USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Transportation and Marketing

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2024 Description of Funded Projects – Farm Bill

Number of Grants Awarded: 54
Number of Sub-award Projects: 524
Amount of Funds Awarded: $72,900,310.06
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 August 13, 2024)

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	1. Enhancing Peach Orchard Health: Exploring a Farmer-Friendly Solution for Bacterial Spot Control	Auburn University will address the use of phage technology as an alternative to copper containing products, which can cause high levels of damage in the management of bacterial spot disease in peach.	$36,975.43
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	2. Delaying Tomato Leaf Stress and Senescence Using Cytokinin	Auburn University will investigate the ability of different cytokinin isoforms to delay oxidative stress in tomato leaves by measure photosynthesis, oxidative damage, and stress responsive genes and reporting findings to stakeholders.	$40,000.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	3. Supporting Alabama Growers Adapting Current Production Systems for Strawberry Cultivation	Auburn University, Alabama Cooperative Extension Systems, and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries are partnering to support strawberry growers. The primary objective is to assist growers in adapting their current production systems used for other crops to grow strawberries. The project will impact Alabama's strawberry producers by helping them understand the effects of alternative production systems and providing an opportunity for an extended season. Dissemination will be done through growers' meetings and field days.	$40,000.00

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Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	4. Growing High-Value Kiwifruit in Alabama for Local Markets and School Systems	Auburn University (AU) and the Extension Service will try to determine and disseminate optimal production practices of high-value gold-fleshed kiwifruit in south and central Alabama to impact the availability kiwifruit in local markets and schools.	$40,000.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	5. Affordable Sensors to Monitor Vegetable Crop Performance	The Department of Horticulture at Auburn University intends to validate the use of cost-effective portable sensors in monitoring vegetable growth and production in Alabama. This project intends to confirm the effectiveness of the sensors at detecting nutrients deficiencies and water stress in the early stages of the vegetable crop growth and optimizing the final production to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops in Alabama.	$40,000.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	6. Introducing Late-Blooming and Early-Ripening Blueberries to Alabama	Auburn University will partner with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and the industry to identify frost-tolerant blueberry cultivars with early ripening and excellent quality to secure a high profit for blueberry growers.	$40,000.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	7. Preparing Apiary Inspectors and Beekeepers for the Tropilaelaps Mite, a Parasite of Honeybees	Auburn University, in collaboration with the Apiary Inspectors of America, will enhance readiness of U.S. apiary inspectors and Alabama beekeepers to the parasitic mite Tropilaelaps mercedesae, an emerging threat to honeybees worldwide, by executing a workshop and demonstration events that communicate efficient monitoring techniques, teach invasive pest species emergency management, and develop a monitoring and response plan for Tropilaelaps.	$21,650.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	8. Growing Together: Cultivating Excellence at the Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference and Tradeshow 2025-2026	The Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association works to improve the specialty crop industry through research, advocacy, education and promotion. One way we achieve this goal is to provide annual conferences and tradeshows.	$25,000.00

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Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	9. Operation Grow for Beginning Veteran Farmers: From Information to Infrastructure	Auburn University, through Operation Grow, will provide sustainable support to veterans starting farming careers in Alabama by hosting educational events, facilitating connections, and developing support groups and resources for the farmers.	$36,784.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	10. Educating Students on Specialty Crops in Etowah County	The Windy Van Hooten Teaching Garden will establish outdoor raised-bed garden classrooms at multiple elementary schools in the Gadsden City School System in order to provide weekly garden education to kindergarten - 5th grade students.	$25,000.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	11. Queen Bee Rearing Practices for Reducing Annual Colony Losses	Enterprise State Community College proposes to develop a research program to determine the best queen rearing strategy that will benefit small-scale beekeepers by minimizing annual colony losses.	$40,000.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	12. "Influencing" Consumers to Love Specialty Crops	Sweet Grown Alabama will increase consumer demand and consumption of specialty crops by partnering with social media influencers to share posts promoting the health, economic and environmental benefits of specialty crops.	$73,500.00
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries	$495,569.77	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.	$32,135.27
Alaska Division of Agriculture	$254,805.62	1. Let's COOK!	Kenai Local Food Connection will partner with the Soldotna Wednesday Market, The Goods Sustainable Grocery, local libraries, schools, college and local producers to hold seasonal cooking classes and chef demonstrations with locally grown specialty crops, to see if this steady presence of live, participatory nutrition and cooking education increases the consumption and purchases from local farms.	$34,344.00

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Alaska Division of Agriculture	$254,805.62	2. Potato Scab Identification & Mitigation Trials - Southeast Alaska	Steller Botanical Health will partner with the Alaska Plant Materials Center to identify the scab varieties found in Gustavus soils. Infected tubers will be assessed to make a definitive determination whether Powdery Scab, Spongospora subterrane, is present. Scab mitigation growing practices will be performed, documented and quantitatively assessed over 3 growing seasons.	$20,125.00
Alaska Division of Agriculture	$254,805.62	3. Interior Alaska Farm Forum	The Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) will assist interior Alaska specialty crop farmers by planning and implementing two Interior Alaska Farm Forums, to be held in February 2025 and in February 2027. The Interior Alaska Farm Forum will be a 2-day event in which experienced and new specialty crop producers share practices solving the unique challenges of farming in the interior, as well as familiarize themselves with the agencies and advocates who serve them.	$59,884.40
Alaska Division of Agriculture	$254,805.62	4. Extending Seasonal Availability of Alaska Grown Potatoes	The Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC) will perform field and storage extension studies to evaluate the possibilities of Alaska Grown potato availability for peak tourist season, farmer's markets, food trucks and processing during the period of July-October, when local potatoes are not available, and results will be relayed to potato growers by presentation and publication.	$48,333.52
Alaska Division of Agriculture	$254,805.62	5. Alaska Grown Specialty Crop Vendor Booths at State Fairs to Increase Consumer Awareness, Establish New Customer Bases, and Reach New Markets	The Alaska Division of Agriculture will provide support to Specialty Crop producers, especially new and beginning farmers, by increasing consumer awareness, establishing new customer bases and reaching new markets through hosting an Alaska Grown pavilion at the Alaska State Fair.	$51,317.33
Alaska Division of Agriculture	$254,805.62	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.	$40,762.72

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
American Samoa Department of Agriculture	$268,967.57	1. Enhancing Food Safety, Pest and Disease Control to Strengthen Local Crop Farmers Production	The American Samoa Department of Agriculture's underprivileged, underserved and inadequately equipped Plant and Animal Quarantine (PAQ) division need to be well equipped and prepared to continue providing their pest, disease control and biosecurity services to the local farmers within the agricultural community enhancing food safety and security within the territory. With adequately equipping the PAQ division allows the opportunity for local crop farmers and producers to enhance their production capabilities through modern biosecurity practices. Necessitating local crop farmers with the appropriate supplies and resources creates an efficient distribution network that connects local producers directly to the PAQ division.	$268,560.84
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	1. Effects of Arizona Climate on the Timing of Wine Grape Growth Stages	The University of Arizona will advance vineyard management and variety evaluation in the expanding state viticulture industry by developing the first descriptive and predictive statistical models of effects of Arizona climate on the timing of wine grape growth stages, and by disseminating results to stakeholders through meetings and publications.	$16,583.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	2. Endangered Species Act: Data and Outreach Supporting Arizona Specialty Crops	The University of Arizona will work with the Arizona Department of Agriculture to maintain ongoing access to timely and accurate pesticide use data for the benefit of Arizona specialty crop industries, through maintenance and expansion of our pesticide use database. Vetted, corrected data will be available to support research priorities of specialty crops, Extension education, and pesticide registration needs, including EPA registration reviews of key chemistries for the production of specialty crops. We will work with stakeholders and Arizona Farm Bureau to develop and submit persuasive, data-rich comments to EPA on behalf of Arizona specialty crop producers.	$84,917.00

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Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	3. Pre-harvest Agricultural Water Food Safety Training	The University of Arizona in partnership with the Arizona Department of Agriculture aims to address a critical gap in protecting public health by providing Produce Safety Rule (PSR) Pre-Harvest Agricultural Water Assessment (AgWA) training to food safety professionals/supervisors and workers in the fresh produce industry.	$99,981.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	4. Enhancing Arizona Specialty Crops Through Soil, Crop, and Human Nutrition	The University of Arizona will address the need to maximize crop quality of leafy greens in Yuma County by testing the effectiveness of new approaches for enhancing the concentration of beneficial compounds and mitigating toxic cadmium in romaine lettuce and spinach, ultimately to benefit human health. If leafy greens in Arizona can be made more beneficial to human health, their competitiveness will be increased compared to vegetables grown in other parts of the United States.	$93,062.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	5. Evaluating Selected Insecticides Against Insect Pests in Arizona's Organic Cruciferous Vegetable Crops	The University of Arizona will strengthen the competitiveness of specialty crop production in Arizona by developing and disseminating (through field days/growers meeting) effective IPM tactics that are aligned with organic production of Cole crops.	$96,176.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	6. A 360 View of Arizona Specialty Crops	The Arizona Farm Bureau will educate the public about Arizona Specialty Crops through the development and use of a standards-based curriculum package that includes the incorporation of interactive 360 video tours, providing classroom cooking grants, and a Technology in Agriculture AgMag to immerse students in the growing technologies being used in agriculture. This project highlights the importance of specialty crops to our state's economy and our everyday lives.	$21,310.00

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Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	7. Incidence and Ecology of Cucurbit Viruses in Arizona Phase 2	This University of Arizona project will be focused on understanding the incidence and ecology of cucurbit viruses in the state of Arizona. A state-wide survey will be conducted by collecting cucurbit samples (mainly melons and watermelons) and testing them for presence of 10 or more different cucurbit viruses by molecular methods over 2 growing seasons.	$43,713.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	8. Development of Integrated Fungicide Programs to Manage Diseases in Specialty Crops	This University of Arizona project will be focused on conducting field trials on 6 important diseases of specialty crop in Yuma area, including fusarium wilt of lettuce, Sclerotinia rot of lettuce, powdery mildew of lettuce, downy mildew of lettuce, downy mildew of spinach and powdery mildew of melon/cantaloupe. Planting will occur from September through March for different trials and different fungicide combination will be utilized. Disease rating will be done at the end of the season and a field day will be conducted for the diseases with highest interest amongst stakeholders	$88,655.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	9. Investigation of Corky Root Disease in Arizona Lettuce	The University of Arizona will investigate lettuce corky root diseases by monitoring and surveying lettuce fields to follow disease development and confirm the causal agent(s). Project findings will be shared with growers, industry representatives, and other stakeholders via presentation talks at workshops and field days as well as educational materials such as fact sheets.	$39,062.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	10. Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Technician	University of Arizona Yuma County Cooperative Extension will support a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Technician to organize specialty crop workshop events, create accredited online on-demand coursework, and make educational specialty crop extension videos.	$56,881.00

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Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	11. Diagnostic Resources for Pests and Beneficial Insects on Arizona Specialty Crops with Emphasis on Yuma and Adjacent Regions	In a collaborative effort with the University of Arizona Insect Collection (UAIC) Diagnostics Clinic, extension faculty, Arizona growers, and using DNA Barcoding protocols created in our previous Specialty Crop Block Grant, the University of Arizona will analyze pest and beneficial species from specialty crops from Yuma and adjacent regions, update pest species lists, provide DNA Barcodes to support species-level identifications of pest and beneficial insects, digitize and georeference data of UAIC's holdings of these species, and produce high-resolution images of pest and beneficial species for identification and outreach purposes.	$45,591.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	12. Improving Management for Grapevine Red Blotch Disease	To reduce the economic and environmental impacts of Red Blotch Disease for the grape industry, the University of Arizona seeks to improve vine removal efforts by adopting the use of a rapid assay to detect infected vines. To tackle gaps in understanding disease ecology and uncertainties in management, we will utilize regional monitoring of the disease and its vector(s). Project results will be disseminated to stakeholders through workshops, field days, and handouts.	$86,764.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	13. Managing Fusarium Wilt of Lettuce with Tolerant and Resistant Lettuce Cultivars	The Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture (YCEDA), a public-private partnership between the University of Arizona and the desert agriculture industry, in collaboration with Robert Masson, Assistant Agricultural Agent, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, will evaluate lettuce cultivars and breeding lines for resistance to Fusarium wilt of lettuce. Results will be widely disseminated to the Arizona lettuce industry to aid in disease management decisions through presentations at workshops and conferences and during the annual Fusarium wilt of lettuce field day.	$48,519.00

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Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	14. The Effect of Warm Season Cover Crops in Arizona Vineyard Systems	The University of Arizona will improve management practices and sustainability in Arizona wine grape vineyards by conducting in situ cover crop trials with the purpose of improving water, soil, and weed management, and then broadcasting the results to stakeholders via field days, meetings and publications.	$98,536.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	15. Chemical Thinning of Dates	The University of Arizona will attempt to thin `Medjool' date fruits by the application of two commercially available plant growth regulators, determine their effect on fruit yield, fruit quality, determine if additional hand labor is needed to thin fruit further, then disseminate the results to stakeholders through grower meetings, field days and a website.	$99,374.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	16. Palestriped Flea Beetle Management During Guayule Stand Establishment and Survey of Insect Impacts at Flowering	University of Arizona, working with industry partners and growers, will develop best practices for managing pests on guayule, particularly during the critical germination stage. Key research focuses on testing chemical seed coatings and foliar treatments to combat the palestriped flea beetle, a significant threat to young plants. By conducting lab and field trials, the project aims to identify effective, safe, and economically viable pest control methods, which are crucial for reducing crop loss. The research will also assess the impact of other insects, such as thrips and rove beetles, on guayule. We will develop practical guidance for guayule management and support registration of necessary chemical controls. The result will be new opportunity for growers to diversify their crop selection providing them a competitive advantage.	$32,848.00

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Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	17. Building Capacity for Proactive Resistance Management Whitefly in a Cross-Commodity Landscape	University of Arizona will use research on pesticide resistance and vetting of Arizona pesticide use to develop predictive models for better resistance management in the silverleaf whitefly. The goal is to create a digital tool that helps pest control advisors and growers make informed decisions by providing insights into local pesticide use and refugia optimization within a 9-square-mile area to support proactive resistance management — manage or prevent resistance before it forces a crisis on the industry. This tool is expected to enhance the effectiveness of IPM programs by facilitating strategic pesticide use and resistance management, contributing to sustainable agriculture practices for specialty crops.	$32,366.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	18. Evaluating Fungicide Efficacy and Resistance Levels in the Management of Phoma Fruit Blight and Alternaria Late Blight in Arizona Pistachio Orchar	Pistachio is highly susceptible to several foliar fungal diseases. Multiple sprays per season are needed for adequate disease suppression. The prevalence of fungicide-resistant isolates in fungal populations is a major factor contributing to reduced or unsuccessful disease control. The University of Arizona will mitigate pistachio foliar diseases by conducting fungicide efficacy trials and monitoring resistance populations. Knowledge generated by this project will be used to support Pesticide Control Advisers and Extension Agents to recommend efficient fungicide spray plans and to promote the rational and sustainable use of fungicides. The ultimate outcome is the reduced yield loss, reduced fungicide costs and increased profit and viability of pistachio orchards.	$62,048.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	19. Demonstration and Assessment of the Viability of Soil Steaming for Pest Control at the Commercial Field-Scale Level	The University of Arizona will demonstrate and assess the viability of soil steaming for controlling weeds and diseases caused by soilborne pathogens in vegetable crops at the commercial field-scale level. Three on-farm demonstrations will be conducted with collaborating growers in fields at least 1 acre in size. Lettuce, spinach and/or baby leaf lettuce crops will be planted following steam treatment. Assessments will include weed and disease control efficacy, hand labor savings, crop yield, machine productivity, operational costs and overall profitability. The anticipated output of this research will be validation of the viability of soil steaming for commercial vegetable production.	$49,779.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	20. Arizona Specialty Crop Reference Guide Update 2025-2026	The Arizona Department of Agriculture will update and reproduce approximately 34,500 copies of an educational reference guide for consumers which will include a directory of Farmers' Markets, U-Pick Farms, Vineyards and Lavender Farms throughout Arizona, a directory of Arizona Wine Grape Growers, a listing of Arizona Specialty Crop availability by season, and food safety information for fruits and vegetables. The Arizona Specialty Crop Guide will increase consumer awareness and consumption of Arizona specialty crops through its distribution at county libraries, cooperative extension offices, and various agricultural events.	$161,982.00
Arizona Department of Agriculture	$1,483,057.60	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.	$118,098.78

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$363,564.41	1. Development of a Sustainable Protein Extraction Method for Production of High-Quality Cowpea Protein Isolate for Future Food	This project pioneers a sustainable protein extraction method for high-quality cowpea protein isolate production at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. This project will focus on adding value to cowpea and helps Arkansas agriculture to improve their cowpea production as a specialty crop with high protein content and quality. Also, it helps food consumers to have a nutritious diet by providing knowledge that helps commercialization of cowpea protein ingredients.	$51,053.00
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$363,564.41	2. Determining the Viability of Remotely Piloted Aerial Application Systems (RPAAS) for Arkansas Fruits and Vegetables	The University of AR System Division of Agriculture will develop best management practices to support fruit and vegetable growers in the selection of RPAAS, with a focus on resources that address effectiveness and economic viability in several crops.	$69,247.00
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$363,564.41	3. Introduction of New Fruits for Scalable Production for Direct and Local AR Markets	The University of Arkansas is establishing research and demonstration studies introducing new fruit crops to Arkansas Agriculture that are adaptable to scalable production and would contribute to farm family economies and rural communities and contribute new healthy and nutritious foods to the Arkansas food system. Among the crops to be studied and introduced are elderberry, hardy figs, and raspberries.	$40,750.00
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$363,564.41	4. Addressing Melon Severe Mosaic Virus in Arkansas Cucurbits	The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture plans to undertake a survey to assess the prevalence and transmission potential of melon severe mosaic virus, a significant pathogen affecting Arkansas and the US, which poses a threat of complete crop loss. Currently, there is a lack of understanding regarding the virus's prevalence, transmission dynamics, and control methods, which are essential pieces of information required prior to the development and implementation of effective management strategies.	$64,795.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$363,564.41	5. Assessment of Novel and Heirloom Tomato Varieties for Production in Arkansas	The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture will conduct replicated variety trials of field grown tomatoes will be conducted in Northwest Arkansas, the River Valley, and South Arkansas to determine which commercial and heirloom tomato varieties are best suited to production in Arkansas and will disseminate results through online publications and fields days.	$45,416.00
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$363,564.41	6. Building Landscape Resilience through Improved Native Plant Production Protocols for the Green Industry	The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture will conduct a series of research projects to assess novel plant production protocols to boost native species presence, focusing on woody ornamentals, in the commercial green industry trade.	$50,915.00
Arkansas Agriculture Department	$363,564.41	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.	$40,564.17
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	1. California Grown: Always In Season	The Buy California Marketing Agreement (BCMA) will design and implement promotions to increase awareness and consumption of California grown specialty commodities which help consumers develop a better relationship with California grown agricultural products. Promotions are also designed to increase the value of California agricultural products while helping to build strong communities and a thriving California economy.	$2,231,000.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	2. Increasing High-Value Sales of California Processing Tomatoes in the United State Restaurant Industry	This project 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 by launching a new marketing campaign targeting restaurants in the United States.	$500,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	3. Driving Sales for Santa Cruz Mountains Winegrowers by Building Awareness Among Urban Bay Area Consumers	The Santa Cruz Mountains Winegrowers Association (SCMWA) will elevate regional awareness among urban Bay Area consumers through, 1) a digital media campaign, 2) creation of an interactive region digital map, and 3) promotional consumer events. This project's goal is to increase regional wine sales by 3 percent by June 2027, measured by winery sales tracking.	$498,428.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	4. Developing New Market Opportunities and Partnerships to Increase Sonoma Wines Accessibility and Connectivity with Consumers	Sonoma County Local District 3 Winegrape Commission (SCW), representing all 1,800 Sonoma winegrape growers, will launch a campaign to relate California wine to consumers of all drinking ages, sharing the compatibility of Sonoma wine with their lifestyles through, 1) a sports team partnership, 2) in-region immersions, 3) a young professional educational program, and 4) an advertisement campaign.	$494,435.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	5. California Open Farm Passport: Engaging the Public and Supporting California Farmers through Open Farm Events	University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) will foster a network of agritourism groups to build their capacity to support local farmers and to bolster the agritourism industry overall. This project will fund agritourism groups to host large scale Open Farm events that will directly connect California specialty crop producers with customers. The project will also foster a network of agritourism groups to build their capacity to support local farmers and to bolster the agritourism industry overall.	$449,846.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	6. California Flavors/Sabores de California: A Campaign to Promote Specialty Crops in School Meals	The Center for Ecoliteracy will increase access to and consumption of specialty crops in schools by, 1) providing school nutrition staff with culturally inclusive specialty crop recipes that meet the new nutrition standards, procurement support, and hands-on culinary training; 2) increasing student demand for specialty crops through taste tests and promotional events; and 3) sharing resources with specialty crop stakeholders through a bilingual media campaign with short-form videos.	$485,200.00

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California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	7. Creative Partnerships for Community Health: Schools as Hubs for Specialty Crop Education and Distribution	Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) will increase awareness of, demand for, and access to specialty crops among the staff, students, and families in Humboldt County school districts.	$497,755.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	8. California Crop of the Month	The California Crop of the Month (CCM) project will provide technical support to 65 plus farmers and introduce 25,000 plus farmers market shoppers and 6,000 students to California specialty crops. Foodwise will increase specialty crop consumption by providing culinary and nutrition education right where specialty crops are sold.	$452,543.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	9. Increasing Awareness and Consumption of California Processing Fruit and Vegetables in Schools and Hospitals in the United States	Pacific Coast Producers (PCP), representing 322 California growers, will launch an educational campaign targeting schools and hospitals, driving sales or consumption of California processing peaches, pears, and tomatoes in the United States.	$492,176.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	10. Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association	The Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association (PCFMA) will bring the Power of Produce (POP) Club program to 30 Bay Area farmers markets. The POP Club uses fun, in-market activities to educate children about healthy eating and how food is grown, while encouraging kids to try fresh fruits and vegetables. The project will expand existing POP Club activities by adding Spanish language materials, introductions to more fruits and vegetables, and take-home activities, including child-focused video recipe demonstrations.	$491,242.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	11. Cultivating Success: Empowering California's Specialty Crop Industry for the Future	The State Center Community College District, Training Institute (Training Institute), will enhance food safety compliance, promote efficient water usage, and cultivate technical skills of farm workers. Anticipated outcomes include bolstered industry resilience, heightened competitiveness, and the widespread adoption of sustainable practices.	$498,881.00

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California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	12. The Centennial Farm Story of California Specialty Crops	The Orange County Fair and Event Center seeks to address the ongoing critical need to connect the region's youth to locally grown California specialty crops and how these crops get to their plates. Through storytelling and first-hand, experiential learning, the Centennial Farm Story of California Specialty Crops seeks to inspire youth to engage with agriculture as an industry, as a field of study and as it impacts many facets of their lives.	$362,861.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	13. Pioneering Drought and Climate Resiliency Through Education and Training for the Emerging California Agave Industry	The California Agave Council (CAC), a non-profit representing 200 members, will provide technical assistance and training to 60 agave specialty crop farmers on reducing water use, improving water efficiency, and adjusting to a changing climate, supporting California's high-demand, economically viable agave industry. This project will deliver, 1) a report on existing agave research, 2) bilingual producer outreach and training curriculum, 3) a web-based grower toolkit with how-to videos, and 4) grower education events.	$498,404.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	14. Voice of the Vineyards: Growing Leaders Among Sonoma County Vineyard Employees Through Advanced Workforce Development	The non-profit Sonoma County Fundación de la Voz de los Viñedos (the Foundation) will expand its pioneering first of a kind Leadership Academy to equip the vineyard workers who are the bedrock of Sonoma's $540 million specialty crop winegrape industry with training to support upward mobility, contributing to a retained, skilled workforce. Data shows that 70 percent of California vineyard workers were born in Mexico and are underrepresented in leadership positions. The project's goal is to develop 150 historically underserved leaders through expanded Leadership Academy cohorts; train 150 Leadership Academy alumni as peer mentors; and extend education to 1,300 vineyard workers through broader training.	$409,160.00

