farm to Institution Network (MFIN), submits this proposal to increase specialty crop purchases and solve specialty crop supply chain challenges, by supporting schools receiving 10 Cents a Meal grants. This project will lean on project partners' deep farm to institution experience, including working with specialty crop producers on product promotion and education and with school food service directors on local food purchasing and relationship building with farmers and food vendors. We expect to achieve several measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry: development of new farmer and buyer relationships, increasing the number of new farm to institution purchases, increasing awareness of Michigan specialty crop producers for institutional buyers and increasing specialty crop sales to institutions.	$123,844.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	2. Developing a Competitive Brand for Michigan Wine to Sustain Grape Sales	The Michigan Wine Collaborative (MWC), a non-profit organization representing Michigan grape growers and wineries, will develop a cohesive brand and implement a strategic marketing campaign to elevate wines made with Michigan-grown grapes and enhance their competitiveness through sustained grape sales and increased access to Michigan wine.	$125,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	3. Orchard Innovations to Sustain Michigan Peach/Nectarine Industry Profitability	The Michigan State Horticultural Society (MSHS), in partnership with Michigan State University's (MSU) AgBioResearch horticultural scientists and Extension educators, is developing and refining state-of-the-art peach and nectarine grower production system techniques that are up to 40% more labor efficient for harvest, can facilitate potential mechanization of some production tasks such as flower thinning and hedging, and are significantly more uniform in sunlight exposure to improve fruit quality, consistency, and uniformity of ripening. This will result in increased adoption of techniques to enhance profitability and sustainability, potentially expand production, and provide more consistent high-quality fruit for Michigan consumers.	$90,526.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	4. Diversifying Market Channels to Increase Competitiveness for Beginning and Historically Underserved Specialty Crop Producers	Michigan Food and Farming Systems will offer diversification, marketing, produce safety education and technical assistance to increase the competitiveness of beginning and historically underserved specialty crop producers. This will be accomplished through the creation of guides, webinars, videos, templates, and technical assistance, in English and Spanish. Outreach and education will be tailored for specialty crop producers and include produce safety, selling wholesale vs retail, marketing best practices, as well as hearing directly from food hubs about specifications they require. The project will also provide continued support for food hubs on options for food safety certification and economic benefits that come with certification.	$123,268.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	5. Specialty Crop Market and Festival Tour	The Michigan Ag Council (MAC) will raise awareness of specialty crops as healthy meal options by providing demonstrations and media interviews on how to prepare dishes featuring specialty crops while also promoting the Michigan GROWN, Michigan GREAT campaign throughout the state of Michigan to increase sales of locally grown food among consumers.	$125,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	6. Developing Export-Ready Pest Management Programs for Michigan Blueberries	The Michigan Blueberry Commission will lead this project to facilitate export of blueberries from Michigan by developing and validating in-season and post-harvest pest control techniques to manage Michigan blueberries to meet export requirements. The project will combine demonstration and evaluation of the current protocols at commercial farm scale with development of post-harvest protocols that allow shippers to maintain fruit quality during transportation to their destination. Our project will partner with Michigan State University to test new monitoring methods for quarantine pests in commercial blueberry farms, to test export-ready pest management programs in commercial fields, and to monitor pesticide residues at harvest to determine the residue levels in relation to international limits.	$100,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	7. Sustainable Christmas Tree Production: A Training Program for New and Current Christmas Tree Producers.	The Michigan Christmas Tree Association will develop a series of training programs for new and current Christmas tree growers in Michigan in collaboration with Michigan State University.	$77,315.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	8. Raising Michigan Apple Brand Awareness through Online Engagement with Consumers	The Michigan Apple Committee is continuing our efforts to increase consumer awareness and market penetration through online engagement with our target audience. This grant project is a top priority for the Michigan Apple Committee. The project will build engagement with consumers to drive a deeper connection to the brand, resulting in increased apple movement in the retail marketplace.	$125,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	9. Building Resilience in MI Celery: Strategies for Weed, Nematode, and Fertility Management	Michigan Celery Research, Inc., in cooperation with Michigan State University, seeks to develop novel cultural and technological strategies to address critical challenges to the resilience of celery production in northern production regions. This project will develop integrated research-based practical recommendations for control of emerging weed and nematode pests, effective integration of novel cover crops into production systems, use of drone technologies for crop and fertility management, and celery variety development/selection for early-season production.	$100,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	10. Improving Agricultural Sustainability by Improving Health for Migrant and Immigrant Food Workers	Migrant Legal Aid (MLA) is planning a two-year program to educate migrant and immigrant food workers as well as clinicians who serve migrant and immigrant food workers. The purpose of this program is to improve the health and safety of migrant and immigrant workers in Michigan's food supply chain. The education program will cover three core topics: 1) COVID-19 safety, vaccine access, and acceptance; 2) Recent improvements to the Worker Protection Standard (pesticide safety regulations and reporting mandates); and 3) Migrant and immigrant food workers' occupational injury/illness prevention.	$56,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	11. Inspire Michigan Tart Cherry New Food and Beverage Innovations	The Cherry Marketing Institute (CMI) will partner with Weber Shandwick to educate food and beverage product developers on the many benefits that Montmorency tart cherries can offer as an ingredient in new product innovations, thus driving demand for the Michigan-grown superfruit. Knowing many food and beverage product developers turn to trends for inspiration when choosing ingredients for new products, CMI will utilize new data and trend reports that identify tart cherries as a red-hot ingredient for innovations.	$125,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	12. Potato Nutrition Messaging to Address Food Insecure Audiences in Michigan	In this project the Michigan Potato Industry Commission (MPIC) will work to deliver valuable potato nutritional messaging and creative inspiration to address food insecure audiences in the state food system. By targeting key identified audiences through digital media, the messaging and creative will focus on the nutritional benefits of Michigan potatoes, and Michigan potatoes as an accessible, affordable, and easy way for everyone to participate in a modern healthy lifestyle, while also including recipes that inspire cooking at home with simple, locally grown ingredients. Our goal of this project is to increase awareness of Michigan Potatoes as a nutrient-dense, healthy, and accessible food while educating these audiences how to prepare healthy, budget friendly potato recipes.	$120,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	13. Supporting Specialty Crop Growers in Promoting Leadership and Food Safety Certifications While Upskilling Their Workforce	Area Community Services and Training Council (ACSET) will increase food safety and improve workforce retention by coordinating leadership and safety training in multiple industry recognized certifications for specialty crop growers in our seven-county region and disseminating information about the importance of food safety in agribusiness careers to other stakeholders.	$123,540.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	14. Support Michigan Tart Cherry Industry by Increasing Demand for Superfruit Among Food and Beverage Developers	To grow demand for the Montmorency tart cherries industry, the Cherry Marketing Institute (CMI) will leverage pandemic-fueled health and wellness trends to inspire food and beverage manufacturers to choose tart cherries as a key superfruit ingredient in new functional products, ultimately supporting the Michigan-grown specialty crop. With the influx of less-expensive imported tart cherries & increased demand for functional innovations, CMI will show the value Michigan tart cherries provide by highlighting scientific research specific to the U.S-grown Montmorency varietal to position the category as the ideal superfruit ingredient for new products.	$125,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	15. Next Generation Eastern Market Wholesale Distribution & Processing Center	To grow its wholesale market and expand opportunities for Michigan specialty crop growers, Eastern Market Corporation will engage a consultant firm and many stakeholders in a research and planning project for the development of a new wholesale distribution and processing center for Michigan Crops to be located at Eastern Market in Detroit.	$68,500.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	16. Sustaining the Diversity of Specialty Crops in Michigan Through the Great Lakes Expo	The Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo (GL Expo) strives to provide the best educational and networking opportunities for specialty crop growers and specialty crop companies. This project will deliver improved educational sessions, updated trade show opportunities and improved marketing for better awareness of the help available at the Great Lakes Expo. This will be accomplished through the hiring of a professional trade show consultant and speaker who will present relevant education, evaluate the Expo as a whole, and deliver actionable results to the Expo board.	$83,200.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	17. Great Lakes Hops Collaborative Grow Group Initiative	Great Lakes Hops has created a stable framework for sustainable hop production in the Great Lakes region. Our program utilizes exciting new hop cultivars from our in-house breeding program as the central theme around which we are creating, branding, and promoting regional cooperative hubs of hop farmers in conjunction with certified hop resellers, quality processors and brewery dry goods suppliers. This unique proprietary portfolio of hops has been bred and evaluated specifically for Midwest growth performance offering grow group members a competitive advantage through increased yields, shared farming practices, new sales channels, and a uniquely marketable final product. This framework enhances working relationships between all sizes of hop farms, increases product quality standards, allows farms to react to market changes and demands more effectively and increases these farms' ability to be competitive.	$85,800.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	18. #1 Social Media Marketing to Raise Brand Awareness of Michigan Apples	The Michigan Apple Committee is continuing efforts to increase consumer brand awareness and apple consumption through online engagement with our target audience. This grant project is a top priority for the Michigan Apple Committee. MAC proposes to spend $125,000 on a consumer brand awareness campaign using social media marketing tactics to educate consumers and increase demand for Michigan Apples. The project will build engagement with consumers to drive a deeper connection to the brand, resulting in increased apple movement in the retail marketplace	$125,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	19. Trade Advertising and Retail Outreach for Marketing Michigan Apples	A key goal in Michigan Apple Committee's strategic plan is to increase market penetration of Michigan Apples. An important component of this is marketing outreach and trade advertising to connect with retail partners. MAC proposes to spend $75,000 to increase sales of Michigan Apples by engaging with retail partners through targeted outreach, resources, and ads in trade publications.	$75,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	20. Michigan Asparagus for the Digital World	Significant numbers of consumers moved to online grocery shopping during the COVID pandemic and data shows this trend continues – more than 45% of shoppers -- even as the COVID pandemic has waned. The Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board (MAAB), through a contract with FullTilt Marketing (a marketing agency that specializes in fresh produce marketing) will grow fresh market demand through a focus on omni channel marketing which is a series of digital marketing tools incorporated throughout the digital space. It will provide education and purchase triggers for Michigan asparagus during the in-season sales window.	$124,990.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	21. Developing Cider Making Expertise for the Michigan Apple Industry	The Michigan Cider Association will partner with the Cider Institute of North America to enhance the competition, expertise, and economic impact of the Michigan cider industry through cider production education. This project will focus on developing and delivering professional-level cider fruit educational opportunities to enhance the competition of the Michigan apple industry through increased knowledge and skills. MCA will work with CINA, Michigan State University, and additional partners to build and expand upon current training opportunities. The goal of this project is to build expertise in the Michigan apple and cider industries through education about science-based tools for fermentation and advanced techniques for consistent, quality cider products.	$123,648.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	22. Top Ten MI Nursery Weeds: Optimum Controls in MI New Crops	The Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) will establish effective, environmentally responsible control programs for the top ten nursery field weeds to reduce menial labor which is scarce due to COVID-19, support skilled job creation, produce nontraditional crops normally trucked to MI, and foster revenue generation. The objectives of this trial are to evaluate seven liquid herbicides using in-season and winter dormant applications on non-traditional MI nursery crops.	$99,411.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	23. Building Relationships and Communicating Michigan Potatoes as a Key Healthy, Available, and Affordable Ingredient	In this project the Michigan Potato Industry Commission (MPIC) will work to deliver valuable nutrition education, and inspiration on how to better utilize Michigan potatoes as an affordable and versatile ingredient to food insecure audiences across Michigan, with a key focus on Metro-Detroit. Our goal of this project is to increase awareness of Michigan Potatoes as a healthy, nutrient dense, and highly accessible food while also providing education on how to prepare healthy, budget friendly, potato recipes.	$120,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	24. Educating Families About Hydroponic Farming by Getting Kids Excited to Eat More Greens	Revolution Farms and parents across the Midwest want kids to eat more salads. It's among the easiest way for families to serve vegetables to a whole family. While Revolution Farms has focused its efforts on educating parents, the time has come to engage kiddos. Taking marketing cues from other popular food industries, Revolution Farms will produce a series of "edu-taining," anthropomorphized lettuce characters, represented through a series of in package stickers to draw children into lettuce and salad greens. Every sticker package will include a QR code that links to an educational site that provides additional information about lettuce types, health benefits, hydroponic growing, agriculture, and kid-friendly recipes.	$67,894.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,587,724.47	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$67,599.44
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	1. Produce Safety Rule Continuing Education and Community Specific Engagement	The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will help produce growers understand the FSMA Produce Safety Rule by offering multi-lingual continuing education related to the rule, and evaluation of those services for continuous improvement. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture Produce Safety Program (PSP) will offer continuing education for produce farmers related to the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. This continuing education will be offered in coordination with the University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota Farmers Market Association (MFMA), Hmong American Farmers Association (HAFA), Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC), and other community organizations as needs are identified.	$100,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	2. Investigating Spread and Sustainable Management Practices for the Invasive Swede Midge in Minnesota	University of Minnesota researchers will investigate the extent of swede midge spread in Minnesota; find sustainable, non-pesticidal methods to prevent swede midge damage to broccoli crops; and prepare commercial growers to respond to this emerging pest. Swede midge is a major insect pest in brassicas, which include canola, broccoli, cauliflower, and kale.	$146,346.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	3. Wholesale Readiness Training for Farmers	Comprehensive wholesale readiness training will prepare produce farmers who have been direct marketing to consumers to make the leap to wholesale, diversifying their marketing mix and increasing produce availability in local food systems. The Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA) at the University of Minnesota will lead this project. Three University of Minnesota Extension specialists will provide training and coaching in their areas of expertise: enterprise budgeting, marketing mix analysis, on-farm food safety GAPs (Good Agricultural Practices), and vegetable production.	$117,194.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	4. Wholesale and Hunger Relief: Expanding a New Market Channel for Emerging Farmers	The Good Acre (TGA) is working to connect BIPOC growers in MN with markets where they have historically been excluded, expanding the diversity of producers represented in these markets and increasing consumer access to high-quality, locally grown produce.	$146,258.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	5. Developing a Bilingual Bicultural Post-Harvest Training Program for Small-Scale Hmong Farmers	This project focuses on developing a bilingual, bicultural post-harvest training program to build the capacity of small-scale, immigrant Hmong and BIPOC farmers to implement best practices, extend produce shelf life, and expand market opportunities. The Hmong American Farmers Association (HAFA) will implement a bilingual, bicultural training and research program on best practices for post-harvest handling techniques to maximize produce shelf life and increase earning potential for immigrant and first-generation Hmong farmers and other BIPOC farmers.	$36,172.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	6. Developing a Seedless Acer Ginnala (Amur maple) to Replace the Non-Native and Invasive Cultivars	Amur maple is very popular with nurseries and consumers, but it is a non-native invasive plant causing environmental damage, this proposal will select and test seedless Amur maple trees for development of alternative non-invasive cultivars. This project by the University of Minnesota will select, propagate, and evaluate seedless Amur maple trees for development of non-invasive varieties of this popular landscape tree.	$76,288.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	7. Training & Demonstration of Sustainable Techniques & Perennials for Beginning, Emerging Farmers	Through its Big River Farms training program and organic incubator farm, The Food Group will educate beginning, socially disadvantaged farmers in organic vegetable production, with new curriculum and demonstration plots focused on perennial crops. The primary outcome of this project will be that 184 beginning, emerging farmers will learn techniques to improve sustainable production of specialty crops, including adoption of best practices such as incorporation of perennials that will make their farm businesses more resilient, diverse, and profitable. 184 farmers will learn about organic vegetable production and how to incorporate perennials into their farms to reduce input costs, improve soil health, and access new markets.	$149,485.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	8. Organic Vegetable Production and Farm Business Training for Emerging Immigrant Farmers	This project focuses on training small-scale, immigrant African farmers on farm management and vegetable production skills, which increases regional availability of produce and improves farmers' economic livelihood. A Kilimo Minnesota is a non-profit organic incubator farm in Cambridge, Minnesota founded in 2020 by organic vegetable farmers Moses and Lonah Momanyi of Dawn2Dusk Farm. With this sub-grant, Kilimo Minnesota would like to provide two and a half years of one-on-one mentorship, farming infrastructure, and formal classroom-based training to 15 emerging African immigrant farmers.	$72,213.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	9. Optimizing Soil Microbiome Management for Potato Soil Health and Productivity	This project by the University of Minnesota will be optimizing potato soil microbiomes using soil management practices to better understand the relationship between microbial diversity, function, and biomass as well as soil carbon diversity and potato soil health and productivity. Potato is one of Minnesota's most valuable specialty crop production systems with over $180 million dollars generated annually, according to the latest USDA summary. This high value specialty crop, however, requires extensive soil management practices such as frequent chemical soil fumigation and regular deep tillage which have detrimental impacts on the soil microbial communities and soil carbon reserves. Soil microbiomes play key roles in nutrient cycling, making biologically unavailable nutrients available and providing abiotic and biotic stress tolerance to plants.	$149,485.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	10. Statewide Promotion of Minnesota Grown Specialty Crops	This project increases sales of MN specialty crops through statewide marketing, including search engine advertising, promoted social media posts and social media advertising. Minnesota Grown is the flagship statewide promotion program to stimulate demand for and sales of local food and plants. Since its founding by the state legislature in 1987, this public-private partnership has grown to include 1,326 producer members. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) staff manage the program, which includes a robust online platform and directory; an extensive array of marketing materials for member farms and retailers; a limited amount of paid TV advertising across Minnesota; and public relations activities.	$60,000.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	11. Optimizing Nitrogen Delivery to Specialty Crop Vegetables through Improved Legume Nitrogen Fixation	This project will improve specialty crop producers' capacity to optimize cover crop productivity as part of their vegetable rotations in cold climates by selecting high nitrogen-fixing soil bacteria for use with the cover crop legume hairy vetch. The University of Minnesota will lead and execute this project. Cool season cover crops used in rotation with multiple specialty crops have the capacity to improve soil health and nutrient contributions if productivity and biomass can be optimized. Leguminous cover crops, in particular, provide nitrogen via biological nitrogen fixation (BNF), and rhizobia inoculants comprised of bacteria-infused peats are commonly applied to legumes at planting to increase BNF in the field.	$125,764.50
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	12. Reducing Row Spacing of Fresh Potatoes to Increase Sustainability	The University of Minnesota and North Dakota State University potato agronomy program will determine how narrow row spacing can improve sustainability of fresh red- and yellow-skinned potato production in Minnesota. This project by North Dakota State University will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through greater capacity of sustainable practices of specialty crop production resulting in increased yield, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and or/conservation of resources.	$114,739.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	13. Development of Glazing Wall Thermal Curtain to Reduce Energy Consumption of Winter Greenhouses	UMN researchers, in partnership with three deep winter greenhouse operators, will develop, prototype, and test thermal curtain materials and deployment mechanisms intended to reduce nighttime heat loss from deep winter greenhouses. This project will be led by Daniel Handeen, Research Fellow at the University of Minnesota's Center for Sustainable Building Research, in partnership with selected greenhouse operators, technical consultants, and professional contractors.	$137,885.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	14. Minnesota Grown Elderberry for Minnesota Food & Beverage Businesses	This project will increase the production acreage of Midwest Elderberry Cooperative MN member (and developing member) growers to provide food and beverage companies with a dependable supply of native, MN grown, high quality elderberry ingredients. To meet that goal, we need more farms growing more acres of native elder, which means educating and recruiting more farmers as well as increasing their capacity to grow more elderberry and maintain the quality of harvest. Currently, most elderberry producers grow for their own or neighbors' farm-based businesses, Market demand far exceeds supply, which is now met by more highly processed imported elder berry and flower ingredients.	$90,000.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,779,466.86	15. Breeding and Artificial Intelligence to Improve Nitrogen Efficiency in Minnesota Potatoes	This project by the University of Minnesota will innovate AI methods for predicting potato N status using drones and identify high yielding potatoes, with improved quality traits, and reduced nitrogen requirements for potential cultivar release from the UMN breeding program. The high drainage sandy loam soils in central Minnesota are ideal for potato production. However, these soils have limited capacity to hold organic matter. Thusly, potatoes which have high nutrient requirements are heavily fertilized on sandy soils.	$122,213.00
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$565,454.88	1. Marketing and Promotion Campaign for Mississippi Watermelons	The Gulf Coast Watermelon Association will promote the Mississippi watermelon industry by utilizing our Industry Representative to educate children and adults about the health benefits and versatility of watermelon consumption through school/library visits, retail promotions and farmers' market promotions. Further, the advertising and promotion will enhance sales and benefit the Mississippi watermelon industry as a whole.	$10,780.32

