



Specialty Crop Block Grant Program FAQ's



- **Who is eligible to apply?**

This grant is open to producers, schools, trade associations, non-profits, farmers markets, producer groups, farming and ranching co-ops, etc. whose projects benefit the specialty crop industry in Utah.

- **What is a Specialty Crop**

Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture). Click [here](#) for a complete list of specialty crops.

- **How and when can I apply?**

Project applications are submitted to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food through email. These projects are accepted between the months of January and April. Additional information on the application process can be found [here](#).

- **What are the main requirements to qualify as a Specialty Crop Block Grant Program recipient?**

Projects must enhance the competitiveness of Utah's specialty crops and benefit more than one producer or organization, producing measurable benefits for the specialty crop industry. Find more information about requirements [here](#).

- **How much money can I request?**

The state of Utah receives around \$320,000 every year in Specialty Crop Block Grant money. This money is then distributed within the projects selected by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and awarded by USDA. We encourage applicants to request a realistic amount in order to be considered for the award and allow other organizations and producers to receive funds as well.

Do I need a funding match?

- This funding opportunity does not require a federal cost-sharing or match.

- **What is the duration of the awarded contract?**

This grant is valid for 3 years from the time awarded. At the end of each year project managers are required to submit an evaluation report of activities, expenses and achievements. At the end of the third year, a final report is required in order to conclude the contract.

- **What kind of activities can I execute with Specialty Crop Block Grant money?**

A broad range of projects are eligible for SCBGP funding. Examples of eligible projects include those that improve knowledge and consumption of specialty crops, research, improving efficiency within the distribution system, expanding access to specialty crops, disease and pest control, and more. A broad range of projects are eligible for SCBGP funding. Examples of eligible projects include those that improve knowledge and consumption of specialty crops, research, improving efficiency within the distribution system, expanding access to specialty crops, disease and pest control, and more.

- **Are there any costs the this grant won't cover?**

There are several costs this grant won't cover, such as the acquisition of land or buildings or lease-to-own equipment. See a complete list of allowable and unallowable costs [here](#).

- **When will I know if I'm going to receive the award?**

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, along with a committee from outside the organization, selects the best projects submitted according to the budget available from USDA in that specific year. This selection happens in May. Final decision on awards will be made by USDA Agricultural Marketing Services in late September.

- **How will I receive the amount awarded?**

The Specialty Crop Block Grant is administered through a reimbursement process. Awardees must submit invoices to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food before the end of the 3 year contract in order to receive the money for their project expenses.