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California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	15. Seeding Success: Youth Engagement and Skill Development for Sustainable and Resilient Specialty Crop Farming in California	The University of California (UC), Riverside aims to promote specialty crops and the need for a skilled, diverse, and adaptive workforce comprehensively trained to meet emerging climate and socio-economic challenges. Led by UC Riverside and University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR), together with Growing Hope Project (GHP), John W. North, and San Andreas High Schools, this project will address this need by prioritizing youth education and engagement. The proposed curriculum integrates classroom theory with experiential learning on sustainable, climate-smart agriculture principles, and technology adoption within the current regulatory frame.	$497,710.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	16. California Agave: Foundational Agronomy, Viral-load, Genetic Diversity, and Metabolites Characterization for a Drought-tolerant Specialty Crop	The University of California, Davis will generate and share foundational knowledge of agave growing in California that can be used to positively impact portfolio decisions of specialty crop farmers. This project will evaluate and measure success by, 1) working with farmers to complete research activities that collect, analyze, and share quantitative data that characterize agronomy, viral-load, genetic diversity, and key metabolites, and 2) quantifying the number of growers and distillers that the project team will reach through outreach efforts including in-person events.	$491,288.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	17. Evaluation of Frass as a Soil Amendment and Fertilizer for Specialty Crop Production in California	University of California, Riverside (UC Riverside) will evaluate a new organic fertilizer option, frass of black soldier flies reared at an industrial scale on food waste, as a tool to reduce air and water contamination in tomatoes and cantaloupe. The project team will evaluate the qualities of frass products, N mineralization, and impacts of frass on crop N, yields, soil N leaching, and N volatilization versus inorganic and organic fertilizers.	$467,411.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	18. Scaling Up Climate Smart Nutrient Management in Cool-season Specialty Crop Production	The Regents of the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) aims to, 1) determine the potential of CSNM practices to sustain yields while reducing N discharge, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and sequestering soil carbon (C), 2) prioritize CSNM practices by evaluating their impacts at a watershed scale under future temperature and precipitation conditions, and 3) increase knowledge and adoption of CSNM practices through comprehensive outreach and education.	$498,225.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	19. Improving Water Quality and Soil Health Outcomes for On-Farm Recharge in California Pistachio Orchards	Sustainable Conservation aims to expand OFR in the San Joaquin Valley while researching one promising strategy for improving OFR outcomes. This project will, 1) deploy six OFR pilots in pistachio orchards with extensive technical assistance (TA); 2) quantify cover crop impacts to OFR outcomes related to nitrate leaching, hydraulic function, soil health, and yield; 3) develop a recharge methods manual; and 4) conduct outreach to growers and TA.	$498,423.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	20. Recruiting Earthworms to Improve Soil Health on Organic Farms	The University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) will determine the best methods to rear naturalized earthworms to expedite population growth. Additionally, UC ANR will evaluate how soil health practices affect earthworm populations and impact soil health metrics (biological, chemical, and physical).	$368,100.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	21. Closing the Loop: Transforming Agri-Food Waste into Sustainable Carbon-Based Soil Amendments and Fertilizers	The project will develop and validate a procedure for creating soil amendments in a short three-phased, four-six weeklong process from agri-food wastes and expand research on the impacts of organic waste-based soil amendments on field-grown trees and greenhouse-grown vegetables. The goal is to divert waste from landfills, sequester carbon, markedly reduce synthetic fertilizer use, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. The University of California (UC), Riverside will focus on education and outreach through labtofarm.org and direct engagement, targeting underserved farmers.	$498,465.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	22. Real-Time Nutrient Monitoring System for Hydroponic Production in Controlled Environment Agriculture	The University of California (UC), Davis will, 1) assess the environmental impact of hydroponic discharge, 2) develop an autonomous ion-based nutrient management system and evaluate its performance regarding NUE, WUE, and crop growth, 3) conduct a techno-economic and life-cycle analysis, and 4) outreach the new knowledge and technologies. Project outcomes will be evaluated through enhanced profitability and reduced environmental impacts.	$484,559.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	23. Developing Scalable Tools to Quantify the Impact of Regenerative Practices in Woody Perennial Crops	This project builds on over a decade of research from over 30 California orchards and vineyards, monitored using eddy covariance flux towers and advanced remote-sensing tools, to evaluate the effects of cover crops, no-till or low-till, and grazing on water and carbon fluxes. The Regents of the University of California, Davis will develop a multi-scale framework to quantify the climate change mitigation potential of specialty crops against the backdrop of growing water scarcity in California.	$499,348.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	24. From Warm Soils to Resistance-Breaking Strains: Evaluating the Robustness of a Novel Heat-Stable Nematode Resistance Gene from a Wild Tomato	The University of California (UC), Davis will study root-knot nematodes (RKNs) which are highly evolved parasites impacting global food security. Resistance to RKNs is available in both fresh and processing tomatoes and is conferred by the single dominant gene Mi-1. The resistance provided by Mi-1 is compromised at soil temperatures above 28° C. Recently, a heat-stable resistance gene, Mi-9, from wild tomatoes was cloned, which unlike Mi-1, Mi-9 offers resistance at elevated soil temperatures. While the Mi-9 gene has shown potential in preliminary studies in wild tomatoes, evaluation of its ability to control RKNs in cultivated tomatoes remains missing. The goal of this project is to assess the efficacy of the Mi-9 in combating RKNs in domesticated tomatoes under different temperature conditions, employing both greenhouse and field trials.	$482,958.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	25. Etiology, Detection, and Management of Fusarium Wilt of Strawberry and Blackberry	The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service will determine strain-level pathogenicity on strawberry and blackberry, create methods for detection, conduct surveillance, and develop tools for accelerating the production of resistant cultivars. The success of this project will be measured by, 1) the knowledge gained by stakeholders, 2) adoption of rapid detection methods and tools for marker assisted selection, 3) the development and new knowledge of disease resistant varieties, and 4) the impact of resulting industry and peer-reviewed publications.	$495,877.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	26. Cropping Nematode-Antagonistic Plants for Nematode Suppression in Walnuts	The University of California (UC), Riverside will use anaerobic soil disinfestation (ASD) to increase the yield of the California edible walnut. In ASD for pathogen suppression, atmospheric oxygen is excluded from heavily irrigated soil during anaerobic decomposition of introduced substrate under plastic tarp. In preliminary studies, using the biomass of in situ grown nematode-resistant cover crops as substrate for ASD improved yield of walnuts. Such substrate will be incorporated using a moldboard plow and the soil sealed mechanically, a method showing promise for rice bran incorporation. ASD with rice bran substrate, plastic tarp, and drip lines costs approximately $5,500 per acre. These new protocols can potentially save 70 percent of walnut yield, making ASD a sustainable economically feasible method.	$490,740.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	27. Rapid Assay for Identification of Verticillium Wilt Resistant Lettuce	Verticillium wilt of lettuce, caused by the soilborne fungus Verticillium dahliae (V. dahliae), threatens California lettuce production. Though resistance is available in lettuce for race 1 of V. dahliae, races 2 and 3 were recently identified in California. TheU.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA ARS) will develop rapid assays for the identification of resistance against races 2 and 3.	$394,117.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	28. Mitigating Huanglongbing in Citrus Using Naturally-Derived Antimicrobials	The project team from the University of California (UC), Riverside has demonstrated that infection of the citrus Huanglongbing (HLB)-associated pathogen, Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus (CLas), causes a significant increase in the relative abundance of sectors of the microbiome that include potential beneficial microbes that possess competitive antibiosis properties. It is hypothesized that these sectors represent native microbes that enter into a competitive interaction with CLas. The project has antibiosis data supporting this hypothesis. However, CLas ultimately wins the competitive battle. The purpose of this project is to amplify known competitive interactions to enable the native citrus microbiome to defeat CLas by developing biologicals that target CLas. This project will focus on scaling up production of lead bioinoculant strain and the anti-CLas compound it produces for testing in whole plant assays for HLB suppression.	$448,742.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	29. Application of Seed Treatments to Reduce Specialty Crop Pathogens	Infested seeds transfer pathogens into soil, causing severe diseases in valuable California specialty crops such as strawberry, lettuce, and spinach. There is a need to develop treatments to eliminate these pathogens from seed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service will evaluate the efficacy of three seed treatments for reducing pathogen levels in spinach seeds for organic and conventional production.	$391,515.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	30. Replacing Virus Reservoirs with Beneficial Plants to Support Healthy Lettuce Ecosystems	The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service will, 1) identify weedy sites that harbor Impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) to prioritize weed management efforts, and 2) conduct INSV susceptibility tests on a panel of native and beneficial plants to identify species that are safe options to plant in managed areas.	$370,586.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	31. Sustainable Citrus: Unlocking the Potential of Controlled Environment Agriculture for Commercial Nursery Growers	University of California (UC), Riverside aims to improve plant growth and stress resilience by optimizing photobiology (photosynthesis and photomorphogenesis) under CEA. Goals include, 1) assessing optimal light conditions for growth, 2) elucidating light-dependent disease symptom expression, 3) translating this science into real-world solutions for commercial growers, 4) assessing CEA's energy and cost efficiencies, and 5) expanding outreach to underserved farmers. Success will be measured by, 1) increased disease-free plant quality output, 2) decreased disease diagnosis time, 3) verified CEA technologies efficiencies, 4) the number of commercial citrus varieties evaluated, and 5) the number of growers gained knowledge and trained.	$498,393.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	32. Evaluating Attract and Kill for Control of South American Palm Weevil in California	University of California, Riverside (UC Riverside) will develop Attract and Kill (AK) technology for managing South American Palm Weevil (SAPW). This technology uses an inert wax-like matrix infused with 3 percent contact insecticide and the weevil's aggregation pheromone to lure adult male and female SAPW. Weevil interactions, approximately three seconds, with AK dollops kills them. Project outcomes will be a highly effective targeted control strategy that minimizes insecticide use.	$391,840.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	33. WeedChat: AI-Powered Chatbot Solutions for Specialty Crop Weed Management	Leveraging similar technologies to ChatGPT, WeedChat aims to address a pressing issue in modern agriculture: the need for immediate, expert advice on managing weeds in specialty crops. Growers often face daunting challenges in weed control, leading to significant financial losses and environmental impact. Existing extension services are limited in providing timely, individualized advice. With WeedChat, the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) will fill this gap with immediate, artificial intelligence-enabled recommendations, enabling farmers to make quick, informed decisions.	$429,188.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	34. Implementing Classical Biological Control of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug	This project will deliver long-term, sustainable management of the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), an invasive agricultural pest in California from Asia. BMSB is highly polyphagous, and established in 16 counties, including several in the San Joaquin Valley. The primary goal of this project is to release and establish samurai wasp (Trissolcus japonicus) in California's key agricultural production areas facing increasing BMSB pressure. Samurai wasp is the most important host specific BMSB natural enemy in the world. In 2018, samurai wasp was discovered in an urban area of southern California. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Biological Control Program has a field release permit and will mass rear and redistribute this parasitoid to agricultural regions in critical need of BMSB control.	$377,884.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	35. Genomic and Phenotypic Assessment of E. coli O157:H7 REPEXH02 Strains	The Center for Produce Safety (CPS) will partner with Michigan State University to identify factors associated with emergence and persistence of REPEXH02, a genetic subtype of Escherichia coli (E. coli) O157:H7 linked to leafy greens grown in specific regions in California. This project will determine genetic and phenotypic features that may facilitate persistence of this REPEXH02 subtype in the Salinas and Santa Maria growing regions. E. coli O157:H7 will be isolated from soil, sediment, water, and wildlife samples collected from these regions, and will be sequenced along with historical E. coli O157:H7 isolates.	$507,943.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	36. Salmonella Risk is Enhanced by Onion Condition or Defect	The Center for Produce Safety (CPS) will partner with Cornell University to identify factors that enhance food safety risk in bulb and head-and-tailed onions. Recent recalls of onions due to potential Salmonella contamination have increased the focus on production and handling practices to mitigate this risk.	$518,514.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	37. Solutions to Brush Sanitation Tailored to the Producer's Appetite for Capital Investment and Labor Intensity	The Center for Produce Safety (CPS) will partner with Cornell University to determine how deterioration of produce brushes impacts sanitation outcomes. Brushes are important tools for washing, waxing, and polishing some produce, but they are difficult to effectively clean and sanitize.	$510,497.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	38. Agent-based Models Can Predict Appropriate Risk-based Set-back Distances for Flooded Fields	The Center for Produce Safety (CPS) will partner with Cornell University to help identify risk-based harvest setback distances after field flooding events. Flooding of produce fields can present a food safety risk, as flooding can transport and introduce bacterial hazards and facilitate bacterial growth.	$515,009.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	39. Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessments Need to Consider Quality Parameters to Accurately Predict Produce Food Safety Risks	The Center for Produce Safety (CPS) will partner with Cornell University to develop a tool to better assess food safety risks associated with the postharvest condition of fresh produce. Retailers often evaluate fresh produce for quality using criteria such as percentage of damaged leaves, wilting, decay, and insect damage. These types of postharvest defects impact customer satisfaction and may also impact food safety risks, for example by allowing pathogens to grow to higher levels or by enhancing their ability to cause disease.	$475,415.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	40. Specialty Crop Access and Education in Southeastern San Diego	Groundwork San Diego, Chollas Creek (Groundwork) will provide hands-on education on specialty crop production to third through eighth grade students and their families (1,020 participants) in communities denied access to nutritious produce and experiencing food insecurity-related chronic disease. Groundwork staff will be trained in the management of a hydroponics farm on a school-site featuring seasonal culturally relevant crops. Students will receive four hands-on nutrition, cooking, and farming instruction each semester.	$249,149.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	41. Food Literacy for Kids in Title 1 Elementary Schools	This project targets Title 1 elementary students from North Sacramento and South Sacramento who are at highest risk for diet-related disease. Sacramento has a 40 percent childhood obesity rate, and only 4 percent of children protect their health by eating their daily vegetables, while only 25 percent eat their daily fruits. These children experience high rates of health disparities. This project will leverage specialty crops grown in the Sacramento region to inspire kids to eat healthy and develop habits to protect their health through hands-on food literacy field trips to either Food Literacy Center or Oak Park Farmers' market.	$250,000.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	42. Food Sovereignty Lab Specialty Crop Initiative	The Food Sovereignty Lab, a fiscally sponsored program of Cal Poly Sponsored Programs, provides a space that supports tribal communities in ongoing revitalization of traditional food practices and cultural knowledges. Food Sovereignty Lab (FSL) project staff will improve the environmental sustainability of specialty crops through hands-on engagement with tribal partners and farms as well as at FSL's indigenous garden and gathering site. The project will provide programming for native specialty crop farmers that includes technical assistance, resource sharing, an e-learning platform, and access to leading research opportunities.	$249,671.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	43. Supporting Small Latinx Specialty Crop Farmers in Pájaro and Salinas Valleys	In the Pájaro and Salinas Valleys, individual local farmers of color struggle to enter the specialty crops market in the rich agricultural setting flush with large farm projects. The Organic Farmers Co-op was formed to address the common struggles to access sustainable and just markets, operational equipment, and innovation in the field. As a technical advisor, Esperanza Community Farms (ECF) has provided technical assistance and capacity building to the Organic Farmers Co-op through bi-weekly lab-based trainings that build skills in procurement, communication with client bases, contract negotiations, and social capital. Part of ECF's mission is a commitment to economic empowerment of small Latinx, Mexican, and Mexican-Indigenous farmers as a model to increase the production, distribution, and consumption of healthy fruits and vegetables among local young people and families.	$247,457.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	44. Urban Agriculture Youth Development Program	The goal of this project is to inform and educate the next generation of farmers on the importance of specialty crops in California through Three Sisters Garden's (TSG) Urban Agriculture Youth Development Program. As farmers age out, there is a sharp drop-off in new farmers taking their place and an increasing need to inspire and train a new generation of farmers to ensure the stability of California's food system. In line with this need, TSG will work to create an engaging and informative 12-week education curriculum focused on inspiring the next generation of specialty crop farmers.	$244,079.00
California Department of Food and Agriculture	$23,333,022.45	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.	$1,915,049.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	1. Developing and Implementing Integrated Pest Management Tactics for Suppression of Corn Earworm in Sweet Corn	Colorado State University will develop Integrated Pest Management tactics and extension tools and provide hands-on grower training to prevent outbreaks of the Corn Earworm (CEW) moth (Helicoverpa zea) in sweet corn.	$62,002.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	2. Supporting Solutions to the TRA Sweet Corn Ear Worm Challenges	The Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will partner with Colorado State University and the Colorado West Sweet Corn Administrative Committee to find solutions to the unprecedented 2023 sweet corn crop losses due to ear worm and fall army worm. Scouting for insect presence and corn silking on farms will be used to trigger insecticidal spray protocols in production fields. Post treatment, field technicians will sample for impacts to insect pressures (caterpillar presence in corn ears) and send data to the research coordinator to aggregate and analyze for efficacy. The team will reflect on insect control findings during and after each season and adjust approaches as needed.	$82,683.55
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	3. Impact of Row Spacing and Plant Populations on Weed and Water Management of Black-eyed Pea Production	Colorado State University will research the impact of row spacing and plant populations of black-eyed peas and their impact on weed management and evaporative losses in an irrigated and dryland environment of northeast Colorado. A simple economic analysis will be done looking at economic implications of row spacing and plant populations.	$49,985.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	4. Double Whammy: Developing Strategies to Combat the Powdery Scab - Potato Mop Top Virus Disease Complex	The Colorado Potato Administrative Committee will develop strategies to mitigate the economic impact of Potato Mop-Top Virus (PMTV) and Powdery Scab (PS) threatening potato production in the San Luis Valley region. The work to be performed will be subcontracted to Colorado State University. The project aims to develop a list of potato varieties that are resistant to PMTV and PS. In addition, the project aims to directly visualize PMTV and PS in potato tubers and roots to develop a better understanding of the infection process. Findings from the study will inform growers about the appropriate variety to plant and implement improved management practices, ultimately reducing yield losses and potentially increasing potato exports to Mexico by meeting their regulatory requirements. The results of the study will be disseminated to growers through CPAC's newsletters, the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference, and Field Days.	$104,850.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	5. Creating Spanish Language Accessibility for Farmer Training Classes and Events	The purpose of this proposal is to make Farmer Training Program courses, presentations, and events at Fort Lewis College accessible to Spanish-speaking specialty crop growers through providing outreach and interpretation services.	$35,246.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	6. Exploring Labor Saving Ag Tech Solutions for Colorado Growers	Colorado State University Extension will build on 2023 and 2024 efforts to bring advanced labor-saving ag tech solutions to Colorado and demo them at CSU Agricultural Experiment Stations in various parts of Colorado in an effort to help produce farms reduce workforce challenges related to recruitment, retention and affordability while relieving the most strenuous tasks for farmworkers through mechanization and automation. Project manager, Adrian Card, will focus on automated weeder solutions sources through global contacts, allowing Colorado produce growers to experience these in person, ask question of company representatives, and assess if these solutions, or related next generation products, can be a fit for their farm business needs. Each year one demo will be offered with an anticipated 25 growers reporting technical knowledge gained. Adrian will recruit companies, coordinate with AES staff, promote the event, deliver the demo days with colleagues, then evaluate and report on the project.	$9,411.16
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	7. Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom 2026 Literacy Project Promoting Colorado Potatoes	The Colorado Foundation for Agriculture will increase the knowledge and consumption of Colorado potatoes through its 2026 Literacy Project, an annual agricultural and reading literacy program for elementary students across Colorado.	$56,618.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	8. Targeted Peach Frost Protection Strategies to Mitigate Cold Damage Secure Yields and Reduce Disease Spread.	Colorado State University will conduct research that will build on previous research into plant protection strategies to increase the winter survival of peach floral buds. This project will consist of scientific experimentation and refinement of dormancy manipulation treatments in order to save millions of dollars in annual peach production from freeze damage, as an expected outcome. Successful treatments will also likely increase orchard lifespan by reducing tree mortality due to Cytospora canker, a disease which is enters freeze damaged tissues in trees. The deliverables of this research will be at least one effective cold hardiness treatment, and the information will be disseminated to stakeholders through at least one workshop, at least one annual grower meeting and one fact sheet which will document the findings and make them publicly available.	$38,933.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	9. Beginning Farmer Assistance Program	The Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association will use SCBGP funding to offer beginning produce farmers scholarships to educational and networking events, crucial to their success as growers.	$15,400.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	10. Fungal Inoculants to Elevate Dry Bean Production in Pueblo County	Colorado State University Extension Pueblo County aims to increase and enhance production of dry beans in Pueblo County through the use of beneficial fungal inoculants by observing and comparing bean yields, determining soil health and water efficiency of beans grown with and without fungal inoculants. Analyzed data will then be shared with local farmers at a wrap up meeting, giving them to knowledge and opportunity to grow more beans.	$10,140.27
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	11. Resilient Orchard Management Practices to Enhance the Competitiveness of Colorado Heritage Apples	Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project will increase SW Colorado farmers' understanding and ability to manage land and water resources sustainably for the area by re-establishing 15 acres of heirloom apple production using resilient orchard management practices.	$85,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	12. Modeling and Teaching Effective Weed Control and Cover Cropping Methods to Increase Specialty Crop Sales in Rural Colorado	Guidestone Colorado (Guidestone) will explore methods of whole systems approach to effective weed control, crop rotation and cover cropping in the context of the Upper Arkansas Valley of Colorado and share findings and provide tools to local specialty crop growers to implement practices on their farms to increase sales of specialty crops to local institutions.	$32,941.64
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	13. Specialty Crop Production Under Solar Panel Microclimates	Sprout City Farms (SCF) is trailblazing diversified vegetable production under solar panels at the largest project of its kind in the United States: Jack's Solar Garden (JSG) in Longmont, CO. In this unique project, Sprout City Farms is working with researchers from University of Arizona (UA) to scale up their research methodologies, test whether initial findings from Arizona hold true in Colorado's semi-arid climate and determine potential impacts to Colorado specialty crop producers who are interested in adopting agrivoltaic practices.	$40,656.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	14. The Farm2Food Accelerator: Energizing Growth for Colorado's Small-Scale Specialty Crop Producers	Partnering with Colorado Department of Agriculture, Fuel & Iron, and Colorado State Spur's Food Innovation Center (CSU), NASDA Foundation will adapt the Farm2Food Accelerator (F2F) program, building a community of practice and network for small-scale specialty crop producers in Colorado to enhance their value-added businesses by addressing their needs through self-directed materials, a series of webinars, and an in-person event. F2F equips Colorado producers/food entrepreneurs using specialty crop ingredients to safely develop/produce value-added specialty crop products and enter new statewide/regional markets.	$44,162.65

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	15. Developing Integrative Solutions for Organic Control of Squash Bug in Western Colorado	The Colorado State University's Western Colorado Research Center - Rogers Mesa will pursue organic solutions to controlling the Squash Bug (Anasa tristis) through cover crop management, insect exclusion, crop rotation, and novel product applications. We will work with growers to collect data and conduct on-farm trials. The results will be presented through workshops, publications, and demonstrations. The overall goal will be to equip organic growers with novel and sustainable tools for squash bug mitigation.	$52,075.00
Colorado Department of Agriculture	$823,398.74	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.	$99,242.15
Connecticut Department of Agriculture	$405,275.15	1. Bioprospecting of Natural Control Agents of Soilborne Pathogens	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will identify soil bacteria that can be used as biocontrol agents against Fusarium, wilt and root-knot nematodes in specialty crops and share our findings at CT grower meetings, field days and bulletins. Findings will lay the long-term foundation for future projects that will find the compounds and mechanisms responsible for the biocontrol organisms we identify.	$99,999.97
Connecticut Department of Agriculture	$405,275.15	2. Increasing Farm Resiliency Through Utilization and Promotion of Existing Critical Small Fruit Pest Management and Weather Monitoring Tools	The University of Connecticut will mitigate the ongoing pest management and climate challenges of local fruit growers through the development of a state-of-the art small fruit research and education plot at the UConn PSLA Research & Education Facilities. The activities and deliverables provide stakeholders with a holistic view of interactions between pest and weather challenges specific to the state and provides the tools and training to meet these challenges.	$78,390.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Connecticut Department of Agriculture	$405,275.15	3. Addressing Barriers to Cultivation and Sale of Ginseng and Goldenseal: High-Value Forest-Grown Crops	The Yale Forests will address primary barriers to cultivation and sale of ginseng and goldenseal, high-value forest-grown specialty crops, through train-the-trainer workshops and preparation of producer fact sheets on legal sale of listed species. A video version of the workshop and workshop materials will be made publicly accessible on the Yale Forests website.	$73,013.87
Connecticut Department of Agriculture	$405,275.15	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.	$153,284.03
Department of Energy & Environment Government of the District of Columbia	$243,001.17	1. Culture Crops and Climate Change at the Washington Youth Garden	Friends of the National Arboretum, through its operation of the Washington Youth Garden, will continue its efforts to bridge climate-resilient and sustainable growing practices with culturally responsive crops and nutrition education.	$82,331.00
Department of Energy & Environment Government of the District of Columbia	$243,001.17	2. Building Bridges Farms Increasing Specialty Crops in Southeast DC	Building Bridges Across the River (Building Bridges) will increase access to specialty crops by growing and harvesting them in partnership with our network of urban farms, known collectively as Building Bridges Farms. We will increase access to these crops East of the Anacostia River in Washington, DC via two activities: 1) Teaching Pre-K through 8th grade students about growing and enjoying specialty crops; and 2) Offering specialty crop seedlings and mentoring to other Southeast DC farmers and gardeners.	$50,000.00
Department of Energy & Environment Government of the District of Columbia	$243,001.17	3. Optimizing Corn Truffle ("Huitlacoche") Cultivation: Best Practices for Production, Harvesting, and Distribution in the DMV	Edgewood Community Farm seeks to enhance the competitiveness of corn truffle (also known as Huitlacoche or Ustilago Maydis) production by developing best practices for cultivation, harvesting, and distribution. Corn truffles, also known as Huitlacoche, are a unique delicacy forming on corn, yet relatively unknown and under-produced in the domestic market.	$43,697.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Department of Energy & Environment Government of the District of Columbia	$243,001.17	4. Cultivating Connections through Urban Agriculture Co-location of Production and Consumption	The University of the District of Columbia will work with Cultivating Connections to enhance food security and empower new farmers to lead workshops on nutrient-dense specialty crops requested by the communities they serve.	$47,533.00
Department of Energy & Environment Government of the District of Columbia	$243,001.17	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.	$19,440.09
Delaware Department of Agriculture	$341,692.44	1.Increasing Markets for Delaware Specialty Crop Producers and Consumer Awareness and Consumption Through a Comprehensive Delaware Grown Marketing Cam	The Delaware Department of Agriculture program will help increase markets for Delaware specialty crop producers and increase consumer awareness and consumption of specialty crops by: 1) creating a cost-share program so specialty crop producers can add Delaware Grown branding to their farm packaging to be recognized by retailers, schools, restaurants, and regional/international markets for the high-quality specialty crops and value-added products that Delaware farmers produce; 2) developing a retail campaign for supermarkets and restaurants to increase the purchase of Delaware Grown products; 3) increasing awareness and consumption of Delaware Grown specialty crops by consumers of all ages by developing a consumer-driven campaign using blog posts, social media, digital advertising, print materials, and visual graphics throughout the state to encourage consumers to purchase Delaware Grown products at farmers markets, farm stands, u-pick, grocery stores, and local restaurants; and 4) creating a search feature for the Delaware Grown website, where consumers and buyers can search for a specialty crop and find a local farm to procure the product.	$330,787.19

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Delaware Department of Agriculture	$341,692.44	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.	$10,000.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	1. Improving Silk Fly Control While Strengthening Producer-researcher Cooperation for Greater Sweet Corn Production Profitability	University of Florida entomologists will conduct research and educational activities to improve the management of corn silk flies (CSFs) attacking sweet corn produced in Florida for the fresh market.	$192,508.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	2. Biologically-Based Management Strategies for Soilborne Diseases in Snap Bean for Sustainable Production	The University of Florida is advancing the use of biologically based management for soilborne diseases in snap bean production	$200,196.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	3. Drone-based Multispectral Phenotyping for Improving Ornamental Plant Production	University of Central Florida (UCF) and University of Florida (UF) will use drone- based multispectral phenotyping to detect growth disorders within Specialty crop plants produced outdoors (landscape plants) and in greenhouses.	$188,768.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	4. Methods for Determining Groundwater Under the Influence of Surface Water, and BMPs for Mitigating Distribution System Contamination	The Center for Produce Safety will partner with the University of Arizona to identify specialty crop groundwater wells that may be under the influence of surface water and to establish effective mitigation measures for contamination of irrigation pipe distribution systems.	$250,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	5. Determining the Diversity and Quality of Saw Palmetto Berries for a Booming Market in Florida	University of Florida team will catalog the germplasm of saw palmetto growing in varied Florida locations both at chemical and molecular level and identify suitable cultivation conditions for this palm. The objectives of this research proposal are: 1) University of Florida team will evaluate the biochemical composition of saw palmetto berries and DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) barcode the palms from varied geographical locations across FL landscape, 2) develop best management practices for saw palmetto cultivation and berry harvest, 3) engage and communicate project outcomes with growers and processors of saw palmetto berries in the state. Results derived from this research will enable FL growers to identify and cultivate the best saw palmetto germplasm for sustainable production of high-quality berries that caters to the demand of global pharmaceutical industry. This project will provide a significant economic benefit to FL specialty crop industry, while preserving the natural habitats in FL.	$177,415.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	6. Field Evaluation of Biological Control Agents, Cultivar Susceptibility, and Miticides for Managing Southern Red Mite in Florida Blueberries	The University of Florida's Small Fruit and Vegetable Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Lab is working on developing new management tools to combat southern red mite, a major pest of blueberries. We will study the ecology, distribution and management of the southern red mite in southern highbush blueberries. Efforts to disseminate findings will include presentations at grower meetings, social media and other web-based sources, and academic and extension publications including University of Florida extension articles and grower magazines.	$165,625.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	7. Delivery of Non-transgenic Canker Resistant Sweet Orange and Grapefruit Varieties Using CRISPR-Cas Technology	University of Florida Board of Trustees will use the CRISPR-Cas technology to generate and evaluate non- transgenic canker-resistant sweet orange and grapefruit varieties	$243,257.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	8. Development and Application of a Management Program for Chilli Thrips in Florida's Blueberry Plantings	The University of Florida's Small Fruit and Vegetable Integrated Pest Management (SFVIPM) laboratory is collaborating with the Florida Blueberry Growers Association (FBGA) to develop an integrated program to manage chilli thrips, a major pest in Florida's blueberry plantings. The project aims to conduct surveillance and monitoring of chilli thrips populations in blueberries, investigate chilli thrips susceptibility in selected blueberry cultivars, identify biocontrol agents for management, evaluate reduced-risk insecticides, and deliver research findings to stakeholders through grower meetings, field days, web-based dissemination, and extension bulletins. The expected outcomes include identifying effective monitoring tools, determining susceptible blueberry cultivars, discovering potential biological control agents, compiling a list of reduced-risk insecticides, and educating stakeholders on integrated pest management strategies.	$169,868.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	9. Assessing Herbicide Combinations to Manage Nutsedge Tolerance in Plastic Mulched Raised Beds Used for Vegetable Production	University of Florida's, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center will conduct a two-year project to assess the effectiveness of various pre-emergence herbicide combinations for managing yellow and purple nutsedge tolerance in specialty crops.	$114,326.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	10. Addressing Chokepoints Impeding the Development of a Value Chain for Florida Finger Limes	This University of Florida Board of Trustees project builds on results from the earlier study to address obstacles hindering the establishment of a value chain for Florida finger limes. Specifically, we aim to (1) determine the optimum post-harvest handling required to enhance shelf life while avoiding chilling injury, (2) conduct sensory evaluation to understand consumer preferences and behaviors, (3) evaluate the potential size and scope of a competitive Florida finger lime industry, and (4) continue to raise awareness of this unique specialty crop through extension and outreach activities.	$238,006.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	11. Purple Sweet potatoes: Value-added Specialty Crop for Rotation in High Temperature Seasonal Production	University of Florida research team aims to evaluate purple sweet potato production and postharvest processing to generate nutritionally valuable culinary products.	$215,929.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	12. Development of IoT-based Smart Irrigation System for Strawberry Cultivation.	The University of Florida will conduct a two-year field research at the Plant Science Research and Education Unit to develop an IoT-based automated irrigation systems for scheduling irrigation in strawberry beds to optimize water usage. The outcome of this research will help growers to make better on-farm irrigation management decisions, improve strawberry water-use efficiency and advance automated irrigation management.	$211,786.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	13. Mitigating a New Invasive Thrips, Thrips Parvispinus, to Protect Pepper Productions in Florida	Researchers and statewide extension specialists at the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Science aim to mitigate a new invasive thrips, Thrips parvispinus, by developing a research-based management strategy.	$203,573.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	14. Developing Marketing Strategies through Consumer Intelligence for Florida Specialty Crops	Researchers at the University of Florida will conduct research to provide specialty crops producers and producer associations with needed information for marketing and promoting their products.	$200,158.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	15. Integrated Management of Whitefly-Transmitted Virus in Florida Watermelon	The University of Florida will strive to develop sustainable approaches to managing whitefly transmitted viruses in Florida watermelon.	$220,701.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	16. Developing Artichoke as a New Winter Crop in Florida	University of Florida will promote artichoke as a new winter specialty crop in Florida by developing fertility and pest management recommendations, characterizing nutritional values and postharvest quality, and disseminating results to stakeholders through field days, on-farm trials, extension publications, and social media.	$240,414.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	17. AI-Enabled Plant Phenotyping for Novel Nutrient Management in Tomatoes	University of Florida's (UF) Southwest Florida Research and Education Center (SWFREC) will develop a strategy to prevent excessive nutrient leaching and thus increase the market profit for the growers and the sustainability of tomato production.	$180,001.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	18. Sustainable Solutions for Fusarium Wilt Impacting Lettuce Production.	The University of Florida will develop a method for detecting and quantifying Fusarium propagules in the soil and identify science-based recommendations for the management of Fusarium wilt.	$232,140.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	19. Increasing Reach of "Fresh from Florida" Produce in the Grocery Retail Sector	The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will increase the reach of specialty crop fruits and vegetables by working with new grocery retail partners to market and promote the "Fresh from Florida" brand.	$118,000.00
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$3,934,131.16	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.	$135,414.95
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	1. Marketing GA Grown Products to National Produce Buyers To Increase Grower Profitability (GPFS)	The Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association working in cooperation with growers, commodity organizations and agribusiness companies will highlight the quality, availability, extensiveness and diversity of Georgia's specialty crop industry to more than 5,000 verified retail and food service buyers at the 2024 IFPA-Global Produce and Floral Show in Atlanta, GA October 18-19, 2024. Over 90% of Georgia's specialty crop products are sold on the fresh market via these retail brokers and food service buyers.	$129,611.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	2. Providing Education to Specialty Crop Producers Increases Profitability (SERFVC)	The Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will coordinate the 2025 Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference to educate stakeholders through a three-day educational conference and tradeshow and disseminate the recordings. It is anticipated the conference will offer over 85 hours of the latest information on specialty crop production, harvesting, food safety practices, labor relations, packing, storage and distribution.	$99,992.00
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	3. Taste and See: Influencer Tour and Dinner Event to Showcase GA Fruit and Vegetable Industry	The Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will drive consumption of local specialty crops through hosting multiple regional influencers to create content as they participate in farm tour visits and a group dinner with Georgia farmers. This grant will use modern marketing tools like influencer partners to publicize their story, their harvest practices, and their heart behind the choice to farm.	$94,982.00
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	4. Georgia Pecan Tour: Catalyzing International Sales Growth for Georgia Pecans through Culinary Innovation and Buyer Engagement	The Georgia Pecan Growers Association (GPGA) will execute a pecan farm tour targeted to international buyers that aims to promote the nutrition and versatility of Georgia pecans, encourage consumption of 20 halves per day, and drive new sales through new buyer relationships. Tasks include all aspects of planning for the event and travel requirements, organizing the tour and workshops, recruiting and vetting participants, establishing partnerships, developing materials, conducting sessions, engaging with professionals, and evaluating impact.	$117,080.00
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	5. Assessing the Role of Insect Vectors in Transmitting Xylella Fastidiosa Subsp. Multiplex	This proposal is submitted by the University of the Georgia Research Foundation (UGARF). The proposed research work on insect vectors of pecan bacterial leaf scorch disease pathogen and their management in Georgia pecan production system will greatly benefit the pecan growers of the state with regard to identifying the primary insect vectors of this devastating disease and how to integrate different control methods to reduce the transmission and spread of the disease.	$99,810.16