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$565,454.88	2. Enhance Food Safety in Microgreen Production through Evaluating Seed Sanitizing Practices and Pathogen Persistence on Growing Substrates	Microgreens are an emerging high-value specialty crop with a rapidly growing industry in the US. They are known to be functional foods rich in mineral nutrients and health beneficial bioactive compounds. There have been an increasing number of microgreen producers, from existing vegetable growers or beginner farmers, attracted by their high market value and short production cycles. Microgreens also serve as an important food source during the pandemic that are nutrient dense and readily available to the local community.	$31,576.00
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$565,454.88	3. Investigating Tomato Grafting Techniques with Various Scion and Rootstock Combinations	Use of grafted plants in vegetable production including tomatoes have become a prevalent strategy in improving plant disease resistance, productivity, and produce quality. Availability of high-quality produce at local market outlets have become increasingly important during the pandemic and is crucial in helping growers market produce through challenging times. The cost of purchasing grafted plants from a commercial supplier is 5 to 10 times more expensive than using seedling transplants due to the labor extensive nature of vegetable plant grafting.	$32,962.00
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$565,454.88	4. Plant Biostimulants for Sustainable Production of Specialty Crops	The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the global food insecurity. Agriculture is facing unprecedented challenges and in pressing needs for innovative strategies to improve efficiency, productivity, and sustainability. Plant biostimulants (PBs) have been considered as a novel technology in sustainable agriculture. PBs have potential to enhance plant growth and health, crop yield and quality, nutrient use efficiency, and plant tolerance to environmental stresses such as heat and drought. Examples of PBs include humic and fulvic acids, seaweed and plant extracts, and beneficial microbes.	$35,875.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$565,454.88	5. Papayas as an Alternative Crop for Mississippi	The COVID-19 pandemic has been affecting the food systems worldwide. The supply chain and related logistics have been disrupted. Growers are facing exacerbated challenges in production and marketing, and consumers are experiencing localized food shortages and continued rising food prices. To be more competitive and resilient, local growers are interested in diversifying crop profile and including high value alternative crops in their productions to improve farm income and provide consumers with high quality, fresh and healthy locally grown produce. However, there is a lack of research information on the selection of potential profitable alternative crops and sustainable production practices.	$30,971.00
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$565,454.88	6. 'Train the Trainer' Edible Mushroom Workshop for Mississippi Extension Agents	Mississippi State University with assistance from Alcorn State University Mycologist will host numerous hands-on edible (ex. Shiitake, Oyster) Mushroom Production Workshops throughout the state for Extension Agents. This is a 'Train the Trainer' (TTT) concept. Trained Extension Agents will provide similar workshops within their communities to promote this specialty crop, which can be grown for food sustainability or potential income at any home on waste hardwood.	$31,095.00
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$565,454.88	7. Testing Sweet Potatoes for Guava Root-Knot Nematode in Mississippi	Mississippi State University will receive all proper training and equipment necessary for detection of Guava Root-Knot nematode (Meloidogyne enterolobii) – an invasive pest. Free nematode testing will be offered to growers across the state for voluntarily submitted sweet potato samples for the duration of the project. Understanding the status of guava root-knot nematode presence in Mississippi will help determine if any additional steps are necessary to either halt its spread or further limit the possibility of it arriving in Mississippi altogether.	$66,372.00
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$565,454.88	8. Potential of Sunn Hemp incorporation into cover crop strategies for corn production in Mississippi	Research by Mississippi State University utilizing Sunn Hemp as addition to cover crop strategies for crop production will help give farmers other options for supplying nitrogen to their commodity crops. Results from this trial will add to a data base to help justify the use of sunn hemp in the state of Mississippi to growers and government agencies.	$22,514.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$565,454.88	9. Promoting Mississippi's Specialty Crops through Education and Marketing	The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC), Market Development Division is requesting funds to create a statewide initiative to help market and educate the community about Mississippi specialty crops. It is our intent to educate communities about local specialty crops and promote the growers and farms where they can be located. With the grant funding, we will highlight the importance of consuming local specialty crops and provide education on preparing and serving nutritional meals. This will be achieved through a mass advertising campaign that includes using billboards that are regionally placed, informational pamphlets, specialty crop recipe cards, and educational podcasts.	$166,546.86
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$565,454.88	10. Mississippi GAP/GHP Cost-Share Program and Educational Training	The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is requesting funds to assist growers in obtaining the Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices food safety certification. This audit is required for many specialty crop growers to sell their fruits and vegetables to grocery stores, restaurants, schools, and distributors. In addition, this grant will implement grower educational workshops for growers interested in securing a GAP/GHP certification to expand their marketing opportunities.	$46,630.70
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$565,454.88	11. Influence of Nutrient Management on Tea Yield and Quality	Mississippi State University will collaborate with tea growers in Mississippi to investigate the influence of nutrient management practices on tea yield and quality. The market demand for tea in the US has been increasing rapidly in recent years. With this increase in demand has come an increased interest in growing tea in suitable climates like that in Mississippi. However, tea growers are facing significant challenges with respect to domestic tea production.	$39,759.00
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$565,454.88	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$41,885.55
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$569,728.73	1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Enhance Missouri's Specialty Crop Industry	The Missouri Department of Agriculture will partner with multiple entities in the Specialty Crop Industry to provide PPE supplies such as portable handwashing stations, masks, gloves, hand soap and sanitizer, air filtration systems, online ordering systems, and contactless delivery methods.	$89,974.58

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$569,728.73	2. Detecting Downy Mildew Resistance in 'Chambourcin' Based Progenies via Marker-Assisted Selection	Missouri State University will determine the presence of downy mildew resistance alleles in 236 F1 genotypes via marker-assisted selection. Grapevine downy mildew caused by the oomycete Plasmopara viticola is one of the most widespread and destructive diseases worldwide, particularly in humid viticultural areas where it damages green tissues and defoliates vines. The ultimate goal of performing this cross is to create a cultivar with the disease resistance and cold hardiness of 'Chambourcin' combined with the superior wine quality of 'Cabernet Sauvignon.'	$49,996.00
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$569,728.73	3. Black Walnut as Proteins Source in Response to Supply Chain Disruption	The University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry on behalf of The Curators of the University of Missouri will investigate 21 cultivars of black walnut protein content as an alternative protein source in response to protein supply chain disruption from COVID-19. With the disruption of the animal protein supply chain by the COVID-19 pandemic, the food industry and consumers are turning to alternative protein sources, such as nut proteins with longer shelf-life and locally accessible. The proposed study will increase the revenue of the production chain benefiting all the participants involved in supply chain of Missouri black walnut industry.	$49,000.00
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$569,728.73	4. Columbia Farmers Market Specialty Crop Seasonality Educational and Marketing Campaign	Columbia Farmers Market (CFM) will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased sales of specialty crops at CFM by developing a specialty crop-focused educational marketing campaign. As more mid-Missouri consumers turn towards purchasing and eating locally grown specialty crops due to the pandemic and supply chain shortages, we aim to educate mid-Missouri consumers on the seasonal availability of specialty crops throughout the year.	$50,000.00
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$569,728.73	5. Increasing Farm Sustainability and Local Food Security Through Grafted Tomatoes	Nichols-Richardson Foundation Trust's project will demonstrate the practicality of establishing and operating a commercial grafting operation on a farm, the practicality of an individual farmer grafting tomatoes for his/her use on their own farm, and the benefits and challenges of growing and harvesting high tunnel grafted tomatoes in Southwest Missouri. The goal is to facilitate access to source locally grafted tomato transplants, and to attract and train growers to incorporate grafted tomatoes into their operations, resulting in increased production and more sustainable farms.	$49,902.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$569,728.73	6. Development of Smart-farm Irrigation Toolkit for Smallholder Vegetable Producers	The Curators of the University of Missouri will develop sustainable technology solutions to address major hurdles faced by small-scale vegetable producers related to water management and weed and pest control. We propose to develop a production system to address the two key challenges for a mix of specialty crops and high-value vegetables. Our research and demonstration plots will be set up at one of the University Agriculture Experimental Station in Columbia, Missouri. The design consists of growing culinary herbs and spices (basil, cilantro, parsley, oregano, mint, and rosemary), and vegetables (okra, Asian eggplant, kale, collard, cauliflower, beets, and bitter Melon) intercropped and managed in ways that will extend the income generation time window (spring through late fall).	$49,973.00
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$569,728.73	7. Promoting and Strengthening MO Farmers Markets and Specialty Crop Organizations	Missouri Farmers Market Association (MFMA) will expand educational opportunities for specialty crop (SC) farmers and farmers' market managers through broadening the annual in-person MFMA conferences to include speakers with expertise in specialty crop production and direct to consumer sales.	$50,000.00
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$569,728.73	8. CoMo Cooks Shared Value-Added Production Kitchen	The Business Loop Community Improvement District (CID) will work with regional growers and distributors to build local food system resilience and help our region adapt to market changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic through the expansion of our not-for-profit shared commercial kitchen, CoMo Cooks. Our goal is to increase economic vitality by providing low-risk, accessible, inclusive, and affordable kitchen space for local food-based businesses which includes business coaching and promotional assistance.	$39,963.85
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$569,728.73	9. Increase Access to Hops and Expand Hops Production and Distribution	Valley Farms will provide an increase of production for fresh hops to Missouri breweries. This project will provide six additional farms field planning, supplies, hands-on training for planting, trimming, care, and harvest to grow hops. Access to harvesting equipment will be a shared asset among the local farms to eliminate equipment costs as a barrier to entry.	$45,362.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$569,728.73	10. Urban Farming Training - from Dreaming to Implementation	Rustic Roots Sanctuary will train 10 specialty crop producers on the farm. Our program will cover many aspects of running a small urban farm growing specialty crops. Through outreach efforts we will also educate the community on the benefits of eating locally grown food. Through collaborations with other local specialty crop producers, we will provide support to disadvantaged black farmers. Our program will cover beekeeping for honey production, field to farmers market harvesting and food safety practices, farmers market operations, market gardening, value added products and training sessions at 3 other urban farms on the topics of soil health, composting, multi-site farming, and companion planting.	$49,979.00
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$569,728.73	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$45,578.30
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	1. State-Wide Network Expansion to Support Specialty Crop Growers and Businesses in Montana	The Montana Department of Agriculture (Department) will contract with the nine Centers that make up the Food and Agriculture Development Center (FADC) Network. This project will expand the Specialty Crop industry in Montana by creating or retaining jobs, increasing revenue, and developing new specialty crop producers through training and one-on-one assistance targeted for specialty crop producers accessing covid relief funds or who were directly impacted by the pandemic. FADCs will work to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, and the specialty crop economy in Montana, by providing grant writing and food business development training and technical assistance, combining network resources and information to benefit producers state-wide, and producing production quality video marketing materials for FADC and producer promotion.	$1,551,317.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	2. Priority Areas of Focus for Montana Specialty Crop Block Grant Program	JG Research and Evaluation, LLC (JGRE) will gather insights from specialty crop producers in Montana regarding key needs and opportunities in product marketing to 1) Assess the current “state of the state” of marketing for each type of specialty crop industry as well as the industry as whole in Montana, and 2) Identify preliminary priority areas for allocating Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funds	$18,144.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	3. Wild Bees of Montana Supplement: Accelerating Discovery, Expanding Capacity, Outreach, and Impact	Montana State University- Entomology Collection will accelerate discovery of wild bee species and improve documentation of their distribution while improving the resources for user communities to identify, these pollinators critical to specialty crops. Sampling deficiencies in eastern Montana will be addressed. Improved specimen curation and databasing will be implemented to handle the needed increase in total specimen data required to fully reach the goals of the project -- to understand what bees occur in Montana (depth) and where they range (breadth).	$630,000.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	4. Quantifying the Spectral Response of Specialty Crops (Pulses) To Soil Acidity	The Montana State University College of Agriculture, Precision Agriculture Team, proposes a two-year program to quantify the spectral changes pulse crops experience in response to low pH soils. Soil acidification is a growing issue in Montana, with 24 counties having low pH (<5.5) soils in at least one farm. Soil acidification may remain undetected until it causes crop failure. Pulse crops are sensitive to low soil pH and can act as an early warning of pH change. This program will create another application of the pulse specialty crops, increasing their utility in crop rotations.	$228,222.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	5. Evaluation of Essential Oil Seed Treatments in Montana Pulse Growing Fields and Study Its Role in Including Plant Defense Responses and Growth Promotion	Montana State University proposes greenhouse studies based on previous SCBG funding have determined that essential oil (EO) seed treatments are effective in reducing root rot disease severity caused by fusarium, pythium, and aphanomyces on chickpea, dry pea, and lentil. Efficacy was comparable to fungicide. We will study the effect of EO treatments on growth promotion of pulses in the greenhouse; determine the effect of EO seed treatments on plant defense proteins to induce root rot resistance in chickpea; and evaluate the efficacy of EO seed treatments in managing root rot pathogens of chickpea in the field.	$197,424.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	6. Reducing Inputs and Increasing Yield of Pulses Through Grower Education	This project is a partnership between the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee and Montana State University. There is a long history of cultivar development for pulse crops designed to be better adapted to Montana's specific climatic conditions and diverse growing regions. While these cultivars have been made to improve agronomic outcomes and require less input, a lack of education directed toward farmers has led to limited adoption of the best-suited varieties. A Montana State University Varietal Education Specialist will inform producers on available varieties and best practices and technologies resulting in increased yields, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and conservation of resources.	$131,929.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	7. Growing Montana Hops Industry	Headwaters RC&D will be the lead organization that helps growers from across the state continue to grow and expand their hops industry in Montana. Headwaters is requesting specialty crop block grant funds to expand the reach of their effort to on-the-ground producers throughout the state. This producer-driven project is designated to achieve several outcomes: increase production and sales of hops in Montana, increase grower knowledge of best practices of growing hops, increase awareness statewide of Montana hops and provide an opportunity for market expansion and growth.	$125,000.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	8. Control of Antibiotic-Resistant Apple Fire Blight Pathogen in Montana	Montana State University researchers will investigate the effective control of apple fire blight (FB) disease, with the presence of antibiotic resistant pathogen, in Montana. Apple FB, caused by a bacterial pathogen erwinia amylovora, is the most devastating apple disease in Montana. Antibiotic sprays are used to control the FB. However, a disease survey in 2021 by our group revealed that the FB pathogens in Montana are developing resistance to streptomycin, one of the most common antibiotics to control FB, raised alarm regarding the inappropriate antibiotic applications and the ineffective disease managements in the apple orchards. Our goal is to develop an effective approach to restrict the spreading of the antibiotic-resistant pathogen and reduce FB in Montana.	$270,568.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	9. Heighten the Visibility & Success of Montana Cut Flower Producers	The Montana Cut Flower Association (MFCA) will provide a Montana flower hub to growers. MCFA will begin by providing marketing, distribution, a networking conference, and a variety of education. MCFA intends to assist its members to firmly establish Montana grown flowers as a long term, strong industry for growers and the state's agriculture.	$56,624.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	10. Increasing Profitability of Organic Vegetable Farms Through Improved Integrated Weed Management.	Weed management is one of the most important issues identified by these growers. Weeds reduce marketable yields, can harbor insect pests and pathogens, and their control represents a significant labor cost. The integration of cultural and mechanical weed management tools can improve efficacy and efficiency. To identify optimal integrated weed management practices in a range of vegetable crops, our team at the Montana State University will survey organic vegetable growers to identify specific needs for weed management and successful practices.	$335,330.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	11. Montana Pulse Crop Quality Survey	The Montana Department of Agriculture proposes to increase the competitiveness of dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas with a Montana pulse crop quality survey. 200 pulse crop samples from across the state of Montana will be collected and analyzed for quality by a qualified laboratory on an annual basis for three years. The analysis will include 100-seed weight, ash content, color, cooking time, firmness of cooked seeds, moisture content, protein content, seed size and distribution, starch content, total dietary fiber, water absorption, and water holding capacity.	$170,000.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	12. Starch Analysis in Chickpea for Better Pasta	Dr. Kevin McPhee (pulse crop breeding) and Dr. Mike Giroux (wheat quality laboratory) from Montana State University propose to evaluate starch content in chickpea flour and functionality of the flour. In addition, performance of blends of chickpea and semolina for production of pasta would also be evaluated. The ingredient market has seen a strong trend for the inclusion of pulse flour in many products. The attraction to including pulse crop flour as an ingredient is for the added protein and health claims.	$220,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	13. Highlighting Specialty Crop Products at The Montana Food and Beverage Show	The Montana Department of Agriculture seeks to capitalize on the success of its Montana Food and Beverage Shows by highlighting Montana's unique specialty crop food offerings. A contracted chef will develop recipes utilizing Montana specialty crops and prepare those recipes at the show. Additionally, the department will contract with a video production company to film the event and provide future specialty crop-based content.	$74,981.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$4,084,759.60	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$75,220.60
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	1. Identify High Performing Non-Oil (Confection) Sunflower Hybrids for Nebraska	The University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension Center will evaluate commercially available non-oil sunflower hybrids to identify high yielding and quality hybrids for Nebraska. Ten different non-oil sunflower commercially available hybrids will be field tested for yield and seed size under irrigation at two different locations: Sidney (Cheyenne Co) and Alliance (Box Butte Co.). Data to be collected are emergence, stand count, flowering, plant height, maturity, and seed yield.	$20,304.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	2. Using Laser and Drone Technology to Save Your Crop, Increase Profitability, and Do No Harm to Wildlife	Mac's Creek Vineyards seeks to discover effective, user friendly, affordable, and sustainable (both financially and not being harmful to wildlife) approaches to repelling animal threats (to include deer, wild turkeys, birds, etc.) to the survivability of specialty crop producers. These threats are costly to Nebraska specialty crop growers every year.	$88,400.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	3. Cultivating New Farmers: Increasing Educational and Demonstration Capacity for Specialty Crop Farmers and Aspiring Farmers	Nebraska Extension will support aspiring and experienced specialty crop producers by developing educational resource videos and curricula for developing and marketing a farm business. The material will be translated to make it accessible to immigrant and refugee groups in Nebraska. Additionally, Nebraska Extension will build capacity for hands-on learning with partnering organizations in the Omaha metro area.	$24,704.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	4. Peer Farmer Virtual Food Safety Training	The Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society (NSAS) plans to implement a 7-week/14-hour long peer-to-peer specialty crop farmer online food safety training beginning in January 2022. This project aims to provide access to wholesale and institutional buyers for specialty crop growers. A Peer Farmer and Trainer will guide specialty crop grower participants through the process of writing and implementing their own on-farm food safety plans.	$25,000.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	5. Development of Plant Protein-Based High-Value and Innovative Food Products from Nebraska Pulses	The University of Nebraska – Lincoln will establish an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to lead and execute this project. This proposed project aims to develop innovative and value-added food products from protein-rich Nebraska pulses (beans and peas) suitable for domestic as well as global populations. Successful completion of the project will significantly enhance the use of Nebraska pulses for innovative food products.	$38,449.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	6. Specialty Crops in the City: Best Practices for Transitioning Urban Land to Specialty Crop Production	City Sprouts will research and identify multiple best practices for the conversion of vacant urban land to specialty crop production with a focus on soil health and small to medium scale production techniques. These practices and techniques will be developed through a two-year trial that will measure the effects of various methods of tillage, cover crop application and incorporation and compost application on both soil health and specialty crop yields.	$51,997.20
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	7. Dry Edible Beans as an Efficacious Alternative for the Development of Fortified-Blended Foods for Food-Aid Program	The University of Nebraska – Lincoln will establish an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to lead and execute this project. The goal of this project is to develop a highly digestible blended food product suitable for human consumption using GNBs. This proposal, which addresses the enhancement of food safety and food security priority area, has a strong potential to improve the acceptability, nutritional value, and health benefits of pulse consumption at various stages of life especially for children and pregnant or lactating women. Incorporating GNBs in CSB+ products with direct assessment of the protein quality and the measurement of potential effect on growth and development is a novel and innovative approach to enhance the nutritional quality of blended food aid products.	$55,767.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	8. Development of Zebra Chip Resistant Nebraska Potato Varieties by non-GMO Gene Editing	The University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Department of Plant Pathology, will develop an efficient and routine protocol that would make two Nebraska grown potato cultivars, Atlantic and Russet Norkotah, amenable to gene editing-based genetic modifications. The protocol will offer quick and targeted development of next generation of improved commercial potato cultivars able to overcome a potentially disastrous bacterial Zebra Chip disease thereby stabilizing and improving productivity and availability of this important tuber crop. The protocol will also allow addressing other disease concerns such as potato late blight and viral diseases as well as agronomic and nutritional improvements of potato.	$50,109.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	9. Extending the Quality of High Tunnel Table Grapes	The University of Nebraska – Lincoln's Viticulture Program (UNLVP) will continue its efforts on extending the quality of table grapes grown in high tunnels. This project will enable the UNLVP to continue their focus on this project for another two years. It was discovered in the first part of this study that harvested table grapes lasted several weeks in the cooler after being picked. A new part of the proposed project will include a determination of the "cooler life" of the fruit for each of the five cultivars.	$74,247.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	10. Characterizing Rhizoctonia Infections on Nebraska's New Pulse Crops	The plant pathology program at the University of Nebraska, Panhandle REC will conduct a study at the Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff that will consist of two phases. The first phase is to acquire a collection of Rhizoctonia solani isolates causing root rot disease in new pulse crops being cultivated in Nebraska. The second phase will include screening the previously collected isolates from all crops against each other in all possible combinations.	$48,912.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	11. Field Pea and Chickpea for Sustainable Agricultural Production	The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Panhandle Research and Extension Center (UNL-PHREC) will evaluate different management strategies for pulse crops (field pea and chickpea) under varying soil water regimes in western Nebraska. Three different pulse crop management strategies including green manuring, harvesting for biomass, and harvesting for grain under varying soil moisture availability during the growing season will be evaluated to determine an optimum strategy with an immediate economic benefit.	$75,435.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	12. Develop a Novel Extrusion Process to Enhance the Nutritional Value and Acceptance of Aronia Berry	Aronia berry is a top-ranked specialty fruit rich in polyphenols (natural antioxidants) that have been demonstrated offering many health benefits. The University of Nebraska Food Processing Center (FPC) will introduce an extruded Aronia berry product mainly made with Aronia berry pomace into the fast-growing healthy food market and improve the sustainability and profitability of Nebraska Aronia berry industry. By collaborating with Aronia berry growers of the American Aronia Berry Association (AABA) in Nebraska, FPC will develop a novel process combined application of the solid-state fermentation technology and the extrusion technology to transform Aronia berry pomace (by-product derived from Aronia juice production) into a palatable and healthy breakfast cereal product.	$72,441.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	13. Nebraska Thursdays/Harvest of the Month: Promoting Nebraska Specialty Crops in Schools and Early Care and Education	The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)will increase consumption of specialty crop products through its Child Nutrition Programs by: (1) adapting the existing Harvest of the Month repertoire—resources for K-12 schools to promote, educate on, and offer taste tests of 13 Nebraska specialty crop items—to target a pre-k audience; and (2) running a promotional campaign in the Nebraska Thursdays program that engages new and existing participants in serving a Nebraska-sourced school meal on the first Thursday of each month, through a focus on use of plant-based proteins.	$57,411.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	14. Evaluation of Flumioxazin Application Timing	The University of Nebraska Panhandle Weed Science program will evaluate dry edible bean crop safety and weed control efficacy, with a particular emphasis on control of herbicide-resistant Palmer amaranth, in relation to application timing of flumioxazin applied pre-crop emergence. This project will provide dry edible bean growers with clear, science-based, guidelines for optimal timing of flumioxazin in dry beans to maximize yield potential and minimize weed interference.	$32,610.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	15. Commercialization of Fenugreek Production in Nebraska Through Pilot Production and Networking at National Trade Shows	The University of Nebraska-Panhandle Research and Extension Center (UNL-PHREC) will evaluate pilot commercial production of fenugreek in western Nebraska and identify marketing outlet of the fenugreek. In this 2-year (2022-2023) project, two fenugreek varieties will be planted on farmer's fields and UNL's research farm under irrigation following standard production practices developed by the University of Nebraska.	$41,304.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	16. Improving Nebraska Winter Harvest Crop Production and Profitability	Working with local specialty crop producers, Nebraska Extension will assess the feasibility and economic return of winter harvested crops produced using seasonal extension techniques. A diverse group of producers, including immigrants and refugees, will work with Extension to trial a variety of common and culturally important cool season leafy green and root crops. They will assess their production capacity and potential economic return. Results will be analyzed for potential viability of crops for production and marketing in Nebraska and shared via appropriate extension and journal publications and learning opportunities.	$47,940.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	17. High Yielding Lentil Varieties with Superior Seed Quality for Nebraska	The University of Nebraska-Panhandle Research and Extension Center (UNL-PHREC) will evaluate lentil varieties to identify high-yielding varieties for commercial production in western Nebraska. The 2-year (2022-2023) trial will be conducted at the UNL-PHREC field research farm. Availability of high yielding and locally adapted lentil varieties will potentially initiate commercial lentil production in western Nebraska. This will expand production area of this pulse as a specialty crop in Nebraska	$39,999.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	18. Optimal Soil and Nutrient Management Technology to Improve Field Pea Yield and Quality Under High and Low Soil Moisture Production Condition	The University of Nebraska-Panhandle Research and Extension Center (UNL-PHREC) will evaluate management strategy for nitrogen fertilizer (rate and time of application) and Fe (source and rate) for improving pea seed protein quantity and quality and iron content in western Nebraska. Production feasibility of high value pea in Nebraska will enhance marketability, profitability, and competitiveness of Nebraska pea industry	$60,325.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	19. High Yielding Food-Grade Quality Winter Pea Varieties for Dryland Production System in Nebraska	The University of Nebraska-Panhandle Research and Extension Center (UNL-PHREC) will evaluate winter pea (fall planted) varieties to identify high-yielding winter variety for commercial production in western Nebraska. The 2-year (2022-2023) trial will be conducted at the UNL field research farms at Sidney in Cheyenne County and Grant in Perkins County. Fifteen to twenty winter pea varieties will be planted as replicated yield trial at two dryland sites (Cheyenne and Perkins counties) following standard production practices. Availability of high yielding and locally adapted winter pea variety will potentially initiate commercial winter pea production in western Nebraska. This will expand specialty crops acreage of the state of Nebraska.	$45,108.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$1,088,723.97	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$138,261.77
Nevada Department of Agriculture	$364,070.07	1. Specialty Crops, Agriculture Literacy and Living Well with Covid 19 on the Farm	Through partnership with the Nevada Department of Agriculture, the Nevada Farm Bureau will expand education efforts with a focus on the production process for specialty crops and food safety measures education. Through this project, the mobile agricultural education trailer (also known as the "Nevada Ag Wagon") will be updated and modernized. Updates to the Nevada Ag Wagon will feature enhanced sanitation measures for visitors, an educational virtual reality experience and new and improved agriculture literacy materials and displays.	$124,200.00
Nevada Department of Agriculture	$364,070.07	2. Gilcrease Orchard Shade Improvement Project	The Gilcrease Orchard Foundation will increase the adaptability of agricultural operations in Southern Nevada. Through this project, the orchard will add educational features to its website, host additional educational events and demonstrate the effectiveness of shade for successful cultivation of specialty crops and for increasing crop diversity.	$60,000.00
Nevada Department of Agriculture	$364,070.07	3. Curating a Safer Space for the Bonsai Blue Garden Market	Dayton Valley Turf will adjust the space of the farmers market, Bonsai Blue Garden Market to be more considerate of social distancing and personal hygiene in a global pandemic. Dayton Valley Turf will do this by creating additional socially-distances seating options, adding hand-washing stations, and keeping up with disinfecting these public surfaces.	$26,469.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Nevada Department of Agriculture	$364,070.07	4. Mushroom Dehydration and Processing Facility	This project will partner with Desert Moon Farms to purchase dehydration, freeze drying, and packaging supplies to increase product diversity and to establish a shelf stable product through creating dehydrated mushroom product. This will allow operations to adapt to market challenges and to expand dehydrated specialty crop products and options. Desert Moon Mushrooms will make this resource accessible to other local specialty crop farms that are interested in dehydrating their products due to sudden changes in market demand or excess production.	$29,463.18
Nevada Department of Agriculture	$364,070.07	5. Installation of UV Disinfection Lamps for Employee Safety in the Workplace	Desert Moon Farms will pilot the use of 222nm UV disinfection lamps in a small indoor specialty crop farm. These types of lamps differ from UV disinfection lamps in that they can be operated continuously in the presence of people without the health risks associated to UV light exposure. This disinfection method will support the continuous operation of small, indoor specialty crop farms while improving indoor air quality for employees and visitors.	$4,959.17
Nevada Department of Agriculture	$364,070.07	6. Specialty Crops Growing Education Video Lessons	Blue Lizard Farm will provide a series of educational videos addressing the challenges, difficulties, and barriers to specialty crop growers in growing, harvesting, transporting, and marketing their crops. This educational video series will address specific issues and provide guidance for solutions, mitigation, or best practices. The series will be free and open to the public, while reaching new and existing Southern Nevada growers. This educational project aims to increase the commercial viability of growers and enhance the sale and consumption of Nevada specialty crops.	$19,159.61
Nevada Department of Agriculture	$364,070.07	7. New and Emerging Producer Education for Southern Nevada Specialty Crop Growers	Green Our Planet will teach Nevada communities how to plant, grow and harvest specialty fruit and vegetable crops through a series of 5 gardening education video lessons, which will increase consumption of specialty crops and support community resilience in the face of the current and future pandemics.	$80,000.00
Nevada Department of Agriculture	$364,070.07	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$19,819.71

