

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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2012 Alaska Grown Specialty Crop COMPETITIVE GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Franci Havemeister, Director of the Division of Agriculture (Division), is pleased to announce the availability of funding under the "Alaska Grown Specialty Crop Competitive Grant." Funding is a component of the 2012 USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program; although the USDA has not officially released funding announcements yet, the Division anticipates that at least \$50,000 will be available for awards. The Division anticipates grant funding in October; projects will commence after that time.

Eligible grant recipients include: for/non-profit organizations, government entities, industry trade associations, universities, producers and producer groups. The grant program is intended to solely enhance the competitiveness of Alaska Grown specialty crops. Eligible specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, and nursery crops including floriculture. Alaska Grown products that **DO NOT** qualify as specialty crops under the federal agreement and are therefore ineligible for this grant include: feed crops (such as barley, corn, hay, oats) livestock, dairy products, eggs, and aquaculture products.

Examples of projects that an industry group could apply for funding include:

- A targeted marketing campaign,
- Market or product research designed to enhance variety knowledge,
- Document publication,
- Efforts to enhance consumer awareness of specialty crops through informational documents, websites, etc.,
- Efforts that encourage/support the use of Alaska Grown specialty crops in school lunches, restaurants or other underutilized outlets.

Project concept papers may be submitted for a total of \$20,000 and for a project timeline of up to two years. Applicants are encouraged to provide evidence of matching funds, either in-kind or cash. Projects will be eligible to receive grant funds on a reimbursement schedule; no advance payments will be made.

Grant funds will **not** be awarded for a project that directly benefits or provides profit only to a single individual. Funds may not be used to purchase fixed assets or personal property. In addition, expenditures incurred prior to grant award may not be included in the grant request or eligible for reimbursement.

A contract and final report on the project will be required. This project is designed to inform as many specialty crop producers as possible, therefore the award recipient will be required to present information at a growers meeting regarding the results of their project.

The Division intends to award multiple grants from this solicitation. Concept papers must utilize the attached outline and be received at the Division of Agriculture by May 31st, 2012. A more complete outline of program policies is available on our website at www.dnr.alaska.gov/ag under "Grants." If you have any questions please contact Amy Pettit at 907-761-3864 or Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov.

"To responsibly develop Alaska's resources by making them available for maximum use and benefit consistent with the public interest."