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	6. Improving Productivity and Quality Attributes of Georgia Blackberries	The University of Georgia Research Foundation and the Postharvest Laboratory will carry out a project that will support the Georgia blackberry industry to extend the shelf-life of the product and enhance their marketability. This project aims to address the lack of knowledge for the harvest and postharvest quality attributes of Georgia-grown blackberries.	$99,530.00
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	7. Optimizing and Accelerating Citrus Nursery Production in Georgia: A Comprehensive Study	The University of Georgia will optimize and accelerate citrus nursery production by developing scientifically based practices focused on propagation methods, lighting, and irrigation strategies. Results will be disseminated to stakeholders for large-scale implementation.	$99,940.00
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	8. Molecular Detection and Management of the Pecan Root-Knot Nematode in GA	The University of Georgia will mitigate the serious threat of pecan root-knot nematode by developing optimized diagnostic tools and management solutions tailored for this damaging pest and ensure grower adoption through effective dissemination of results. This multifaceted approach of sensitive and reliable M. partityla diagnosis and subsequent robust management will lead to increased pecan production for Georgia Growers.	$99,982.00
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	9. Management of Mite Vector to Reduce the Risk of Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) in Ornamental Nurseries	The University of Georgia will develop research-based management tools for ornamental nurseries to mitigate the spread of rose rosette disease (RRD), and the new information will be extended through a series of grower meetings and other Extension outlets. This project will develop a sustainable pest management solution by alleviating the negative impacts of the mite (Phyllocoptes fructiphilus) that vectors the virus that spreads RRD in Georgia through understanding the factors that trigger dispersal from infested rose bushes to non-infested, clear containerized roses.	$93,304.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	10. Breeding Phytopthora Blight (PCAP) Resistant Bell Pepper Cultivars for GA and the SE US	The University of Georgia will comprehensively phenotype and genotype newly established UGA bell pepper collection referred as UGA-Capsi-Core collection for identifying genetic resistance against Phytopthora blight (PCAP) for Georgia and the Southeast US. Through collaborative research and the integration of cutting-edge technologies, we can look forward to a future where bell pepper production can flourish regardless of persistent PCAP.	$97,497.00
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	11. Increasing Grower's Awareness and Knowledge about Current Mechanization Practices on Vidalia Onions	The Precision Horticulture Lab from the University of Georgia will decrease field hand-labor by increasing the efficiency of Vidalia Onions transplanting through testing and adapting current mechanical transplanters and sharing results with growers and stakeholders.	$100,000.00
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	12. Use of Plant Growth Regulators & Foliar Nutrients to Prevent & Mitigate Spring Freezes in Blueberry Production	The University of Georgia will execute a project to determine the effects of Ethephon to delay bloom and avoid freeze damage. The project will also assess the effectiveness of K and Si to mitigate freeze damage. Results will be disseminated to blueberry industry.	$99,765.00
Georgia Department of Agriculture	$1,474,357.42	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.	$234,568.00
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$524,773.67	1. Development of Cacao Propagation Methods for Hawaii Farmers and Virus Elimination	There are two specific issues that the project will address, asexual propagation of cacao and virus elimination from infected cacao. Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC) will develop asexual propagation methods for cacao including micro propagation protocols using seedling shoot tips and other tissues. The second issue, virus elimination is ambitious, and can be initiated Information on progress and final achievements will be presented to growers. The new knowledge can enhance the competitiveness of cacao for the state.	$68,213.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$524,773.67	2. Seeding the Future: A Complete Course for Hawaii's Specialty Crop Growers	Hawaii Seed Growers Network will collaborate with stakeholders to train and develop proficiency of local producers to produce specialty crop seed and enhance the specialty crop value of 8 culturally significant specialty crop varieties.	$50,306.00
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$524,773.67	3. 2025 HFNA Accessibility, Education and Promotion Program	The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association will execute their Accessibility, Education & Promotion Program comprised of the Celebrations Educational Expo & Competition, social media intern campaign, and the Hawaii Starter Box Promotion & Challenge. The expo will educate the floral industry on the benefits of using Hawaii flowers in garden floral installations through classes on topics germane to planning, creating and installing garden designs.	$41,318.00
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$524,773.67	4. Educating Coffee Farmers on Best Practices for Farm Management	The primary objective of this grant will be the education of farmers to further the development of agricultural acumen and skills. This will build broader community capacities to farm responsibly and sustainably. The conference will assist growers in developing state of the art and broader skills through education and mentorship.	$23,500.00
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$524,773.67	5. Improving Sustainable `Awa Production in Hawaii through Tissue Culture Propagation and Education	Malama Sanctuary will improve sustainable `awa production in Hawaii through tissue culture propagation of superior planting materials that are disease-resistant and distribute these plants at-cost to growers and provide educational videos and social media posts to promote `awa growing in Hawaii. Our goal is to facilitate Hawaii becoming a global leader in `awa production.	$69,915.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$524,773.67	6. Expanding Markets for Hawaii's Specialty Coffee Growers	Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council (SHAC) will sponsor a Hawaii Coffee Association booth at the 2025 SCA Expo, the world's leading specialty-coffee trade show. Over 12,000 B2B visitors attend the event every year. The booth will present opportunities to "cup", or taste, all growing regions, and highlight the quality and unique varieties from the state. The Expo is a key hub for sales, but also for networking with scientists and other producers battling Coffee Leaf Rust and Coffee Berry Borer, the two major pests damaging Hawaii coffee. Attendance at the Expo also allows SHAC and HCA to maintain strong ties with the Specialty Coffee Association, the top international organization representing the full industry, from producers to baristas, globally. This activity introduces the quality and variety of Hawaiian coffee to importers and roasters around the world.	$62,245.00
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$524,773.67	7. Educational Outreach for Smallhold Growers on Macadamia Orchard Health	The SHAC Foundation and the Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association will partner to increase macadamia nut production by providing integrated crop management tools, training and educational materials to small-scale growers on Hawaii farms. As the industry seeks to rebound from these challenges, and is targeting market growth for Hawaiian nuts, recovery of yields and quality will take a concerted educational effort. Many of the orchards here are old and suffer from overgrowth, minimal sunlight penetration, lack of orchard floor, and erosion, making them difficult to manage. Addressing these unique challenges would equip growers to improve the health and productivity of our aging orchards.	$52,804.00
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$524,773.67	8. Improving Sweet Corn and Other Specialty Crops Production Through Variety Trials and Sustainable Practices	The University of Hawaii will conduct field trials to evaluate 15 new sweet corn varieties statewide and intercropping 5 Beet/radish varieties between sweet corn lines for bolting issues. The project team will disseminate the findings statewide.	$60,466.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$524,773.67	9. Expanding Markets of Specialty Crops for Import Substitution in Hawaii	The University of Hawaii will increase demand and consumption of six targeted specialty crops which are well adapted for statewide growing conditions and strong candidates for import substitution. To achieve this, the University of Hawaii will partner with the Culinary Breeding Network(CBN) to lead the project marketing objectives which include, convene an initial virtual planning meeting to identify market needs and add 2-3 additional target crops if need is determined; develop marketing materials; create and distribute a zine (i.e. small book) featuring crop histories, origins, domestication, nutrition, cultural significance, recipes; execute social media campaign to promote project crops; and execute a large public outreach event (Variety Showcase) to educate consumers and promote the project crops.	$36,000.00
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	$524,773.67	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.	$57,947.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	1. Elevating Education and Orchard Innovation: Trellised Apple Cultivation for Student Learning and Industry Advancement	The College of Southern Idaho seeks funding to implement a trellised apple cultivation project with the objective of providing valuable hands-on learning experiences for students. By building an apple orchard and actively involving students in the project, a pool of future professionals equipped with hands-on experience in trellised apple cultivation will be created. Graduates with this specialized knowledge will be valuable assets to the apple industry, providing a pipeline of skilled workers who can contribute to the adoption and implementation of innovative practices.	$87,356.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	2. Evaluating the Suitability of Biochar to Suppress Soil-Borne Diseases in Beans	The Idaho Bean Commission in collaboration with the University of Idaho will conduct greenhouse and field research projects focused on determining the effects of biochar incorporation into soils on bean yield and the prevalence of nematode and fungal pathogens of beans. Biochar is produced by burning various materials (usually wood) at high temperature and low oxygen and resembles charcoal in many ways. The material has been used as a soil amendment in many agricultural contexts to improve water holding capacity, among other attributes. For the purposes of the proposed work, biochar has been shown in other cropping systems to reduce the impacts of various pests and diseases that are associated with soil.	$85,316.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	3. Developing Onsite and Confirmatory Tests for Pathogens of Beans	The Idaho Bean Commission will develop four new isothermal detection methods for key bean diseases. These isothermal methods will be suitable for onsite testing but also to confirm laboratory tests for regulated pathogens. We wish to ensure the Idaho Bean Industry maintains its reputation for producing world class quality seed.	$60,000.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	4. Increasing Exposure, Sales of Idaho Apples through In-Store, Local, Social Media and Website Promotions	The proposal “Increasing Exposure, Sales of Idaho Apples through In-Store, Local, Social Media and Website Promotions” details a project that will be implemented by the Idaho Apple Commission. We will continue to build retail promotions, bringing awareness of Idaho Apples to the retailers and the consumers. The Commission will have an Idaho Apple consumer apple bag created that will be offered for use to the Idaho Apple shippers. The bag will be used for a more uniform promotion during the Idaho apple seasons. With social media and the use of websites being so prevalent in marketing today, the Commission will continue more awareness of Idaho Apples through social media, and its website, in the way of local promotions along with the radio advertising.	$70,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	5. Increasing Awareness, Building Demand for Idaho Cherries through In-Store, Local, Social Media and Website Promotions	The proposal “Increasing Awareness, Building Demand for Idaho Cherries through In-Store, Website, and Social Media Promotions” outlines a project that will be conducted by the Idaho Cherry Commission. This project will include in-store demos which are an excellent way to increase awareness and build demand for Idaho cherries. In-store demos also build a strong relationship with local retailers. Social media and website promotions bring in new viewers/consumers each year of the promotion also increasing awareness and building demand.	$20,200.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	6. Expanding Awareness and Increasing Demand for Idaho Hops through Social Media, International/Domestic Conventions, Tours	The proposal, “Expanding Awareness and Increasing Demand for Idaho Hops through Social Media, International / Domestic Conventions, Tours”, outlines a two-year project that will include industry members attending domestic and international trade shows to experience how Hops are being used in today's environment. The project will also include domestic promotions in the way of summer tours, radio advertising, and Social Media.	$85,644.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	7. Driving Awareness & Fostering Education of Idaho Mint	The Idaho Mint Growers Association is dedicated to enhancing awareness, education, and advocacy for Idaho's mint industry, positioning the state as the foremost producer of peppermint and spearmint in the nation. This grant proposal aims to address critical needs within our industry, focusing on raising awareness of Idaho mint, fostering education at various levels, and providing opportunities for open dialogue between growers, consumers, and most importantly end user corporations.	$19,235.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	8. Taiwan Fresh Potato Enhancement Program	The Idaho Potato Commission will continue a marketing program in Taiwan to give Idaho farmers a competitive advantage. Marketing activities will consist of developing awareness programs for Importers, Retailers, and Foodservice operators. These programs can include, in-store events, chef events, and marketing communication materials. This program will enable more farmers to test for blight and make Idaho potatoes competitively priced and teach farmers how expanding to new target markets can increase profits for their business operations.	$200,000.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	9. Reaching the Local Idaho Consumers in Our Backyard.	Despite the great success and growth, consumers are unaware that Idaho is a wine producing state. The Idaho Wine Commission (IWC) intends to bridge this gap through a project entitled “Reaching the local Idaho consumers in our backyard.” The intent of this marketing campaign is to reach consumers from the state of Idaho through local marketing outreach as well as national marketing. This project will target the local population with the goal of getting people to realize great wine is within minutes from their homes, prompting them to visit the wineries which will result in stimulation of sales.	$221,850.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	10. Promoting Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee (IEOOC) Onions to Increase Demand though Tours, Trade Shows, and Trade Missions	The proposal “Promoting IEOOC Onions to Increase Demand through Tours, Trade Shows, and Trade Missions,” includes projects that will be conducted by the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee (IEOOC). Participating in Trade Shows and traveling on Trade Missions allows IEOOC and industry members to evaluate possibilities for IEOOC exports. We aim to create new relationships and continue to build relationships with existing buyers both internationally and domestically. The IEOOC will continue the VIP Tour, which gives buyers the opportunity to visit the growing area. The tour has one of the most positive impacts on introducing buyers to Idaho and Eastern Oregon Onions.	$120,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	11. Native Plant Domestication – Intellectual Property Maintenance, Industry Transfer, and Evaluation of Medicinal Potential	The Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association will contract with the University of Idaho to complete a project to evaluate and develop an existing pool of native plant species, maintain an inventory of native plant nursery products developed through 19 years of research, legally transfer selected products to the Idaho nursery industry, provide the industry with essential information for successful propagation of native plant species, and determine the medicinal potential of native plant products to increase sales potential.	$135,000.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	12. Strengthening Idaho Specialty Crop Sourcing Through Multi-Channel Solutions and Digital Innovation	Idaho Preferred®, an Idaho State Department of Agriculture program within its Market Development Division, will continue to successfully promote Idaho specialty crops with expansive resource development and wide-reaching multi-channel marketing strategies. By leveraging innovative digital solutions, the initiative seeks to streamline connections while educating consumers and wholesalers on availability and procurement of specialty crops.	$295,083.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	13. Meeting the Demand for Idaho's Hop Industry, and Researching Solutions for the Future	The hops program, an Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) program within the Bureau of Food Safety, Hemp, and Hops will attempt to combat the challenges within the hops industry. ISDA will develop an online web-based program to assist industry with issuing certificates of analysis, attestations of equivalence, certificates of origin, and act as a historical record database for industry. The web-based program will allow ISDA to issue documents in real-time to aid industry while limiting the amount of usage of outdated federal web-based programs.	$125,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	14. Raising Awareness of Specialty Crops (especially grapes) through Marketing and Advertising within the Treasure Valley	Sunnyslope Wine Trail, Inc. is a cooperative group of 20 wineries and 4 supporting businesses whose purpose is to increase public awareness, recognition, and perception of the Sunnyslope wine region. Utilizing a variety of advertising modalities, we will promote growth of the local wine industry. Through local advertising, we will increase foot traffic to all local wineries by a minimum of 30%, which will impact visitors to other local specialty crop growers/businesses in this area as well. We will accomplish this through Treasure Valley billboards, researching signage possibilities along Highway 55, targeted social media ads, and utilizing direct contact advertising.	$125,000.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	15. Development of a Robot Operating System Platform for Specialty Crop Robots	The Robotics Vision Lab of Northwest Nazarene University will develop a Robot Operating System (ROS) software platform for specialty crop. Robots such as the Orchard Robot (OrBot), will improve the robotic component system integration and the robot's overall operating efficiency. Orbot was tested at commercial orchards for apples during the harvesting season of 2023, and it had an improved harvesting success rate close to 90%. The goal of controlling OrBot with ROS is to enhance the robot's real-time operation and the robot's overall efficiency. The results of the project will be reported online, through local field demonstrations, presentations at technical conferences, and publications in scientific journals.	$65,720.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	16. Developing a Novel Strategy for Pale Cyst Nematode (PCN) Resistance in Idaho Potatoes	The University of Idaho will conduct research to develop a novel strategy for pale cyst nematode (PCN) resistance in Idaho potatoes. Findings from this research will be presented to the scientific community through publications and presentations at national/regional meetings such as Potato Expo; and to stakeholders at grower meetings and field days.	$100,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	17. Improving Marketing Potential of Idaho Seed Potato	Direct tuber testing tools will be developed in close collaboration with the University of Idaho and the Idaho Crop Improvement Association (ICIA). We aim to maintain high market value of Idaho seed potato and effectively manage the threat of potato viruses through post-harvest testing (PHT), a new dormant tuber testing (DTT) methodology has recently been developed based on RT-qPCR. Once this method of direct tuber testing for PHT is accepted, it will allow shortening of the period of decision making for sales of seed potato lots while maintaining the high reliability of the Idaho PHT.	$115,000.00
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	$2,213,792.33	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.	$267,090.39
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$548,617.23	1. High Tunnel Production of Cucumbers and Tomatoes in Northern Illinois Extending Growing Season and Learning Opportunities for Urban Youth	The Freeport Student Garden, working with University of Illinois Extension, will transition from conventional, field cucumber and tomato production to high tunnel production. Results of the transition will be shared with other specialty growers through publications. Students will have extended opportunities to see season extension and take a more active role in production during the school year. Students will develop skills using specialized equipment and use best practices for season extension.	$43,047.76
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$548,617.23	2. Illinois Specialty Crop Sustainability and Business Viability through Education and Outreach through an Illinois Specialty Crop Conference and Resource Library	The Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA) will offer specialty crop farmers educational programs through their Illinois Specialty Crop Conference, virtual educational library, and educational workshops to create in-depth educational resources for the specialty crop industry year-round. To maintain a successful and thriving operation, proactive farmers search for educational opportunities to improve farm viability.	$115,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$548,617.23	3. Enhancing Food Safety of Fresh Produce by UV Assisted Washing and Surface Drying- Southern Illinois University	The Southern Illinois University seeks to develop technologies for UV-assisted washing and surface drying of fresh produce for helping small, socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers in Illinois to improve food safety and be FSMA compliant. Technologies will be demonstrated during a produce growers' workshop in southern Illinois and the knowledge will be disseminated through publications as extension factsheets, scientific journals, YouTube videos, and presentations at the Illinois Specialty Crop Conference. Impact study will be conducted by pre and post project activity surveys of produce growers in Illinois.	$67,140.00
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$548,617.23	4. Establishing Best Practices and Evaluating Promising Varieties of Fresh Ginger Rhizome for Illinois Small Farm Production	North, Central, and Southern Illinois Extension staff will collaborate with specialty crop grower partners to identify and evaluate best practices across the state's diverse soils and climates. These include ginger seed-sourcing and pre-sprouting timelines, planting amendments, spacing, irrigation, fertility management, harvest protocols, post-processing, and handling. The team will evaluate two cultivation environments for fresh ginger, protected culture and open field conditions. Research partners will share results with stakeholders during a proposed statewide ginger-growing field day, through newsletter articles, fact sheets, digital media, and state conferences.	$70,442.00
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$548,617.23	5. Expanding Access to Specialty Crop Education in Lake County, Illinois- Elawa Farm Foundation	Elawa Farm Foundation will provide accessible (bilingual, and ADA adaptive) specialty crop education for youth and adults across Lake County, Illinois.	$65,826.00
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$548,617.23	6. A Simple and Rapid Pathogen Testing System for Microbial Food Safety Risk Reduction of Specialty Crops- University of Illinois	In this project, the University of Illinois researchers will develop a rapid method for agricultural water testing for small specialty crop growers and beginning farmers in Illinois to comply with FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Regulations (PSR) water testing requirements.	$64,679.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$548,617.23	7. Eden Place Farmers Fresh Market Co-op-Fuller Park Community	Fuller Park Community Development's Eden Place Farm will create a fresh food market that is accessible five days a week to the surrounding communities of Fuller Park, Bronzeville, and New City.	$56,160.00
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$548,617.23	8. Growing Food + Equitable Justice for School Communities-Gardeneers	Gardeneers school garden and farm programs will increase 3,500 elementary and high school students' knowledge, access, and consumption of specialty crops in the City of Chicago. The school garden and farm sites will grow and harvest 6,500 pounds of specialty crops and give 500 local community members the opportunity to attend a garden workshop to gain knowledge about specialty crops.	$41,965.00
Illinois Department of Agriculture	$548,617.23	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.	$21,347.71
Indiana State Department of Agriculture	$513,695.88	1. Single Brood Chamber Honeybee Management in Cold Climates	Bee Great will research and disseminate findings concerning the benefits and risks of single hive brood box management techniques designed to reduce the amount of woodware required to manage bees while increasing honey production and bee rearing in the cold climates of Northern Indiana. The project will document time commitments, feeding requirements, mite treatments, honey production, and production along with a cost analysis for the increased management required related to single hive brood box management. Bee Great will also document hive loss rates and compare them to our existing 5-year baseline data for double hive brood box management techniques commonly used among beekeepers in cold climates using data from our own hives.	$173,674.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Indiana State Department of Agriculture	$513,695.88	2. Fostering of Market Access and Reduction of Food Safety Risk for Indiana Specialty Crop Growers	Purdue Extension will develop outreach and education to assist specialty crop growers in completing a third-party good agricultural practices (GAPs) audit and subsequently obtaining GAPs certification as a means of assisting growers in accessing new markets where these buyer-driven requirements exist. Additionally, Purdue Extension will conduct research to determine best practices for postharvest treatment of cantaloupe in order to maximize shelf life and minimize food safety risk. This work will primarily be conducted at the Purdue Extension Food Safety Training Hub and Southwest Purdue Agriculture Center, located near Vincennes, IN.	$297,479.53
Indiana State Department of Agriculture	$513,695.88	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.	$40,961.06
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$368,970.30	1. Effects of Renewal Pruning on Aronia Berry Plant Growth, Physiology, Fruit Quality and Yield	The American Aronia Berry Association (AABA), an Iowa-based 501c6 organization, would like to study the impact of various aronia berry renewal pruning techniques on plant growth, physiology, and berry production during the second and third years of growth after renewal pruning. This project will track bush growth, physiology, fruit quality, and berry production during the second and third growth year following renewal pruning of bushes. Different pruning techniques will be applied in an experimental design in two locations in central and western Iowa. Various fruit quality parameters will also be measured and reported. The data generated will provide growers with quantitative data on how their renewal pruning practices will affect their plant growth, harvest management, and yield estimates.	$16,434.00
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$368,970.30	2. Read Across Iowa with Specialty Crops	The Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation will elevate agriculture literature within grades K-5 by purchasing books for Read Across Iowa events and developing implementation resources and virtual events to extend learning of specialty crops.	$30,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$368,970.30	3. Valorization of Grape Stems	The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State University will add a value to grape stems by using and characterizing them during winemaking and disseminating to stakeholders through presentations at conferences and articles.	$29,047.00
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$368,970.30	4. Increasing Culturally Specific Crops through Greenhouse Production Education	Lutheran Services in Iowa Global Greens (GG) program will increase the availability and sale of specialty crops in demanded by consumers by equipping 30 immigrants and refugee farming families to grow more transplants in greenhouses through in-person classes, individualized support, and strengthening partnerships with a new local greenhouses in Iowa, as result, at least 300 under-served community members that regularly purchase from GG farmers will have increased access to specialty crops in addition to the wider society.	$30,000.00
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$368,970.30	5. Iowa Specialty Crop Producers Conference	The Iowa Wine Growers Association will work with the Iowa Specialty Crop Growers Association, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and other industry members and connections to plan, prepare, and carry out the 2025 Iowa Specialty Producers Conference. Tasks include, but are not limited to date, venue, and speaker selections, creating conference materials, exhibitor and sponsor connections, and marketing and outreach to potential conference attendees.	$26,375.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$368,970.30	6. Enhancing Nutritional Monitoring of Iowa Specialty Fruit and Nut Crops	Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will work with growers of specialty fruit and nut crops to develop a baseline of information about the nutrient status of their crops. Many emerging fruit and nut crops are either relatively new or have little research into what the ideal nutrient status for their species. This project will work with growers of these types of crops and procure soil and tissue samples. These will be analyzed at a certified commercial lab through the funds within the grant. Sample data will be aggregated for each crop and growers will receive their individual data the aggregate of each crop. The PI will develop inferences from the samples to develop a baseline of what nutrient status is typical for these crops. The results will be disseminated via newsletters, grower-focused guides, and at grower meetings.	$29,646.00
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$368,970.30	7. Assessing Next-Generation Apple Rootstocks and Cultivars for Iowa	Iowa State University will trial new apple rootstock and cultivars to give recommendations to apple growers in Iowa. This proposal outlines three objectives: first, to evaluate the ability of new apple rootstock to adapt to Iowa's environmental conditions; second, to assess potential rootstock/scion compatibility issues with apple cultivars bred for the Midwest; and third, to disseminate research findings through workshops, online publications, and extension programs, benefiting apple growers in Iowa and neighboring states. The outcomes of this research project will provide valuable insights to growers, aiding them in making informed decisions when selecting rootstocks for new tree orders, as the landscape of rootstock options has evolved significantly over the past decade. Additionally, this work will prove beneficial to new apple growers by demystifying rootstock selection when planning new orchards.	$28,925.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$368,970.30	8. Deepening No-till Vegetable Production in Eastern Iowa	Iowa Valley Resource Conservation & Development will expand a no-till vegetable production trial at the Grow Johnson County farm located at the Johnson County Historic Poor Farm. The trial will test and demonstrate no-till production in a mid-scale commercial vegetable operation. The trial will utilize diverse no-till production methods on four plots, totaling one acre, including varied cover crops, living mulch, and the deep compost no-till method. Vegetable farmers in Eastern Iowa will gain knowledge of no-till systems through an annual field day event and a no-till stipend program. A stipend and equipment rental program will enable more Eastern Iowa farms to trial and innovate no-till systems on their own farms.	$29,935.00
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$368,970.30	9. Enhancing Grapevine Health in Iowa - Pathogen Identification through Vineyard Surveys and Subsequent Management Options	Iowa State University Department of Plant Pathology, Entomology and Microbiology and the Iowa State University Department of Horticulture will focus on major grape diseases, including powdery mildew, downy mildew, gray mold, and a newly identified disease by our group named grapevine decline. Our primary goal is to conduct a comprehensive survey across Iowa vineyards to provide an updated status of pests and assess their potential pesticide resistance. Additionally, field trials will be carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of combining traditional pesticides with alternative methods for disease control, and successfully disseminate the knowledge gained from these efforts to grape growers through diverse outreach strategies.	$29,555.00
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$368,970.30	10. Farmer-led Specialty Crop Variety Trials	Practical Farmers of Iowa will support specialty crop farmers to conduct variety trials and share results and experiences with fellow farmers. This project will directly serve vegetable farmers who wish to select consistently high-yielding varieties that also show resistance to pest pressure.	$29,745.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$368,970.30	11. Consumer Education Resources for Iowa Horticulture and Nursery Crops Including Floriculture	The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will expand educational resources beyond fruits, vegetables and herbs to increase awareness of other specialty crop products including horticulture, nursery crops and floriculture, thus encouraging consumers to choose locally produced specialty crops of the state and increase consumption and consumer purchasing of specialty crops generally.	$45,285.97
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	$368,970.30	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.	$43,680.01
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$331,513.22	1. 2024 Highland Community College Viticulture and Enology Program Grape and Wine Industry Marketing Project	The 2024 Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Marketing Project, managed by the Highland Community College Viticulture and Enology Program, will employ a three-pronged marketing campaign to increase awareness of Kansas's vineyard and winery industry.	$68,472.00
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$331,513.22	2. Our Earliest Eaters: Bringing the Farm to Kansas Licensed Early Child Care Facilities	In partnership with the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, the Kansas Department of Agriculture will increase child nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops by providing 50 Kansas-licensed early childcare facilities with an age-appropriate curriculum about Kansas specialty crops and reimbursements for purchasing locally grown fruits and vegetables.	$75,607.57
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$331,513.22	3. Expanding Networking, Reach, and Market Opportunities Among Growers in Underserved Regions	Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association (KSCGA) will work with growers, markets, community development partners, and industry representatives to expand the number and diversity of growers involved in networked regional production and sales and increase the availability of locally grown produce.	$15,966.18