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food	$398,133.07	1. A Feasibility Study for a New England Museum of Apples and Cider	New England Apple Association will conduct a feasibility study for a New England Museum of Apples and Cider, including two "traveling museum" events in New Hampshire. The museum will provide year-round promotion of the New England apple industry, drawing upon the region's rich history and contemporary trends, including increased demand for locally grown fruit and ciders.	$33,947.00
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food	$398,133.07	2. Improve Local Marketing of New Hampshire Grown Tree Fruit	The New Hampshire Fruit Growers Association will conduct a project which will focus on strengthening the association's overall social media outreach, including consistent administration as well as creation of video content to bring the local experience to consumers. Creating a connection from local producers to local consumers is key to increasing sales of tree fruit specialty crops.	$32,000.00
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food	$398,133.07	3. Increasing the Competitiveness of NH Specialty Crops through Climate Resilience	The Cheshire County Conservation District in partnership with the nine other NH County Conservation Districts will work with partners to provide education and technical assistance to specialty crop producers in NH to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change. This project will improve the viability of the operations of specialty crop producers to ensure their continued profitability and the competitiveness of their products in the market.	$77,000.00
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food	$398,133.07	4. Implementing Pest Management Strategies in Merrimack County, NH	The Merrimack County Conservation District will aim to promote pest management planning and practices that will reduce pest loss, decrease the use of pesticides, and increase production at specialty crop farms in Merrimack County, NH. This program will assess the needs of Merrimack County, including technical assistance in trapping and monitoring pest species, provide assistance in IPM plan implementation, and educate specialty crop farmers on IPM planning, resources, and current technologies.	$57,470.00
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food	$398,133.07	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	31,850.65

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$1,003,781.91	1. HR 133 Project to Promote Jersey Fresh Specialty Crops and Provide Mini-Grants to Socially Disadvantaged, Beginning and Military Veteran Farmers	The New Jersey Department of Agriculture seeks to promote specialty crops grown in New Jersey; identify and develop a list of Socially Disadvantaged, Beginning and/or Military Veteran farmers across the state and offer mini-grants of up to $5,000 per operation to help grow their production/sale of specialty crops from the Garden State; and offer mini-grants of up to $2,000 per operation for PPE reimbursement during the USDA approved window during the pandemic (up to 6 months prior to funding).	$923,479.44
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$1,003,781.91	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$80,302.47
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$794,444.58	1. Cultivating Economic Sustainability for New Mexico Winegrowers Through E-commerce	In response to the pandemic, climate change, and growing environmental concerns, New Mexico Wine has identified the need to embrace new methods to support the sale of grapes and wine to adapt to the post-Covid economy. A major shift in consumer behavior towards purchasing wine online evolved in 2020, and this trend shows no sign of slowing. This grant aims to build the most comprehensive marketplace for New Mexico wineries that offers an unparalleled selection of locally produced wines.	$85,000.00
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$794,444.58	2. La Cosecha's Low-Sodium and Diabetes Friendly Prepared Foods	In partnership with Agri-Cultura Network, La Cosecha Community Supported Agriculture will work with urban and rural small-scale and vegetable growers in Albuquerque's South Valley and across New Mexico to build La Cosecha's line of plant-based, low sodium and diabetic friendly value-added shelf-stable foods. This project will increase specialty crop sales, reduce specialty crop waste during peak season and improve the year-round market for specialty crops. Furthermore, it will increase awareness and access to specialty crops among youth, seniors, SNAP and New Mexico Double-Up Food Bucks participants and other socially disadvantaged communities.	$70,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$794,444.58	3. Southwest New Mexico Food Hub: Growth, Sustainability and Safety	The National Center for Frontier Communities' SWNM Food Hub (Food Hub) will continue its groundbreaking work revitalizing the remote food system in southwest New Mexico by implementing several strategies to help increase its ability to provide equitable market access and services for remote growers in the region, shift into self-sufficiency and build a culture of food safety among its network of growers.	$112,463.00
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$794,444.58	4. Los Vecinos Provides Comprehensive, On-the-Ground Support for Beginning, Small, and Underserved Farmers in Taos County.	A project of Alianza Agri-Cultura de Taos, Los Vecinos provides comprehensive, on-the-ground one-on-one support for beginning small, and underserved farmers in Taos County. Our purpose is to identify their farming goals and develop strategies for meeting those goals; we also provide education and technical assistance to the broader community interested in specialty crop production, encouraging and supporting aspiring farmers and producers to get started.	$68,000.00
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$794,444.58	5. Education and Training for Socially Disadvantaged Young Native American Farmers	Healthy Futures Inc, in collaboration with indigenous agricultural partners, will address the long-standing inequities faced by socially disadvantaged Native American youth who want to become more skilled and empowered as farmers. Healthy Futures will advance the goals of this program by providing educational and technical support, recruiting eligible participants, mentoring sixty participants from the Northern Navajo Reservation. Healthy Futures shall assist participants in overcoming agricultural disparities and learn the benefits of growing and harvesting specialty crops.	$60,459.00
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$794,444.58	6. Elevating NM Specialty Crops	The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) will implement new innovative strategies utilizing the latest digital methods and platforms to enhance New Mexico specialty crops to retailers, wholesalers, and home food-delivery companies. By using digital and online strategies, this educational project will allow staff to reach a large diverse audience of culinary, dieticians, and foodies worldwide. The project will offer enhanced techniques, including a social media component, influencer segments, menu development, and high-quality digital content such as recipe videos and photography	$104,951.62

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$794,444.58	7. Sembrando Salud: Sowing Health Through Small-Scale Specialty Vegetable and Culinary/Medicinal Herb Production	The Center of Southwest Culture, Inc seeks funding to lead and execute the Sembrando Salud project will enhance access and awareness of specialty crops. The project will also increase production and consumption of specialty crops and enhance the economy in socially- disadvantaged communities through specialty cropping. Through educational workshops, we will teach participants how to grow specialty vegetable and culinary/medicinal herb crops and expand their operations to produce crops for markets and establish small agribusinesses.	$60,421.04
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$794,444.58	8. Warrior Farmer Project	Through the Warrior Farmer Project, Gooder Longer, LLC will support the Desert Forge Foundation in providing hands-on farmer training to Veterans through direct support of labor to small local farms in Central New Mexico.	$40,000.00
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$794,444.58	9. Cooking with Kids Farm-to-School Project: Supporting and Expanding New Mexico Grown	The Cooking with Kids, Inc. Farm-to-School Project: Supporting and Expanding New Mexico Grown will enhance the competitiveness of New Mexico specialty crops by building upon past success in creating integrated school-based programs. The project aims to increase school market demand for New Mexico grown fresh fruit and vegetables and expand student, family, and school staff awareness and consumption of these crops.	$69,594.36
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$794,444.58	10. Promotional Campaign to Increase Consumer Awareness of New Mexico Chile	The New Mexico Chile Association (NMCA) will concentrate its efforts on increasing consumer awareness of New Mexico chile by promoting New Mexico grown chile from farmers around the state. The New Mexico Certified Chile Program is a non-profit labeling program that farmers, processors, manufacturers, distributors, restaurants, and others can use to showcase that they only use New Mexico grown chile. This project aims to increase the consumer demand for New Mexico grown chile and set a benchmark for sales of New Mexico chile to evaluate future opportunities.	$60,000.00
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$794,444.58	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$63,555.56

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,634,815.07	1. Enhancing NYS Specialty Crop Producers Resilience Post-COVID	Cornell University Regional Agriculture Teams will provide research and grower education to enhance production of tree fruit, grapes, and vegetables to help New York farms recover from COVID-19 challenges. Variety evaluation trials will be conducted for asparagus, fresh market potatoes, and wine grapes to provide growers with the newest and most profitable varieties that are adapted to the NY climate, and results shared through newsletters, twilight meetings, and winter conferences. Harvest maturity testing will be conducted for western, NY apple varieties to inform the optimum harvest period and suitability for storage, and the results will be sent directly to growers via. fax or text. Fruit business planning will be conducted in consultation with individual farms in western, NY to promote good financial and risk management practices.	$300,000.00
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,634,815.07	2. Produce Safety Consultant Training and Certificate Program	Cornell University, with personnel associated with the Produce Safety Alliance and the Institute for Food Safety at Cornell University (IFS@CU), will develop a produce safety consultant training and certificate program to ensure those working with the fresh produce industry have the necessary food safety knowledge and background. The project will identify courses that would provide necessary microbial produce safety knowledge to build content competence in individuals that work with the fresh produce industry to reduce microbial risks on farms and in packinghouses.	$200,000.00
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,634,815.07	3. Advertising and Promoting NYS Specialty Crops	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) will continue our consumer-facing marketing campaign to increase the competitiveness of NY specialty crops by increasing wholesale and retail awareness, demand, and distribution avenues which will lead to an increase in NY specialty crop sales. Marketing activities will be multi-channel, including production of promotional materials for use at point-of-sale locations, and purchasing strategic advertisements in radio, digital, billboards, television, and print media.	$1,004,512.40
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,634,815.07	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$130,302.67

