

Memorandum

Date: December 5, 2007

To: Utah Agriculture and Food Industry

From: Leonard M. Blackham, Commissioner

Subject: SPECIALTY CROPS BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA is inviting a second round of grant applications made possible through the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004. Under the statute, the Secretary of Agriculture is directed to “make grants to States...to be used by State Departments of Agriculture solely to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.”

Utah will receive \$103,135 to fund projects that meet the specificity of the Act. As the authorized agency to administer these funds for the State, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food invites other agencies, universities, institutions, and industry or community-based organizations to apply for a portion of the Utah allocation.

Please carefully read the attached Program Overview that describes the program, eligibility, application guidelines and selection criteria of projects. Only projects that “enhance the competitiveness” of specialty crops can be awarded. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

We welcome your project application. Please complete and sign the attached Application and all required addenda and return to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. Applications must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2008 to be accepted. If your project application is selected, a Cooperative Agreement between the Department and your entity will be required.