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$331,513.22	4. Creating Connections to Specialty Crops Markets for Child Nutrition Programs	The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), Child Nutrition and Wellness (CNW), will increase the use of specialty crops in Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs) by facilitating four one-day workshops centered around regional food hubs that bring food service directors and producers together for education, technical assistance, procurement planning and collaboration.	$14,508.72
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$331,513.22	5. Exploring Mungbean Production for Kansas	Kansas State University will establish baseline recommendations for mungbean production and assess crop adaptability to different environments across Kansas. This project aims to support a pioneering effort to test the feasibility of this new crop in collaboration with private industry and a Kansas farmer to lead a potential expansion of mung bean to new production areas in Kansas.	$43,023.96
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$331,513.22	6. Protecting Container-Grown Nursery Plants from Feeding Damage Caused by Redheaded Flea Beetle, Systena Frontalis, Adults	Kansas State University will develop a sustainable plant protection strategy based on empirical and applied research, which will mitigate feeding damage caused by redheaded flea beetle, Systema frontalis, and adults to container-grown nursery plants. The results associated with our research will be disseminated to nursery producers in Kansas and throughout the Midwest region through formal reports, scientific publications, trade journal articles, nursery producer meetings, and field days.	$62,579.74
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$331,513.22	7. Increasing Consumption and Purchasing of Specialty Crops through Nutrition Education to Children and Adults in Saline County	Prairieland Market will increase knowledge about the availability, purchasing, preparation, cooking, and preservation of specialty crops by offering education programs to children and adults in Saline County.	$44,310.78
Kansas Department of Agriculture	$331,513.22	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.	$6,325.34

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$334,880.55	1. Kentucky Specialty Crop Cohort (KSCC): Small-Scale Urban Farming Watershed Areas	BearFruit & Grow will facilitate the implementation of the Kentucky Specialty Crop Cohort (KSCC) that will address the challenges of urbanization, such as pollution, habitat destruction, and declining biodiversity, through an innovative, hands-on educational program focused on small-scale specialty crop production (i.e. collards, kale, lettuce, microgreens, tomatoes, peppers, squash, corn, beans, flowers) in watershed areas. The project team will select at least 30 or more college students or aspiring and existing farmers who apply for the cohort opportunity for as long as funds are available. The application will be available on social media, Eventbrite, and our local Extension's website.	$49,360.00
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$334,880.55	2. Marketing for All 3.0: Marketing and Branding Academy	The Center for Crop Diversification team, which is a part of the University of Kentucky Department of Agricultural Economics, will provide in-depth, hands-on state-wide marketing workshops for producers to reflect on and make changes to their marketing approach. The goal is to enhance visibility for specialty crops and profitability for growers.	$69,113.00
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$334,880.55	3. Scaling Produce Food Safety Technical Assistance to Meet Growing Demand for PSA Grower Trainings and GAP Third-Party Audit Certification.	The Food Connection and the Department of Animal and Food Science at the University of Kentucky, along with their partners in the Cultivate Kentucky Partnership will ensure that specialty-crop growers in Kentucky: Complete the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training; Connect with and receive technical assistance from the Cultivate Kentucky Partnership; Successfully pass a third-party GAP audit. Furthermore, we expect that this project will result in more third-party GAP audited farms in Kentucky and ultimately, more sales of third-party audited, Kentucky farm-sourced specialty crops.	$68,189.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$334,880.55	4. Creating a Sustainable Retail Market for KY Farmers and KY Proud Products	Cornett Farm Fresh will create a sustainable retail market for consumers to have access to fresh produce and value-added products year-round. By renting a 15,000 sq. ft. building, installing an autoclave to expand canning of produce, and dedicating management to the procurement of local produce and other value-added specialty crop products, this project will bring this retail market to fruition.	$64,830.00
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$334,880.55	5. Indoor Horticulture Technology Resources for Kentucky Growers	The University of Kentucky Horticulture Extension will engage and support small to mid-size commercial high tunnel and greenhouse horticulture producers in this state with new and updated technical resources (demos/workshops, factsheets, and presentations) related to technologies available for season extension and automation.	$21,566.00
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$334,880.55	6. Developing Educational Resources for Spanish-Speaking Workers in the KY Green Industry	The University of Kentucky Research Foundation, in collaboration with the Kentucky Horticulture Council, will develop and translate educational materials for the ever-growing native Spanish-speaking workforce employed by the Kentucky Green Industry in order to increase efficiency, enhance worker environments and safety, and promote increased profitability for these specialty crop operations.	$33,667.43
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	$334,880.55	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.	$26,762.13
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry	$356,200.70	1. Assisting Louisiana Specialty Crop Producers to Comply with Federal and Market Driven Food Safety Requirements	The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and Louisiana State University AgCenter will develop and disseminate educational programs for meeting the Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) requirements. The adoption of on-farm food safety practices will assist specialty crop producers in managing risk and regulatory changes.	$80,015.02

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry	$356,200.70	2. Hustle & Grow Youth Education Program: Promoting Urban Farming and Increased Access to Specialty Crops at Baton Roots Community Farm	The Walls Project will train high school students in specialty crop production at Baton Roots Community Farm through a program called Hustle & Grow. This program connects youth to agriculture through hands-on growing in a market garden-style community farm and empowers a future generation of specialty crop producers.	$78,204.00
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry	$356,200.70	3. Starch Properties and Their Association with French Fry Texture for Louisiana Grown Sweet Potatoes	Louisiana State University's Agricultural Center, in collaboration with the U.S. Sweet Potato Council, Louisiana Sweet Potato Association and Lamb Weston Industry, will study fundamental properties of sweet potato starch (SPS) and Sweet Potato French Fries (SPFF) and establish their associations for eight major varieties of Louisiana grown sweet potatoes.	$84,000.00
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry	$356,200.70	4. Leveraging University Outreach, Community Resources, and Youth Programs to Promote Education and Production of Watermelons and Potatoes	McNeese State University will collaborate with 4-H programs, Future Farmers of America, local food banks and community organizations to research and promote watermelon and potato production.	$51,000.00
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry	$356,200.70	5. Apprenticeship for Growing New Beekeepers and Honey Producers in Louisiana	The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) will work in partnership with high school agricultural programs to educate and address concerns regarding the long-term growth of the beekeeping industry.	$40,000.00
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry	$356,200.70	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.	$21,965.48

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$663,383.11	1. Maine Produce Safety Improvement and FSMA PSR Education Project	The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association will continue its successful work to enhance food safety and increase the number of Maine specialty crop farms able to come into compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule and/or a GAP/GHP audit by providing workshops, demonstrations about food safety, one-on one technical assistance, financial resources, educational trainings that incorporate FDA-approved content, and a certificate that is needed to comply with FSMA.	$84,190.00
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$663,383.11	2. Development of Multimedia Educational Modules for More Farmers to Access Mushroom Cultivation Using Sustainable Practices	North Spore will create accessible, comprehensive multimedia educational modules that will teach farmers how to sustainably and profitably grow the specialty crop of mushrooms. In addition, North Spore will plan, coordinate, advertise, and carry out a free day-long workshop for regional farmers to learn hands-on about mushroom cultivation methods for species covered by the modules, including Oyster, Lions Mane, Shiitake, Chestnut, Winecaps and more.	$93,800.00
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$663,383.11	3. Mitigating the Effects of Mummy Berry on Wild Blueberry Plant Health	This University of Maine project will examine how fertilizers affect mummy berry disease and if they can improve plant recovery to this disease. Results and recommendations on effective fertilizer use and mummy berry control will be disseminated to stakeholders in grower meetings, field days with demonstration plots, fact sheets, and other publications.	$93,425.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$663,383.11	4. New Tools for Increasing Apple Production Profitability Phase II	The University of Maine Highmoor Farm will test strategies for reducing the risk of growing Honeycrisp apples. We will refine the prediction for the risk of bitter pit calcium deficiency so that growers can determine with greater precision the risk of storing fruit from each of their orchard blocks. When apples develop bitter pit during cold storage, they become unmarketable, leading to food waste. We will continue to test the new product, Protone®, and others if they become available, for prevention of bitter pit. Apple growers will be directly involved in the testing and will be directly informed of test results by harvest. Results will be generally disseminated to apple growers at a grower meetings in July 2025 and through a newsletter in September 2025.	$22,965.00
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$663,383.11	5. Creating a Maine Garlic Integrated Pest Management Program	University of Maine Cooperative Extension will improve the sustainability of garlic production in Maine by integrating traditional scouting approaches and modern weather-based pest forecasting into a garlic integrated pest management (IPM) program. Field research will be conducted to complement this IPM program by exploring variety differences in susceptibility to common insect pests and diseases. Regular newsletters throughout the growing season will be used to increase grower awareness of potential pest concerns, and summarized findings will also be disseminated at grower meetings and through Extension and academic resources annually.	$51,560.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$663,383.11	6. Connecting Better Wild Blueberry Nutrients for Improved Pollination, Pollinator Health, and Pest Management	This University of Maine project, working with Maine's wild blueberry growers, will determine the impacts of foliar applications of key nutrients in Calcium and Boron at crucial development stages to improve pollination, pollinator health, and pest management. Pressures associated with climate change, including warming conditions and invasive insects, increasingly challenge crop pollination, pollinator health, and the harvest of marketable fruit. Optimizing crop nutrition, starting with the development of the fruit bud and again with the fruit development, could help mitigate these challenges while reducing costs and improving fruit quality. We will examine this through field and trials and disseminate results and cost-effective strategies to growers by creating factsheets and demonstrations of treatments at field days.	$93,490.00
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$663,383.11	7. Increasing Potato Production and Soilborne Disease Suppression by Organic Soil Amendment and Biocontrol Organisms	The University of Maine will implement a comprehensive research initiative aimed at integrating organic soil amendment derived from waste lobster shells and biological control agent for suppressing soilborne pathogens, enhancing soil health through balanced microorganisms, and promoting potato growth. An interdisciplinary team will conduct laboratory, greenhouse, and field studies to gather important data for developing organic soil amendment, sustainable soil treatment, and integrated disease management strategies. The results obtained from this research will be widely disseminated to stakeholders through various channels including Maine potato conferences, field days, extension meetings, and national conferences.	$81,525.00
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$663,383.11	8. Succession Planting for Locally Grown Cut Flowers	The University of Maine will develop and validate climate-adaptive guidelines for cut flower growers using successional planting to broaden the harvest window for annual specialty crops. Phenology and model growing degree days will be used to develop a framework for successional planting, which will be validated in a second year at multiple sites. Results will be shared in 2026 through a field day tour in Orono and a webinar shared state-wide.	$83,350.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	$663,383.11	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.	$55,807.22
Maryland Department of Agriculture	$456,981.70	1. Maryland's Best - Promoting Maryland Specialty Crops to Consumers and Distributors	Maryland's Department of Agriculture Marketing Section will promote local specialty crops to consumers and distributors through advertising, promotions, outreach and business-to-business meetings. This project will continue on previous state efforts to increase specialty crop consumption. This year's project will seek to increase consumption by focusing on targeted campaigns that will elevate Maryland specialty crops in diverse communities.	$134,976.00
Maryland Department of Agriculture	$456,981.70	2. Produce Safety GAP/GHP Program Market Access and FSMA Produce Safety Rule Compliance	The Maryland Department of Agriculture, Food Quality Assurance Program along with the University of Maryland Plant Sciences and Landscape Architecture Department, University of Maryland Extension and the University of Maryland Agricultural Law Education Initiative will partner to continue to provide coordinated and educational food safety programs that continues to build off of lessons learned from previous projects in order to increase the knowledge of food safety with producers across Maryland. Program will accomplish these goals by providing formal and information trainings, webinars, videos, educational materials, certification of compliance of food safety plans and practices, food safety technical assistance, and cost share funds.	$129,057.13

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Maryland Department of Agriculture	$456,981.70	3. Maryland Farm and Harvest Season 12	Maryland Public Television and its co-producer Maryland Department of Agriculture will include segments on specialty crops in Season 12 of Maryland Farm & Harvest. These segments will explain the production of specialty crops, introduce Maryland citizens to farmers who grow specialty crops and provide recipes for specialty crops. The segments will be in 10 episodes; total gross viewership for the first eleven seasons is over 16 million (viewership only). The episodes are available online and can be streamed through the PBS app, Roku, Apple TV, DVDs are provided to all Maryland libraries (for free) as well as all public and home-schooled students via MPT's educational arm Thinkport. As with other MDA marketing, Maryland Farm & Harvest will increase awareness and demand for Maryland specialty crops.	$35,000.00
Maryland Department of Agriculture	$456,981.70	4. Cultivar Research for the Maryland Wine Industry	The Maryland Wineries Association (MWA) will partner with Dr. Joe Fiola, University of Maryland Viticulturist, to support his cultivar research, host annual tastings to understand grapes' characteristics, and update the MWA website to host resources, and disseminate research results, for vineyard managers and winery owners.	$35,086.00
Maryland Department of Agriculture	$456,981.70	5. Connecting Cultures: Expanding Maryland's Agricultural Diversity	AfriThirve will provide support to immigrant and refugee beginner farmers across three counties in Maryland to cultivate, preserve and increase demand for African specialty crops. Key tasks will include providing culturally sensitive technical assistance to build the capacity of African specialty crop growers and producers, providing access to cold storage and distribution infrastructure to reduce post-harvest losses, conducting marketing and branding campaigns, providing support for Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to enhance their credibility and market access, developing direct distribution channels and developing strategic partnerships and networks for growth and sustainability of African specialty crops.	$30,237.84

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Maryland Department of Agriculture	$456,981.70	6. Chesapeake Specialty Crop Marketing Collaborative	Future Harvest, Inc., and its collaborators will support farmers in building and reaching a larger consumer base by creating a digital library of marketing materials – searchable by produce item- that educations consumers on how to store, prepare, cook, process or freeze specialty crops grown in the mid-Atlantic region. The library will be augmented by farmer-to-farmer marketing education. The digital material will be created and shared in consultation with other regional marketing entities, including Chesapeake Buy Fresh Buy Local, Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission and Maryland's Best.	$35,642.54
Maryland Department of Agriculture	$456,981.70	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.	$55,370.42
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$461,365.43	1. Increasing Consumer Awareness, Sales, and Consumption of Local Fruits and Vegetables Through Education and Marketing	Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) will increase awareness, sales, and consumption of local specialty crops through public food education and placemaking efforts at farmers' markets, farms, and public events targeting new and infrequent local-food consumers.	$79,565.00
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$461,365.43	2. Transforming Field Peas from Cover to Cash Crop: Building Climate Resilience Through Food Purchasing & Education	Commonwealth Kitchen (CWK) is working with Clover Hill Farm, Boston Food Hub, and local farmers, as well as local K-12 schools, hospitals, and universities to create markets for products made from yellow field peas–a specialty crop that's also a cover crop. To create financial incentives for farmers to plant the field pea in their rotations, CWK has begun to build a more climate resilient food system by developing a delicious and nutritious fritter using the pea, which improves soil health and sequesters carbon. With support from this grant program, we will focus on a planned collaboration with Boston Public Schools, who has committed to integrate the field fritter in their menu rotation for Fall 2024.	$81,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$461,365.43	3. Breed and Release Two Novel Open-Pollinated Field Tomatoes for Flavor and Disease Resistance	Freed Seed Federation will breed and release two novel varieties of field tomato for flavor and resistance to septoria, alternaria sp. (early blight), and phytophthora infestans (late blight). Over the course of three seasons, we will continue to refine two novel varieties from our breeding populations, to prepare for public release. Using a participatory plant breeding methodology, Freed Seed Federation will partner with 5-8 regional farms as trial and selection sites and engage growers and eaters via tasting events in-season.	$37,161.00
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$461,365.43	4. Developing a Food Forest at the Pawtucket Farm Wildlife Sanctuary	Mill City Grows will design and develop a food forest in Lowell, MA. Through a community informed design process, a space will be developed that reflects the native landscape, diverse population and educational goals of the community. This space will provide a hands-on learning lab for local residents of all ages to learn about, tend, and even sample both native and fruit bearing perennial plants. Residents can learn about and take part in growing and harvesting specialty crops from this unique growing space. Pawtucket Wildlife Sanctuary (PFWS) will be conserved in perpetuity to bring food and knowledge to the public.	$68,149.85
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$461,365.43	5. Empowering with Knowledge and Skills to Increase Specialty Crop Consumption	Through in-person nutrition workshops, cooking demonstrations, a webinar, and marketing and outreach materials, Northeast Organic Farming Association/Massachusetts Chapter (NOFA/Mass) will educate Environmental Justice populations in Boston, Springfield, and the Berkshires on accessing, preparing, and preserving specialty crops to increase their consumption within these communities and across the state.	$83,639.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$461,365.43	6. Experiential Learning for Adults and Children in the Teaching Garden at Osamequin Farm	Osamequin Farm will offer experiential learning workshops and free or pay-what-you-want PYO specialty crops in a teaching garden and adjacent field kitchen. Participants will learn about the nutritional and environmental impact and importance of locally grown, sustainable specialty crops, and will be provided with free produce, a food access resource guide, and simple recipes for utilizing specialty crops. Through collaboration with food pantries in the greater Seekonk area, community members with the greatest need for access to nutritious, fresh specialty crops will gain access to and education around local food.	$21,509.00
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$461,365.43	7. Growing Community at University Park Farmers Market: Increasing Specialty Crop Sales Through Neighborhood Outreach and Family programming	The Regional Environmental Council's Community Farmers Market program will increase the customer base and sales of local produce at the University Park Farmers Market through targeted community-based outreach and market improvements focused on serving the surrounding neighborhoods and families with children. Project components will include expanding family programming and community resources available at the market combined with neighborhood-based outreach strategies with the goal of increasing foot traffic and building awareness and ease for families learning how to utilize the Healthy Incentive Program to purchase produce.	$52,206.00
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	$461,365.43	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.	$36,802.59

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	1. A Community-Based Approach to Specialty Crop Enhancement	Allen Neighborhood Center will offer a variety of holistic, on-the-ground methods to bridge the gap between specialty crop farmers and consumers by: expanding specialty crop sales and consumption by marketing and promoting the sale of mid-Michigan specialty crops through its farmers market and multi-farm CSA, offering specialty crop nutrition and preparation education at its farmers market and multi-farm CSA via cooking demonstrations, recipes, and preparation materials, improving youth knowledge and consumption of specialty crops through its youth program.	$102,611.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	2. Increasing Michigan Hop and Beer Quality using a Biostimulant	The Hop Growers of Michigan, a not-for-profit growers group representing 85% of the Michigan hop acreage, will evaluate the role of a biostimulant to increase hop aroma concentration and disseminate results to stakeholders through grower meetings and field days.	$94,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	3. Michigan GROWN, Michigan GREAT Influencer Marketing Campaign	The Michigan Ag Council will launch the Michigan GROWN, Michigan GREAT Influencer Marketing Campaign, contracting with online content creators to develop and share information that promotes Michigan's hardworking farmers & the diversity of Michigan agriculture across the state to more than 500,000 consumers.	$100,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	4. Social Media Marketing Michigan Apples	The Michigan Apple Committee's social media marketing efforts continue to build brand awareness through engagement and educational work encouraging increased consumption of Michigan apples. This grant project is a top priority for the Michigan Apple Committee to move the target audience from brand awareness to brand recognition, ultimately to brand loyalty. The project will consistently build positive engagement with consumers to drive a deeper connection to the brand, resulting in increased apple movement in the retail marketplace and increased consumption of Michigan apples.	$125,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	5. Michigan Asparagus: Selling to the Hybrid Consumer	The Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board (MAAB) will focus on activities that are a mix of traditional in-store promotion programs and digital/trade marketing to respond to emerging hybrid shopper trends. Through both programs, MAAB will provide education and trial opportunities both for existing and new consumers during the in-season sales window to increase the consumption of asparagus. This project educating retail buyers in target areas about the benefits of U.S. grown Michigan Asparagus will utilize educational tools, press releases, e-newsletters and the new MAAB website.	$124,984.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	6. A Systems Approach to Sustainable Dry Bean Production	The Michigan Bean Commission will use a multidisciplinary approach to better understand the biology and ecology of dry bean production systems while addressing farmer defined production barriers to sustainable production systems in Michigan.	$99,894.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	7. Building Health Advocates to Drive Consumption of Dry Beans	The Michigan Bean Commission in collaboration with Shari Steinbach & Associates, LLC will conduct a Pod to Plate Michigan Bean Educational Tour for a group of highly engaged food/health communicators to address how inherent properties of beans and improved agronomic practices provide consumers with increased nutritional and social value. This program will create strategic alliances with food/health influencers to increase awareness and meal planning adoption for increased sales of Michigan Beans.	$80,665.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	8. Standardized Practices and Marketing for MI Blueberries	The Michigan Blueberry Advisory Committee will create a focused production manual for the beginner grower featuring knowledge from seasoned growers honing in on specific field practices as well as fungal and pest spray programs. This will take place with collaboration from multiple blueberry growers in the state and certified crop advisors with Endeavor Ag and Energy. Manuals will be printed and available for farmers across the state. It will also serve as a template for possible expansion across other specialty crops in the state of Michigan.	$6,431.29

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	9. Improving Pollination and Blueberry Flavor in Michigan Fields	The Michigan Blueberry Commission will carry out this project in collaboration with the Vander Weide Lab at Michigan State University by evaluating the role of pollination and the performance of a pollinator attractant product on yield and fruit quality and flavor and disseminate results to stakeholders through grower meetings and field days.	$100,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	10. Harnessing Pathogen Biology to Beat Emerging Carrot Diseases	The Michigan Carrot Committee, along with Michigan State University (MSU)/Dr. Mary Hausbeck's laboratory, will examine the susceptibility of available cover crops to Alternaria radicina and Colletotrichum gloeosporioides to allow growers to make informed decisions regarding choosing cover crops that reduce disease in carrots.	$99,693.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	11. Management Strategies for Meltdown of Celery in Michigan	Celery Research Inc., in partnership with Michigan State University and Mary Hausbeck, PhD., will identify effective management strategies aimed at reducing damage caused by Fusarium yellows of celery, also known locally as 'meltdown'.	$99,283.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	12. Sustainable Management Strategies for Cherry Fungal Diseases	The Michigan Cherry Committee will partner with Michigan State University to develop new strategies to improve cherry disease management in Michigan cherry orchards. This important research will develop a novel and more sustainable approach to managing diseases in Michigan cherry orchards.	$98,995.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	13. Chemical Mowing: Developing a New Weed Management Strategy	The Michigan Christmas Tree Association, working with Michigan State University, is seeking funding to support research to help growers improve their productivity and profitability by developing a new weed management technique known as chemical mowing for Michigan flatland Christmas tree production.	$75,002.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	14. Preventing Purpling of Cuttings Rooted Under Greenhouse LEDs	The Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council in conjunction with researchers at Michigan State University (MSU) will develop strategies to prevent undesirable chlorosis and purpling of ornamental plant cuttings rooted under light-emitting diode (LED) supplemental lighting. A direct outcome of this project will be a reduction of fertilizer over application and/or lighting, plant losses and increase in crop quality. Results will be made available to Michigan growers and educators through webinars, presentations, reports, and MSU extension publications.	$100,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	15. Herbicide Injury and What It Means	The Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association will establish a program to evaluate herbicide injury in three key specialty crops, including a herbaceous perennial, a tree, and a broadleaf shrub, and the long-term consequences of such injury. This outcome will increase worker skills, reduce inventory waste, support environmentally responsible herbicide programs, and foster revenue generation.	$99,925.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	16. Increase Ag Water Sustainability with Aquifer Performance	Michigan Potato Industry Commission is partnering with Michigan State University (MSU) to evaluate a more efficient and cost-effective method for the Aquifer Performance test and monitor the changes in groundwater in irrigated potato fields, ultimately supporting potato growers with sustainable water resource management. This is collaborative work between MSU Irrigation Lab and Tritium Inc. (a Hydrogeology consulting firm, leading the Midwest Water Stewards program), to improve methods of monitoring water resources in Michigan specialty crops by demonstrating Aquifer Performance Testing and Electrical Resistivity Tomography technology.	$99,643.55

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	17. Marketing Michigan Strawberries and Brambles	The Michigan State Horticultural Society will establish a marketing campaign to promote Michigan-grown strawberries, raspberries and blackberries. This work will combat acreage decline through a comprehensive marketing campaign promoting the consumption of Michigan-grown strawberries and brambles, making Michigan growers will be more financially sustainable and over time and able to increase the size of their farms and their impact on their local communities.	$125,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	18. Filling Critical Gaps in Enviroweather for Tree Fruit	The Michigan Tree Fruit Commission and Michigan State University (MSU) will expand and enhance the MSU Enviroweather system in northwest lower Michigan, where landscape features that create microclimates are more prevalent than other fruit growing regions in the state. The Enviroweather information system provides growers and managers in Michigan with detailed information to support weather-related decision making for agricultural production systems.	$97,208.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	19. Testing Integrated Solutions for Pepper Crown and Root Rot	The Michigan Vegetable Council, along with Michigan State University (MSU), will advance management options for Phytophthora capsici on pepper. Research conducted by MSU will reduce the risk associated with P. capsici by identifying effective fungicides and application methods and working directly with growers to implement effective strategies. Results will be disseminated to stakeholders through grower meetings and field days.	$99,576.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	20. AI-based Weed Recognition for Robotic Weeding of Vegetables	The Michigan Vegetable Council, in collaboration with Michigan State University, will develop innovative machine-vision automated weeding technology by: 1) developing a ground-based mobile machine vision system for weed imaging; 2) creating labeled datasets of weeds important to vegetable production in Michigan and building artificial intelligence models for weed recognition; and 3) develop, test and demonstrate a prototype weeding robot that integrates an AI-assisted machine vision system with smart-actuators targeting critical weeds of onions and asparagus in Michigan. This research will lay a foundation for the development of high-precision, robust robotic weeding technology for Michigan vegetables to substantially reduce hand weeding and blanket herbicide applications.	$100,000.00
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	21. Practical Prevention of Rot Damage in Michigan Chestnuts	The Midwest Chestnut Producers Council, in collaboration with the Small Fruit and Hop Pathology Laboratory at Michigan State University, will test fungicide efficacy and develop postharvest strategies for brown rot, the major fungal disease of chestnuts. Depending on the season, yield loss due to brown rot can reach between 71% and 93%. The objectives of this study are to: 1) investigate efficacy of multiple chemical active ingredients to control brown rot, 2) screen for fungicide efficacy and resistance in Gnomoniopsis smithogilvyi fungal isolates, 3) develop molecular diagnostic assays for post-harvest pathogens in chestnut, and 4) communicate fungicide efficacy findings and postharvest methods to Michigan researchers, extension educators, and growers.	$99,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	22. Cherry Nematode Control with Organic Matter and Nematicide	The Quintanilla Lab at Michigan State University will test and refine various management approaches for plant-parasitic nematodes in cherry orchards, including compost and manures, mulch, and chemical methods. This research will focus on identifying the most effective and environmentally friendly strategies for controlling nematodes while promoting soil health and tree productivity. The results will then be disseminated to growers and stakeholders through extension articles, field days, and grower meetings, promoting the adoption of sustainable nematode management practices. The aim of this study is to enhance the sustainability and profitability of cherry orchards in the long term by providing practical, evidence-based solutions for managing plant-parasitic nematodes.	$42,379.34
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	23. International and Domestic Promotion of Michigan Specialty Crops	The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development's (MDARD) International Marketing Program will continue to work with the Cherry Marketing Institute, Michigan Bean Commission, Michigan Apple Committee, the Michigan Blueberry Commission, the Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board, the Michigan Vegetable Council, and the Michigan Potato Industry Commission to promote Michigan specialty crops both domestically and internationally. The goal of this project is to increase international and domestic marketing and sales opportunities for Michigan specialty crop companies and commodity groups through participation in buyers' missions and trade shows.	$155,267.69
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	$2,408,548.96	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and postaward activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$167,861.38