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,679,971.39	1. Health and Safety for Specialty Crops	East Carolina University- North Carolina Agromedicine Institute ('the Institute') will lead and execute the Health and Safety for Specialty Crops (HASSC) project. The Institute will work with specialty crop producers and workers to reduce the risk of COVID-19, other communicable diseases (e.g., flu, E. coli, etc.) and injuries/fatalities that could interrupt and/or adversely affect the production of NC specialty crops. Risks will be reduced through the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE), mini grants for specialty crop producers to make improvements to work site and migrant housing, and education/technical assistance on strategies to maintain a safe and healthy work environment	$400,000.00
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,679,971.39	2. NC Horticultural Promotion Project	The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will promote NC grown produce regionally and globally to prospective wholesale, retail, and direct buyers. Working with growers to create and build strong relationships in the produce industry will enable the growers to increase sales and distribution of current and new products. Furthermore, a GAP certification and Water Cost Reimbursement program will decrease the actual cost of growers to add or maintain Food Safety Standards.	$400,000.00
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,679,971.39	3. Overcoming COVID-19 Specialty Crop Access Challenges	The University of Mount Olive Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center works with various partners and audiences to promote agriculture and agricultural commodities. Specialty crop production is an important component of North Carolina's agricultural industry and economic impact. This proposal seeks to fulfill three primary strategic initiatives: 1) improve access to specialty crops to increase consumption; 2) develop information on strategies to improve efficiencies in specialty crop production while maintaining Good Agricultural Practices and food safety protocols including greenhouse fruit and vegetable production; and 3) improved education and awareness on the nutrition and other benefits of specialty crop consumption.	$223,775.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,679,971.39	4. N.C. Agritourism Networking Association	The N.C. Agritourism Networking Association will promote the Visit NC Farms mobile app to the 51 million visitors to North Carolina annually and the 10.4 million residents. Season-by-season marketing campaigns will be designed to drive potential customers to download the app, search by farm or product interests and invest in the diversity of the state's specialty crop growers through the user-friendly digital tool. The app team will efficiently maximize the use of these funds by promoting specialty crops seasonally.	$398,682.00
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,679,971.39	5. Fruit and Flowers for FFA	The North Carolina FFA Association will provide hands-on educational opportunities for students across North Carolina to learn more about orchard and floriculture crops by revitalizing statewide agricultural education curriculum and providing plant materials to agricultural education programs in middle and high schools across the state.	$200,000.00
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,679,971.39	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$44,040.44
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	1. Providing Farmers with Resources to Help their Customers Increase Consumption of Specialty Crops	The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) will create a series of web episodes that show how to cook and preserve specialty crops. The NDDA will create materials targeted to consumers to increase the consumption of specialty crops. The episodes and corresponding recipes will be made available to specialty crop producers.	$365,380.40
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	2. Using Honey Samples to Monitor Pathogens and Parasites in North Dakota Beekeeping Operations	The National Agricultural Genotyping Center (NAGC) will develop molecular diagnostics for two parasitic protozoans and the Tropilaelaps mite to incorporate into a surveillance program using honey samples from commercial and hobby beekeepers in North Dakota.	$179,861.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	3. Increase the Value for North Dakota Potatoes through Education and Establishing a New Brand	The Northern Plains Potato Growers Association (NPPGA) will create a branding plan to showcase North Dakota grown potatoes as best-in-class in the market; develop marketing tools directed towards customers, chefs, and consumers to communicate the culinary, sustainability and nutritional value of North Dakota potatoes; and provide tools for educators to use in and out of classrooms to enhance the understanding and challenges of the potato from springtime planting to fall time harvest.	$250,000.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	4. Assist Grower/Shippers Promote and Sell North Dakota Grown Potatoes at National/International Trade Shows	The Northern Plains Potato Growers Association will provide a venue at the Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit trade shows in October 2022 and October 2023 for fresh potato packing sheds and growers to market and sell Red River Valley Potatoes to grocery chains and foodservice providers nationwide with the end result being to increase the awareness and consumption of North Dakota grown potatoes.	$144,680.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	5. Within Field Distribution of Potato Virus Y	The University of Minnesota – Northwest Research & Outreach Center will use highly accurate GPS, digital mapping, and spatial statistics to identify and describe any predictable, within-field distribution of Potato Virus Y in seed potato fields of North Dakota. These distributions will be used to develop recommendations for targeted application of management tactics (e.g., scouting, rogueing and management inputs) designed to improve the economic and environmental sustainability of North Dakota seed potato production.	$104,807.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	6. Determining Interaction of Nematode and Fungal Pathogens for Control of Root Rot of Field Pea	The Department of Plant Pathology at North Dakota State University will determine the molecular types of pin nematode species widely present in pea fields in North Dakota, develop a new real-time PCR assay for rapid detection and identification of the nematode species, evaluate the effects of co-inoculation of pin nematode and fungal species on root rot, growth and seed weight of field pea, and further compare the effects of infection from both pathogens with the infection of nematode or fungal species alone.	$116,120.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	7. Pulse Grain Bioprocessing for Enhanced Nutritional Profiles and Functional Properties	North Dakota State University will develop a green and tunable bioprocess by combining microbial (Aspergillus oryzae and Lactobacillus plantarum) and/or enzymatic conversion to enhance the nutritional and functional properties of pulses. The aim of this project is to tackle the nutritional, sensory, and physiochemical challenges currently faced by using pulse grains (yellow pea, lentil, and chickpea) as functional ingredients in food systems.	$193,332.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	8. Utilizing Remote-Controlled Irrigation for High Tunnel Tomato and Pepper Productions in ND	The North Dakota State University (NDSU) will establish a contractual relationship with the State Department of Agriculture to lead and execute the vegetable irrigation project. This project will enhance the competitiveness of tomato and pepper productions through greater capacity of sustainable practices resulting in increased yield, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and/or conservation of resources.	$122,808.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	9. Digging Deeper in Potatoes by Developing an Electronic Potato Production Book	North Dakota State University Extension Potato Agronomy program will develop an electronic potato production book complete with photo galleries, videos, research data and other information that will assist potato growers in making quick, critical management decisions. The book will include information on production practices from planting to growing the crop and storage of the potato tubers.	$246,540.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	10. Filling the Pits Caused by Potato Common Scab in North Dakota	North Dakota State University plant pathologists and extension professionals will partner with a potato common scab expert from USDA-ARS to improve the management of this disease in North Dakota in both the near- and far-term. Using pathogenic Streptomyces isolates collected from North Dakota, we will evaluate resistance in cultivars commonly grown in North Dakota. In addition, we will evaluate 2,4-D for the management of common scab.	$223,000.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	11. New Technology to Fight an Old Foe: Characterizing Resistance to Potato Powdery Scab	North Dakota State University potato breeder and plant pathologist, alongside the University of Minnesota potato breeder will improve our understanding of the genetics of resistance to powdery scab of potatoes, with the ultimate goal of developing cultivars resistant to this increasingly important and management-evading pathogen.	$201,619.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	12. Marketing NDSU Select Trees and Tree Value Education	The North Dakota State University proposes the development of an informational website and tree labels to be utilized in community plantings. Both of these marketing/educational opportunities would be positive for the NDNGLA and NDUCFA associations and help with increasing sales and public awareness.	$72,205.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	13. Managing Sclerotinia Head Rot in Confection Sunflowers with Bee-vectored Clonostachys Rosea and Partially Resistant Hybrids	The North Dakota State University Carrington Research Extension Center, in cooperation with the NDSU Langdon Research Extension Center, will conduct multi-location field trials and outreach to North Dakota and Minnesota sunflower producers to improve the management of Sclerotinia head rot of confection sunflowers, a sporadic but serious disease for which no management tools are currently available.	$118,483.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	14. Specialty Fruits and Vegetables: Increasing Knowledge, Skills and Consumption Among Youth and Adults	North Dakota State University Extension specialists, faculty, and staff from at least 25 counties and external partners will enhance knowledge and safe food handling of specialty fruit and vegetable crops from field to fork. The project will create new educational materials related to specialty fruits and vegetables grown in North Dakota targeting both youth and adults.	$81,464.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	15. Predicting Potato Growth in the Red River Valley	North Dakota State University will develop potato bulking models and a calculator to help potato growers determine the best time to desiccate vines in preparation for harvest. With a predictive model, potato growers could increase returns by saving time to dig and size potato tubers, increase yield by not removing so many tubers from the field and preserve other plants by not damaging them to walk into the field.	$122,384.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	16. New Slow Darkening Bean Specialty Market Classes for Improved Seed Quality and Market Expansion	The North Dakota State University (NDSU) dry bean breeding program successfully developed and released a slow darkening (SD) pinto variety, ND Palomino. We propose to extend to introduce the SD trait into cranberry, pink, and light red kidney market classes that are also prone to darkening issues.	$58,828.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	17. Managing Silver Scurf Blemish for Improved Marketability of Table Potatoes	Researchers in the Department of Plant Pathology and the Plant Sciences Department at North Dakota State University will conduct research to manage silver scurf blemish disease of red and yellow table potatoes. This will be accomplished by identifying selections from the NDSU potato breeding program with genetic resistance to silver scurf and by testing efficacy of chemical and biological compounds applied as seed treatments and in-furrow treatments at planting.	$152,437.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	18. Detection of Viruliferous Stubby Root Nematodes in Fields for Managing Corky Ringspot Disease of Potato	The Department of Plant Pathology at North Dakota State University will develop a new real-time PCR assay to detect Tobacco rattle virus (TRV) vectored by stubby root nematodes in infested potato fields, improve the conventional PCR assay to identify TRV in single viruliferous stubby root nematodes, establish a biological system to increase viruliferous nematode populations and then eliminate TRV from the viruliferous nematodes, and apply the PCR assays to test soil samples collected from various fields in North Dakota to validate the assays and determine the viruliferous field stubby root nematode populations.	$169,892.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	19. Green Foxtail Screening for Herbicide Resistance and Tank Mix Antagonism	North Dakota State University will screen green foxtail populations collected from across the state for resistance to commonly used herbicides in small grains and broadleaf crops. In addition, NDSU will evaluate various grass plus broadleaf herbicide tank mixes to determine if one product is reducing the effectiveness of another product (antagonism). The project will help us understand where herbicide resistance is developing and will help determine if tank mix antagonism is another reason green foxtail is not being controlled.	$66,611.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	20. Utilizing Low Tech Portable Caterpillar Tunnels to Increase Productivity of Warm-Season Vegetables and Small Fruits	North Dakota State University will establish an agreement relationship with the State Department of Agriculture to lead and execute the project to utilize low-tech portable caterpillar tunnels to increase productivity of warm-season vegetables and small fruits. NDSU will evaluate the use of caterpillar tunnels for the productivity of two vegetables and two small fruits.	$106,469.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	21. Optimizing Fungicide Spray Droplet Size for Improved White Mold Management in Dry Beans	The NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center, in collaboration with the NDSU Robert Titus Research Farm in Oakes, will conduct field research to optimize the delivery of fungicides for improved management of white mold in dry beans and will conduct outreach to North Dakota and Minnesota dry bean producers.	$116,932.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	22. Biodegradable Mulches for Environmentally Responsible Pest Management in Fruit and Vegetable Crops	North Dakota State University will investigate how cellulose-based biodegradable soil-applied mulches, as replacements for widely used plastic or polyethylene mulches, can suppress multiple pests (weeds and insects) in horticultural specialty crop production systems using the transplanted model crops, strawberry, and cabbage. The technologies developed by the proposed project are aimed at increasing weed suppression and decreasing insect pest pressure by disrupting pest biology and increasing beneficial natural enemies.	$99,483.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	23. Field Pea Gene Expression Response to Salt-Affected Soils	The North Dakota State University Carrington Research Extension Center and Plant Sciences Department will investigate field pea response to increasing salt concentrations. The resulting gene expression profile will be used in the selection of parents for future crosses to achieve greater salt tolerance in field peas.	$184,047.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	24. Evaluating Maple Cutting Propagation to Eliminate Grafting Issues	The North Dakota State University Woody Plant Improvement Program will evaluate cutting propagation methods for Korean maple (Acer pseudosieboldianum) and hybrids, Miyabe maple (Acer miyabei), Norway maple (Acer platanoides), Purpleblow maple hybrids (Acer platanoides x Acer truncatum) and trifoliate maples (Acer griseum, paperbark maple; Acer mandshuricum, Manchurian maple; Acer triflorum, threeflower maple). This project will focus on best management practices for developing propagation methods utilizing vegetative cuttings to eliminate the need for grafting.	$68,374.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	25. Automated Irrigation for Commercial Production of Watermelon, Squash, and Muskmelon Cultivars in Oakes	The Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABEN) and Department of Plant Sciences (PS) at North Dakota State University (NDSU) will work with the Oakes Irrigation Research Site (Oakes) to use an automated irrigation system for commercial production of watermelon, squash, and muskmelon near Oakes, ND.	$104,301.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	26. Evaluating the Feasibility of Growing and Cultivating Guar and Black Gram in North Dakota	The North Dakota State University will conduct research on the feasibility of growing and cultivating guar (Cyamopsis tetragonoloba L.) and black gram (Vigna mungo L.) to provide growers new specialty/legume crops that promote agricultural sustainability through increased crop diversification and farm income.	$97,002.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	27. Integrated Improvement Process of Cold-Hardy Grapes; from Breeding, Production, to Sensory Analysis	North Dakota State University will establish an agreement relationship with the State Department of Agriculture to lead and execute the project to identify grapevines with superior phenolic profiles and examine antioxidant, phenolic, and colorimetric characteristics of seedlings within a breeding population.	$166,117.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	28. Evaluating Black Currants, Cantaloupes, and Haskaps for Fruit Composition and Superior Health Attributes in ND	North Dakota State University Agriculture Experiment Main Station will establish an agreement relationship with the State Department of Agriculture to lead and execute the project to evaluate blackcurrant (Ribes nigrum), cantaloupe (Cucumis melo) and haskaps (Lonicera caerulea) cultivars for fruit yield and quality, fruit composition, and health attributes.	$124,857.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$4,333,597.74	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$275,504.34
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$760,304.48	1. The Ohio Department of Agriculture: Ohio Victory Gardens Program	The Ohio Victory Gardens program is a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Ohio State University (OSU) Extension Offices. Victory Gardens originated during World War I, an answer to a severe food shortage at the time. The idea was wildly successful, growing an army of amateur gardeners and serving to boost morale and patriotism. During the hard times that fell on the nation in March of 2020, ODA Director Dorothy Pelanda decided reviving the Victory Gardens effort could help Ohioans. In collaboration with OSU, the program encourages people to plant seeds, realize the fruits of their labor, and share with others if inspired.	$ 33034.13

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$760,304.48	2. The Ohio State University (OSU)- Improving Anthracnose Management in Ohio Pepper and Tomato Production Systems	The Ohio State University and the USDA Agricultural Research Service will improve anthracnose control in peppers and tomatoes by determining which fungicides are now ineffective due to fungicide resistance in the pathogen Colletotrichum, identifying alternative effective fungicides and optimal application timing, reducing inoculum in soil through anaerobic soil disinfestation, and disseminating results to stakeholders through established online, printed and in-person Extension approaches.	$90,000.00
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$760,304.48	3. The Ohio State University (OSU)- Next Generation Diagnostics and Surveillance for Ohio Specialty Crops	Plant diseases limit specialty crop production in Ohio. Swift and specific detection is critical to mitigate losses caused by pathogens such as bacteria. The OSU Emerging Infectious Disease Ecology, Vegetable Pathology, Ornamental Pathology and Fruit Pathology programs will improve an in-house sequencing-based workflow to identify bacterial plant pathogens affecting Ohio specialty crops.	$140,000.00
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$760,304.48	4. The Ohio State University (OSU)- Supporting Ohio's Cut Flower Industry Through Diagnostics, Disease Management and Outreach	The Ornamentals Pathology laboratory at The Ohio State University will work in partnership with the USDA-ARS Application Technology Research Unit to support Ohio's specialty cut flower industry through improved plant health by identifying disease threats, developing sustainable disease management solutions, and educating growers through outreach programs.	$110,000.00
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$760,304.48	5. The Refugee Response- Ohio City Farm Wash-Pack Station: Improved Infrastructure supporting CSA, Restaurant and Farm Stand Retail	Ohio City Farm will use this grant to install a seasonally heated and enclosed wash-pack station for improved efficiency, capacity, food safety, and worker comfort while processing produce for our CSA program as well as restaurant and farm stand sales. This will not only enable our staff to produce a higher-quality product at a higher volume more efficiently and safely, but also to utilize the space during cold weather and prevent our hydrant water connection from freezing; such an improvement will allow us to access water for produce washing and production tunnel irrigation throughout the winter.	$16,400.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$760,304.48	6. The Ohio State University (OSU)- New Life for Old Trees: Hard Cider Innovations for Ohio Legacy Varieties	An experienced team of horticulture and hard cider researchers from Ohio State University will seek to apply alternative fruit processing techniques to improve the quality and marketability of juice and hard cider derived from heritage apple varieties such as Cortland, Macintosh, Jonathan, and Melrose. The work will seek to establish a critically needed value-added application for the thousands of acres currently planted to these varieties in Ohio.	$110,000.00
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$760,304.48	7. The Ohio State University (OSU)- Improving Ohio Chestnut Production by Understanding Blossom End Rot Disease and Improving Grafting Success	The Ohio State University, Department of Plant Pathology, in collaboration with Ohio chestnut producers will increase our understanding of the chestnut blossom end rot disease cycle through controlled field studies and increase grafting success through the use of biocontrol agents. Findings from this study will be disseminated to producers through video and traditional factsheets, newsletters, and grower meetings.	$100,000.00
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$760,304.48	8.Oberlin Food Hub- Modernizing the Oberlin Food Hub Warehouse to Increase the Competitiveness of Specialty Crops to Institutional Customers	The Oberlin Food Hub seeks to modernize the warehouse, order, and inventory management systems to increase the competitiveness of Ohio-grown specialty crop sales to institutional customers and other food hubs in our network. Modernization will increase the efficacy and accuracy of specialty crop sales to provide better service and ensure all potential sales are leveraged. Project will include incorporating bar code scanners into the warehouse inventory management system for receiving and shipping practices, replacing the manual, human error ridden practice now. Finally, with increased food safety regulation in the not-too-distant future, OFH aims to be ahead of the mandated traceability requirements.	$75,000.00
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$760,304.48	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$76,270.35
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$797,812.77	1. Empowering Home-Based Oklahoma Specialty Crop Processors with Custom Food Safety Training	Oklahoma State University Extension specialists will develop and offer a new food safety education and outreach program for home-based specialty crop processors of Oklahoma. The project will provide customized hands-on food safety training to prepare Oklahoma's home-based entrepreneurial specialty crop processing establishments to meet the Oklahoma Homemade Food Freedom Act training requirement (HFFA).	$141,605.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$797,812.77	2. Increasing Awareness of Native Pecans Through Public Education	Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association (OPGA) proposes to conduct an educational campaign to enhance the awareness of native pecans by local and national consumers and to provide landowners with information and guidance needed to take advantage of this indigenous agricultural resource.	$150,000.00
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$797,812.77	3. Development of An Oklahoma Landscape Plant App For iOS & Android	Oklahoma State University Extension will develop a landscape plant selection app for use on iOS and Android. This app will help consumers identify plants that suit their landscape needs and recommend specialty crop nursery species that are adapted to Oklahoma's climate. The database that will populate the recommendations will be based on those plants recommended by various OSU Extension publications.	$55,120.00
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$797,812.77	4. Development of Online Master Gardener Training Course and Individual Topic Horticulture Outreach Classes	Oklahoma State University Extension will develop online e-learning program for Oklahoma Master Gardener education that can be used as "train the trainer" course for county educators as well as a tool they can use to train Master Gardeners.	$68,252.00
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$797,812.77	5. Specialty Crop Producers' Education Support Initiative	Mid-America Technology Center (MATC) will facilitate training for specialty crop producers in Oklahoma through four modules of educational training over a two-year period. MATC will target 100% specialty crops that can be grown in Oklahoma and is confident that 40 producers would meet the requirements for applying for this training opportunity.	$113,988.00
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$797,812.77	6. Specialty Crop Professional Development for Educators and Bilingual resources for students.	Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom will create a professional development opportunity for teachers through 4 one-day workshops (2 workshops in year one and 2 workshops in year two) and printing bilingual specialty crop educational resources for students to be used in their classrooms.	$111,550.00
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$797,812.77	7. Oklahoma Specialty Crop Educator Tours	Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom will create a professional development opportunity for teachers through 4 one-day rolling workshops. The teachers will visit Oklahoma specialty crop producers throughout the state during various times of year in order to see different types of specialty crop production. The purpose of this project is to provide meaningful and relevant professional development for Oklahoma educators.	$15,122.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$797,812.77	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	63,825.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	1. Co-Packing Opportunities Using Oregon Grown Specialty Crops	The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Agricultural Development and Marketing Program (ADMP), in collaboration with local and regional partners, will develop a networking tool to increase the gap between the scale of co-packing and small and medium-sized specialty crop growers; especially among emerging, black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) and women-owned food and beverage businesses. This project contributes to the ODA's Oregon Food and Beverage Roadmap, an online guide to connect food and beverage businesses to public agencies and private organizations, including ODA, Business Oregon, OSU Food Innovation Center, PCC Getting Your Recipe to Market.	$125,000.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	2. Rebuilding Business Relationships in Asia for Oregon's Specialty Crop Products	Oregon Department of Agriculture will bring Oregon's food and beverage specialty crop products together in a concerted effort to overcome the impacts of COVID-19 and create a broader image for Oregon's food and beverage products in strategic and high-potential Asian markets. The project aims to develop informational material about Oregon's specialty crops targeted to key Asian markets and potential customers in those markets; complete a trade mission to two Asian markets; and host an inbound trade mission to continue engagement with buyers form the Asian markets visited.	$194,294.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	3. Pantry to Table: Inspiring Home-Cooks' Usage of Oregon Specialty Crops	Representing nearly all shelf-stable specialty-fruits, The Canned Food Alliance (CFA) seeks to build new users by sharing benefits of OR shelf-stable specialty-crops (pears, cherries, and fruit cocktail) with US home-cooks via influencers, capitalizing on covid-related trends of increased home-cooking and demand for pantry-ready ingredients. The project aims to encourage increased purchase and consumption of Oregon specialty crops; to continue to educate consumers, influencers, and other stakeholder/decision-makers about the "picked-fresh, packed fresh" nature of Oregon shelf-stable fruits, thus dispelling outdated myths about canned fruits; and to educate consumers and influencers about how and why to purchase Oregon/US Grown shelf-stable pears, cherries and fruit cocktail—instead of product from China, Greece or Italy.	$198,500.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	4. Grandma's Hands Future for Family Health	The Rockwood Community Development Corporation of Oregon (CDCO) and its partners will increase the consumption of specialty crops among African American communities in the Greater Portland Metro Region, building off the success of our first Grandma's Hands project funded by ODA Specialty Block Grant Program. We will expand the scope of Grandma's Hands from Rockwood to the entire Portland Metro area (including Vancouver if allowable). We will reinstate a key element of the original project to connect grandmothers and their grandchildren through food. This element of in-person interaction was abandoned due to Covid-19 restrictions and represents pandemic recovery and the full strength of this project idea.	$175,500.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	5. Connecting Oregon Specialty Crop Producers Affected by COVID-19 to Retailers	For over a decade, the Good Food Foundation (GFF) has connected producers of sustainably sourced food with top-flight retailers, actively nurturing the Good Food ecosystem and expanding the market reach of small and mid-sized food producers across America. This 18-month endeavor will connect over 125 Oregon producers, utilizing an array of Oregon-grown specialty crops, with buyers to drive market permeation and increase sales, with a special focus on rural food and beverage producers through access to both in-person and virtual trade shows and an innovative grocery store end cap that will promote Oregon specialty crop producers across the country.	$125,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	6. Expanding Wholesale Market Infrastructure for Columbia River Gorge Specialty Crops	The Gorge Farmer Cooperative will increase local food sales by promoting the existing Online Farmers Market model for direct-to-consumer sales, coordinating crop production among members, increasing membership, and adding and promoting a wholesale component to the online platform where inventory management is decentralized to individual farmers, meanwhile, marketing, ordering, invoicing, and delivery is centralized by the cooperative.	$151,100.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	7. Oregon Hazelnut Spotlight Tour for Regional Grocers and Foodservice Distributors	The Hazelnut Marketing Board will organize an industry tour that will bring approximately 25 representatives from 20-25 Pacific Northwest and west coast grocery store and foodservice companies to the Willamette Valley to showcase the Oregon hazelnut industry, thereby establishing relationships that will lead to more Oregon hazelnuts on grocery store shelves and in the foodservice marketplace.	$45,800.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	8. Value Chain Coordination in Central Oregon	The High Desert Food and Farm Alliance (HDFFA) on behalf of Central Oregon specialty crop farmers and buyers will hire an identified Value Chain Coordinator to increase purchasing of Central Oregon specialty crops by individual consumers, restaurants, and wholesale buyers from small to mid-sized specialty crop farms. Buyers will have access to a larger variety and volume of regional specialty crops, and consumers will gain knowledge and exposure.	$158,614.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	9. Outreach to Expand Use of Olive Plant Material in Beverages	La Creole Orchards, a pioneering olive grower in Oregon will conduct a well-planned outreach effort directed at 250 to 300 beverage industry professionals to inspire them to use olive plant material (bark, leaves, and twigs from pruning) in their beverages. We will target both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages producers. We believe producers of beer, cider, gin, vermouth, etc., and producers of teas and energy drinks will respond well to outreach about the benefits that olive plant material can impart to their products.	$60,855.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	10. Connecting Berry Farmers to Virtual Networking and Learning Opportunities	Northwest Berry Foundation (NBF) proposes to modernize and upgrade our communication efforts and kickstart interaction. Much of the cost of this will be establishing these services. NBF's grant funding goals are as follows: create an online forum for berry industry stakeholders, tied to our website and newsletter; expand NBF's social media presence as responsive information platforms; and hybridize our upcoming events for both in person and online participation.	$140,985.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	11. Cider Club! Innovative Collective Sales Strategy for Oregon Craft Cider	The Northwest Cider Association (NWCA) will lead and execute a domestic market access and development project designed to enhance the competitiveness of 12+ specialty crops through increased sales of and access to Oregon craft cider. Craft alcoholic ciders are value-added products that utilize local farmers' supplies of apples, grapes, cane berries, stone fruit, berries, hops, and botanical herbs.	$199,968.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	12. Crops in Class: An Educational Exploration of Oregon's Specialty Crops	Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation will work to increase student knowledge about specialty crops and provide relevant STEM education through the development and distribution of classroom kits and augmentation of a statewide agricultural literacy project.	$137,214.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	13. Building Capacity for New Direct Markets for Oregon's Specialty Crops Farmers	Oregon Agritourism Partnership (OAP) will provide direct marketing, technical support, and business assistance workshops for out-of-network Oregon Specialty Crop family farmers to be able to begin selling products and services direct to the public; and provide Oregon Farm Loop (OFL) partners new promotional opportunities to showcase and sell products directly to the public.	$70,450.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	14. Oregon Hop Promotions to Women Craft Brewers in the US	The Oregon Hop Commission will promote Oregon grown hops to women craft brewers in the US by creating virtual hop harvest visits which will include video tours of the Oregon hop growing region and Oregon grown hops for sensory and brewing evaluation.	$48,200.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	15. Market Development and Access for Northwest Caneberries in South Korea	The Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission (ORBC) along with in-kind support from the Washington Red Raspberry Commission (WRRC) will work to establish necessary access to the South Korean market in order to sell processed whole Northwest blackberries and raspberries. Creating a trading relationship with South Korea is fundamental to the sustainability of the blackberry and raspberry industry, giving local farmers confidence in continued industry growth after challenges due to COVID-19.	$110,827.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	16. Consume Something Amazing: Learn to Love Your CSA Share	The Pacific Northwest Community Supported Agriculture Coalition (PNWCSA) Coalition will develop a campaign of tips, tricks, and toolkits to help CSA consumers get the maximum enjoyment and value from their CSA shares, leading to higher CSA member renewal rates and increased CSA sales. The materials developed in this project will be available to consumers and farmers in our region and across the country and will be disseminated by the PNWCSA and our external project partners.	$199,697.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	17. Expanding Markets through Capacity Building of Rogue Valley Food Network	The Rogue Valley Food System Network (RVFSN) will leverage the resources of multiple stakeholders to coordinate and expand five regional projects that address the documented needs of specialty crop producers in Southern Oregon. These efforts will support the development of new market channels for producers, including farm-to-institutions, agritourism, cooperatives, food hubs, and direct to consumer. Outcomes of the project include enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased sales and enhancing their competitiveness through increased consumption.	$201,741.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	18. Expanding Awareness, Access, and Agritourism in Rogue Valley Wine Country	Rogue Valley Vintners seeks to grow national interest in Rogue Valley Wine Country (RVWC) agritourism, wine sales and distribution to accelerate COVID recovery. The project plans to 1) increase awareness of RVWC; creatively engaging new and younger wine consumers and wine/agritourism visitors; 2) grow wine sales, increase awareness and competitiveness, and enhance regional wine club offerings to include food, confectionary, and artisanal pairings; 3) build and expand partnerships that broaden RVWC's reach and distribution channels regionally and nationally; 4) host wine writers/media to educate about the region and promote it as a wine/agritourism destination; and 5) offer education program for winery and restaurant staff on exceptional service, regional wines and promoting RVWC.	$199,587.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$2,742,866.66	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$199,534.66
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,398,304.67	1. Evaluating the Impacts of Spotted Lanternfly Feeding Damage to Grapevines	Researchers at The Pennsylvania State University will develop new information for optimizing management of spotted lanternfly in vineyards by evaluating the effects of spotted lanternfly population density on grape yield, vine growth, and wine chemical composition and by disseminating results to stakeholders through various extension outlets.	$123,966.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,398,304.67	2. Enhancement of Nutrient Carryover and Accumulation Levels in Beans and Broccoli	Roale Institute will evaluate yield and nutrient levels carried over and accumulated in soil, bean and broccoli crops in cropping systems that will include cereal crops and will disseminate results to stakeholders at grower meetings and field days.	$159,800.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,398,304.67	3. Effective and Reliable BioControl to Support Greener Specialty Crop Production	Specific Objectives: a) investigate which edaphic factors influence biocontrol efficacy against tomato diseases, b) develop tools needed to research how chemical-mediated interactions around plant roots affect plant health and biocontrol efficacy, and c) widely disseminate the resulting resources and insights to facilitate efforts to develop biocontrol strategies for diverse specialty crops. Anticipated Outcomes: a) new tools and data from the project will enhance our understanding of the mechanism of soil ecology processes critical for biocontrol efficacy; b) an enhanced understanding of which factors affect biocontrol efficacy will help design biocontrol strategies optimized for individual production systems; c) similar studies with other specialty crops will increase.	$216,943.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,398,304.67	4. PA Preferred Culinary Connection with Focus on Promoting Pennsylvania Specialty Corps	Strategic Contracting, Inc. will plan and coordinate the 2023 PA Preferred Culinary Connection, which delivers immediate benefits to the specialty crops organizations and the local economy in the form of increased sales and marketability of PA commercially grown specialty crops by allowing local farmers and food suppliers to showcase their specialty crops to local consumers.	$71,209.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,398,304.67	5. Developing a Bee Identification Expert System to Evaluate BioDiversity Losses and Conservation	Penn State will develop an on-line bee identification expert system to be used by agricultural researchers, students, and government agencies to quantify the wild bee community pollinating fruit and vegetable crops in the Mid-Atlantic. With this tool, the progress of augmentation and conservation programs can be quantified as can the impacts of conventional and organic pesticide. With a better understanding of the hundreds of bee species that pollinate these crops, sustainable pollination can be assured at a time when over-reliance on the honeybee is uncertain due to various factors known as Colony Collapse Disorder.	$100,274.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,398,304.67	6. E-Commerce & Specialty Crops: Educational Series	Pasa Sustainable Agriculture will connect specialty crop growers with new and diverse markets by partnering with farmers as peer-to-peer educators to increase knowledge of and access to ecommerce technology, market discovery tools, and customer conversion solutions.	$85,575.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,398,304.67	7. Diversified Vegetable Pre-Apprenticeship Program	The LEAF Project will implement the newly registered Diversified Vegetable Pre-Apprenticeship (or DVP) over the course of the 2022 and 2023 growing seasons and further develop the curricular and training materials in the process. The Pre-Apprenticeship is a robust agricultural training program that includes 225 hours of hands-on training as well as 25 hours of related technical instruction. LEAF will hire 40 youth from diverse backgrounds into paid positions and will teach core farming competencies & knowledge necessary for success in producing specialty crops, business planning and financial goal setting skills, and best practices in workforce readiness. LEAF seeks to employ youth from diverse backgrounds, including socially disadvantaged groups.	$79,130.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,398,304.67	8. Villa Maria Farm Specialty Crops Education and Training Project	The Villa Maria Farm Center for Regenerative Agriculture is a project supported and developed by Community Partnership, Inc. with the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, for the purpose of supporting the education and development of new and beginning farmers. This project seeks to provide specialty crops education (focused on organic growing methods) to ten new and beginning farmers per year though onsite learning in demonstration gardens and virtual and in-person learning circles.	$151,106.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,398,304.67	9. Factors Driving Chemical Quality of Ramps	Penn State University will investigate factors determining the chemical and sensory quality of ramps (Allium tricoccum and A. burdickii). These results will support growers in developing a consistent product, identifying ramp stocks that maximize ramp quality and value, and better understanding consumer preferences for ramps.	$89,366.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,398,304.67	10. Spent Mushroom Compost Recycled as Casing	Penn State University and Mushroom Farmers of Pennsylvania will perform studies to identify new mushroom casings. The impact of COVID-19 on many businesses nationally has seen a re-evaluating and reconsidering multiple core businesses, lines of revenue and social and environmental impacts. Peatland management in the US and Canada are pulling back production for a number of environmental and climate-change-impact related reasons. Further, the COVID-created supply chain disruptions and shortages have been brought to an urgent head for PA the mushroom industry, whose main source of casing--the absorbent layer of peat that keeps mushroom compost/soil wet—has been cut off.	$55,400.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,398,304.67	11. Good Agricultural Practices (GA)/ Good Handling Practices (GHP)/ mushroom Specific GAP (MGAP) Cost-Share Program	The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will provide financial support through cost sharing of applicable certification fees to producers and processors who successfully complete a USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) or USDA Good Handling Practices (GHP) or Mushroom Specific GAP (MGAP) audit annually. The program will provide a maximum reimbursement of up to $500 towards one successfully completed audit per year.	$129,438.14
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,398,304.67	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$136,097.53
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	1. Enhancing Competitiveness of Specialty Crops by Increasing Consumption, Access, and Awareness.	Corporación Juvenil para el Desarrollo de Comunidades Sostenibles (CJDCS) Specialty Crops Grant's goals are to educate, inspire, and empower students, teachers, and local community members by providing knowledge of the health benefits and advantages of growing and consuming high-quality specialty fruits and vegetables while learning how to farm. The project includes virtual workshops, visits to the community garden, nutritional-based educational workshops so they can learn the health benefits of growing and consuming high-quality specialty fruits and vegetables and, culinary workshops by local chefs using locally grown specialty crops, specifically those grown in the five schools.	$9,550.92
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	2. Mitigate the Impact that the Pandemic Has Had on the Agricultural Production of Hydrofarm Pagan Inc.	Hydrofarm Pagan Inc. is a Puerto Rican corporation dedicated to the production and sale of coriander and lettuce, in hydroponics, which are distributed in 16 supermarkets in the north and central areas of Puerto Rico. We request funds to implement a project to install laundry facilities for the sanitation of employees in front of each hydroponic, as well as personal protective equipment.	$9,950.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	3. Farm in The City as a Resilient and a Virus-Safe Program for Specialty Crops to the Community.	Farm in the City LLC has been harvesting in a controlled environment technology and marketing specialty crops for restaurants and supermarkets for two years. We've been marketing our premium products with traditional bag packaging, with present Covid times, we need an integration of plastic virus-safe clamshells where the product will be safer to our community.	$9,986.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	4. Covid-19 Prevention Strategies Focused on the Occupational Health and Safety of Agricultural Employees.	Bananera Fabre Inc is an agricultural company that, like many farmers, has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The main objective of this project is to provide the local banana industry with the efficiency of the implementation of adequate materials and tools as prevention of COVID-19.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	5. Hidroponicos del Pais, Inc. COVID-19 Defense Program	Hidropónicos del País, Inc. is a family-owned hydroponic farm that produces different varieties of lettuce for local supermarkets in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. We will mitigate the spread of COVID 19 within our personnel by increasing cleaning, disinfection, and personal protective equipment efforts.	$9,990.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	6. Mitigate the Impact that the Pandemic Has Had on the Agricultural Production of Finca Don Pancho	Finca Don Pancho, with a territorial extension of 23 acres, is dedicated to the production and sale of bananas, citrus, and coffee. It requests funds to implement a project to install a container storage, as well as personal protective equipment.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	7. Prevention and Mitigation of Covid-19 Risks in the Operations of Hidrocultivos Carolinenses Inc.	Hidrocultivos Carolinenses Inc. will reinforce its plan to prevent and mitigate the risk of infection by covid-19 in daily operations; through the implementation of new measures to protect personnel, disinfection of packing and processing areas, planting areas, equipment and tools used daily in the company and harvest transportation fleet.	$9,971.52
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	8. Avoid contagion and spread of covid-19 in HYDRO M.A.S.	HYDRO M.A.S is dedicated to the hydroponic cultivation of herbs basil, baby arugula, mesclun, coriander and parsley with 20 years of experience. The harvest is distributed to restaurants and wholesale distributors. HYDRO M.A.S will avoid covid-19 outbreak on the farm and clients by providing cleaning, disinfection and personal protection items to all personnel and developing a health and food handling protocol.	$9,826.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	9. Agrotica Inc. Protects the Employees and Workplace from the Spread of COVID-19	Agrotica, Inc.'s purpose is to help employees identify if they have been exposed to COVID-19 and to take the proper measurements to prevent infection and outbreak by giving them the guidance, instructions, and Personal Protective Equipment advised by the Puerto Rico Health Department to produce specialty crops.	$9,954.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	10. PB Farm, Corp. is Preventing the COVID-19 Transmission	PB Farm Corp. is proposed to give the employees the proper education to help identify the exposure to COVID-19 and wants to give them all necessary resources for a better and safe place to work.	$9,943.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	11. Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Agro Tropical, Inc.	Agro Tropical, Inc. is intended to help workers identify COVID-19 exposure and to take appropriate steps to prevent infection regardless of vaccination status, giving them guidance, support and PPE suggested by the CDC and the Puerto Rico Department of Health.	$9,955.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	12. Agropek COVID-19 Spread Prevention Improvement - HR133	Agropek will implement specifics measure to protect the employees of the farm from the Covid-19 virus. Also, these measures will protect the safety of consumers and visitors from Governmental Agencies in the farm. The control of the entrance, cleaning and disinfecting stations, PPE and sanitizing station will be implemented in different areas of the farm to evade the spread of contamination.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	13. Integral Safety Procedures	CAPI, Inc.'s proposal emphasizes the protection and prevention practices against COVID-19. This project will mitigate the spread of the virus and keep our produce safety for the consumers. The funds will be used to buy materials that strengthen the preventive measures established to maintain health worldwide.	$7,819.21
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	14. Protecting Food Production During Pandemic Times in Finca Atabey	Finca Atabey will partner with the Department of Agriculture implementing different practices to protect our employees and our clients of the dispersion of the COVID-19 disease and to protect our production of specialty crops. The specialty crops that this project will be promoting are: avocado, cilantro, passion fruit, okra, and peppers. We want to implement a better protocol to maintain the areas that are going to be in contact with our products in a safer disinfected environment.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	15. Exposure Control Plan to Covid-19	Tropical Fruit LLC is a company dedicated to the growth, packing and worldwide mango export. This plan was developed to help us in promoting health and safety among our employees and create a safe work environment, with the necessary methods for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19, through the acquisition of hygiene materials.	$9,998.39