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,416,909.03	1. Developing Culturally Relevant Cottage Foods Recipes to Increase the Consumption of Specialty Crops	The Minnesota Farmers' Market Association (MFMA) will conduct a project that will contract with 11 Cottage Food Producers (CFP) of diverse cultures to develop 55 culturally relevant recipes that prominently feature specialty crops and qualify as cottage foods, meeting the requirements of 4.6 pH or below, or water activity (Aw) of .85 or below. CFPs will receive food safety, food preservation, pH and Aw testing, and recipe development training. Specialty crop recipes will be home-tested, verified by the UMN food science lab, retested in home situations by another 55 CFPs. Once verified, the recipes will be promoted in TV spots, free cookbooks, and during food sampling celebrations of the specialty crop at farmers' markets across Minnesota during National Farmers' Market Week (August 2026).	$72,687.81
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,416,909.03	2. Buzzing with Potential: Exploring Consumers' Willingness to Pay for Pollinator Services	Regents of the University of Minnesota Extension will quantify consumer support and willingness to pay for pollinator certified MN-grown specialty crops to improve marketing opportunities for the mutual benefit of growers, pollinators and the environment.	$124,658.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,416,909.03	3. Identifying Market Interest, Distribution Channels, and Processing for Novel Minnesota Table Grapes	In partnership with a local food hub and Minnesota Farmers' Market Association, the University of Minnesota will evaluate market interest, distribution channels, processing solutions, and nutritional benefits of novel Minnesota table grapes.	$124,883.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,416,909.03	4. New Fresh Market Potatoes for Minnesota	The University of Minnesota will develop certified seed and certified seed pipelines for four fresh market potato clones, two red skinned white fleshed clones, a yellow, and a purple.	$125,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,416,909.03	5. Developing High-Quality Protein Ingredients from Dry Feans for Food Applications	The University of Minnesota will lead and execute this project to increase the value of three specialty crops, kidney, pinto, and navy beans by expanding their use as food sources, banking on their high-value protein component. A quality-driven process to produce functional, nutritional, and acceptable protein concentrates and isolates from these beans will be developed through a series of holistic evaluations. This project will result in a data set that provides a basis for determining the viability of kidney, pinto, and navy beans as sources of high-quality protein ingredients, and their increased market value.	$124,648.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,416,909.03	6. Promotion and Clean Energy Design of Farm Stands to Increase Direct Market Sales of Specialty Crops	This project from University of Minnesota will promote and educate consumers and specialty crop farmers' farm stands. We will design an accessible 'Clean Energy' Farm Stand prototype utilizing renewable energy for prolonging shelf life of specialty crops.	$125,000.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,416,909.03	7. Growing Leafy African Vegetables in Minnesota: Collecting and Characterizing Worldwide Accessions	The Plant Breeding Center at the University of Minnesota will collect and characterize accessions of four leafy vegetables important to local African communities: spider wisp (Gynandropsis gynandra), jute mallow (Corchorus olitorius), Ethiopian cabbage (Brassica carinata), and amaranth (Amaranthus dubius and A. hypochondriacus).The field evaluations will be done with help from the Community Plant Breeding Team (a student-volunteer group at the Plant Breeding Center) and local immigrant growers (with Hennepin County Master Gardeners), who will provide input on their preferences in a participatory breeding approach.	$124,969.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,416,909.03	8. Statewide Promotion of Minnesota Grown Specialty Crops	The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Minnesota Grown program will conduct a comprehensive marketing campaign to promote specialty crops including an earned media campaign, social media advertising and collaboration with content creators.	$116,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,416,909.03	9. Protecting Minnesota's Grape and Apple Industries from Spotted Lanternfly	Spotted lanternfly is an invasive species that threatens apple and grape producers, among others, in Minnesota. This project supports the work of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to conduct targeted surveys in vineyards, apple orchards, and horticultural nurseries to confirm that the insect is not in Minnesota or to detect it early. Those surveys are paired with rigorous research on the cold hardiness of spotted lanternfly to determine if additional surveys beyond 2026 would be worthwhile and where to focus the search. We partner with specialty crop growers to conduct surveys, share results, and build awareness of spotted lanternfly.	$124,297.00
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,416,909.03	10. Detection of Invasive Plant Diseases in Minnesota High Tunnels	Minnesota Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Pathway (MDA Ag Pathway) will survey for the invasive plant pathogens, Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus and Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum, in high tunnels in Minnesota. Outreach on how to identify, prevent, and manage these diseases will be provided. This project will aim to: Determine distribution of ToBRFV and Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum in Minnesota.	$67,461.82
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,416,909.03	11. Bringing Specialty Crops to Schools: Increasing Knowledge and Consumption of Specialty Crops	The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will provide Farm to School training and resources to increase the amount of Minnesota grown specialty crops being bought, served, consumed, and taught about in schools. This project will increase promotion and education for specialty crops, strengthen supply and demand of specialty crops for schools, and increase youth knowledge and consumption of specialty crops.	$97,664.29
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$1,416,909.03	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and postaward activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$180,278.33

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$422,993.37	1. Design, Development, and Evaluation of a Vision-Guided Robotic System for Sweet Potato Harvesting	Mississippi State University will partner with local farmers to improve the efficiency of sweet potato harvesting while minimizing the need for manual labor, by 1) developing a robotic system to identify and harvest sweet potatoes, and 2) implementing the new robotic system into current sweet potato harvesting equipment. Research findings will be disseminated to stakeholders and the wider scientific community through field days, extension publications, peer-reviewed articles, electronic newsletters, websites, and social media platforms.	$67,662.00
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$422,993.37	2. A Novel Selection Tool to Improve Honeybee Health in Mississippi and Beyond	Mississippi State University, in collaboration with queen breeders, will utilize a novel pheromone-based technique that enables selection of breeding colonies based on honeybee responses to unhealthy brood odors (UBeeO™™). The procedure provides for rapid and reliable selection for hygienic behavior, which is the removal of dead and diseased pupae from brood combs by adult worker bees. The goal is to develop sustainable solutions for controlling Varmamite infestation and viral infections that weaken and kill large numbers of bee colonies annually.	$60,000.00
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$422,993.37	3. Evaluation of at-Planting Supplemental Irrigation on Sweet Potato Slip Survival	Mississippi State University will investigate the effects of at-planting irrigation application on sweet potato slip survival. This study will evaluate the effects of at-planting irrigation supplement on slip survival rate in sweet potato. It is expected that irrigation application early in the growing season will improve slip survival rate in the field, reduce production costs associated with re-transplant, and increase overall sweet potato yield. Findings will be presented at scientific conferences, extension publications, and grower meetings.	$70,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$422,993.37	4. Enhancing Productivity, Resource-Use Efficiencies and Sustainability of Vegetable Production in Mississippi	Mississippi State University will investigate best management practices in vegetable production systems under both controlled and open-field environment conditions in Mississippi. Critical production practices such as nutrient management, and variety trials will be evaluated to maximize resource use efficiency, improve yield and produce quality while developing scientifically based practical actions and disseminating results and knowledge through Vegetable Production Short Courses, extension publications, and scientific and grower meetings.	$50,000.00
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$422,993.37	5. Integrating Cover Crop Roller-Crimper and Biochar for Weed Management and Improved Soil Health in Tomato	The Mississippi State University will provide an effective integrated management of problematic weeds in tomato production systems by incorporating cover crop roller-crimper, no-till, and biochar herbicide protection pods (HPPs). The main goal of this project is to incorporate cover crop roller- crimping, no-till, and biochar herbicide protection pods to control problematic weeds, including yellow and purple nutsedge, annual grasses, and pigweed species. Results from this project will be made available to approximately 1,200 stakeholders at the Vegetable Field Day, American Society of Horticultural Science, and Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting, combined.	$30,000.00
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$422,993.37	6. Integrating Herbicides, Cultural Practices, and Sweet Potato Varieties for Enhancing Nutsedge Management	Mississippi State University will conduct research to 1) Determine the impact of shade (plant architecture of sweet potato varieties) and burial depth on nutsedge germination and growth, 2) Assess the efficacy of various herbicides in controlling nutsedge, and 3) Evaluate the combined effects of these herbicides, shade provided by sweet potato varieties with different leaf architecture, and time of planting (early/late) on nutsedge control. Through this research, we aim to develop optimal management strategies for controlling nutsedge species in sweet potato production.	$45,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$422,993.37	7. Evaluation of Nematicide and Biocontrol Efficacy Against Plant-Parasitic Nematodes in Sweet Potato Production	Mississippi State University will conduct research trials testing nematicide, biopesticides and their combinations in managing reniform nematode Rotylenchus reniformis and southern root-knot nematode Meloidogyne incognita on sweet potato. Both reniform nematode and root-knot nematode are major pests threatening sweet potato production in Mississippi. Synergistic effects of fluorinated nematicide fluopyram, fluosulfone, fluozainfolizine and biocontrol agent Purpurcillim lilacinum, Bacillus firmus, Burkholderia. spp and azadirachtin will be determined in greenhouse experiments.	$35,000.00
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$422,993.37	8. Establishing a High Tunnel in Support of a New Horticulture Program at Pearl River Community College	Pearl River Community College (PRCC) is a comprehensive two-year public, open admission institution, operating four locations in rural southern Mississippi. PRCC will establish a high tunnel that will be used by students and faculty to focus on the priority area of `Increasing knowledge and consumption of specialty crops' and provide for `Grower educational programs to new and seasoned farmers.' PRCC is proposing to construct a high tunnel in support of the Horticulture Technology program and the broader community.	$15,477.49
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$422,993.37	9. Evaluation of Novel Melon Varieties in Mississippi	Mississippi State University will conduct field trials to evaluate the performance of novel melon varieties, including selected watermelon, cantaloupe, and honeydew varieties. The objective is to identify novel melon varieties that performance well in Mississippi and provide valuable insights to farmers, aiding them in making informed decisions regarding variety selections. This project aims to enhance local melon production, improve farm profitability, and promote increased accessibility for consumers to locally grown, fresh, and healthy produce. Results from this project will be disseminated through grower direct contacts, workshops, field days, regional and national meetings, and publications.	$30,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	$422,993.37	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and postaward activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$18,620.60
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$424,076.15	1. Examining Pre-Prohibition Grape Cultivars for Vineyard and Wine Production Viability	Stone Hill Wine Co. will study the first-year viability of five Pre-Prohibition grape cultivars by establishing an experimental vineyard, tracking development, comparing to sentinel varieties, and disseminating the results through grower outreach.	$50,000.00
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$424,076.15	2. Increasing Specialty Crop Consumption and Knowledge through School and Community Gardens.	Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG) will increase knowledge and consumption of specialty crops among children and adults by establishing, expanding and improving school and community gardens.	$49,924.00
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$424,076.15	3. Advertising Billboard to Promote Specialty Crops in Boonville Missouri	The Boonville Farmers Market will purchase advertising on a billboard on Highway B in Boonville Missouri to display Specialty Crops to promote the purchasing and consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables in the Boonville area. Providing this marketing tool will directly benefit Missouri's specialty crop industry by assisting small local producers to connect with local consumers.	$6,216.00
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$424,076.15	4. DNA Fingerprint Development for Identification of Elderberry Cultivars	The University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry will sequence the genomes of diverse elderberry accessions and develop a set of DNA markers, or a fingerprint, that will enable differentiation among elderberry cultivars, supporting industry growth.	$49,957.00
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$424,076.15	5. Viticultural Evaluation of 'Chambourcin' Derived Hybrids Grown For Wine Production	Missouri State University will evaluate the potential of 'Chambourcin' derived hybrid grape varieties with the focus on their suitability for wine production and disseminate the analysis of these hybrids to viticulturists and winemakers.	$49,849.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$424,076.15	6. Promoting Specialty Crops in Missouri Schools and Early Childhood Education	The Missouri Grown Program, housed within the Agriculture Business Development Division, will provide stipends to registered Missouri schools and Early Childhood Education (ECE) facilities to purchase consumable specialty crops from Missouri farmers.	$44,698.32
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$424,076.15	7. Deficit Irrigation Impact on Canopy Vigor and Fruit Acidity in 'Norton' Grapevines	Missouri State University will identify an irrigation strategy through in-field research to control canopy vigor, reduce fruit acidity, and conserve water in `Norton' wine grape production and will share results through conferences and a publication.	$47,039.20
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$424,076.15	8. Uncoupling the Grape Cultivars 'Norton' and 'Cynthiana'	The Grape and Wine Institute will identify genetic, phenotypic, and wine attributes that differentiate cultivars 'Norton' and 'Cynthiana' thereby providing Cynthiana to the industry for the first time in contemporary history.	$41,421.00
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$424,076.15	9. Sensor-based Irrigation Management System (SIMS) in Grapes and Blueberries	The University of Missouri will conduct on-farm research to develop a Sensor-based Irrigation Management System (SIMS) for precision irrigation in specialty crops using information from real-time proximal sensors and remote sensing technology.	$49,996.00
Missouri Department of Agriculture	$424,076.15	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.	$33,834.83
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	1. Bioherbicide for Control of Canada Thistle	Montana State University under the direction of Dr. Alan Dyer will weaponize Fusarium oxysporum as a bioherbicide to control Canada thistle in pulse production systems.	$203,302.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	2. Assessment of Blackleg/Soft-rot Pathogen Presence, Prevalence, and Distribution in Montana's Potato Growing Regions	Montana State University Plant Pathologists and the Potato Lab will collaborate to identify source of Dickeya blackleg origins in Montana seed potatoes, develop diagnostic tests for detection and monitoring, and formulate management guidelines.	$337,451.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	3. Food Manufacturing Safety 101 Video Series	The Great Falls Development Alliance (GFDA) will work with partners to create a free 11-part video library on Food Safety Manufacturing 101 to fill a needed knowledge gap for value added food processors of specialty crops who are looking to expand.	$25,050.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	4. Variety Selection and Cropping System Development to Expand Dry Bean Production in Montana	Montana State University will lead and execute a project to expand dry bean production in Montana by identifying suitable cultivars, developing cropping systems, and disseminating results to stakeholders via field days and grower's meetings.	$166,792.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	5. Milling Operation of Montana's Field Pea	North Dakota State University will evaluate physical, chemical and functional properties of pea flours using stone mill and hammer mill. This project will create knowledge on milling and flour characteristics of field peas which brings great potential into the area of food product development. The outcome of the project will be a deeper understanding of milling operation, especially for stone milling compared to hammer milling. This project will create knowledge on milling and flour characteristics of field peas which brings great potential into the area of food product development using whole seed stone milled peas. The outcome will benefit farmers and stakeholders, aiding in the development of guidelines for optimized processing by millers and bakers for various product applications.	$30,589.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	6. Evaluating Pulse Varieties for Resistance to Rhizoctonia Root Rot	The Montana State University-Eastern Agricultural Research Center will evaluate pulse varieties for resistance to Rhizoctonia solani. Commonly grown varieties will be evaluated for disease resistance and agronomic characteristics for better grower and breeder recommendations.	$117,279.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	7. Assessment of Optimum Phosphorus Source and Rate for Peas, Chickpeas, and Lentils in Montana	This Montana State University project will study effects of phosphorus fertilizer amount and type on yield and health of pulse crops at two research farms and four commercial farms. Results will be shared at workshops, in Fact Sheets, in radio interviews, and on webpages.	$197,490.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	8. Accelerating Allium Production in Montana: Increasing Profitability and Sustainability	Montana State University will increase the profitability and sustainability of Allium crops (garlic, onion, and shallots) for Montana growers through improving production practices, cultivars, and exploring the potential for seed production.	$192,310.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	9. Uncovering Potato Genes for Blackleg Disease Resistance and Tuberization	Montana State University proposes to identify genetics behind soft rot and blackleg disease resistance, and tuberization, and aim to incorporate these traits in Montana potato for a better yielding and healthy potatoes.	$224,487.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	10. Identify and Characterize Beneficial Bacteria to Control Pea Ascochyta Blight Disease	Montana State University will identify and characterize beneficial bacteria to control pea Ascochyta blight disease through field trials and teach growers to use the beneficial bacteria at farm visits, grower's meetings and field days.	$239,262.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	11. Identifying Fire Blight Resistance of Apple Varieties in Montana	Montana State University will mitigate damages of apple fire blight disease by identifying apple varieties that are tolerant to the disease and disseminating results to growers through orchard visits, grower’s meetings and field days.	$197,650.50
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	12. Cultivating Success: Education and Networking Opportunities for Montana's Horticulture Industry	The Montana Nursery & Landscape Association will help nursery, floriculture, and horticulture crop stakeholders gain the knowledge necessary to stay competitive and grow the industry by facilitating a series of high-quality educational events.	$154,984.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	13. Designing a Fruit Teaching and Outreach Space to Increase Access to and Production of Fruit Crops in Montana	Montana State University will design and plant a teaching and outreach space at the Bozeman Horticulture Farm that demonstrates fruit crops and cultivars that perform well in Montana leading to increased production of fruit crops in Montana.	$50,910.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	14. Supporting Montana Vineyards and Wineries Through Research, Education, and Marketing	Montana State University-Western Agriculture Research Center and the Montana Grape and Wine Association will facilitate growth of Montana vineyards and wineries through research, outreach, and marketing that will increase production and consumption of grapes and other fruits.	$130,252.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	15. Understanding and Preventing Preharvest Fruit Drop, a Yield Limiting Factor for Haskaps	Western Agricultural Research Center (WARC) and Towne's Harvest Garden of Montana State University (MSU) will manage haskap fruit drop by identifying the underlying mechanisms and disseminating results to stakeholders.	$285,451.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	16. Hola Montana: Branded Pulse Crop Marketing in Mexico and Latin America	Montana Department of Agriculture will use funds to assist in expansion of Hola Montana, a branded market development campaign for pulses in Latin America to 16,000 consumers and 5 stakeholders through digital marketing and in-person trade events.	$292,759.00
Montana Department of Agriculture	$3,103,925.61	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.	$247,479.86
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	1. Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut Survey	The Nebraska Department of Agriculture will conduct a survey for walnut twig beetle across the state and confirm compliance with the Nebraska Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) of walnut quarantine through inspections. The results of this survey will be used to confirm the presence or absence of TCD in the state. This will allow for movement of products such as nursery stock and scion wood out-of-state. Should TCD be found during this survey, the information could be used to determine the extent of the infestation, and potentially mitigate the impact on trade.	$26,450.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	2. High-Yielding Food-Grade Winter Pea Varieties for Dryland Production System in Nebraska	The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Panhandle Research and Extension Center will identify fall-planted winter pea for western Nebraska through field evaluations. Western Nebraska growers have no economically viable fall-sown (winter) annual broad-leaf crop to rotate with winter wheat, which is limiting their sustainability and profitability. The objective of this proposal is to identify high-yielding, high-protein, and regionally adapted winter pea varieties for Nebraska.	$46,019.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	3. Optimizing Soil and Nutrient Management to Improve Pea Yield and Quality	The University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Panhandle Research and Extension Center will evaluate the management strategy for nitrogen (N) fertilizer (rate and time of application) and iron (Fe) (source and rate) for improving pea seed protein quantity and quality and iron content in western Nebraska. One high seed protein and one low seed protein varieties will be plated under non-irrigated and irrigated conditions using four N rates and two different application times and two sources of Fe at two rates. Agronomic data such as flowering, plant height, and maturity will be collected. Production feasibility of high value pea in Nebraska will enhance marketability, profitability, and competitiveness of the Nebraska pea industry.	$54,926.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	4. The Vegetable Variety Navigator	The University of Nebraska - Lincoln, in a contractual relationship with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, will build upon the previous efforts of developing an online decision-support tool for vegetable growers that helps them access variety trial data and evaluate which varieties are likely to perform best on their farm. Trial data for three new crops will be added (tomato, potato, sweet corn). Stakeholders will be introduced to this tool, the Vegetable Variety Navigator, and the new crop data, at grower conferences.	$80,458.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	5. Thrips in Dry Beans: Abundance and Impact on Yield	The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Panhandle Research and Extension Center will determine the pest status of thrips and associated risk in dry bean production by monitoring thrips abundance, identifying dominant thrips species, and assessing crop damage. This information is important for stakeholders to justify prophylactic insecticide treatments for this pest. Results would allow stakeholders to gain knowledge about thrips in dry beans and potentially adjust management practices accordingly to increase sustainability and profitability in dry bean production.	$37,908.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	6. Ready or Not, Here They Come: Japanese Beetles On The Move	Mac's Creek Vineyards will compare the effectiveness of three options/alternatives (i.e., chemical insecticide, ozone and essential oil) to control the infestation of Japanese Beetles in Nebraska vineyards. A variety of differing grapevine cultivars will each be treated with each of the three options and effectiveness and sustainability will be compared in an attempt to discover effective options/alternatives available to producers.	$65,500.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	7. Japanese Beetle Survey	The Nebraska Department of Agriculture Entomology Program will implement a coordinated, comprehensive survey for Japanese Beetle in Nebraska. This could assist in keeping interstate and international markets open to Nebraska nursery stock. The monitoring would confirm the status of the pest in our state to help determine what steps, if any, are necessary to certify nursery stock. Additionally, if beetles are found, the producer would be able to implement best management practices to mitigate pest problems and certify product.	$36,600.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	8. Walk 2 Unlock Nebraska Specialty Crops	Through the Walk to Unlock Nebraska Specialty Crops Project, the Nebraska Department of Education will leverage two programs available to Nebraska schools, Walk to Unlock Nebraska and Nebraska Harvest of the Month, to increase youth knowledge and consumption of Nebraska specialty crops.	$55,545.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	9. Development of Downy Mildew Resistant Hop Varieties By CRISPR Gene Editing	The University of Nebraska - Lincoln will develop downy mildew resistant hop (Humulus lupulus) cultivars to be used by the Nebraska hop growers by employing a CRISPR-based gene editing technology. Downy mildew is the most widespread and destructive disease of hops in the Midwest caused by the fungus-like pathogen Pseudoperonospora humuli and is most severe during wet weather and mild temperatures. UNL hop breeders will be able to convert the CRISPR edited hop lines into commercial Nebraska-adapted cultivars benefiting our hop growers and the larger hop community.	$60,185.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	10. Transformative Weed Management in Specialty Crop Farming	The University of Nebraska-Lincoln West Central Research and Extension Center intends to share knowledge and findings with growers on decision-making and crop responses to weed management practices through field days and participation in fruit and vegetable association meetings. By discussing the potential benefits of adopting precision pesticide application technologies not yet widely used, the project aims to improve efficiency and sustainability in weed management, aspiring to establish new benchmarks for effective control with minimal crop impact and setting a transformative model for Nebraska and beyond.	$50,000.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	11. Evaluating Group 15 Herbicide Combinations for Season-Long Suppression of Palmer Amaranth in Dry Edible Beans	The University of Nebraska - Lincoln Panhandle Research and Extension Center, Weed Science Program in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, will compare all possible combinations of Dual Magnum and Outlook applied at crop planting of dry edible beans, and again at both the 1st and 3rd trifoliate to determine which treatment is ideal for providing season-long suppression and control of herbicide-resistant Palmer amaranth.	$28,254.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	12. Plant Population and Foliar Iron Influence on Crop Physiology, Yield, and Yield Components of Cowpea in Nebraska	The University of Nebraska - Lincoln will conduct a field experiment at the High Plains Ag Lab to investigate the response of cowpea to seeding rate and foliar applications of iron. Grain yield and quality will be measured along with other physiological variables to understand which treatment combination provides the best results. Results will be disseminated to stakeholders through field days, grower meetings, and online resources through Nebraska Extension.	$69,766.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	13. Diseases in Lentils	The University of Nebraska - Lincoln Panhandle Research and Extension Center will attempt to identify diseases of lentils occurring in Nebraska before employing new chemicals available to growers in an effort to manage diseases on this new crop to Nebraska. Results will be shared at various field days and production meetings.	$52,174.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	14. Elevating Nebraska Grapes	Capriol Farm, LLC, in a contractual relationship with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, will create new markets for Nebraska wine grapes by developing best practices to pasteurize and bottle cold pressed grape juice, introducing more consumers to Nebraska grapes, and disseminating results to stakeholders through the Capriolo Farm website, the Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association, the UNL Viticulture program, and Nebraska Extension.	$50,000.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	15. Potato Cyst Nematode 2024	This project is designed to maintain Nebraska's Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) pest-free status by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture conducting comprehensive soil surveying throughout Nebraska to confirm the presence or absence of PCN in Nebraska.	$41,077.00
Nebraska State Department of Agriculture	$824,462.36	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.	$65,640.48
Nevada Department of Agriculture	$268,947.35	1. Grape Resilience and Production in Nevada	This project will enable the University of Nevada, Reno Extension Las Vegas and the Desert Farming Initiative to advance specialty crop grape production in established vineyards across the State, including guidance on production potential and site selection given soil type, water quality, and microclimate conditions. The aim of this study is to examine the growth, quality and production of commercial grapes in Nevada microclimates and support grape growers with climate smart guidance via the Nevada Farm Network, University online platforms, and in-person trainings.	$70,499.29

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Nevada Department of Agriculture	$268,947.35	2. Evaluation of Cover Crops for Soil Health Improvement Under High Tunnel Production	The University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), will determine if the use of cover crops supports soil health and nutrient availability under high-tunnel and intense vegetable production for the purpose of benefiting growers with better crop performance and yields. Trials will be conducted under commercial hoop house conditions with cover crop planting during late Fall and termination early in the Spring, when cash crop production is most limited by weather conditions. The project's outcome is expected to enhance the competitiveness of local vegetable producers by increasing yields and nutrient use efficiency. Results will be disseminated to stakeholders through grower meetings, field days and press releases through DFI/UNR.	$67,389.90
Nevada Department of Agriculture	$268,947.35	3. The Farm2Food Accelerator: Energizing Growth for Nevada's Female Specialty Crop Producers	The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation will partner with the Nevada Department of Agriculture, Union Kitchen, and a university-based food innovation center to continue to develop the Farm2Food Accelerator project to equip female specialty crop producers in Nevada to grow their value-added businesses. NASDA Foundation and the project team will help Nevada producers expand production of food products and enter new regional markets. The team will adapt the Farm2Food Accelerator to meet the needs of Nevada producers and integrate them into the program. The Farm2Food Accelerator is a 15-week program that equips female specialty crop producers and food entrepreneurs using specialty crop ingredients to safely process their raw production into value-added specialty crop products and enter new statewide and regional markets.	$130,646.05
Nevada Department of Agriculture	$268,947.35	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.	$12.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food	$299,587.85	1. Defining Humidity Controlling Strategy to Mitigate Fungal Disease for High Tunnel Specialty Crop Production	The University of New Hampshire researcher will help New Hampshire high tunnel specialty crop producers to control humidity and prevent condensation inside their high tunnels by developing some novel strategies for year-round production and by disseminating the research results and recommendations through local conferences and grower meetings.	$67,395.00
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food	$299,587.85	2. State-Wide Survey for Blueberry Leaf Rust, Caused by Thekopsora Minimum, an Emerging Disease in New Hampshire	University of New Hampshire will develop an integrated disease management system to blueberry leaf rust based on state-wide survey and disseminating results to stakeholders through grower meetings and field days.	$35,804.04
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food	$299,587.85	3. Technology Innovations in Specialty Crop Production in Merrimack County, NH	This is a project by the Merrimack County Conservation District in Concord, NH, to support the demonstration of new and advancing technology for the increased production of fruits and vegetables in central New Hampshire.	$49,482.50
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food	$299,587.85	4. Integrated Pest Management, Pollinator Gardens, Education and Citizen Science Resources for Beekeepers in New Hampshire	The New Hampshire Beekeepers Association, with the New Hampshire State Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, will increase our understanding and management of the challenges that honeybees and beekeepers face by improving integrated pest management practices and increasing scientific literacy, education, and outreach through our network of regional clubs.	$41,250.00
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food	$299,587.85	5. Buy New Hampshire Specialty Crops: Creating Increased Demand Among Visitors and Residents Through Targeted Social Media, in Partnership with NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development	The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food will increase consumer knowledge of all NH specialty crops through a targeted social media campaign and through innovative digital platforms directed at tourists and residents.	$73,204.02