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	16. Increase the Safety of our Employees and Prevent the Spread of the Covid 19 Virus	E&D Herbs Medicine Natural Products LLC's project will implement security materials for the prevention of Covid 19 so employees feel more reliable in their work area. Our farm has specialized since 2017 in promoting the planting of medicinal crops.	$6,684.84
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	17. Strengthening COVID-19 Safety Procedures to Better Serve the Plenitud PR Staff and Community in Las Marías PR	The purpose of this protocol is to maintain the welfare of employees, members, and the safety of the organization and to comply with the established regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA y PROSHA). Plenitud PR will strengthen COVID-19 safety procedures for staff, trainees, volunteers, and visitors of the farm.	$9,965.75
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	18. Hacienda La Mia INC. Covid 19 Free	Due to Covid 19, our products were affected by lack of labor since they did not show up to work for fear of being infected. Hacienda LA Mia INC. will fight covid by keeping distance between employees. We will provide tools to promote social distancing.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	19. Safety Team	Semilla LLC is committed to helping prevent the spread of Covid among employees, customers, collaborators and volunteers through disinfection and infection prevention protocols. The requested equipment and materials will help run this process more efficiently and alleviate operational costs that have increased as a result of Covid.	$9,999.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	20. Mitigate the Impact that the Pandemic has had on the Agricultural Production of La Granja de Jofry LLC	La Granja de Jofry LLC. is a Puerto Rican corporation dedicated to the seed germination, for the propagation of fruit trees, production and sale of bananas, and coffee, guava, lemon, and papaya, which are distributed in supermarkets and other farmers in central areas of Puerto Rico. We request funds to adjust our facilities that allow us to protect employees from the contagion of Covid-19.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	21. Mitigate the Impact that the Pandemic has had on the Agricultural Production of Empresa Agricola Miranda Torres Inc.	Empresa Agricola Miranda Torres Inc. is a Puerto Rican corporation dedicated to the production of bananas, name, sweet peppers, celery, pumpkin, taro, yautia, taro, yautia, and coffee. We request funds to adjust our facilities that allow us to protect employees from the contagion of Covid-19.	$10,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	22. Maintenance and Enhancement of Specialty Coffee and Citrus Crops	Offeecay, Inc. is a farm focused on specialty coffee and specialty citrus. Amid the COVID pandemic the availability has been reduced significantly to the point of risking the existence of the farm endeavor. The solution is to provide workers with COVID protective materials.	$9,078.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	23. Finca Rosado, Inc.	Finca Rosado, Inc is a small family farm business. It is dedicated to hydroponic planting and harvesting, it produces lettuce and coriander. With these funds, the project will be promoting our products so that it reaches the consumer in a safe, clean, and healthy way.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	24. Rico Banana, Inc. Health, Safety and Sanitation Proposal	Rico Banana, Inc's main goal is to prevent the spread of Covid-19 within our facility by increasing the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and increasing sanitation. This way, the company will mitigate the impact of the pandemic in regard to employee safety and sanitation of its facility.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	25. Plantas de Puerto Rico is Dedicated to Offer a Plants Propagation Service to Farmers, Growers and Government	Planta de Puerto Rico offers the plants propagation service for farmers, ornamentals growers, homeowners, and Universities. This project will implement practices to protect ourselves from the spread of COVID-19 among our employees and their families.	$9,980.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	26. Purchase Security Articles for Farm H Market	The purpose of Finca H Mercado's project is to maintain the safety of the employees against Covid-19. During the pandemic, we were closed by government order and our farm had a loss of fruit since they could not be collected. In addition, we did not have personnel to work since they were afraid that they could catch the virus.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	27. Improved Facilities in Compliance with Covid-19 Protocols	The purpose of Jeanmarie Chocolat's project is to improve the existing facilities to ensure social distancing between visitors and employees, acquire additional sanitations equipment, and enhance safety protocols. This project will also allow us to offer agritourism activities and cacao seminars.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	28. Mitigate the Impact that the Pandemic has had on the Agricultural Production of Finca Raices	Finca Raices' project will protect employees from the contagion of Covid-19. This project will also make possible to comply with all Federal and State regulations that have been presented due to the pandemic.	$10,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	29. Good Practices to Reduce the Effects of Covid-19	The effects of the pandemic within our farm caused us to lose entire batches of products due to lack of labor. We continue to work to prevent and counteract the effects of COVID-19 and its new variants within our agricultural company. MS Produce LLC's goal is to increase workforce through training and protective equipment, as well as places for personal hygiene.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	30. Mitigation Measures Against Covid 19 in Coffee Roasting Facility	Empresas de Cafe LLC is a company dedicated to the coffee roasting agricultural operation. This project requests funds to transform the roasting coffee production into a safer environment for employees and visitors.	$9,838.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	31. LR Farm Development LLC Protection Plan Against COVID-19	LR Farm Development LLC is a company dedicated to the production of coffee, bananas, and citrus. COVID 19 has increased operating costs by requiring sanitation and protection equipment for employees. With this project, it is expected to keep employees and their family's health and have a successful operation.	$9,990.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	32. Gonzalez Martinez Farm is Committed to Contribute to the Food Supply of Puerto Rico	Gonzalez Martinez Farm Inc. is a Puerto Rican company whose purpose is to produce and market high quality agricultural products in the categories of farineceous and vegetables. This project will address the void of fresh locally produced food products that affects Puerto Rico's food supply chain including but not limited to plantains, bananas, squash, and yams.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	33. Juan González Vargas	Juan González Varga's farm will address the void of fresh locally produced food products that affects Puerto Rico's food supply chain. The project is newly created, it will cover the need for the central area, especially the towns adjacent to the municipality of Comerío.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	34. Prevent the Spread of COVID 19 Among Employees, Visitors from Government Agencies, Clients, and Service Providers who Visit us at the CH Agro Farm	CH Agro Inc.'s project will provide employees and visitors with disinfection and quality control places to mitigate and / or avoid the spread of Covid-19. This will be achieved via the disinfection and protective equipment material.	$10,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	35. Amasar LLC - Value-Added Processing of Breadfruit (Panapen), a Highly Nutritional and Sub Utilized Specialized Crop in Puerto Rico.	Amasar LLC is a woman-led agribusiness dedicated to the value-added processing of Breadfruit (Panapen), a superfood. With this project, we will purchase supplies needed for facility cleaning, employee's protection, and workstation settings.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	36. Avoiding Covid in Finca Dos Hermanas	Finca Dos Hermanas is an agricultural company, with 100% renewable energy, is focused on satisfying the Puerto Rican market and taste using breadfruit with a particular focus on the population that suffers from food intolerances and allergies. This project will use tools and strict cleaning management to keep employees and visitors protected at all times from any possible spread COVID-19.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	37. Produce Healthy Food that We Can Sell and Contribute to Food Security	The purpose of De mi Tierra a Mi Pueblo Corp's project is to acquire protection material for our agricultural company to be able to participate in agricultural markets safely in the presence of covid-19. Also prepare our facilities to receive the public.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	38. Covid 19 Protection and Materials Disinfection to Control Pathogens: Fresas y Uvas Rose, Las Piedras, PR	Fresas y Uvas Rose farm's project aims to reach the greatest number of people to motivate them to grow specialized crops such as strawberries, grapes, asparagus, broccoli, among others. This project will help increase the amount of food available for their families. We want to reach children especially in schools by providing them with the necessary education to start their garden. In addition, this project will aim to avoid contagion of COVID 19 and its variants between workshop's participants, visitors, volunteers, and employees that visit the Fresas y Uvas Rose farm at Las Piedras, PR.	$10,000.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	39. Prevent and Improve Good Agricultural Practices Covid 19 HR133	Agro Industria y Cosntructora Moroveños Inc.'s project will aim to avoid contagions within the work area that may affect the continuity of crops and promote job security. With the proposal will seek to promote efficiencies, mechanization, and automation of systems.	$10,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	40. Essential Items to Prevent the Spread of Covid 19 in Agricultural Projects in Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture and the Puerto Rico Agricultural Development Innovation Fund's project will maintain the welfare of the employees and the safety of the agricultural project in order to comply with the regulations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Puerto Rico is among the countries that have been greatly affected by the Covid 19 pandemic and with this project, we hope to provide the necessary tools so that agribusinesses and specialty crop farmers can clean and disinfect the work and packaging areas.	$249,670.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$641,131.53	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$8,981.90
Rhode Island Division of Agriculture	$363,910.51	1. COVID-19 Impacts Assistance Program for Rhode Island Specialty Crop Producers	The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management – Division of Agriculture (RIDEM) will offer and provide a mini grant program for eligible expenses related to COVID-19 that benefit the production and distribution of Rhode Island specialty crops. Throughout the pandemic three areas have impacted Rhode Island Specialty crop production and marketing – Food Safety, Digital Marketing, and direct COVID-19 expenses. These are the three areas this project will focus on.	$310,766.53
Rhode Island Division of Agriculture	$363,910.51	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$53,143.98
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$798,373.47	1. SCDA Marketing: "Come and Get Your Love" at Certified Roadside Markets/ Community Farmers Markets	The South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) Marketing Department will develop a robust consumer education and marketing campaign to drive consumption and purchases of South Carolina (SC) specialty crops at retail establishments, farmers' markets, and roadside markets throughout the year. This marketing project will educate consumers on SC crop availability, the impact and importance of buying locally and regionally, and mechanisms for sourcing local products.	$300,021.72
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$798,373.47	2. SC State 1890 Chickpea Research for New Markets in SC	South Carolina State University (SCSU) 1890 Research and Extension Program will evaluate the growth and yields potential of chickpeas production and its economic viability as a specialty crop in the sandy soils of South Carolina's Midlands.	$100,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$798,373.47	3. GAP Consultation and Cost Share Program	The South Carolina Department of Agriculture Agency Operations Division (SCDA) will develop and implement a new, robust Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Consultation and Cost Share Program to assist specialty crop growers with expanding markets for greater growth and profitability. Partnering with The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) for the technical assistance and educational components of this program will create the capacity to support all specialty crop growers in the state who are seeking increased marketability through GAP certification.	$294,829.69
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$798,373.47	4. SC Black Farmers Coalition Grower Conference	Hosted by the SC Black Farmers Coalition, the annual SC Black Farmers Conference is designed to bring important information, technical assistance, farm skills workshops, on-site tours, and other networking resources to new and established Black farmers across the state in order to build the capacity of these farms to be more profitable and sustainable across generations.	$19,183.28
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$798,373.47	5. SC Specialty Crop Growers Association Packaging Program	The South Carolina Specialty Crop Growers Association is seeking funding to continue to administer the program for small and medium-sized specialty crop growers. This project will be a continuation of the 2021 project, “Enhancing the South Carolina Specialty Crop Industry through Value-added packaging” allowing specialty crop growers to offset the burdensome cost of packaging expenses for growers through the cost-share reimbursement. This project will enable more growers to increase their share of South Carolina’s specialty crop industry while complying with market outlet packaging requirements.	$25,200.00
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$798,373.47	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$76,821.27

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
South Dakota Department of Agriculture	$534,545.43	1. Measure the Impact of Climate Smart Product, PlantCatalyst®, on Reduction of Fertilizer and Soil Health	A public-private partnership between CAW Industries, Inc., and South Dakota State University (SDSU) will build on previous research projects to expand knowledge of how PlantCatalyst® can be used to improve soil health and reduce greenhouse emissions from synthetic fertilizers. SDSU will develop a multi-year series of field trials at their West River Research Farm to expand upon results observed in previous laboratory experiments indicating that use of PlantCatalyst® has a demonstrably positive affect on soil activities including fungi and bacterial development as well as field trials showing how using PlantCatalyst® allows farmers to reduce dependence on nitrogen fertilizer while improving soil health.	$59,830
South Dakota Department of Agriculture	$534,545.43	2. Increasing the Awareness and Use of Local Food Retailers who Aggregate Specialty Crops for Public Purchase	South Dakota Specialty Producers Association (SDSPA) will increase the sales of specialty crops by promoting shopping at local food retailers which are selling specialty crops from multiple producers. As a result of our project, there will be an increase in specialty crop sales, and more customers will become accustomed to purchasing their produce at alternative retail sites.	$94,354.00
South Dakota Department of Agriculture	$534,545.43	3. Increasing Capacity for High Tunnel Research and Education in South Dakota to Continue Improving Specialty Crop Production	South Dakota State University Extension Specialists will assist beginning and experienced specialty crop producers in their understanding of high tunnel assembly and management through hands-on workshops at the Specialty Crop Research Field in Brookings, SD. Agricultural service providers from non-profit, private, and government entities will gain skills to support specialty crop producers in the site planning, assembly, and management of high tunnels. Students, educators, and consumers will learn about season extension and how it can influence access to local produce, strengthening opportunities for farm to school initiatives.	$140,830.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
South Dakota Department of Agriculture	$534,545.43	4. The Future of Specialty Crop Food Aggregation and Distribution in Western and Central South Dakota: Infrastructure and Logistics Capacity Building	The Value-Added Agriculture Development Center (VAADC) will develop a pilot program with at least 6 individual specialty crop growers to create a combined regional distribution route along Interstate 90 in western and central South Dakota that will operate from June 15 to October 1 during the three-year project. The producers will aggregate specialty produce and amalgamate delivery logistics to generate a collaborative and optimized seasonal delivery system to increase specialty crop sales to institutions, farm to school, restaurants, and direct-to-consumer markets. The information and data gathered from this project will be used to form an aggregation/distribution cooperative that can potentially serve statewide specialty crop producers.	$205,798.00
South Dakota Department of Agriculture	$534,545.43	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$33,733.43
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	1. The Field School: A Beginning Farmer Training Program for Northeast Tennessee	The Appalachian Resource Conservation and Development Council (ARDC) will train Specialty Crop Beginning Farmers on business, marketing, and financial planning, and sustainable production practices to increase production efficiencies, farm income, and environmental sustainability. Through the Field School Beginning Farmer Training Program, ARCD will reach 35 specialty crop farmers with training and education and support at least 17 of them to implement new practices and technologies resulting in increased yields, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and conservation of resources.	$49,983.00
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	2. Open Market Consortium: Using Smart Contracts to Connect Regional Specialty Crop Producers with Institutional Purchasers	AgLaunch formed the Open Market Consortium (“OMC”) to enable producers to capture value from special-attributes (e.g., / heirloom, MWBE-grown, non-GM, no-till [sustainable], PickTN) by connecting them via a decentralized smart contract system to purchasers. OMC will leverage this funding to onboard Tennessee specialty crop farmers to the Open Market Tennessee marketplace and to host listening sessions to better build the OMC tool to meet the needs of Tennessee specialty crop producers.	$24,904.80

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	3. Specialty Crop Training and Demonstration Farm	Cul2vate grows and delivers nutritional food into local food deserts providing access to nutritious food in those areas. This project will enable Cultivate to work in collaboration with other organizations to provide end user education as to nutritional information, Food Safety, and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).	$49,650.00
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	4. Promoting and Expanding Market-To-Go Year-Round, and the Winter Farmers' Market in Oak Ridge	Grow Oak Ridge, a 501(c)(3) organization in Oak Ridge, TN, runs the Winter Farmers' Market. It established Market-To-Go (MTG), an online ordering system with curbside pickup at the market in Dec. 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This project seeks to expand and promote MTG through digital and print advertisements to attract new customers to locally grown foods, and to support specialty crop growers with higher income both at the Winter Farmers' Market and with Market-To-Go year-round.	$25,000.00
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	5. Enhancing the Competitiveness of Specialty Crops by Increasing Sales for Farmers in Northeast Tennessee	Jonesborough Locally Grown will increase sales of specialty crops in Northeast Tennessee through our markets by 1) implementing multi-media campaigns that follow selected specialty crops from the farm to the table (how it is grown, who grows it, where to buy it, what to do with it), using a variety of marketing and educational methods, including blogs, videos, farm excursions, social media activities, classes and others; 2) conduct food drives where customers can buy products to be donated to a local food bank; and 3) share results, lessons learned and resources with other organizations responsible for promoting and selling specialty crops.	$20,000.00
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	6. Driven Growth: Increasing Demand for Specialty Crops Through Tennessee Wine Trails	To keep grapes as a significant part of Tennessee agriculture, Mountain Valley Vineyards (MVV) believes it is vital to continually promote the grape and wine industry within our state. A feasible and effective way of accomplishing this goal is by utilizing cross promotion through Wine Trails. The process of selling grapes to wineries creates a value-added system where Tennessee grape farmers receive the best possible price for their fruit; thus, creating an environment for sustainable growth in this viable agricultural sector.	$25,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	7. Using Local Foods to Promote Farm to School Educational and Procurement Initiatives in Tennessee	The Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network (LFN) is working with 6 school districts in Weakley and Gibson Counties to support the development of Farm to School (F2S) programming with a key focus on increasing local food procurement, educational opportunities, and growing food initiatives.	$20,000.00
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	8. Pick TN Conference Speaker Fees and Conference Costs	The Pick TN Conference is an annual conference provided to expand revenue for TN agriculture by providing educational workshops for farmers across the state. It is made up of 8 statewide members associations: TN Fruit and Vegetable Association, TN Association of Farmers Markets, TN Beekeepers Association, TN Professional Plant Producers Association, TN Agritourism Association, TN Farm Winegrowers Alliance, TN Organic Growers Association and TN Christmas Tree Growers Association.	$54,000.00
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	9. Addressing Covid-19 Supply Chain Disruption and Meeting Local Market Demand for Specialty Crops	Seven Springs Farm will purchase and install a standalone drive-in cooler to address supply chain disruption issues caused by Covid-19 and aid in meeting demand and expanding new markets for specialty crop growers.	$24,687.56
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	10. Tennessee Organic Growers Conference Speaker Fees and Equipment	The Tennessee Organic Growers Association holds an annual meeting as part of the Pick Tennessee Conference. There are seven other statewide organizations coming together to present this conference. With the cooperation of all these organizations, we can provide an atmosphere of learning that will encourage individuals to share information with each other, building a relationship among growers which extends beyond the conference date. The project will allow us to hold not only an in-person sessions, but a virtual option as well for those not comfortable attending in person.	$20,000.00
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	11. Memphis Grows – A Landmark Farm Specialty Crops and U of M Clinical Nutrition Collaboration to Increase Knowledge of the Nutritional Benefits of Specialty Crops	Develop an educational program utilizing specialty crops produced on ground at Landmark Farms for Double Bucks SNAP participants to increase their awareness of the benefits of these crops in promotion of health and wellness and disease prevention as well as encourage increased consumption of these crops.	$24,948.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	12. Creating a Cycle of Sustainability on the Homestead	The University of Tennessee (UT) Extension-Greene County, Northeast Tennessee Research and Education Center, and the UT Extension Big Spring Master Gardener Association-Greene County will foster the innovation of backyard homesteading practices to enhance year-long production at minimal cost for consumer horticulture residents in Northeast Tennessee through scientific investigation of on-site projects, and thereby disseminating results via grower meetings (virtual and non), field days, and workshops.	$24,771.00
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$735,830.09	13. Development of an Educational Campaign for Consumers to Increase Awareness and Access to Tennessee Specialty Crops	The Tennessee Department of Agriculture will increase the awareness and access of specialty crops through a yearlong educational campaign that will feature Tennessee specialty crops during their appropriate growing season.	$372,885.73
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	1. Water-Efficient Turfgrass for Texas	Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service seeks to advance the competitiveness of the Texas turfgrass industry through applied research and Extension activities that promote more sustainable and resilient turfgrass systems across seven major ecoregions. This project will both enhance consumer awareness and advance stakeholder knowledge around the performance and management of several new turfgrass cultivar releases	$170,115.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	2. Improving the Potential Profitability of Spinach Production in Texas via a Disease Nursery and Fungicide Trials	The Texas Wintergarden Spinach Producers Board will work with TDA in cooperation with Cargile Consulting, MV Consulting, Washington State University, Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service and Tiro Tres Farms (Ed Ritchie) to establish a spinach disease screening nursery on a 4-acre plot at Tiro Tres Farms in Crystal City, TX. Diverse spinach varieties will be screened to identify those with resistance to each of four foliar diseases that affect spinach production in Texas, so that Texas growers can potentially reduce inputs and increase profits.	$100,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	3. Harvest for the Hungry Farm to Fork Initiative	Harvest for the Hungry (H4H) is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization will execute this project to increase the availability and consumption of healthy farm to table foods (specialty crops of broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrot, cucumber, eggplant, garlic, melon, okra, radish, squash, tomato as defined on the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service website) to rural Brazoria County, Texas.	$150,000.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	4. Cyber-Physical System for Automatic Disease Detection of Greenhouse Crops	Texas A&M AgriLife Research, and project partner Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, will develop a cyber-physical system (CPS) for the early detection of disease symptoms to assist growers in timely decision-making for spraying or other crop management operations. While the project will primarily benefit tomato and spinach growers, the methodology can be expanded to other specialty crops as well.	$119,952.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	5. New Cultivars and Production Technologies to Strengthen the Texas Cantaloupe Industry	This research project is being proposed by Texas A&M AgriLife Research (TAR) in collaboration with the produce industry to promote sustainable production of high-quality cantaloupes in the Pecos, Lower Rio Grande Valley, and Winter Garden regions of Texas. We anticipate identifying at least 3 to 4 superior new hybrids and will generate substantial quantities of hybrid seed for Texas cantaloupe growers. Additional new hybrids will also be generated in the first 6 months of the project among some elite parents with very high sugars (TSS>14) and good powdery mildew resistance.	$113,814.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	6. Increasing the Awareness of Texas Wines	The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) aims to increase awareness, as well as inform and educate, Texans on the growth Texas has seen in the wine industry over the last decade. TDA would like to sub grant these outreach and education activities to each of the 8 major Texas Wine Associations across the state (listed above as our partners). We believe these associations will be able to tailor their efforts to meet the needs of the grape growers and wineries in their respective areas.	$200,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	7. Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District	Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District (UCUWCD), its partners, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension, and collaborators 4-H Bexar County, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Harmony School of Innovation, Leal Middle School, and Martin Elementary School will collaborate to improve the health and nutrition of community members and the economic well-being of small- to large-scale Texas farmers through education and adoption of efficient "-ponics" systems and cultivation practices.	$150,000.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	8. Revitalizing Figs as a High-Value Fruit Crop for Small Farmers in Texas	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension aims to partner with Stephen F. Austin State University, Stonehouse Figs, and Gundermann Acres to reinvigorate the fresh fig industry in Texas through two strategic field studies: 1) conduct a multi-site trial to identify fig varieties with the greatest yield potential in response to severe freeze; 2) establish a multi-site trial to evaluate the over 100 fig varieties available for the Texas fresh fruit industry and nursery industry.	$39,471.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	9. Beyond Fresh Online: Educating Farmers in Value-Added Processing of Specialty Crops	The Texas Center for Local Food (TCLF) will create a series of online classes to increase Texas specialty crop farmers' economic opportunity. The project will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through enhancing or improving the economy as a result of specialty crop development. The project will provide easily accessible, self-paced training that farmers can access remotely on their own schedules on any device using the existing and well-established online peer-to-peer learning platform TXFED.org that has over 500 enrollments with an overall positive rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars.	$250,000.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	10. The Awareness Project	The Awareness Project (TAP) seeks to develop and install a commercial scale (1200 sq ft. floor plan) indoor Hydroponic Urban Farm to educate new farmers, provide veterans jobs/training, educate about specialty crop nutrition, and increase access of specialty crops to underserved communities.	$94,613.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	11. Feasibility of Novel Selections of Cider Apples in Texas for Value Added Commercial Cider Production	This project will use research-based information on the feasibility of growing apple cider type cultivars in order to supply this demand, helping increase their own profit margins. Thus, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service aims to enter into a joint partnership with Washington State University (WSU) in collaborating with the North Texas Winery Association, Koelbl Farms, and the South Plains Food Bank Orchard in identifying 10 select numbered WSU apple cider selections best suited for commercial across two distinct growing regions of Texas, the High Plains and North Texas.	$17,802.60
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	12. Educating Texas Produce Farms on the Produce Safety Rule and Maintaining Produce Safety Standards While Working During the On-Going COVID 19 Pandemic	The Texas Department of Agriculture, Office of Produce Safety will work with growers to understand produce safety expectations and how worker health, worker hygiene, and food contact surfaces work in conjunction to assist producers in functioning effectively while maintaining a high situational awareness of the repository virus and its impact on operations, as COVID -19 continues to be a health risk factor to farms and their workers.	$104,962.26
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	13. Texas Pecan Industry Development and Sustainability Survey	The Texas Pecan Growers Association (TPGA) requests funding to conduct a thorough, post-Covid survey of the Texas pecan industry that will serve as an assessment of industry development, sustainability, and research needs. TPGA will attempt to characterize the current state of the industry and identify regional and statewide sociological, economic, natural resource, and biological production factors that further threaten or provide opportunities for Texas as a national leader in pecan production.	$58,739.32
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	14. Improving and Expanding Ornamental Sunflower Management for the Texas Cut Flower Market	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will conduct research in two phases. Year 1a: evaluate the budding profile of up to 20 commercial ornamental sunflowers for those suitable for research (cooperator fields, Erath & Lubbock Cos.). Year 1b: test a series of up to eight PGR chemicals for effective suppression of secondary budding (Texas A&M AgriLife Center, Lubbock). Year 2: field test the effectiveness of selected PGRs for chemical rate, timing, and effectiveness on select ornamental sunflower cultivars (Erath, Lubbock Cos.).	$27,474.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	15. Analysis of Muscadine Markets in Texas: Identifying Consumer Preferences and Name Recognition	The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will carry out an analysis of the potential market for muscadine grapes in Texas. Muscadines are native to East Texas and represent the only native American grape that has been improved through breeding and selection.	$10,200.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	16. Strengthening Urban Agriculture Through a Certificate Program for Hydroponic Specialty Crop Production	The Urban Agriculture team at Dallas Center propose to develop a comprehensive 3-day course on hydroponic crop production with hands-on activities, tours, and a certificate of completion. The course will consist of 8 lectures on topics such as introduction to hydroponics, insect and disease management, water and nutrient management, and food safety.	$131,348.04
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	17. Texas 1015 Sweet Onions - A Texas Original	Texas International Produce Association seeks to expand support and brand awareness for the Texas 1015 sweet onion creating expanded brand tools, consumer engagement and desire for retail and foodservice support that will make the Texas 1015 onion the leading sweet onion during the March – June marketing sales window of seasonality ahead of any other sweet onion growing region – especially in Texas and neighboring states.	$169,054.43
Texas Department of Agriculture	$2,104,945.54	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$197,399.89
US VI Department of Agriculture	$325,454.45	1. Establishment of a Provisional Outdoor Farmers Market to Help Reduce Incidence of Contracting COVID-19 and Future Virus or Disease Outbreaks	Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture (VIDA) is seeking to establish a Provisional Outdoor Farmers Market with a Corona Outreach Center to reduce incidences of contracting and spreading Corona Virus or future disease or out-breaks that occur in the USVI. This innovative response to the loss of the farmers market on St. Croix will increase the community access to specialty crops, while enhancing competitiveness of locally grown crops in the USVI.	$253,792.00
US VI Department of Agriculture	$325,454.45	2. Multiple Vegetable Production Systems for Food Security During COVID-19 in the U.S. Virgin Islands	University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) will improve the capacity for food security during emergency pandemics such as covid-19 in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), by studying and promoting short-cycle, year-round production of highly nutritious vegetables in small backyard gardens. The scalability of the production systems will also be determined for regular field environments.	$45,709.82

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
US VI Department of Agriculture	$325,454.45	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$325,545.46
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$489,662.58	1. Enhancing Cut Flower Production through Targeted Pest and Irrigation Management Improvements	Utah State University will conduct research to improve quality and yield of popular cut flowers and herbaceous flowering ornamentals. Flowers are an emerging and rapidly growing industry in Utah, but specialty crop growers lack regionally specific production information, thus often follow erroneous guidelines on social media.	$113,451.13
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$489,662.58	2. Training and Educating Small Nurseries and Garden Centers on Installation and Maintenance of Smart Irrigation Controllers to Lower Irrigation Water	Utah State University (USU) Extension will directly partner with 120 emerging small nurseries and garden centers, with less than two acres of production area, to educate employers and employees about the benefits of evapotranspiration-based smart irrigation controller (SC). We will also train them to install and maintain SC on their own and provide each partner enterprise with one of four different brands of SC. We will document the efficiency, water savings, ease of use and durability of each brand of SC over two growing seasons.	$86,729.00
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$489,662.58	3. Learn, Grow, Eat and Go! Teaching Youth about Specialty Crop Care and Use Through Intergenerational Learning	Utah State University Extension will provide a new generation with education on specialty crop propagation, care, and nutritional use through curriculum development and youth education classes in gardens and classrooms in Salt Lake and Davis counties. Educational programs will include youth camps and clubs as well as intergenerational experiences. The project will include the entire life cycle of selected specialty crops, including propagation, growth, harvest, preservation, and culinary crop use.	$46,629.45
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$489,662.58	4. Optimizing Pollination of Blueberries, Strawberries, Raspberries, and Other Specialty Fruit Crops in Utah	USDA ARS researchers in collaboration with NativeBees will document wild bee visitations to blueberries, strawberries, currants, and raspberries grown in Utah and test stocking densities of three Utah native solitary bees, Osmia ribifloris, Osmia lignaria, and Osmia bruneri, to optimize pollination of these crops.	$87,298.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$489,662.58	5. Educate Consumers on How to Identify Utah Tart Cherry Products in the Marketplace	The Utah Red Tart Cherry Marketing Board (URTCMB) in partnership with the Cherry Marketing Institute (CMI) will educate consumers on how to identify U.S. grown Utah cherry products apart from imported cherries in the marketplace.	$100,154.45
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$489,662.58	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$55,400.55
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$433,030.13	1. Establishing a Tree Nut Processing Facility in Vermont, to Yield Cold-Pressed Culinary Nut Oils	Vermont Tree Nut Processors, LLC will support tree nut producers by initiating a value-added product to the tree nut value chain. We will buy nuts from growers and gatherers, then transform them into tree nut oils for culinary use. We will aggregate nuts from multiple sites, acquire equipment to prepare and press them, bottle the oil, and sell it. We will inform the public about nut oils through on-line material and in-person tastings, while tracking sales at different venues to determine effectiveness of the educational efforts. We anticipate a multiplier effect in tree nut nursery businesses as we provide a viable cash market for tree nuts. Partners include Vital Communities, Vermont Center for an Agricultural Economy, and Vermont Fresh Network.	$23,130.00
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$433,030.13	2. Distinguishing Vermont Apples Through History, Varieties, and Ciders	New England Apple Association, a nonprofit that has been promoting New England-grown apples since 1935, will increase the marketing power of Vermont apples by promoting its varieties, ciders, and history. The project will contribute to a feasibility study for a proposed New England Museum of Apples and Cider that would provide year-round promotion and attract additional marketing funds. The project comprises two "traveling museum" festivals celebrating Vermont apples and ciders; a statewide inventory of historic artifacts; and a database of "preservation orchards" to enhance the viability of rare heirlooms. Vermont’s growers need immediate help and long-term planning. This project provides both.	$24,008.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$433,030.13	3. New Hampshire-Vermont Christmas Tree Association Marketing and Promotion	This grant will leverage our ongoing efforts to promote increased production and sales of quality Christmas trees and related greenery. There is a particular need now to increase the number of Christmas trees grown in Vermont as there is a regional and national shortage of real Christmas trees that is projected to continue for years. The last two selling seasons (2020 and 2021) have seen unprecedented demand for Christmas trees in Vermont and elsewhere, at a time where Christmas tree growers (like many segments of agriculture) are aging.	$24,400.00
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$433,030.13	4. Marketing and Promotion Campaign for Vermont Honey	The VT Beekeepers Association (VBA) will coordinate an educational campaign to increase awareness and knowledge of VT Honey; with the help of a media agency, we will create a logo, a tagline, and educational materials that VBA members will use to educate retailers and consumers on what makes VT Honey special and different. We will create a website that links producers, retailers, and customers, increasing and easing access to Vermont Honey.	$72,500.00
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$433,030.13	5. Increasing the Competitiveness of Vermont Specialty Crops by Advancing Organizational Services and Cultivating Inter-Association Partnerships	Vermont Fresh Network, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit member association of Vermont culinary and agricultural partners will increase its sustainability and its program of member services by investing in strategic development to include a program to assist producer associations and specialty crop growers in marketing and communications, and developing more opportunities as part of our broader effort in consumer education to communicate the value of locally produced specialty crop products in restaurants, farmers markets and on-farm experiences.	$40,600.00
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$433,030.13	6. Passport for Year-Round Maple Agritourism	The Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association (VMSMA) will create a "maple passport" to encourage agritourism among maple producers around the state. This passport will be both on paper and part of a new Vermont maple app. Stamps will equate to Vermont maple gifts and the app will also encourage consumers to find new ways to use maple (e.g., easily accessible recipes) and purchase Vermont Maple branded items. This project will benefit both the VMSMA as a producers' association and local sugar makers through increased visitors, enhanced consumer relationships, additional consumer education and increased sales and revenue.	$20,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$433,030.13	7. Vermont Blooms Passport Program 2022–2023	The Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association (VNLA) will help increase sales in the ornamental horticulture industry by offering and promoting the Vermont Blooms Passport Program to the public for the benefit of VNLA member businesses that grow and sell specialty crops.	$19,000.00
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$433,030.13	8. Assisting Organic & Bird-Friendly Maple Producers to Improve Biodiversity Practices in Vermont's Sugarbushes	This collaborative project of Vermont Organic Farmers LLC (VOF) and Audubon Vermont will assist Vermont's 244 certified organic and 68 bird-friendly maple producers to improve biodiversity practices in their sugarbushes by providing technical assistance, workshops, and best practice resources.	$40,206.00
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$433,030.13	9. Expanding the Capacity of the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association	The Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association will contract with Tamarack Media to design and launch an on-line marketing platform for its members, and it will hire a part-time staff to develop, test, and implement standard administrative operating procedures that will allow more specialty crop producers to expand and improve their market opportunities by participating in the Community Accreditation for Produce Safety (CAPS) program.	$48,560.00
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$433,030.13	10. Vermont Farm2Food Accelerator Pilot	The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets will help women specialty crop farmers become more economically resilient by adapting the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation Farm2Food Accelerator training program curriculum to the needs of Vermont women farmers and piloting the program with two cohorts of famers and food entrepreneurs. The Farm2Food Accelerator training program helps women refine their food and beverage products, target their marketing, and explore expanding into new markets.	$14,387.69
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$433,030.13	11. Technical Assistance for Specialty Crop Producer Association Grant Recipients	Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets will help specialty crop producer associations build organizational strength and marketing expertise by hiring service providers to provide training and technical assistance to producer associations in these specific areas. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture will collaborate with the technical assistance service provider(s) to schedule and facilitate workshops for up to eight producer association participants and meet frequently with the consultant(s) to ensure the project is on track.	$40,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$433,030.13	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$66,238.41
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$731,138.69	1. Building a Regional Aggregation and Distribution Network in Support of VA Specialty Crop Producers	Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD) will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops by improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems through the development of aggregation sites and distribution routes that connect farmers to buyers while also ensuring product is flowing to and from aggregation sites (reducing or eliminating deadheading), and that buyers along distribution routes are able to purchase more local and regional produce.	$70,480.87
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$731,138.69	2. Improving Pest Management for Virginia Cole Crops	Diamondback moth (DBM) and cabbage maggot (CM) are the two most important pests attacking cole crops in Virginia. Managing these two destructive pests represents a significant cost for growers every season. With limited alternatives to control them, the reliance on specific insecticides has already and will continue to result in resistance development in the pest populations. This project proposes the monitoring of different DBM populations for the presence of individuals with tolerance or resistant to current applied insecticides.	$72,224.91
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$731,138.69	3. Irrigation Method Selection and Nitrogen Fertilization for Potato Production on the Eastern Shore of Virginia	The Virginia Tech Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Education Center (AREC) will evaluate drip irrigation and soil moisture water sensors as alternative irrigation methods for potato production. Furthermore, we will identify potential interactions between nitrogen rates, irrigation system (overhead versus drip), and irrigation determination method (single crop coefficient versus soil moisture water sensors).	$71,428.53
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$731,138.69	4. Exploring the use of Chitosan for Control of Grapevine Fungal Diseases in Virginia Vineyards	The Winemakers Research Exchange, in collaboration with commercial wine grape growers, will test the use of chitosan for the mitigation of fungal diseases in Virginia vineyards. The study will determine if this non-toxic biopolymer application has impacts on vine health, incidence of fungal disease, grape quality, and yield. Studies will be carried out at multiple sites over two vintages. Findings will be shared with grape growers at regional meetings and through newsletter distribution.	$62,003.98