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food	$299,587.85	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.	$32,170.84
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	1. Promoting Consumer Knowledge and Consumption of Specialty Crops	The Franklin Food Bank will increase child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops through the delivery of a nutrition program that will provide hands-on training and materials.	$22,307.00
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	2. Find NJ Wines -Building a Resource Tool & Marketing Campaign	The Franklin Food Bank will increase child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops through the delivery of a nutrition program that will provide hands-on training and materials.	$30,000.00
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	3. Fast-Track Harvest: Investigating Strategies to Shorten Vegetable Crop Growth Time to Aid Food Insecurity Better and Faster	Geogreens Charities, with the College of New Jersey, will conduct an innovative research endeavor aimed at significantly shortening the growth cycle of key vegetable crops to improve agricultural productivity, distribution, and food security.	$19,630.00
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	4. Improving the Production, Marketing and Quality of Authentic New Jersey Local Honey through Sustainable Beekeeping	The New Jersey Beekeepers Association (NJBA) will increase public awareness and consumption of locally produced New Jersey honey and provide beekeepers with the skills necessary to increase honey production and marketability while producing a top-quality product. NJBA will promote local New Jersey honey with outreach and marketing strategies for both beekeepers and consumers, focusing on the honey production process and informing New Jersey residents where they can purchase honey from a local New Jersey beekeeper.	$20,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	5. Project to Maximize the Effectiveness of the Jersey Fresh Advertising Program in 2025 and Beyond	The New Jersey Beekeepers Association (NJDA) seeks SCBG funding to increase awareness and purchases of locally grown crops intended to increase NJ farmers' sales utilizing a marketing campaign with various tactics to promote the Jersey Fresh brand and maximize reach of our target audience.	$390,572.66
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	6. Targeted Marketing Enhancements For New Jersey Blueberries	As part of a more extensive research and promotion program, The New Jersey Blueberry Growers Association seeks Specialty Crop Block Grant funding for a project to promote awareness and purchase of local Jersey Fresh Blueberries.	$15,000.00
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	7. Jersey Fresh Peaches Buy Jersey-Buy Local Modernized Marketing Campaign	The New Jersey Peach Promotion Council will implement a marketing campaign shifting towards more digital marketing. The objective is to get as much "top of mind" awareness leading up to and during the peak Jersey peach season.	$15,000.00
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	8. Specialty Crop Nutrition, Culinary, and Gardening Education	Rolling Harvest Food Rescue (RHFR) will enhance awareness for produce specialty crops and encourage increased consumption and purchase by providing educational workshops featuring specialty crop identification, nutrition, preparation, and growing information for low-income families at HomeFront (Mercer County, NJ), where we will focus on food security, access, and sovereignty.	$22,307.00
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	9. Multiscale Autonomous Drone Mapping of Specialty Crop and Field Characteristics	Rutgers University will request a TraitFinder sensor to be housed at the P.E. Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research, which will allow for automated and precise measurements to be taken continuously on cranberry vegetative growth rates and habit, and hence the selection of material to be evaluated in field for weed competitiveness. The evaluation of this trait is economically important to the NJ cranberry industry as it has the potential for identifying and breeding for crop sustainability.	$22,307.20

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	10. AI-Based Characterization of Plant Architecture to Improve Weed Competitiveness in Cranberry	The TraitFinder sensor requested will be housed at the Rutgers University, P.E. Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research which will allow for automated and precise measurements to be taken continuously on cranberry vegetative growth rates and habit, and hence the selection of material to be evaluated in field for weed competitiveness. The evaluation of this trait is economically important to the NJ cranberry industry as it has the potential for identifying and breeding for crop sustainability.	$39,999.00
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	11. Evaluating White Grub Populations in Blueberries Planted With Fescue Grass Row Middles	Rutgers Cooperative Extension will evaluate white grub densities in blueberries planted with grass as a cover crop in crop row middles by trapping and collecting grubs to report impact on pests in blueberries and provide recommendations to growers.	$39,999.00
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	12. Developing Critical Boxwood Pest Recommendations and Trialing Alternative for NJ Nurseries & Landscape	Rutgers will address new and emerging boxwood problems (boxwood blight and boxtree moth) by developing science-based recommendations and conducting boxwood alternative crop performance trials in NJ field settings.	$39,970.00
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	13. Development of a Disease Risk Evaluation Service Using a Pathogen Qualification to Guide Precision Fungicide Application in Turfgrass Landscapes	The turfgrass pathology laboratory at Rutgers University will enhance the fungicide use efficiency of NJ turfgrass industry by developing a decision support tool which measures disease risks of dollar spot, anthracnose and brown patch diseases.	$39,994.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	14. Promotion, Education, and Outreach for the New Jersey Specialty Crops Industry Focusing on Vegetable and Fruit Crop Production and Marketing	The Vegetable Growers Association of New Jersey is the lead organization for planning, implementing, and executing the annual New Jersey Vegetable Growers Convention that also includes participation by other specialty crop producers for the purpose of networking, educating, providing grants for specialty crop research, and disseminating Land Grant University published specialty crop production recommendations for beginner farmers, organic farmers, small farmers, large farmers and all persons interested in specialty crop production.	$40,000.00
New Jersey Department of Agriculture	$801,172.90	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.	$40,000.00
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$598,054.35	1. Exploring the Nutritional and Medicinal Profiles in Fruit and Seeds of Jujubes in New Mexico	New Mexico State University will investigate the nutritional and medicinal components of fruit and seeds of jujube germplasm (Ziziphus. jujuba cultivars and Z. spinosa trees) from New Mexico and El Paso, TX. Jujube has nutritious fruit with medicinal effects and used commonly as traditional Chinese herbs for its dry fruit and seeds (Z. spinosa). There have been several studies on jujube nutritional parameters. With the recent development in metabolomics, hundreds of metabolites will be detected at the same time. We will compare the nutritional/medicinal component profiles of different jujube cultivars and germplasm trees for their fruit and seeds (germplasm only). These data will be used as baseline for educating the public, value-added product development and marketing promotion, nutritional supplements, or medicinal/pharmaceutical product exploration.	$59,528.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$598,054.35	2. Growing Red Bell Pepper and Roma Tomato Crops for Chile Processing Industry in New Mexico	A group of researchers at New Mexico State University will conduct a multidisciplinary research a) to evaluate the growth and yield potential of red bell pepper and Roma tomato crops in the Eastern New Mexico b) to enhance the NM red bell pepper and Roma tomato production capacity through discovering an alternate water supply strategy that utilizes treated municipal wastewater as a water source. The research results will be disseminated to small-scale vegetable producers through stakeholder meetings which will potentially help the producers to diversify the crop and water portfolios and reduce the burden of high economic costs and drought risk in the chili and tomato production.	$108,313.16
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$598,054.35	3. Integrating Saffron into Small Vegetable Production Systems of New Mexico to Enhance Profitability and Sustainability	New Mexico State University researchers and Extension Specialists will introduce saffron as a low-maintenance specialty crop with the goal of enhancing the sustainability and profitability of small-scale farming operations. Known as the most expensive spice in the world, saffron can be grown in marginal areas with low irrigation and minimal fertilization. We will demonstrate how the unique growth cycle of saffron can be taken advantage of to increase overall farm profitability and diversity at three New Mexico locations. Saffron growth and production occur in opposite seasons compared to annual vegetables.	$78,837.80
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$598,054.35	4. Chickpea, a High Value, Low Input Specialty Crop for New Mexico	New Mexico State University researchers and Extension Specialists will introduce climate resilient methods for producing chickpea varieties at water deficit conditions of New Mexico. We will demonstrate how different varieties of this high value; low input specialty crop can help farmers to improve their farms income using a climate smart approach.	$70,916.62
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$598,054.35	5. Increasing Awareness of New Mexico Chili	The New Mexico Department of Agriculture will help increase awareness and knowledge of New Mexico green chili by educating retailers, food service professionals, and consumers by providing educational workshops, seminars, and consumer education segments.	$47,070.35

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$598,054.35	6. High Speed Automated Screening of Aflatoxins in Pistachios during Harvesting and Throughout Crop Processing	New Mexico State University will build on successful automated sample processing with new embodiments of aflatoxin detection where the large, facility-suitable mass spectrometers with helium-based ionization methods are replaced with emerging, advanced, small technologies based on tandem reactive stage ion mobility spectrometers and helium free ion sources. Our goal is reduced expense of operation, lower cost of ownership, and increased portability where aflatoxin testing could be done using mobile platforms suitable for in-field use during harvesting or even before scanning a grove before harvesting.	$103,667.00
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$598,054.35	7. Education on Codling Moth Remediation through Organic Integrated Pest Management Techniques in an Historic Agua Fria Village Orchard	Reunity Resources, a closed-loop regenerative farm, commercial compost and soil yard, and environmental education center in the historic Village of Agua Fria, will design, implement and educate about an integrated pest management plan using organic methods to address codling moth damage in both their newly planted and historic (dating to the 1940's) orchards, where 75% of trees suffer from the pest. Codling moths are the most serious insect pest for apple and pear trees in New Mexico.	$81,341.29
New Mexico Department of Agriculture	$598,054.35	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.	$45,623.84
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,299,633.40	1. Identifying, Tracking, and Understanding Antimicrobial Resistance in Strains of the Fire Blight Pathogen, Erwinia amylovora, from New York Farms	Cornell AgriTech, CALS, Cornell University plans to develop and offer an improved antimicrobial resistance (AMR) survey and strain tracking platform for fire blight of apples to the New York apple growers. This platform would include samplings, AMR phenotyping & genotyping, QGIS strain tracking, genome sequencing, and aggressiveness assessment to enhance financial farm viability for apple growers and environmental stewardship for the New York apple industry.	$105,640.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,299,633.40	2. Reduced Susceptibility to Powdery Mildew by Precision Gene Editing	This project, to be carried out at Cornell University, will address a major production constraint in grape: powdery mildew (PM) disease. Using genome editing and meristem transformation technology and leveraging the recent discovery of two "susceptibility genes" in grape that are required for the disease to develop, the project will generate grapevines without these genes but otherwise identical to a commercial variety. The vines will be tested to determine whether, as predicted, the gene knockouts reduce susceptibility sufficiently for PM management without affecting growth and development. If successful, the project will deliver improved vines suitable for commercial use as well as breeding, and it would set the stage for using the approach in other varieties and potentially for additional diseases and production challenges growers face.	$68,354.00
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,299,633.40	3. Expanding Classical Biological Control of Spotted Wing Drosophila in New York Berry Crops	Cornell CALS Entomology will support New York fruit growers and consumers by establishing effective biological control of the invasive pest Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD), thereby reducing the use of costly and disruptive insecticides and promoting a more profitable industry. The project will focus on two non-native species of parasitoids, one released in New York after obtaining the appropriate USDA APHIS permit (Ganaspis brasiliensis or Gb1), and a second species that arrived accidently on its own (Leptopilina japonica or Lj).	$242,598.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,299,633.40	4. Feasibility Study of a Novel Non-destructive Sensing Technique Based on Fluorescence Fingerprinting for Measuring Rainfall Effect on Fungicide Resi	Cornell AgriTech, CALS, Cornell University plans to develop a new rapid, non-destructive and cost-effective sensing technique based on fluorescence fingerprinting to study rainfall effects on the fungicide residues and persistence on apples during pre-harvest. A simplified sample preparation, test and analysis workflow using the new sensing technique will be developed and validated with experiments. Influence of rainfall intensity and duration on the wash-off effect of selected fungicides from apple leaves and fruits will be studied using a customized rainfall simulator under greenhouse conditions. If the research is successful, New York apple producers will be able to assess fungicide residue under variable weather conditions and make more informed decisions on applications intervals and fungicide investments.	$98,906.00
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,299,633.40	5. New York Hard Cider Industry Assessment	The New York Cider Association will collaborate with Cornell CALS and Cornell Cooperative Extension's Harvest New York to conduct an assessment designed to capture comprehensive data that will identify the full scope of production, distribution, and sales of hard cider in New York State. This study will result in a baseline picture of the New York cider apple supply chain and provide insights into the opportunities for industry expansion. Outcomes of the study will include a database of growing locations, practices, current and planned acreages, varietals, purchasing and sales data.	$100,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,299,633.40	6. GroupGAP Training Program	Produce Safety Alliance personnel based at Cornell University, will develop of a GroupGAP training program to ensure New York State produce growers, packers, and food hubs receive training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), how to develop a farm food safety plan, and experience a mock audit. This training program will help growers assess microbial risks and implement practices to reduce identified risks. The farm food safety plan that is developed will be used to engage with the GroupGAP audit process. These efforts will help growers both meet regulatory requirements and specific buyer expectations. In addition, GroupGAP efforts across the state will be coordinated, including the recruitment of growers and grower groups to participate in the GroupGAP program and those who may be interested in being GroupGAP administrators.	$296,861.00
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,299,633.40	7. GAP Reimbursement Program	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets will promote the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audit as the best way to prepare for new regulatory programs and standards to be implemented under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The project will continue to focus support for first time and potentially subsequent GAP audits as New York GAP program data indicates that a significant number of farms continue participation with GAP audits after having their initial audit. The program will offer producers up to a $2000 reimbursement for a GAP audit, the cost of training, GAP-required water test, and cost of consultancy to prepare farm food safety plan (consultants for new applicants only.)	$135,797.12
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,299,633.40	8. Marketing and Promotion of New York Specialty Crops	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets will promote New York's specialty crops at trade shows across the country, increasing sales of specialty crops and broadening New York specialty crop producers' sales avenues nationally and via export.	$150,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	$1,299,633.40	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.	$92,388.88
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,200,620.86	1. Advancing Pumpkin Production in North Carolina	North Carolina State University (NCSU) will evaluate pumpkin cultivars for heat tolerance; test millimeter wave technology to predict yield weeks before harvest; determine plant spacing effects on yield and size of different sized pumpkin cultivars, and corresponding budget analysis. One of the goals of this project is to standardize the pumpkin size categories for the industry based on bin counts.	$131,535.56
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,200,620.86	2. Genomic Tools for Christmas Tree Health	This project will be led by the North Carolina State University (NCSU) Christmas Tree Genetics Program and if awarded will accelerate genetic development of Phytophthora root rot (PRR) resistant Fraser fir through an integration of genomic breeding strategies. We expect project deliverables will help address knowledge gaps of pest resilience and push conventional conifer breeding strategies and integration with genomic information into a new era.	$140,228.83
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,200,620.86	3. Grapevine Pierce's Disease Management in NC	North Carolina State University will provide North Carolina winegrape growers with management tools for Pierce's disease (PD). The NC grape and wine industry is the fastest growing Agritourism sector, with a $6.1 billion economic impact for NC, and is threatened by PD. Our objectives to strengthen the NC wine industry are: 1) To evaluate relative occurrence and species composition of insect vectors in NC wine growing regions; 2) To evaluate PD resistant winegrape cultivars for suitability in NC; 3) To conduct efficacy trials of market available bacteriophages in NC climates; and 4) To provide NC wine-grape growers with updated PD management recommendations, based on our findings.	$78,703.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,200,620.86	4. Improved Blackberry Resilience to Freeze Injury	North Carolina State University and NC Cooperative Extension will address the impacts of cold injury on yield potential and sustainability of floricane-fruiting blackberry. We hypothesize these limitations can be overcome by developing critical information to guide cold injury management and alternative strategies for freeze protection.	$133,890.81
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,200,620.86	5. Integrated Pest Management for Native Plant Production	North Carolina State University will increase the profitability and supply of native plants by developing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tactics to manage pests and diseases while protecting pollinators, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. Our goals are to identify insecticide products and protocols that effectively manage pests on 20 native species and cultivars but reduce harm to non-target insects and to develop a Pre-Planting Interval so growers know how long before sale insecticides can be applied so plants are safe for beneficials once planted.	$149,192.10
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,200,620.86	6. Management of Fusarium Wilt of Blackberry	The Fruit Pathology and Entomology Programs at North Carolina State University (NCSU) will improve recommendations for the management of Fusarium wilt of blackberry. Fusarium wilt of blackberry is an emerging disease in North Carolina which results in the rapid wilt, decline, and death of young (1-5 years old) blackberry plants. An applied research project will be conducted to identify the range of pathogen distribution throughout NC in commercial plantings and wild blackberries, evaluate production and environmental factors that may increase the likelihood of Fusarium wilt of blackberry, evaluate commercial cultivars for tolerance and resistance to Fusarium wilt, conduct fungicide assays to identify the most efficacious fungicides protection against the pathogen, and identify the role of pollinators in disease transmission.	$149,607.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,200,620.86	7. Management of Western Flower Thrips	The Walgenbach Entomology Lab at North Carolina State University's Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center will develop a sustainable management program for western flower thrips (WFT), a serious pest of North Carolina's tomato and pepper crops. This project will develop an integrated program that will allow tomato and pepper producers to reduce reliance on frequent applications of broad-spectrum insecticides through increased knowledge of the status of insecticide resistance across the state, use of new mode of action pesticides that have friendly environmental and human health profiles, and use of reflective mulches to suppress thrips populations and reduce the need for insecticide sprays.	$149,998.00
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,200,620.86	8. Strawberry Cultivar Evaluation in NC	NC State University will evaluate strawberry cultivars at locations across North Carolina with the purpose of informing growers of cultivar performance (yield, fruit quality, and consumer acceptability) within the state's different growing regions. The deliverables of this research will be informative demonstration days, grower presentations, and extension portal resources which will allow growers to make informed decisions on strawberry cultivars grown in NC.	$74,800.28
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,200,620.86	9. Unearth Pathogenic Nematode Prevalence on Vegetables	North Carolina State University will identify the prevalence, spatial distribution, and population density of root-knot and other plant-parasitic nematodes affecting fruiting vegetable crops (tomato, pepper, and cucurbit) across North Carolina, with a focus on western NC. Through correlation analysis, we will identify relationships between population densities of important plant pathogenic nematodes and management practices (e.g., fumigation, crop rotation, resistant variety deployment).	$154,497.90
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$1,200,620.86	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.	$35,618.87

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	1. North Dakota Specialty Crop Outreach and Education Series	The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) will focus on outreach and education to promote specialty crops through a variety of channels. Using a farmers market video campaign and student specialty crop recipe kits; we hope to target North Dakota populations that need a better understanding of the economic impacts and health benefits of specialty crops. While showing the importance of purchasing specialty crops from local farmer's markets. The additional focus will be on educating producers to develop their businesses through food safety, promotion, and better growing practices. Supporting producer knowledge will also increase public support and sales of specialty crops	$138,113.44
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	2. International and Domestic Promotion of North Dakota Specialty Crops	The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) will partner with local and regional specialty crop companies, producers, processors, and producer associations to increase promotion and sales of specialty crops. NDDA will identify trade shows and trade missions that have the potential to grow the consumption of North Dakota specialty crops domestically and internationally.	$300,000.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	3. Evaluating Molecular Tests to Supplement North Dakota's Seed Certification Program and Field Detection of Bacterial Blight Pathogens in Dry, Edible Beans	The diagnostic laboratory within the North Dakota State Seed Department (NDSSD) has partnered with the National Agricultural Genotyping Center (NAGC) to validate a molecular test and supplement the current bioassay test. The integration of a molecular test at both diagnostic laboratories will: 1) strengthen the seed certification program at NDSSD and 2) make new diagnostic tests available to researchers, agronomists, and growers through NAGC's testing services.	$154,818.85

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	4. Building a Genotyping Panel to Explore Relationships Among Host Genetics, Pathogen Diversity, and Colony Fitness Within Beekeeping Operations and Breeding Programs	The National Agricultural Genotyping Center (NAGC) aims to increase the accessibility of genetic tools for the beekeeping industry. This project builds a SSR genotyping panel to measure genetic diversity within breeding populations of honeybees and validates a rapid genotyping test for the target-site mutation leading to amitraz resistance in the major pest, Varroa destructor. The NAGC proposes to build a bee genotyping panel to evaluate the genetic diversity of beekeeping operations and breeding programs within North Dakota.	$257,800.50
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	5. Global Growth Opportunities for ND Specialty Crop Producers and Processors	The North Dakota Trade Office (NDTO) will create and expand opportunities for ND Specialty Crop Companies to showcase and establish their products in the global market. This project will promote maximum exposure and foster positive business growth through increased awareness of ND specialty crops.	$388,695.50
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	6. Optimizing Nitric Oxide Based Treatment Strategy to Improve Suberization of Wounded and Cut Seed Tubers	Potato Research Program of USDA-ARS, Fargo, North Dakota will establish an agreement with the North Dakota State Department of Agriculture to advance research on optimizing nitric oxide (NO) based treatment strategy to improve wound healing (WH) of bruised whole tubers in storage and cut seed pieces prior to the planting.	$112,405.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	7. Direct Tuber Testing of Potato as an Alternative Method to Hawaii Post-Harvest Tests	The North Dakota State Seed Department (NDSSD) will support potato production in North Dakota by evaluating direct tuber testing as an alternative Potato Virus Y (PVY) detection method to Hawaii Post-Harvest Tests. This project would benefit North Dakota's seed potato industry as direct tuber testing could provide more accurate PVY test results during Post-Harvest Testing. Earlier Post-Harvest Test results could provide a competitive advantage to North Dakota growers in marketing their seed.	$78,957.17

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	8. Development of qPCR to Detect Glyphosate in Potato Plants Quickly	North Dakota State University will collaborate with the USDA ARS to develop a qPCR method to detect glyphosate in potato leaves and tubers. This will provide quick diagnosis and save seed growers and commercial growers potentially millions of dollars by providing rapid and accurate detection. The objective of this project is to develop an aptamer for qPCR analysis that can be used in the field to detect glyphosate in the same day it is sampled or at a laboratory.	$106,444.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	9. Fighting Two Phases of Black Dot Disease of Potatoes	North Dakota State University (NDSU) potato pathologists will establish baseline sensitivity to QoI and SDHI fungicides in Colletotrichum coccodes, causal agent of potato black dot, and determine if a shift has occurred to these fungicides. We propose to begin to collect data on both disease phases in the same potato plants grown under field conditions. In these initial evaluations it is critical to establish protocols that will effectively allow us to bridge the assessments of both disease phases and will facilitate breeding for resistance to black dot disease.	$110,584.80
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	10. Improving Management Recommendations for Three Economically Important Dry Edible Bean Diseases	The Department of Plant Pathology at North Dakota State University will mitigate the economic losses that dry edible bean growers experience due to Fusarium root rot, Rhizoctonia root rot, and common bacterial blight by evaluating the efficacy and economic viability of seed and foliar applied fungicides and chemical products, developing or modifying management recommendations, and disseminating the results to stakeholders through grower meetings, field days, publications and media partners.	$131,292.60

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	11. Advancing Pea Seed Quality Analysis: Harnessing Hyperspectral Imaging and Machine Learning for Precision Agriculture	North Dakota State University (NDSU) is spearheading a groundbreaking project to advance the quality analysis of pea seeds within the agricultural sector. The project's ultimate aim is to develop a user-friendly machine-learning tool capable of predicting the functional properties of pulse ingredients, leveraging detailed genetic and environmental data. The project will also comprehensively assess the impact of genetic and environmental factors on pea seed quality. Anticipated outcomes include substantial benefits for pea growers and processors, as well as the wider agricultural industry.	$124,818.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	12. Polyploid Induction for Sterility Breeding of Ornamental Trees and Shrubs	The North Dakota State University proposes to induce or develop polyploids of several different woody trees and shrubs that are well-adapted to North Dakota. These tetraploids will be utilized for future breeding efforts to produce sterile cultivars to be used in the ND nursery and landscape trade. This goal aligns with the NDDA research priority of “investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes”.	$63,090.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	13. Molecular Approaches to Improve Chickpea Tolerance to Fusarium Root Rot	Plant breeders and plant pathologists of North Dakota State University will work together to investigate chickpea resistance to different Fusarium species. Furthermore, we will investigate the molecular aspects of how ND-native Fusarium spp. may be used as biocontrol agents. This project is designed to use a combination of traditional plant pathology approaches and advanced molecular techniques to build the foundation for long-lasting genetic resistance to Fusarium root rot and improved Fusarium screening assays to be tailored to North Dakota fields.	$134,106.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	14. Development of Stone Milling Operation for Field Pea and Processing of Flour for Enhanced Functionality	The Northern Crops Institute would potentially improve market demand for pea farmers by developing stone milling technology for production of pea flour and subsequent processing for flour to improve functionality. The proposed project aims to investigate stone milling parameters for pea flour production and the influence of heat treatments on the functionality and physicochemical properties of pea flours.	$44,285.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	15. Field to Fork: Expanding Knowledge and Use of Specialty Crops Among Adults and Children	North Dakota State University Extension specialists will enhance knowledge and safe food handling of specialty fruit and vegetable crops from field to fork. This project will create new educational specialty crop materials targeting both youth and adults. Through the development of curricular materials such as Extension publications, lesson plans and presentations, information releases, displays and presentations, participants will increase their knowledge of specialty crops.	$97,050.40
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	16. Exploring the Impact of Potato Genetic Variability on Rhizosphere Microbiome Dynamics	The potato breeder and pathologist from North Dakota State University and the breeder from the University of Minnesota will work to determine the role of host genetics on microbe recruitment from the soil, specifically as it is associated with Verticillium wilt severity. This proposal is the first step in investigating the potential of this novel research area in improving potato production.	$259,361.60
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	17. Pathogen Prevalence, Host Resistance, and Economics of Bean Rust Resistance via Genetics and Fungicide Efficacy	The research proposed by the North Dakota State University will address critical aspects of rust disease management in dry bean cultivation. The prevalence of rust in the region will be studied by conducting disease surveys. Any changes in virulence or development of infectious rust races will be examined via classical and genomics tools, including DNA sequencing. The project will support the development of new rust-resistance cultivars and generate new knowledge about the economics of host resistance in relation to fungicide and/or biological applications. The project activities will improve the economic returns to North Dakota dry bean growers.	$150,048.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	18. Digging Deeper in Potatoes by Developing an Electronic Potato Storage Book	North Dakota State University Extension Potato Agronomy program will develop an electronic potato storage book complete with photo galleries, research data and other information that will assist potato growers in storing potatoes to improve management decisions. The book will include information on best practices to store potato tubers. This will allow potato growers to be able to dig as deep as they desire in a subject and gain the knowledge they need.	$70,070.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	19. Increasing Biological Nitrogen Fixation in Dry Beans by Using New Hydrogen-Recycling Rhizobium Strains	The North Dakota State University dry bean breeding program will promote sustainable bean production by developing breeding lines that either maintain or increase their productivity under a combination of reduced application of nitrogen (N) fertilizer plus efficient N-fixing strains of Rhizobium. This project aims to i) breed dry beans that fix more N2, ii) compare the nodulation ability of the NDSU dry bean breeding germplasm in non-inoculated plants vs. Hup+ bean rhizobial strains under greenhouse conditions, and iii) validate and identify genomic regions associated with nodulation and SNF abilities and develop molecular markers for genetic improvement of SNF in dry beans.	$199,700.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	20. Integrated Root Rot Management in Field Peas with Planting Date, Seed Treatment, and Tolerant Varieties	The North Dakota State University Carrington Research Extension Center seeks to conduct field research and outreach to stakeholders on improving management of Fusarium and Aphanomyces root rots and Fusarium wilt in field peas, diseases that are serious constraints on field pea production in North Dakota. The project will evaluate the integrated use of early planting, fungicide seed treatment, and tolerant varieties for management of Fusarium and Aphanomyces and will assess the stability of disease tolerance across fields.	$97,817.48

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	21. Increasing Pulse-Based Fiber Utilization in Foods by Understanding its Functional Properties	North Dakota State University will explore the potential applications of ND pulse grain-based dietary fiber (DF) in the food systems to benefit both consumers and growers. The aim of this project is to help fill the current Fiber Intake Gap, a deficiency between current and recommended fiber consumption by using pulse grains (dry pea and lentil) based DF as functional ingredients in food systems. This research will generate valuable information to promote the utilization of pulse grains in the food industry and assist in raising consumer's awareness of pulse consumption.	$112,000.00
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	$3,380,166.13	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.	$226,080.88
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources	$244,562.69	1. Crop Rotation	The CNMI Division of Agriculture will partner with the government-owned Kagman's farm plot farmers or private land-owned farmers and form a group of growers that can plant and grow specialty crops for sale at the Garapan Public Market. The idea is to organize farmers that can collaborate and grow various crops throughout the season and also alternating crops among each other. The program will contract a veteran, experienced, and skilled farmer to work with the existing farmers in Kagman to educate and assist them in implementing sound farming practices and techniques to produce seasonal varieties of specialty crops.	$64,800.00
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources	$244,562.69	2. Garden to School	The CNMI Division of Agriculture will partner with the CNMI public schools and private schools to develop at least 12 school gardens, with 6 gardens on Saipan, 2 on Tinian, and 2 on Rota. This project aims assist the schools in self-sustainability and increase intake of locally grown crops.	$64,800.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources	$244,562.69	3. Specialty Crop Production Development	CNMI Division of Agriculture and Garapan Public Market will develop new and enhance existing value-added specialty crop products that are marketable and easily sold locally and regionally.	$80,374.56
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources	$244,562.69	Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and postaward activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	$34,569.99
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$608,110.73	1. GAP for Schools: Food Safety Training, Workforce Skills Development & Garden to Cafe Implementation	Green Umbrella will support Cincinnati Public Schools in expanding its procurement of Ohio specialty crops by incorporating GAP food safety training into the Ag Ed Career Tech curriculum, so student-grown crops can be purchased by Dining Services. At the conclusion of the project, resources and procedures reflecting learnings from the pilot will allow other schools across OH and beyond to implement similar programs.	$81,965.17
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$608,110.73	2. Development of a Diagnostic Assay for the Detection of Fungicide Resistance in Diseases of Specialty Crops	The Ohio State University, Department of Plant Pathology, in collaboration with the C. Wayne Ellett Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic (PPDC) will develop an advanced, for-fee, high-throughput screening assay to address fungicide resistance in pathogens such as Alternaria, Colletotrichum and Neopestalotiopsis, which are significant causal agents of diseases affecting small fruits, tree fruits, and vegetables. Results will be disseminated to stakeholders through the PPDC website, and established on-line, in-person and through printed approaches.	$90,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$608,110.73	3. Diagnosis and Management of Emerging Bacterial Pathogens of Tomato in Ohio	This project will directly support Ohio specialty crop tomato producers in tackling a new, emerging tomato pathogen called Xanthomonas arboricola that causes a disease called bacterial spot. Our goal for this project is three-fold to provide a) a rapid diagnostic tool for the Ohio tomato industry, b) resistant varieties to control this new pathogen and c) outreach materials to directly reach producers with the information. This goal will be achieved through the combined expertise of four research and Extension teams at The Ohio State University.	$110,000.00
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$608,110.73	4. Boosting Bell Pepper Yield and Phytochemical Content: A Drip Irrigation Approach with Gibberellic Acid and Naphthalene Acetic Acid	The Ohio State University will support Ohio farmers in increasing phytochemical-enriched bell pepper production through innovative methods involving Gibberellic acid and Naphthalene Acetic Acid, alongside creating a management guide, and executing a comprehensive outreach strategy. The project aims to develop a novel and economically feasible technology to enhance bell pepper production while improving farmers' production skills to mitigate risks and expand acreage in Ohio.	$85,000.00
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$608,110.73	5. Counting Bees to Save Dollars: Improving OH Vegetable Pollination	The Ohio State University will partner with Ohio vegetable growers to improve pollinator outcomes in specialty crop production by creating evidence-based pollinator supplementation recommendations. This proposal will improve the livelihood of OH stakeholders through increased revenue and increased agricultural sustainability through improved wild pollinator communities.	$79,668.00
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$608,110.73	6. Enhancing Growth and Expanding Profitability of Ohio’s Ornamental Nursery Industry	The Ohio State University aims to address the labor-intensive nature of ornamental nursery stock production in Ohio by investigating the use of plant growth regulators (PGRs) to reduce dependency on hand labor, improve production efficiency, increase plant quality, and enhance the competitiveness and economic sustainability. Results will establish taxa-specific PGR use recommendations and develop educational resources for successful and safe adoption and utilization by the Ohio nursery industry.	$110,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Ohio Department of Agriculture	$608,110.73	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.	$48,225.55
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$545,444.79	1. Diagnostics for Specialty Crops in Oklahoma	Accurate identification of plant pathogens & pest is essential for proper management. Researchers at Oklahoma State University will conduct advance testing on samples submitted to the OSU Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory by specialty crop growers. Results will be summarized in a monthly newsletter.	$50,000.00
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$545,444.79	2. Guiding and Expediting Breeding Strategies for Heat Tolerant Tomatoes	Oklahoma State University will improve the capacity for Oklahoma tomato production by developing a planting date model based on cultivar performance and evaluating nutritional capacity of heat tolerant cultivars in elevated temperatures.	$65,734.00
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$545,444.79	3. Managing Beneficial Mycorrhizal Fungal Inoculation for More Efficient and Resilient Specialty Crop Production	OSU will explore adding mycorrhizal fungi to soilless media to reduce environmental and economic costs while increasing specialty crop production, disseminating information to stakeholders through meetings and publications.	$98,000.00
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$545,444.79	4. Use of Biochar as a Soil Amendment for the Ornamental, Vegetable, and Turf Industry	Research at Oklahoma State University will use biochar to improve soil health by increasing water/nutrient retention allowing for increased plant growth of specialty crops with information being provided to stakeholders.	$97,830.00
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$545,444.79	5. Analyzing Market Demand for Native Climate-Smart Pecans Grown in Oklahoma	Oklahoma State University aims to investigate the market demand and consumers' willingness to pay for climate-smart Oklahoma grown native pecans to inform policies and market outreach.	$93,110.00
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$545,444.79	6. Cultivating Healthier Communities: Promoting Crop and Nutritional Diversity in Local Specialty Crop Production	Through this project the scientists at Oklahoma State University will address productivity and nutritional potency of four different vegetable crops to support and strengthen local specialty crops production and promoting access to fresh and nutritious foods.	$94,842.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry	$545,444.79	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.	$43,432.82
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$1,961,879.20	1. Expanded Support for Areawide Biocontrol of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug	ODA Insect Pest Prevention and Management and OSU Extension Hood River will expand access to biological control for brown marmorated stink bug (Halyomorpha halys), an invasive pest of specialty crops (hazelnuts, apples, pears, cherries, beans, and more). Stink bug feeding damages the developing fruit, nuts and vegetables, preventing growth and destroying the marketability. We will do this by mass-rearing its natural enemy the Samurai Wasp (Trissolcus japonicus), providing growers with beneficial insect releases, and monitoring the wasp's success at reducing pest pressure.	$164,363.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$1,961,879.20	2. Expanding Capacity Building Development for Latine Specialty Crop Farmers	Adelante will establish a contractual relationship with the State Department of Agriculture to lead and execute this project. Adelante and its key partners (Regional, Higher Education, and Local Non-profits) will collaborate to sustain and expand capacity building training for Latine specialty crop growers in rural Washington County, Oregon.	$175,520.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$1,961,879.20	3. Black Community Food and Engagement Evaluation Program	Black Food Sovereignty Coalition will expand our farm based experiential learning opportunities through community-led events at Black Futures Farm in order to promote the awareness, consumption, and value of Oregon's specialty crops in Black communities. Additionally, these programs will serve as vehicles in curating evaluation mechanisms to develop a standardized feedback toolkit for our partners who execute culturally specific agricultural activities with specialty crops in our local and regional food systems network.	$170,779.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$1,961,879.20	4. Developing Harney County's Agricultural Market and Economy for Underserved Residents	High Desert Partnership will serve as the applicant organization that convenes the Biz Harney Opportunity Collaborative Food Systems Committee. This committee of diverse partners are dedicated to building food security in Harney County by growing Harney County's agricultural market and local economy through the production of specialty crops, including direct business development for producers, establishing and operating a farmers' market, advertising for local food businesses, and more.	$111,130.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$1,961,879.20	5. Oregon Craft Cider Market Development and Access through the NW Cider Symposium	The Northwest Cider Association (NWCA) is the applicant and will execute this project to address market development and access issues that will benefit up to 80 Oregon cideries and 200 specialty crop producers who supply them. Craft, alcoholic ciders are value-added products that utilize Oregon farmers' supplies of apples, grapes, cane berries, stone fruit, cranberries, hops and botanical herbs.	$174,680.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$1,961,879.20	6. Buyer Research and Market Development for Oregon Caneberries and Strawberries	The Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission, partnering with the Oregon Strawberry Commission, proposes to engage with retail, food service and manufacturing buyers of frozen Oregon berries for a three-part grant proposal in 2025. The first phase of the project will execute market research to determine current buyer attitudes and perceptions of Oregon berries. This research will help the industry pinpoint the priorities and potential obstacles when buyers are choosing frozen fruit from Oregon or other growing regions in the current economic market.	$119,819.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$1,961,879.20	7. Technology to Improve Pesticide Use in Vegetable and Seed Production	Oregon State University will lead this project which will examine the adoption of robotics and aerial drone technologies for specialty crops such as beets for fresh market and turnip for seed. The FarmDroid, an autonomous planting and weeding robot utilizing real-time kinematic GPS, offers a revolution for conventional farming practices. Powered by solar energy, Farmdroid's net-zero carbon footprint makes it suitable for Oregon's fresh market vegetable growing season.	$174,931.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$1,961,879.20	8. Reducing Regulatory Burden From Endangered Species Act Label Implementation	Oregon State University and Compliance Services International will develop a project that addresses the issue of grower and pesticide applicator compliance with US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements enacted for protection of threatened and endangered species. This project will work with Oregon specialty crop pesticide users to reduce the current burden of navigating FIFRA Endangered Species Act mitigations.	$172,304.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$1,961,879.20	9. Evaluating Soil Fumigation and Cover Crops in Potato Fields	Researchers at the Oregon State University-Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension (OSU-HAREC) will lead and execute this project. The Columbia Basin is one of the most important potato production regions. Growers often use soil fumigation practices to eliminate potential pest issues. However, it is not clear how soil fumigation, especially various fumigant compounds, such as metam sodium, Telone, and chloropicrin impacts soil health and crop production, while they eliminate soilborne diseases and nematodes. This project will address these issues based on field trials at OSU-HAREC with comprehensive sampling and analysis.	$175,000.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$1,961,879.20	10. Market Research and Campaign to Increase Oregon Christmas Tree Sales	The Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association is launching a pilot advertising project with a marketing agency. Through comprehensive market research, the project aims to craft a strategic campaign promoting Oregon-grown Noble Fir and Douglas Fir trees in West Coast regional markets. The primary objective is to boost sales of Oregon Christmas trees, expanding the market and fostering growth for growers local to Oregon and nationwide.	$173,000.00
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$1,961,879.20	11. Increasing Turfgrass Sales Through Sustainable Lawns Education and Marketing	Pratum Co-op will lead the project to increase retail sales of Oregon turfgrass seed by 5% by marketing to US homeowners. This goal will be accomplished through the following objectives and deliverables: 1) online media campaign; 2) an influencer partnership; 3) point of purchase marketing collateral; and 4) tradeshow attendance.	$175,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Oregon Department of Agriculture	$1,961,879.20	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.	$155,868.26
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,010,120.93	1. Sustainable Weed Management with Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation and Soil Steaming	Penn State University will assess the efficacy and viability of Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation (ASD) and Soil Steaming. These approaches will be tested to see if they are a sustainable way to management weeds in Pennsylvania vegetable cropping systems.	$98,158.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,010,120.93	2. Optimize Cultural Management Practices for Leading Potato Varieties in Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Co-Operative Potato Growers, Inc. will partner with Sterman Masser, Inc. and The Pennsylvania State University on this project to develop cultural management practice guidelines to maximize tuber yield and quality of leading potato varieties in Pennsylvania.	$101,000.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,010,120.93	3. Southern Blight: An Emerging Disease Threatening the Pennsylvania Tree Fruit Industry	The Pennsylvania State University will mitigate apple tree death by southern blight by developing science-based management strategies that identify resistant rootstocks, effective fungicides, and effective fungicide application strategies to prevent disease. Results will be disseminated to stakeholders throughout Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic region through bilingual (English and Spanish) extension programs, including grower meetings, field days, podcast episodes, online and print Extension publications, and scientific journals.	$89,943.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,010,120.93	4. Characterization and Diagnosis of Specialty Crop Pathogens	The primary goal of this collaborative project between Penn State and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) Plant Pathology Program is to support PDA's efforts to detect, monitor, and respond to specialty crop pathogens. The resulting knowledge and tools will help a) detect and control high-impact diseases, thus helping reduce specialty crop production costs and prevent large-scale regulatory actions, b) understand the temporal and spatial diversity and distribution patterns of major pathogens, which will help guide effective and focused monitoring, and c) inform stakeholders about emerging diseases early.	$75,000.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,010,120.93	5. Creating New Market Opportunities with High-value Italian Specialty Vegetables	Penn State University will evaluate the agronomic and quality performance of different selections of high-value Italian vegetable crops and their response to different agronomic practices under Pennsylvania pedoclimatic conditions and will disseminate research-based knowledge through Extension and outreach activities.	$80,235.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,010,120.93	6. Understanding Economic Potential for Organic Hazelnut Production Systems in Pennsylvania	Rodale Institute will quantify the costs of establishment and expected returns for hazelnut production systems in Pennsylvania, as well as assess processing and marketing potential to evaluate both risks and opportunities for hazelnut production in the state. Additionally, this project will establish carbon sequestration potential for hazelnut production systems through direct measurements of biomass accumulation. This data is critical in supporting policy decisions and scaling up opportunities for widespread adoption of resilient agroecosystems.	$122,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,010,120.93	7. Novel Spectral Robot for Early-Stage Disease Detection/Treatment in Mushroom Farm	Researcher at Pennsylvania State University (PSU) will integrate spectral vision system and robotic solutions to develop a novel spectral robot for asymptomatic disease detection and rapid treatment in mushroom farm. The department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE) collaborating with Mushroom Research Center (MRC) at PSU will conduct this research and establish the agreement with the State department of Agriculture to lead and execute the project.	$99,926.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,010,120.93	8. Screening Cucurbit Varieties for Drought Tolerance, Pest Resistance, and Pollination Efficiency	Pennsylvania State University will assess various cucurbit varieties for drought tolerance, pest resistance, and pollination efficiency in Pennsylvania. Research results will provide growers with science-based recommendations for cucurbit varieties that exhibit resilience to climate stressors and pest pressures.	$81,003.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,010,120.93	9. Diversified Vegetable Pre-Apprenticeship Program	Starting in 2021, the LEAF Project has worked in collaboration with Pasa Sustainable Agriculture to implement a specialty crop growers training program is called the Diversified Vegetable Pre-Apprenticeship program which is now certified by the PA Department of Labor and Industry. This program, funded by the Specialty Crop Block (HR 133) program was highly successful in training young people in specialty crop production and the LEAF Project is uniquely positioned to continue to grow this program because LEAF helped design the initial program, LEAF has a youth run farm which uses an employment-based model and has highly credentialed and professional staff with years of background in agricultural education.	$96,606.00
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,010,120.93	10. Norris Square Neighborhood Project: Cultivating After-School Leaders	Norris Square Neighborhood Project (NSNP) aims to enhance sustainable agriculture practices and cultural production in the Kensington neighborhood. NSNP's after-school programs, Semillas del Futuro and Raíces de Cambio will focus on developing leadership skills and cultivating specialty crops from the Caribbean diaspora.	$71,887.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	$1,010,120.93	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.	$87,483.55
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$485,379.75	1. Expanding the Quality of the Coffee Cup in Puerto Rico	The Innovation Fund for Agricultural Development of Puerto Rico (FIDA) and the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (PRDA) are offering Q-Grader certification courses to farmers, providing an invaluable opportunity to improve the quality and value of their products. The project will not only benefit the direct participants but will also contribute to the sustainable development of the coffee sector by improving the quality and reputation of the coffees produced.	$34,670.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$485,379.75	2. Cultivating Opportunities in International Trade	The Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (PRDA) is aware that participating in international events with farmers is an invaluable opportunity for the development and expansion of Puerto Rican agriculture. This project will provide travel stipends to eligible specialty crop growers to attend various trade shows.	$90,600.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$485,379.75	3.Capacity Building for Agricultural Success	The Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture and the Innovation Fund for Agricultural Development (FIDA) have joined together to strengthen and empower the island's farmers by providing them with the tools and knowledge necessary to successfully manage their agricultural businesses. This initiative focuses on offering comprehensive training adapted to the specific needs of the local agricultural community. These trainings will cover a wide range of vital topics, including agricultural planning, financial management, sustainable and health practices, crop diversification and marketing strategies.	$153,289.37

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$485,379.75	4. We Continue Cultivating the Future with the AGREDU Program	The Innovation Fund for Agricultural Development (FIDA) will continue the AGREDU program, which will offer training, workshops, tutoring, and events to elementary and higher-grade students in the public system of Puerto Rico. The general objective of this project is to continue promoting agriculture in Puerto Rico's schools to encourage food education and interest in the agricultural sector with the development of practical skills in students.	$165,500.00
Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico	$485,379.75	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.	$38,613.86
Rhode Island Division of Agriculture	$270,657.79	1. RIDEM Expansion of RI Grown Week	The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment will work to expand RI Grown Week to the retail sector in order to drive the knowledge and consumption of locally grown specialty crops and value-added products made with local specialty crops. The project will focus on expansion and awareness in the retail space, specifically groceries and restaurants. Additionally, the project will support specialty crop producers throughout RI offering support with marketing, branding, program improvements and access for producers.	$119,588.20
Rhode Island Division of Agriculture	$270,657.79	2. Sowing Knowledge, Reaping Change: Empowering Rhode Island Students to Lead the Farm to School Movement	Farm Fresh Rhode Island's Farm to School & Community Education team will pilot a program focused around building capacity for school groups to learn and teach about local food systems and Rhode Island specialty crops. The program will utilize both a train-the-trainer model and a service-learning approach that asks students to turn what they have learned into real change in their school food environment. Students will learn to conduct taste tests using locally sourced fruits and vegetables, educate and engage their peers and school community about Rhode Island specialty crops, and design a service project for both exploratory learning and informed decision-making.	$37,526.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Rhode Island Division of Agriculture	$270,657.79	3. Tastes of Home: Improving Yields of Tropical Specialty Vegetables for Immigrants in Rhode Island	The University of Rhode Island (URI) Vegetable Research and Extension program is proposing to work with Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT) to conduct research to improve the yields of tropical specialty vegetables grown in Rhode Island, with a focus on okra (Abelmoschus esculentus) and bitter ball (Solanum aethiopicum). Immigrant foodways have long shaped our state cuisine. Many recent immigrants come from tropical regions of Africa, Asia and Central and South America and their foodways include vegetables not traditionally grown in Rhode Island. We will conduct trials over two years to evaluate heirloom and modern varieties for earliness, suitability to plasticulture production, yields and quality. Research results will be shared with all interested farmers through field days at URI and at the SCLT farm, trial reports, and videos.	$60,351.87
Rhode Island Division of Agriculture	$270,657.79	4. Measurable Enhancements to Specialty Crop Market Competitiveness for Historically Underserved Farmers and Consumers in RI	Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT) will support 2,800 of our low-income, low-access neighbors in Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls - 400 more than last year - to incorporate more specialty crops in their diets during the 2025 and 2026 growing seasons. With our Farmer Training & Support (FTS) team, we will provide outreach and education on pest and disease management to 31 rural and urban farmers growing specialty crops. We will share best practices for pest and disease control with 26 farmers enrolled in the Aggregation Program and, in the spring of 2025, supply them with necessary supplies to successfully implement new strategies that will increase their production.	$33,478.70
Rhode Island Division of Agriculture	$270,657.79	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.	$19,551.87

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$603,483.98	1. AI-Powered Agricultural Database to Predict and Maximize Specialty Crop Yields	Advent Innovations will develop an intelligent agricultural database and dashboard, named `Advent Digi-Farm' to monitor crop health and growth, control soil health by constant monitoring, mitigate specialty crop loss, and predict yield through data collection, storage, and processing.	$59,797.00
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$603,483.98	2. Integrated Management of Lima Bean Anthracnose Disease	Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center will improve integrated management of anthracnose disease in lima bean by identifying rotation crops and planting dates that lower disease risk and enhance yield, via greenhouse and field trials, respectively, and by communicating results to stakeholders at extension meetings.	$49,970.40
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$603,483.98	3. Development of a Pathogen Viability Test for Brassica Seeds to Improve Management of Bacterial Blight	Clemson University will develop a pathogen viability diagnostic tool that allows faster detection of the bacterial blight pathogen in brassica seeds with higher sensitivity and specificity and apply this tool to survey the seeds in commercial production of brassica leafy greens in South Carolina. The project results will contribute to a clean brassica seed stock and improved management of bacterial blight with reduced disease incidence in brassica fields. In addition, this tool can be applied in future research to evaluate different seed treatment methods, and to identify other inoculum sources in the brassica production cycle.	$49,996.00
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$603,483.98	4. Exploring Potential for Breeding Bacterial Canker Resistance in Peach	Clemson University will improve economic sustainability of the South Carolina peach industry by enabling breeding for bacterial canker tolerance in peach cultivars. Understanding genetic base of peach tolerance to bacterial canker and potential for development of bacterial canker tolerant peach cultivars will be disseminated to stakeholders via grower meetings and field days.	$46,284.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$603,483.98	5. Price Discovery Tool for Direct Marketed South Carolina Fruits and Vegetables	Clemson University will develop a price discovery tool in cooperation with specialty crop producers, farmers markets, market managers, and agribusiness stakeholders to benefit fruit and vegetable production in the state. The main purpose is greater price data available for specialty crop producers in South Carolina to base decisions on. It is anticipated Clemson University, SC Dept. of Ag., SC Association of Farmers Markets, SC Specialty Crop Growers, SC Farm Bureau, and others will utilize and benefit from this information as well.	$29,467.15
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$603,483.98	6. Expanding South Carolina Specialty Crop Sales through Trade Show Promotion and Educational Conferences	The South Carolina Department of Agriculture will expand the states specialty crop sales by promoting South Carolina grown specialty crops to national and international markets at the Global Produce and Floral Show, and by equipping small and/or beginning farms with the knowledge and skills needed to expand and maintain their farm operations through educational conferences.	$20,000.00
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$603,483.98	7. Survey of Tomato Disease in South Carolina	Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center will ascertain current and emerging disease threats to the tomato industry and factors influencing the probability of disease, based on stratified cluster sampling survey data that will be collected from commercial tomato farms in South Carolina.	$55,986.00
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$603,483.98	8. Petals to People: Enhancing Access to Locally Grown Specialty Cut Flowers in South Carolina	The South Carolina Cut Flower Growers Marketing Co-op aims to enhance access to locally grown specialty cut flowers by implementing a streamlined distribution process catered specifically to floral designers. Through the establishment of an online marketplace coupled with a statewide logistics system, the project intends to simplify transactions for buyers, predominantly florists, while concurrently offering a platform for growers to broaden their sales avenues and showcase their distinctive specialty-grown floriculture crops.	$36,487.90

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$603,483.98	9. Encouraging and Attracting the Next Generation of South Carolina Specialty Crop Farmers through an Internship Incentive Program	The South Carolina Specialty Crop Growers Association will build capacity for the future of the South Carolina specialty crop industry, through the promotion and support of on-farm internships at small and mid-sized specialty crop farms, developing the skills and knowledge to produce specialty crops in younger generations.	$5,875.00
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$603,483.98	10. Development of Reduced-Risk Fungicide Mixtures for Strawberry Disease Management	Clemson University will reduce pesticide risk in commercial strawberry production by developing application mixtures with fewer conventional fungicides. These mixtures will be effective against the leading disease problems in conventional strawberry.	$50,000.00
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$603,483.98	11. Daufuskie Honey Pollen Analysis	Elgie Deberry Apiaries LLC will collect honey samples on Daufuskie Island to determine which plants honeybees visit during the year to make honey. The results will be disseminated through a beekeeping class held within the four coastal counties of Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, and Hampton.	$77,351.30
South Carolina Department of Agriculture	$603,483.98	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.	$120,004.68
South Dakota Department of Agriculture	$375,506.08	1. Assessing the Viability and Sustainability of Chickpeas in South Dakota	South Dakota State University will evaluate the performance of different chickpea varieties across South Dakota to enhance agricultural sustainability and food security.	$70,402.50
South Dakota Department of Agriculture	$375,506.08	2. Beat the Heat: Examining the Impacts of High Tunnel Production Methods on Lettuce and Tomato Heat Tolerance and Nutrient Content	South Dakota State University (SDSU) will collaborate with producers to identify heat tolerant lettuce and grafted tomato cultivars and production techniques to improve high tunnel systems. Outreach will integrate producers, service providers, chefs, and consumers across SD.	$148,703.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
South Dakota Department of Agriculture	$375,506.08	3. Creation of Value from Aronia Berry Processing and Harvest Waste	South Dakota State University (SDSU) in collaboration with SD aronia producers and processors, will create value for the waste from aronia berry harvest and processing, by developing new ingredients from aronia berry waste for food applications.	$78,198.00
South Dakota Department of Agriculture	$375,506.08	4. Characterization and Propagation of Drought Resistant Hops (Humulus lupulus L.) Isolated from the Wild in Western South Dakota for Use in Breeding	Yvonne Hines of Hines Hops Farm will characterize & propagate drought resistant hops (Humulus lupulus L.) isolated from the wild in western South Dakota and conduct crosses with commercial hops to increase resilience to drought and climate change.	$44,817.35
South Dakota Department of Agriculture	$375,506.08	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.	$32,793.36
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$480,169.36	1. Evaluating New Fruit and Vegetable Varieties in a Pick-Your-Own Environment for Season-long Harvest and Income	Agricenter International will initiate this program to evaluate current and new varieties for a pick-your-own environment. This will include variety testing of vegetables and this information will be disseminated during field days at Agricenter.	$74,620.00
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$480,169.36	2. Irrigation Strategies for Small Orchards to Mitigate Frost Damante and Monitor Soil Moisture	Buzzard Roost Farms will initiate an experiment to evaluate alternative practices for frost prevention on peach trees and will disseminate results to other fruit producers in Tennessee.	$19,079.50
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$480,169.36	3. Increasing Value-add Agricultural Products by Specialty Crops to Local Community	Cook County High School Agriculture Department will increase value added agricultural products to the local community stakeholders by utilizing specialty crop products grown by students in school-based enterprises.	$74,984.64

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$480,169.36	4. Enhancing Culinary Herb Production: Sustainable Practices and Economic Returns for Tennessee Growers	Middle Tennessee State University desires to boost local culinary herb production to meet rising demand and displace imported products by developing cost-effective cultivation and disease mitigation methods that will enhance the income of Tennessee growers.	$60,158.00
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$480,169.36	5. Expanding Specialty Crop Experimental Programming for Children in East Tennessee	Nourish Knoxville will expand Nourish Kids, our successful children's specialty crop educational program, to new East Tennessee farmers markets and increase participation in Nourish Kids at existing markets.	$41,300.22
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$480,169.36	6. Meeting the Storage and Production Needs for West Tennessee Grape Growers	The Sanderson Family Farm will partner with the growing community of West Tennessee grape growers to process their grapes as well as warehouse and produce a finished wine ready for retail through the expansion of the production facility.	$64,720.00
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$480,169.36	7. Christmas Tree Product Development and Learning	The Tennessee Christmas Tree Growers Association (TCTGA) improves the live Christmas Tree industry in Tennessee by expanding learning and training events for growers and spearheading a research initiative exploring new tree species for the state.	$48,400.00
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$480,169.36	8. Produce Safety Workshop Supply Grant Program	The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) Produce Safety Workshop Supplemental Supplies Grant is designed to address gaps in the TDA Produce Safety Workshops providing funding for critical supplies and expenses that are not covered by the TDA's Produce Safety Cooperative Agreement with FDA. The project aims to enhance the quality and impact of the Produce Safety workshops across the state by addressing specific limitations in the existing program.	$29,454.26
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$480,169.36	9. Produce Safety is Everyone's Business: Minimizing Produce Safety Risks on the Farm	University of Tennessee will demonstrate produce safety risks based on management decisions (irrigation, water sources, crop choice, animal exclusion, harvest techniques). Demonstration plots will education the public via field days, workshops, social media and videos.	$26,033.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	$480,169.36	10. Expanding the Kids Power of Produce Educational Events Promoting Specialty Crop Purchasing and Consumption to Middle Tennessee Farmers Markets	WilCo Events will expand the Kids POP (Power of Produce) Club to five farmers markets located in Williamson and Davidson Counties, providing children the opportunity to sample, purchase and interact with specialty crops available at each location.	$14,635.15
Texas Department of Agriculture	$1,461,185.17	1. Local Promotion & Identification of Texas Commodities	The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) will identify locally grown commodities and encourage Texas consumers to purchase and consume more local specialty crops. TDA staff will accomplish this goal by partnering with local retailers to highlight local products, developing a pilot social media program for farmers, and creating educational materials for the public.	$177,000.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$1,461,185.17	2. Promoting Texas Wine Grape Growers	The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is committed to promoting Texas wine grape growers by increasing awareness of the different growing regions in Texas. TDA staff will accomplish this goal by improving the accessibility of the Uncork Texas Wines website, creating educational materials and videos, and establishing a network to connect grape growers with wineries.	$150,000.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$1,461,185.17	3. Bountiful Harvest for All: Empowering Texas Tri County's Access and Uptake of Specialty Crops	Harvest for the Hungry, Inc. (H4H), in conjunction with the Texas Department of Agriculture, will combat food insecurity by addressing the challenge of limited access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally relevant specialty crops. H4H will accomplish this goal by developing and implementing a training curriculum for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers (BASDF).	$175,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Texas Department of Agriculture	$1,461,185.17	4. Continuation of Providing Education and Outreach to Specialty Crop Growers on Agricultural Water and Food Traceability and How it Affects Produce S	The Texas Department of Agriculture will minimize the risk of food borne illness outbreaks by promoting understanding of the Food Traceability Rule among Texas growers. TDA staff will improve understanding by conducting one-on-one outreach visits educating growers about water system and record keeping practices.	$350,000.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$1,461,185.17	5. Unlocking the Potential for Commercial Apricot Production in Texas	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will partner with various farms and orchards to explore the improved feasibility of commercial apricot production in Texas. This partnership will include propagation of new plant varieties, research into plant growth regulators, and the addition of new trial sites.	$39,000.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$1,461,185.17	6. Is Cadmium a Risk for Texas Vegetable Produce? A First Look for Leafy Greens in the Wintergarden Region	The Horticultural Crops Lab of the Uvalde Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center will measure cadmium (Cd) levels in Wintergarden agricultural systems in order to develop crop management strategies reducing Cd crop uptake.	$150,000.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$1,461,185.17	7. Increasing Consumer Acceptance and Farmer Profitability by Breeding More Nutritious and Tastier Cowpeas	Texas A&M AgriLife Research, in partnership with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, will strive to increase nutrition and consumption of cowpea with improved agronomic traits and sensory attributes. AgriLife staff will accomplish this task by developing taste-enhanced cowpea, promoting cowpea cultivation, and improving the agronomics of the crop.	$81,000.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$1,461,185.17	8. Targeted Pest & Disease Outreach to Protect the Texas Citrus Industry	The Texas Citrus Pest and Disease Management Corporation (TCPDMC) will launch an outreach campaign educating Texans about citrus pests, diseases, and quarantines and their vital role in safeguarding the Texas citrus industry from the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), Mexican Fruit Fly (MFF), Citrus Canker, and Huanglongbing (HLB). The project will be accomplished through targeted distribution of printed materials, a billboard campaign, and a digital campaign targeting residents across the Rio Grande Valley (RGV).	$100,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Texas Department of Agriculture	$1,461,185.17	9. Texas Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Day	The Texas International Produce Association (TIPA) will focus on building a curriculum to promote "Texas Fruit & Vegetable Day," an initiative that aims to increase the consumption and awareness of Texas-grown fresh fruits and vegetables. TIPA will attend educational conferences and produce educational materials for children to accomplish this goal.	$41,000.00
Texas Department of Agriculture	$1,461,185.17	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.	$187,003.22
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$383,754.88	1. Composted Mushroom Medium and Soil Health	Utah State University Extension, mushroom growers, and vegetable farmers in Northern and Southern regions in Utah (Weber & Iron counties). The project proposed is a collaboration between Utah State University Extension, mushroom growers, and vegetable farmers in Northern and Southern regions in Utah (Weber & Iron counties). The proposed objectives for this project include introducing mushroom cultivation into USU Extension curriculum and conduct field trials using mushroom spent medium.	$64,674.95
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$383,754.88	2. Hybrid Table and Wine Grape Productivity Evaluation for Commercial and Hobby Growers in Northern Utah	Utah State University will lead and execute a project to evaluate a selected number of potentially useful hybrid wine and table grapes for their overall suitability in the Northern Utah climate. The project's outcomes include: 1) increased knowledge about suitable grape cultivar selection as a specialty crop for local fruit production; 2) increased number of farmers who are interested in growing grapes; and 3) Increase local production by determining cold hardiness of potentially suitable grape cultivars.	$64,814.80