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$731,138.69	5. Utilizing Beneficial Endophytes to Promote Hydroponic Vegetable Growth and Increase Profitability	This project will seek to combine the unique skillsets of SPES and IALR to improve yield in hydroponic vegetable production by utilizing IALR's collection of beneficial bacterial endophytes. Generally, endophytes promote plant growth, increase stress tolerance as well as fight against diseases, all of which will increase the profitability of hydroponics by increasing yield.	$63,708.53
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$731,138.69	6. Making Food Safety Certification and Compliance Attainable for Virginia Farmers Facing Market and Regulatory Changes	This project ensures low-income new farmers in Virginia can access lucrative wholesale and retail markets by assisting them in obtaining appropriate food safety certification(s) and by interpreting, explaining, and assisting with the implementation of applicable Produce Safety Rules (PSA) that are a part of the new Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The FDA continues to change the proposed Final Rule of 2016, making the training and curriculum an ongoing moving target for farmers that are not exempt under FSMA.	$72,029.24
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$731,138.69	7. Enhancing Public Awareness of Virginia Floriculture and the Competitiveness of Virginia Grown Flowers	The River City Flower Exchange will increase public awareness of Virginia floriculture and enhance the competitiveness of Virginia-grown flowers by developing and hosting educational workshops and events, as well as by developing and disseminating marketing that promotes Virginia-grown flowers.	$46,883.90
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$731,138.69	8. Year of the Apple: Growing Virginia's Hard Cider Market by Showcasing Virginia-Grown Apples	The American Cider Association (ACA) will establish a contractual relationship with VDACS to execute and lead this marketing and promotions project strategically designed to grow sales of Virginia hard cider (hereinafter referred to as cider) made with Virginia apples through strategic marketing and cider education targeting consumers and culinary professionals.	$70,012.40
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$731,138.69	9. Groundwork for Development and Management of a Virginia Focused Wine Grapevine Breeding Initiative	The Virginia Wineries Association will contract with the Winevine Breeding Initiative which will research the steps needed to build an initiative to utilize next generation genome tools to breed new varieties adapted to Virginia's growing conditions and commercial needs. The scope of the proposed work in this grant is to research and set up the infrastructure and partners needed to execute the initiative's goal of breeding new varieties for Virginia and the mid-Atlantic, establish the path forward and pursue outside funding opportunities.	$54,940.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$731,138.69	10.Evaluation of Cellulose Nanocrystals (CNCs) for Frost Protection of Apple and Stone Fruits	In this proposed project, Virginia Tech will comprehensively evaluate multiple aspects of using CNCs on tree fruits and pave the way for its commercial use in the coming years. CNCs are expected to increase the cold hardiness of tree buds and flowers by 2-6 °C, depending on the concentration and developmental stage. Such improvements will provide significant cold protection against spring frosts and widely benefit Virginia's fruit growers and stakeholders.	$60,727.94
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$731,138.69	11. Biofilm Control Strategies for Commonly Used Surfaces in Specialty Crop Operations	Virginia Tech will develop surface specific sanitation protocols to reduce biofilms in specialty crop operations. These findings will directly support the Virginia specialty crop industries by fostering better understanding of biofilm formation and how to prevent biofilms on different surfaces used during operations. Results will be communicated to stakeholders through Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings (which are held throughout Virginia; currently the only FDA-approved course for training requirements) and extension forums including Virginia’s Annual Tree Fruit School, grower association meetings (see support-letters), and Virginia Cooperative Extension fact-sheets/presentations	$71,106.54
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$731,138.69	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$28,473.20
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$6,121,157.59	1. Responding to Change: Resources to Support Organic Farms through the Pandemic and Beyond	In an unprecedented pandemic year, small diversified organic specialty crop businesses faced marketing challenges as their traditional channels evaporated or were markedly constrained. Businesses scrambled to find new ways to market their perishable produce quickly and safely. To support these businesses, WSDA Organic Program, in collaboration with WSDA Produce Safety and Regional Markets, will develop resources to assist organic growers and handlers in navigating regulations more efficiently.	$110,127.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$6,121,157.59	2. PPE Provision to Washington Hop Growers for 2021 Harvest	The Washington Hop Commission will purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) related to COVID-19 relief efforts and distribute them to Washington hop industry members. The goal in distributing PPE and other safety supplies is to directly keep farm workers and/or harvesting facility workers safe and indirectly keep the public community safe by stopping the spread of COVID-19.	$50,000.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$6,121,157.59	3. Provide a Program that Reimburses Potato Growers for the Cost of COVID Safety Supplies	The Washington State Potato Commission will reimburse the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and/or hand washing stations or other safety supplies related to COVID-19 relief efforts by the potato growers in Washington. The goal of providing PPE and other safety supplies is to directly keep farm workers and/or processing facility workers safe and indirectly keeping the public community safe by stopping the spread of COVID-19.	$50,000.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$6,121,157.59	4. Supporting Washington Specialty Crop Producers, Packers, and Employees through Coordinated Distribution of COVID-19 Relief Supplies	Washington State University will purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) and/or hand washing stations or other safety supplies related to COVID-19 relief efforts and distribute them to the specialty crop (SC) industry members. The goal in distributing PPE and other safety supplies is to directly keep farm workers and/or processing facility workers safe and indirectly keep the public community safe by stopping the spread of COVID-19.	$890,749.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$6,121,157.59	5. Promoting Education of Washington Specialty Crops with the Washington Grown Video Project and In-Store Promotions	The Washington Grown Video Project will grow our audience to create more connections between consumers and growers, increase consumer knowledge of agricultural practices and local specialty crops, and introduce consumers to farmers and food businesses in Washington by producing new episodes of our Emmy-winning TV Show and expanding specialty crop awareness. The Washington State Potato Commission serves as the day-to-day point of contact with multiple partnering agriculture groups overseeing the project.	$3,800,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$6,121,157.59	6. Implementation of a Program to Eradicate the Japanese Beetle and to Ensure No More Destruction of our Specialty Crops	The Washington State Department of Agriculture will begin a Japanese beetle eradication program in the Grandview area of Yakima County, Washington. The eradication work included in this proposal would cover development of a quarantine area, preparation of education and outreach materials (both in English and Spanish), work with residential and agricultural property owners in the area to obtain their consent and understanding of the treatment, and development of a plan for treatment of green waste in the quarantine area.	$200,000.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$6,121,157.59	7. Slowing the Spread of Little Cherry Disease in Washington Cherries through Increased Testing	Washington State Tree Fruit Association will work with industry to conduct more testing for Little cherry disease. Washington State University's (WSU) Plant Pest Diagnostic Clinic (Clinic) can offer tests to growers on a cost-only basis when capacity in excess of research program needs is available, which is not currently the case. To help expand the Clinic's capacity, this project will pay for additional testing equipment and supplies.	$530,589.59
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$6,121,157.59	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$489,692.00
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$411,638.74	1. Hops: Spotted Horse-Growing the Demand Through Cooperative Engagement	Spotted Horse Farm will bolster the growth of hops in WV by developing a cooperative of hops growers to aggregate product to meet the need of the local market. As a cooperative we will aid in establishing nascent growers, mitigate risk through education, employ quality control measure to ensure a competitive product, and provide shared use equipment to reduce overhead.	$250,000.00
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$411,638.74	2. Wonder Valley Farm LLC- High-Density Orchard Systems: Enhancing Education and Production Networks in Central and Southern West Virginia	Wonder Valley Farm LLC, along with three other small-scale producers representing Roane, Clay, Putnam, and McDowell counties, will test the economic viability of high-yield, rapid-production orchard systems and the specific environmental suitability of selected dwarf rootstock and apple cultivars. With technical assistance, train-the-trainer resources, and data collection assistance from the West Virginia State University (WVSU) Extension Service, Agriculture and Natural Resources Division (ANR), this project aims to strengthen the fruit industry in central and southern West Virginia.	$71,396.65

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$411,638.74	3. Frostmore Farm Inc.- "Post-COVID Expansion of Availability and Access to U-Pick Specialty Crops at Frostmore Farm"	Frostmore Farm will expand the availability, access, and awareness of U-Pick specialty crops in a post-COVID environment. This will be accomplished by improved biosecurity to comply with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and provide consumer safety through construction of a fence and other infrastructure improvements. These improvements will allow for purchasing of updated supplies for employee and consumer harvest safety.	$48,413.70
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$411,638.74	4. Country Road Berries- Strawberry Farm Ramp Back Up to Pre-Covid Production	Country Road Berries will be able to plant additional 10,000 strawberry plants to return to pre-covid production and be able to return to providing school field trips and strawberries for area school children through the farm to school program. By adding the additional 10,000 plants that would add an additional 5000 pounds of strawberries to current production. Currently the 8000 plants that we have growing sustains pick your own with little left over for these other opportunities. Income generated from this return to volume would allow for the business to replant and continue going forward in the future with the larger volume of plants.	$6,000.00
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$411,638.74	5. Blue Mountain Farm- Blue Mountain Farm Wash Station and Refrigerated Storage Proposal	Blue Mountain Farm will increase consumer knowledge of produce cooking/nutrition, and secure food safety certifications through improved on-farm washing and refrigeration systems. We will distribute recipes and nutrition information at the farmers' markets to encourage customers to purchase a wider variety of locally available produce. We will partner with a nutritionist to develop crop-specific recipes and nutrition education tools.	$21,245.00
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$411,638.74	6. Shepherd University- Enhancing Production in an Aquaponics System with Spectrum Controlled LED Lights	The Shepherd University Aquaponics Facility will utilize spectrum-controlled LED lights along with different types of plant growth media and nutrient conditions to establish optimum growth conditions for different varieties of aquaponics crops and disseminate results to stakeholders in workshops and seminars.	$51,902.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$411,638.74	7. West Virginia University Research Corporation-'Whole-Farm' Education for Direct Marketers and Agritourism Operators to Better Manage Market Disrupt	The West Virginia University Extension Service will increase the understanding of marketing risk management strategies by specialty crop grower participants on how to plan and prepare for market shocks, as experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. This training targets direct marketers (including those engaged in agritourism) with highly perishable specialty crops that rely on stability of sales channels to move product efficiently to reduce income loss and spoilage.	$27,236.09
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$411,638.74	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$38,397.10
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	1. Mobile Maple Syrup Project	The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin will establish a small-scale mobile maple sugar operation to 1) demonstrate to the community that we can sustainably extract maple sap from its source without harming the trees and land, and 2) provide professional development opportunities to "workers" and the community on how to successfully run a maple sugar operation within the context of the Menominee language, history, culture, and land.	$100,000.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	2. Addressing Supply Chain Barriers for Specialty Crop Producers to Access Farm to School Markets	The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will promote Wisconsin specialty crop producers and products; disseminate DATCP Farm to School (F2S) Program resources; offer food safety trainings and GAP Certification support for specialty crop growers; coordinate F2S education and F2S procurement; and foster stronger regional F2S supply chain connections to increase farm sales of Wisconsin specialty crops to schools.	$100,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	3. Infrastructure and Capacity Building for Hmong Specialty Crops	Rooted, a Madison-based nonprofit will use their season-extension farm infrastructure to develop a seed starting operation that will grow culturally relevant transplants for area Hmong specialty crop growers who currently have to source these transplants from out of state vendors. In addition to increasing access to culturally relevant specialty crop transplants, the repaired season-extension farm infrastructure will be used as a workshop site to provide training to beginning and underserved farmers on (1) growing in greenhouses and high tunnels and (2) applying for EQIP funding in partnership with DATCP, Extension and other farm support organizations.	$99,992.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	4. Expanding and Improving the Wisconsin Emerging Craft Cider Industry Through Grower Partnerships, Training and Technology	University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS) will work closely with the UW-Madison Fermentation Sciences Program and with WI Apple Growers and WI Craft Hard Cider Producers to produce a local “brand” of quality craft hard cider that uses locally grown cider variety of apples that outcompetes both National and Regional Brands within WI markets.	$99,450.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	5. For Independent Hmong Farmers Corp. Specialty Crop Programs for Hmong Farmers Of La Crosse Farmers Markets 2022	For Independent Hmong Farmers Corp. will help Hmong farmers of La Crosse County farmers markets rebuild and gain business skills that can prevent them from losing their farm businesses. This innovative approach will infuse money to help Hmong farmers re-establish their specialty crop farms by buying seeds and paying for farm property. A business and upskilling program for Hmong famers can teach them how to better manage their farm business through better sales skills and management. We need to better educate the consumers on how to cook specialty crops and the value of these unique crops with engaging and informative marketing content as well as cooking videos.	$99,300.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	6. Selecting Potato Varieties for Wisconsin's Organic Direct Market Growers	The University of Wisconsin-Madison, with partners through the Seed to Kitchen Collaborative, will provide direct-market organic growers with recommendations for potato varieties and improved breeding lines best suited to organic production and direct markets in Wisconsin based on outcomes from research station trials and participatory on-farm trials, and will engage culinary professionals and specialty crop entrepreneurs to raise awareness and access to Wisconsin-grown direct market organic potatoes.	$98,872.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	7. Bee Nurseries on The Marsh: Providing Local Nesting Sites to Increase Pollination by Wild Bees in Wisconsin Cranberries	The University of Wisconsin-Madison will partner with cranberry growers, the USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and WI DATCP to design, build, and test on-farm bee nesting blocks (native bee nurseries) in Wisconsin cranberries. Pollination services are vital for cranberries, and this project will facilitate the establishment of resident bee populations on cranberry marshes. Such bee nurseries will provide a key 'missing link' for the many wild pollinator species that exist in Wisconsin's cranberry marshlands.	$97,791.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	8. Building Capacity of Underserved Specialty Crop Growers in Western Wisconsin	Chippewa Valley Produce will partner with organizations such as the Black and Brown Coalition in Eau Claire, Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, DATCP Underserved Farmer Outreach program, University of Wisconsin Madison – Division of Extension Area 6, Compeer Financial, and the Wisconsin Farmers Union to develop educational opportunities for minority and underserved growers to help them gain the knowledge necessary to support their small farm businesses, enter wholesale markets and increase sales of specialty crops in Western Wisconsin.	$96,500.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	9. Supplying A New Taiwan Export Market with High Quality, Blemish-Free Fresh Ginseng Using New Approaches	The Ginseng Board of Wisconsin, contracting with Michigan State University, seeks to establish their newly opened fresh ginseng export market to Taiwan with blemish-free roots produced using increased knowledge of the rusty root pathogen complex, development of targeted and integrated disease management strategies, and grower involvement through workshops, field days, and communications opportunities.	$95,370.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	10. Increasing Specialty Crop Sales Through a Something Special from Wisconsin (SSfW) Curated Box of Specialty Crop Products	In-person markets for Something Special from Wisconsin (SSfW) members, which include many vendors of Wisconsin specialty crop products, had to be cancelled due to Covid and despite starting to reopen these markets, attendance numbers have been greatly reduced. To make up for the loss of sales associated with COVID impacts on these in-person markets, the DATCP Something Special from Wisconsin program has partnered with a SSfW member to package, promote, sell and ship aggregated boxes that highlight Wisconsin specialty crop products called Boxes of Fun.	$93,617.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	11. The Morel Initiative: Applying Chinese Morel Mushroom Cultivation Techniques in Wisconsin	Mushroom Mike LLC will use this grant to create an educational research platform to implement Chinese morel mushroom cultivation techniques in a Wisconsin setting to increase the supply and availability of morel mushrooms as a specialty crop through targeted stakeholder seminars and field training.	$90,590.08
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	12. Adaptation of A SARS-Cov-2 Detection Method to Identify and Survey PVY Strains in Wisconsin Potatoes	The University of Wisconsin-Madison, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program, will survey Wisconsin seed potatoes for PVY strain distribution using conventional methods and will develop a new method of virus strain differentiation with technology used for SARS-CoV-2 detection.	$87,364.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	13. Precision Pest Management: Spatiotemporal Modeling of Insecticide Resistance in Colorado Potato Beetle	The University of Wisconsin – Madison will work to improve predictive modeling of how insecticide resistance evolves and spreads within and among populations of the Colorado potato beetle (Leptinotarsa decemlineata) in Wisconsin, leveraging measurements of genomic diversity of populations across space and time, with the goal of improving sustainable pest management strategies in potato growing regions.	$85,503.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	14. Add Innovative Growing Methods (Hydroponic Towers) To Specialty Crop Production That Will Increase and Extend the Access Season	U-Pick Strawberry Farms (UPSF) Distribution LLC will add hydroponic growing systems to current farm infrastructure to extend the picking season and increase access to sustainably grown produce and educational opportunities for the local and extended community.	$83,429.13

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	15. Evaluating Effects of Nitrogen “Spoon Feeding” On Common Seed Potato Varieties Grown in The Antigo Flats	The University of Wisconsin - Madison will perform a two-year study at the UW Langlade Agricultural Research Station as well as on two commercial farms to 1) investigate the logistics of spoon-feeding nitrogen to potato plants in silt loam soils in the Antigo Flats region; 2) identify the optimal nitrogen fertigation time and amount (dose) for growing common seed potato varieties with good yield in Wisconsin; 3) and create and deliver extension materials about results from the study to the Wisconsin seed potato industry.	$73,757.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	16. Mass Trapping Social Wasps in Wisconsin Vineyards - Revisiting Covid-Affected Objective 1 Of DACTP 20-07	The University of Wisconsin will assess the use and optimization of mass trapping as an environmentally friendly and sustainable option for the management of social wasps in Wisconsin vineyards and provide new recommendations to Wisconsin grape growers. This project aims to Identify the optimal distribution pattern for social wasp traps in Wisconsin vineyards to obtain data for the peak activity of social wasps in vineyards prior to harvest.	$52,631.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	17. Development Nutrient Supplemented Substrate Sterilization and Grain Hydration Process Utilizing Ozone	Fun Guy Farm will develop bulk nutrient supplemented substrate sterilization and grain hydration processes utilizing ozone. This will be achieved by consulting with Oxidation Technologies LLC, ozone generator manufacturer to utilize their expertise in the process development. The expected outcomes are a reduction in power consumption required to sterilize substrate from the current 250 watts per pound to less than 1 watt per pound; a contamination rate of less than 10% as seen by current methods; and process time reduction from 20 hours to 1 hour.	$43,500.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	18. Study of the Development of Honeybees and Solar Farms as Complements That Produce Honey as a Specialty Crop	The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater will partner with Hemken Honey investigate the placement of Honeybees and the production of honey as a specialty crop in Wisconsin by conducting a market and feasibility study and creating a business and operating plan.	$23,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,677,656.30	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$114,329.18
Wyoming Department of Agriculture	$452,157.06	1. Producer Research Grants	Wyoming Department of Agriculture will award six small grants to conduct on farm research by specialty crop producers in consultation with technical advisors that can improve specialty crop problems associated with specialty crop production and be shared with others through producer/processor publications, meetings and/or field days.	$52,873.00
Wyoming Department of Agriculture	$452,157.06	2. Eat Wyoming: Specialty Crop Marketing and Transportation Program	Fresh Foods Wyoming, L3C will expand Wyoming specialty crop local food sales by marketing products through producer-focused professional content development and strategic online advertising campaigns and providing necessary statewide cold-chain transportation of items to direct-to-consumer and wholesale markets.	$85,300.00
Wyoming Department of Agriculture	$452,157.06	3. Specialty Crop Local Food Production and Education Grants	Wyoming Department of Agriculture will provide competitive small grants to nonprofits, cities, county agencies, conservation districts, the University of Wyoming Extension, community colleges and other organizations and individuals to promote and increase in local food production and education.	$247,000.00
Wyoming Department of Agriculture	$452,157.06	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$66,984.06