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$383,754.88	3. Advancing Perennial Cut Flowers with Conservation Irrigation and Water-Wise Wool	The Plants, Soils, and Climate Department will partner with the Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences Department at Utah State University (USU) to develop water conservation practices for perennial cut flower production through 1) establishing irrigation rates for three key specialty crops, 2) evaluating raw wool mulch on soil moisture retention and cooling, and 3) increasing irrigation education tailored to small-scale and beginner farmers. By defining and teaching irrigation rates for perennial cut flower crops, while developing a new application for raw and otherwise unmarketable wool, this project promotes sustainability, strengthens diversified specialty crops, and develops new connections and markets between Utah farmers and producers.	$64,394.10
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$383,754.88	4. Downtown Farmers Market Temporary Move Marketing Project	Urban Food Connections of Utah (UFCU) will create awareness of the new, temporary location of the Downtown Farmers Market through targeted marketing. An enhanced marketing budget will allow us to focus on the specialty crops available at the Downtown Farmers Market, demonstrating to our current customer base, new customers and the community at large the value of these specialty crops, and thus ensuring our producers not only maintain customers during this transition, but also increase our overall customer base.	$70,000.00
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$383,754.88	5. Identifying Causes and Finding Solutions to Low Yield in Utah Apple and Tart Cherry Orchards	Utah State University proposes study of how orchard management factors – yield and leaf drop – can impact fruit set for Utah apple and tart cherry growers. In recent years, short pollination periods have led to low yields. The findings of this study will identify the sources creating low fruit set and provide solutions to increase fruit set, maintaining consistent cropping across years for Utah apple and tart cherry growers.	$64,392.53

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$383,754.88	6. Exploring Diversity: A Specialty Crop Grant Project Investigating Heirloom and Specialty Pumpkins with Innovative Trials from Harris Seeds	The project aims to diversify the specialty pumpkin seed industry by introducing new heirloom and specialty varieties through collaboration with Glen Ray's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch and Harris Seeds. Deliverables include planting trial seeds, evaluating pumpkin performance, and implementing a community awareness campaign.	$24,100.00
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	$383,754.88	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.	$28,188.65
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$334,430.82	1. ACORN Food Hub Marketing and Sales Campaign for Fresh and Frozen Produce	The ACORN Food Hub will increase the sales of fresh and frozen specialty crops to institutional, restaurant, and other large buyers through a coordinated marketing campaign that includes new promotional materials, upgraded printing capacity, and salary for new staff time to build the relational network necessary for creating additional markets for specialty crops.	$56,150.00
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$334,430.82	2. Managing Disease in Organic Strawberry Production	The University of Vermont Extension will work with Vermont strawberry growers to reassess the disease and pest threats strawberry producers are facing with climate changes and help them evaluate strategies to overcome these obstacles. An online disease survey will be sent out to Vermont strawberry growers to understand the challenges they face with their crop, as well as visits to 10-15 farms to assess the disease incidence and severity within their fields. Two on-farm trials will be established to help develop management protocols for Vermont growers.	$56,674.00
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$334,430.82	3. Promoting Vermont Honey on Social Media	The Vermont Beekeepers Association will contract with a social media manager to promote Vermont Honey to educate the public about Vermont Honey, and drive traffic to the VermontHoney.org website to promote awareness of Vermont Honey as a quality local product and increase sales of Vermont Honey.	$16,982.50

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$334,430.82	4. Expanding Markets for Local Food in the Rutland Region and Beyond	The Vermont Farmers Food Center will expand its existing markets and services and establish new markets and services for locally grown specialty crops by growing its food access and farm to school/institution programs within Rutland County to support more specialty crops and building upon collaboration with Vermont's other food hubs to create a more efficient and expansive regional food network.	$55,500.00
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$334,430.82	5. Developing Local Procurement Systems for Meal Programs in Upper Valley Early Childhood Education Programs	Vital Communities will lessen the barriers Upper Valley early childhood educators face when providing children birth to age five with snacks and meals sourced from local specialty crop producers by piloting a model for one or more of the following, based on greatest need: supporting program infrastructure needs (i.e. food prep. and storage space), providing technical assistance with federal reimbursements, and/or developing connections for purchasing opportunities with local farmers.	$35,146.00
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$334,430.82	6. Maple Price Discovery and Reporting	The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM) will support specialty crop producers by creating a price discovery and reporting program for retail maple syrup and bulk sap producers in Vermont. This program will mirror the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's Market News purpose of providing "free, unbiased price and sales information to assist in the marketing and distribution of farm commodities." The program will give "farmers, producers, and other agricultural businesses the information they need to evaluate market conditions, identify trends, make purchasing decisions, monitor price patterns, evaluate transportation equipment needs, and accurately assess movement."	$85,411.16
Vermont Agency of Agriculture	$334,430.82	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.	$28,103.87

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$557,687.74	1. Increasing Access to Diverse Markets for Specialty Crop Farmers with Pathways to Food Safety Training and Certification	Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD) and its partners will work collectively to increase the competitiveness of Specialty Crop producers by providing Food Safety classroom training, one on one technical assistance and mock audits to farmers across Virginia. This grant will facilitate 100 producers to become prepared to obtain certification should their markets shift to stricter standards and/or certifications. Our training materials, resource manual, and classroom training will also include across-reference checklist of current SOP's and FDA guidelines to be followed in the event of severe health crises such as COVID-19.	$69,455.41
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$557,687.74	2. New Disease Management Approaches to Improve the Quality of Fresh Market Snap Beans in Virginia	Researchers at Virginia Tech will identify if P. tabacinum is more abundant than A. alternata in Virginia snap beans and if either fungal pathogen is resistant to strobilurin fungicides. The project will also determine which fungicide is the most effective strobilurin alternative and customized management recommendations to each of the two pathogens affecting snap bean pod quality. Based on these results, new disease management approaches will be generated and delivered to Commonwealth fresh market snap bean through extension presentations and written outreach articles.	$74,584.39
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$557,687.74	3. New Blackberry Varieties: Yield, Post-Harvest Traits, and Antioxidant Capacity Determination	The Virginia Tech Polyphenols and Antioxidants Lab in the Department of Food Science and Technology, in partnership with the Small Fruit Research and Extension Program at Hampton Roads AREC, proposes to evaluate the yield, post-harvest traits, and antioxidant content of new and established Virginia blackberry cultivars. The results of this project will provide growers with information that can maximize yields and profits while also optimizing health benefits for consumers.	$74,999.97

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$557,687.74	4. Protecting Virginia Vegetable Crops from Pests Through Novel Biofumigation Approaches	Virginia Tech researchers, in cooperation with Virginia Cooperative Extension, will conduct research on evaluating growth, and pest control offered by commercially available brassica cover crop blends to Virginia Specialty crop producers. This project will explore the usefulness of BioFence applications (granular, irrigation, and foliar) for disease control in specialty crops and ensuring food safety of produce produced using these tactics. Results will be conveyed to growers, industry personnel and other stakeholders through field days, social media, extension publications and grower meetings.	$74,953.63
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$557,687.74	5. Do Floating Row Cover Types Influence Yield and Disease Carry Over Potential in Strawberry Crop?	Virginia Tech's Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC), along with Southern Piedmont AREC and Virginia Seafood AREC will help strawberry growers and educators answer if floating row cover types vary in their yield and disease carry over potential, through experiments in the field, greenhouse, and laboratories. Findings from these studies will be disseminated through field days, presentations at scientific and grower conferences, and publications to increase grower knowledge, help better management of diseases, and improve crop yield as row cover usage.	$74,600.80
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$557,687.74	6. Profitable Faba Bean Production and Marketing in Central and Southeastern Virginia	Through rigorous scientific experimentation led by the Virginia State University Agricultural Research Station and Cooperative Extension, this study aims to explore profitable strategies for faba bean production and marketing in Central and Southeastern Virginia, by researching suitable variety and optimal seed priming techniques for faba bean cultivation, developing easy-to-understand, practical producer recommendations for faba bean production and marketing, and conducting on-farm extension workshops on faba bean production and marketing.	$70,412.55

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$557,687.74	7. Assessing and Mitigating the Food Safety Risks Associated with Using Freeze Dryers to Enhance Competitiveness of Value-Added Specialty Crops	Virginia Tech will help specialty crop producers safely produce freeze-dried products by assessing the impact of pre-processing acid rinses on the activation of Salmonella enterica prior to freeze-drying. Evidence-based practical control strategies will be shared to growers and other stakeholders at educational meetings and in fact sheets.	$70,158.23
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$557,687.74	8. Farm2Food Accelerator: Energizing Growth for Virginia's Small-Scale Specialty Crop Producers	NASDA Foundation will adapt the Farm2Food Accelerator curriculum to serve Virginia's specialty crop producers launching/refining food/beverage value-added products to reduce food waste and improve economic resilience, food safety, and market access. This project will increase access for Virginia specialty crop producers to the tools and education needed to expand their specialty crop production and distribution through value-added production.	$15,000.00
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$557,687.74	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.	$31,743.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	1. Systems Approach for Sustainable Replanting Practices in Tree Fruit Orchards	Our team from Washington State University proposes to evaluate a systems approach for sustainable replanting of apple orchards. We propose to evaluate a circular, systems approach for reutilizing bioproducts, materials, and local resources for replanting apple orchards. This project will be developed in a commercial orchard and in collaboration with local dairy farms, biochar services and tree removal services from Washington state.	$249,729.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	2. Expanding Specialty Crop Production Through Forest Farming and Bigleaf Maple Sugaring Practices	Washington State University Extension in partnership with Agroforestry Northwest will address barriers maple sugaring in Washington State by developing capacity for local manufacturing of sugaring equipment, developing a region-specific bigleaf maple sugaring toolkit for producers, trialing complimentary forest farm crops to increase income from sugaring operations, and expanding markets for bigleaf maple syrup.	$238,231.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	3. Gatekeepers in Focus: Education and Activation to Drive Sales of Washington Cider	Northwest Cider Association in partnership with the Culinary Breeding Network will strive to increase culinary professionals' and consumers' awareness of preferences for, and purchase of Washington craft cider and cider made with Washington apples.	$249,839.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	4. Expanding the Washington Red Raspberry Market Through Beverage Innovation and Promotion.	The Washington Red Raspberry Commission will tap into the growing beverage market to drive demand for underutilized red raspberry products and expand awareness of the Washington red raspberry brand through a beverage innovation workshop, recipe and curriculum development, conferences/tradeshows, media outreach and advertising.	$250,000.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	5. Marketing Sustainable WA to Domestic and International Audiences	The Washington Wine Commission campaign will target domestic and international audiences with an objective of raising awareness of Sustainable WA resulting in an increase in requests for certified sustainable Washington wines.	$250,000.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	6. Expanding Washington Blueberry Exports to India	The Washington Blueberry Commission (WBC) will conduct retail, foodservice, and culinary promotions in India for fresh, frozen, and dried blueberries.	$220,000.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	7. Strengthening the Network: Reconnecting Berry Researcher and Grower Collaboration	The Northwest Berry Foundation seeks to re-establish strong working relationships between berry researchers and key industry stakeholders through in-person farm tours.	$199,157.60

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	8. Washington Soil Health for Tree Fruit Long Term Agro-Ecological Research and Extension Site	Washington State University and The Washington Soil Health Initiative aim to develop and evaluate management systems that optimize fruit yield and quality through sustainable soil health management practices.	$249,178.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	9. Aerial Imaging and Insect Monitoring to Study Viruses Impacting Blueberries in Northwestern Washington	Washington State University (WSU) will establish an agreement with the Washington State Department of Agriculture to address the emerging issue of blueberry viruses in Washington State. To improve virus management options for Washington blueberry growers, WSU is proposing the following objectives: 1) study temporal and spatial spread of viral diseases using both molecular diagnostic tools and remote sensing technology; 2) understand the phenology and vectoring potential of aphids in blueberry fields; and 3) establish a blueberry virus working group with industry stakeholders and the university to improve research and extension outputs for increasing stakeholder awareness of the range of blueberry viruses as well as their management in the PNW.	$249,994.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	10. Management of Climate-Induced Stress and Root Diseases in PNW Christmas Tree Plantations	Washington State University will examine biotic and abiotic factors contributing to heat damage and increasing mortality in Pacific Northwest (PNW) Christmas tree plantations.	$183,312.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	11. A Practical Approach for Managing Grapevine Leafroll Disease by Purging the Virus Employing Phloem-Girdling	Washington State University will manage grapevine leafroll virus disease using the scientifically based practical purging technique of phloem girdling and disseminating the results to the wine industry and stakeholders through field days, workshops, and industry meetings.	$249,835.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	12. Sustainable Management of Wireworms by Targeting the Adult Click Beetles	The USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS), in collaboration with Washington State University (WSU) will establish an agreement with the Washington State Department of Agriculture to aid Washington's specialty crop growers in reducing injury from a top pest, wireworms, through improved monitoring and management of their adult life-stage, click beetles.	$245,364.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	13. Beet Leafhopper and Associated Pathogens in Columbia Basin: Impact of Crop Type and Abiotic Factors	The United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service in Washington State, in collaboration with Washington State University will study relative pathogen transmission rates and beet leafhopper abundance among crops, provide near real-time pathogen data to inform grower integrated pest management decisions, and work to integrate abiotic factors into forecasting models that can be used as a decision aid tool by the grower.	$249,517.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	14. Antimicrobial Coating Plus Heated Drying in Inactivation of Listeria on Fresh Apples	Washington State University will develop innovative preventive strategies by incorporating natural antimicrobial compounds into commercial apple coatings, either alone or in combination with moderate heat during wax drying process, ultimately enhancing the microbial safety of fresh apples. This project will provide the apple industry with novel fruit coatings with antimicrobial properties that synergize with heated drying to eliminate Listeria, thereby enhancing food safety and reducing the risk of Listeria contamination in fresh apples.	$250,000.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	15. Color and Material Optimization of Brushes for Improved Light-Based Sanitation	The Center for Produce Safety will partner with the University of Georgia to develop science-based recommendations on light-based antimicrobial treatments for washer and waxer brushes by brush filament color and material selection that are used in fruit packing houses.	$250,000.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	16. Developing an Automated and Digital Tool for Integrated Bird Pest Management in Fresh Produce Fields	The Center for Produce Safety will partner with the University of Tennessee to develop a digital tool that will identify bird presence and species based on audio surveillance of bird sounds and automatically activate multiple bird dispersal methods, which will deter high-risk birds from produce fields and reduce food contamination risks.	$57,595.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	17. Sequential UV Treatment and Natural Antimicrobial Spray for Enhancing Safety and Shelf Stability of Fruits	Oregon State University, in collaboration with Washington State University, proposes a research project to address critical postharvest fruit rot and safety issues in the apple industry through a novel sequential approach: UV-C treatment followed by the application of an antimicrobial spray. Anticipated outcomes include a cost-effective and efficient approach for apple postharvest treatment that could enhance market competitiveness and benefit industry stakeholders and consumers by improving apple safety, quality, and shelf-life.	$249,956.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	18. Variable Rate Fertigation for Vineyards: Feasibility and Vine Responses	Washington State University, in cooperation with Oregon State University, will demonstrate the technical feasibility of single plant water and nutrient management for vineyards, and evaluate its impact on grapevine performance in the face of soil, water, and climate variability.	$165,434.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	19. Winter is Coming: Predicting and Mitigating Freeze Damage in Raspberry and Blackberry	Washington State University aims to inform and reduce freeze damage through research that predicts and mitigates freeze damage through completion of three complementary objectives. Completing this project will provide caneberry growers with new tools to assess and inform freeze mitigation practices and promote the viability and expansion of the industry. These objectives include: 1) Develop and release predictive cold hardiness models for several cultivars of blackberry; 2) Investigate automated sensing systems complimentary to manual dissection of buds to assess freeze damage in blackberry and raspberry; and 3) Investigate methods to reduce freeze damage in raspberry and blackberry.	$248,324.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	20. Novel and Valuable Raspberry Plant Breeding Datasets Leading to New Cultivars and Molecular Breeding Tools	Washington State University will study a diverse group of raspberry types along with their genetic data to identify excellent parent material and develop molecular tools that will contribute to new varieties needed by raspberry growers to continue producing berries with excellent quality and horticultural traits.	$178,245.00
Washington State Department of Agriculture	$4,913,037.63	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.	$389,887.89
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$301,056.72	1. From Farm to Foam: A quest for WV Beer Terroir - Evaluating Hop Varieties	West Virginia University will spearhead an initiative to promote agricultural diversity and the economy of specialty crops in West Virginia. A team from the Davis College of Agriculture and Extension will evaluate 32 hop varieties.	$69,356.00
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$301,056.72	2. Establishing and Increasing Specialty Crop Growers for West Virginia	West Virginia University Parkersburg's Agriculture Department and partners will increase agriculture educational capacity to establish specialty crop trainings to agriculturalists, specifically focusing on integrated pest management practices.	$53,254.00
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$301,056.72	3. JarHead Farms Commercial Kitchen - Bringing Fruit to Southern West Virginia	JarHead Farms will provide the thermal processing, co-pack facility that is necessary to expand fruit production in Southern West Virginia.	$14,984.00
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$301,056.72	4. Establish a Community-Based Honey Extraction Equipment Program	The Mountaineer Beekeepers Association will establish a community-based honey extraction program by placing much-needed modern honey extraction supplies strategically around the state.	$14,532.16
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$301,056.72	5. Growing Minds, Cultivating Agriculture Literacy in West Virginia Libraries	The West Virginia Farmers Market Association aims to improve agricultural literacy, boost fruit and vegetable consumption, and strengthen the connection between local farmers and consumers through educational summer library programs.	$43,320.18

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$301,056.72	6. Edible Plant Parts for Profit	The West Virginia Military Authority's Patriot Gardens program will focus the efforts of this project toward edible plants parts, particularly a focus on blooms/blossoms and leaves, in an effort to show opportunities for increased profits.	$45,782.00
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$301,056.72	7. From Fields to Markets: Enhancing Elderberry Cultivation and Strengthening Markets for West Virginia Growers	This Green Thumb Botanical project aims to transform local elderberry cultivation by evaluating disease resistance, insect pest resilience, and yield performance of various elderberry varieties in West Virginia.	$14,920.00
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$301,056.72	8. Specialty Cut Flowers Grown in a High Tunnel for Thanksgiving Day Sales	Mountain State Flower Farm will research different varieties and cultivars of specialty cut flowers and foliage that can be grown in an unheated high tunnel to bloom in time for Thanksgiving Day sales.	$11,908.96
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	$301,056.72	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.	$32,849.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	1. Identification and Biopesticide-Based Control of Emerging Fungal Diseases of Apple in Wisconsin	The Organic Fruit Growers Association will develop an online guide to the identification of emerging fungal diseases of apple in Wisconsin, conduct on-farm trials of biopesticides for control of these diseases, and share results with stakeholders through a field day, conference presentations, and articles.	$56,779.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	2. Support Further Development of Markets for Wisconsin-Grown Hazelnuts on Behalf of Potential and Existing Growers	This project will support the continuing efforts of American Hazelnut Company LLC, a grower-owned company, to inform and recruit potential growers of climate-resilient hybrid hazelnuts, and to expand and strengthen connections to a wide variety of markets on behalf of growers.	$99,507.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	3. Optimizing UV Energy, a Non-pesticide Option, for Pathogen Reduction and Disease Control in Potatoes and Vegetables	The Potato and Vegetable Pathology Research and Extension Program of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Plant Pathology Department led by Dr. Amanda Gevens will partner with the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, members of the Wisconsin Seed Potato Improvement Association, and directly with growers of potatoes and vegetables in Wisconsin to reduce the viability of pathogens causing disease on potato tubers and carrot roots by developing data-driven practices using ultraviolet energy in the pre-plant (potato) and post-harvest phase (potato and carrot).	$93,807.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	4. Growing the Wisconsin Chili Lunch: Centering Wisconsin Growers to Increase Farm to Institution Sales	The Community Food Systems Program at UW-Madison Division of Extension will increase procurement and technical knowledge around procurement of 3-5 Wisconsin-grown vegetable specialty crops to Wisconsin institutions (K-12 schools, hospitals, early care centers, and colleges) by leveraging the Wisconsin Chili Lunch to provide supply chain coordination, technical assistance, and outreach materials to the state's vegetable growers and supply chain partners.	$92,331.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	5. Evaluating Fungicide Resistance in Destructive Grape Pathogens and Infection Routes of the Black Rot Pathogen	The University of Wisconsin-Madison will investigate the fungicide resistance status of key fungal pathogens in cold-climate grape production, determine the factors contributing to black rot infections and provide recommendations to growers about fungicide products and use patterns to mitigate fungicide resistance and reduce black rot infections.	$98,139.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	6. Cultivar Trials and Best Management Practices for Growing Wisconsin Black Currant	Savanna Institute will establish replicated currant trials to evaluate nutrient management needs, best weed management practices, and cultivar performance to provide information to existing and aspiring growers of this emerging super fruit in Wisconsin.	$99,710.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	7. Traceability Compliance by 2026	Farm Commons will prepare growers to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act's Traceability Rule through a guide and workshop that clearly identifies who must comply and the steps necessary to comply with this rule in time for enforcement by 2026.	$50,414.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	8. Using Soil Properties to Reduce Fumigation by Targeting When and Where it is Needed Most	The UW-Dept. of Plant Pathology, in conjunction with Wisconsin potato growers, will investigate the economic and environmental outcomes of reducing fumigation frequency in a variety of WI commercial fields, and determine the aspects of field properties that support economic returns in the absence of fumigation, in order to develop management recommendations for precision fumigation.	$99,691.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	9. Distribution and Dissemination of the Native Pathogen Ovavesicula Popilliae as a Biocontrol Agent to Manage Japanese Beetle in Vineyards	The University of Wisconsin will assess the distribution and promote the dissemination of the native pathogen Ovavesicula popilliae, a fungus-like parasite that attacks Japanese beetle. This research will determine a baseline that will help assess the viability of this biocontrol strategy against Japanese beetle, resulting in new recommendations for grape growers on how to manage Japanese beetle in commercial vineyards.	$93,392.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	10. Building Capacity, Empowering Community: Training Vegetable Crop Producers in the Ho-Chunk Nation	The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Agriculture, through a collaborative partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will work to increase capacity for vegetable production within the Ho-Chunk Nation and diversified vegetable markets within and outside of the Ho-Chunk Nation by conducting demonstration trials at multiple Tribally owned agricultural locations, and will include a cohort of existing and aspiring producers, facilitating educational opportunities for the cohort.	$99,162.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	11. Better Beekeeping in Wisconsin: Training and Education for Emerging Beekeepers and Veterinarians	Wisconsin Honey Producers Association, in collaboration with the Gratton Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will coordinate the development of a hands-on beekeeping course taught by experienced beekeepers, with support from UW scientists, who will provide training in basic beekeeping, bee biology, disease management, business planning, marketing and promotion to emerging beekeeping entrepreneurs and both new and established veterinarians to increase the health of honey bees in Wisconsin.	$99,897.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	12. Equip Hmong Farmers With Knowledge, Skills, and Resources to Improve Farming and Creating Market-Awareness of Hmong Specialty Crops	GreenGold Gardens, LLC aims to provide educational trainings/workshops for Hmong farmers in Marathon, Portage, and other counties to expand their farming knowledge and resources.	$84,191.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	13. Develop and Validate High-Throughput Sequencing Diagnostic to Detect Pathogens in Potato and Other Specialty Crops	This project, led by Brooke Babler (Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program (WSPCP), UW-Madison Dept of Plant Pathology) in partnership with Dr. Amanda Gevens (WSPCP, UW-Madison Dept of Plant Pathology), the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Grower Association (WPVGA), and Wisconsin seed potato growers focuses on advancing traditional high-throughput sequencing techniques to identify pathogens.	$42,297.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	14. Increasing Sales of Wisconsin Produced Wine and Grapes Through Branded Signature Wines, Quality Standards, and Cooperative Marketing	The University of Wisconsin will partner with WI wineries to increase sales of WI-produced wines and grapes through a three-part program including wine quality certification, guild-based development of premium signature WI wines, and cooperative branding and marketing of premium WI wines.	$78,787.00

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	15. Unraveling the Soil Pathogens Limiting Ginseng Production	The Ginseng Board of Wisconsin seeks to increase root quality and yield for the state's growers including those in the Hmong community and export blemish-free dried Ginseng root through focused efforts on two soil pathogens and testing control measures which will be implemented and disseminated through field days and class-room style meetings.	$78,786.00
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	$1,381,919.66	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.	$105,653.03
Wyoming Department of Agriculture	$337,806.20	1. Assessing Native Legumes for Environmental Landscaping and Horticulture Through Plant Toxicity Surveys and Field Studies: Phase II	The University of Wyoming and Sheridan Research & Extension Center will investigate the suitability of two native legumes, purple locoweed, and silvery lupine, for horticultural and related rangeland applications in Wyoming. Toxicity testing will determine if toxin levels of plants grown in an agricultural setting remain consistent with levels detected in wild populations. In addition, field-grown plants will be evaluated for suitability of harvest and for production potential, as well as traits desirable for horticultural applications.	$27,702.00
Wyoming Department of Agriculture	$337,806.20	2. Addressing Long-Term Hydroponic Nutrient Management Challenges	Papa Joe's Produce will analyze nutrient consumption in long-term hydroponics to assist other producers in predicting optimal feeding schedules. We will also test strategies for mitigating the harmful accumulation of nutrients in long-term hydroponics.	$23,530.00
Wyoming Department of Agriculture	$337,806.20	3. Advancing Pepper Production in Wyoming: Screening and Development of Drought and Cold-Resilient Peppers Adapted to Wyoming	This project will be conducted at the University of Wyoming's Sheridan Research and Extension Center and will focus on screening approximately 200 pepper germplasm for adaptation to WY environments including for drought and cold tolerance.	$99,247.82

Organization	Amount Funded to Organization	Project Title	Description	Project Budget
Wyoming Department of Agriculture	$337,806.20	4. Central Wyoming College Controlled Environment Agriculture Facilities Outreach and Education	Central Wyoming College will utilize its newly completed Controlled Environment Agriculture facilities to create educational opportunities for students that combine hands-on learning with hydroponic specialty crop production.	$92,180.00
Wyoming Department of Agriculture	$337,806.20	5. Wyoming Specialty Crop Educational Guides	Wyoming Department of Agriculture is proposing to utilize the funds for printing and distribution of the Wyoming Vegetable and Fruit Growing Guide to producers and gardeners around Wyoming to increase the knowledge on specialty crop production.	$34,977.00
Wyoming Department of Agriculture	$337,806.20	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.	$59,262.79