

Specialty Crop Block Grant Review Panel

For the CT Department of Agriculture's
Application to the USDA Specialty Crop
Block Grant Program



Agenda

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| 9:30-9:40 | Welcome and Introduction of Review Panel Members |
| 9:40-9:55 | Overview of SCBG-FB guidelines and evaluation criteria |
| 9:55-11:25 | Focused discussion for each submitted project |
| 11:25-11:30 | Wrap up and thank you! |

Review Panel Members

Industry Representatives

- Phil Chester, Town of Lebanon
- Sal DiCarli, Central Conservation District
- Sharon Hametz, Wholesome Wave Foundation
- Tera Harlow, CT Ag Education Foundation
- Linda Piotrowicz, CT Department of Agriculture

Producers

- Michele Niedermeyer, Lost Acres Vineyard, North Granby
- Ben Paletsky, South Farms, Morris

Housekeeping

- Conflict of Interest Statement
- W9 and Vendor Form to receive honorarium and mileage.
- Invoices

Overview of SCBG Guidelines

Projects Must

- SOLELY enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.
 - *Solely*: funds only go towards specialty crops and do not benefit non-specialty crops such as dairy, livestock, or poultry among others.
 - *Specialty crops*: fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, horticulture, nursery crops, floriculture, maple syrup, honey, Christmas trees, turf grass.
 - *Increasing the competitiveness*: the project makes the focused specialty crop(s) more competitive locally, state wide, regionally, nationally, or internationally.
- Projects impact and produce *measurable outcomes*.
- Projects benefit the specialty crop *industry* and/or public NOT a single organization, individual, institution, or business.

Goals for Today

Select projects that:

1. Are relevant (needed) and significant to the industry. (Project Purpose section)
2. Explain *how* the project benefits the specialty crop industry. (Potential Impact section)
3. Are well rounded, complete projects that efficiently used staff time and federal funds. (Work Plan and Budget sections)
4. Produce measurable outcomes (a true result) for the industry. (EMO's section)
5. Are feasible – the project and its outcomes are capable of being achieved. (Work Plan section)

Expected Measurable Outcomes

- Each project must have at least one distinct, quantifiable (an actual number, percentage, etc), measurable outcome that **directly and meaningfully supports the projects purpose**.
- The outcome-oriented objective must define an event or condition that is **external to the project** and that is of direct importance to the intended beneficiaries and/or the public.

GOAL:	
PERFORMANCE MEASURE:	
BENCHMARK:	
TARGET:	
MONITORING PLAN:	
DISSEMINATION PLAN:	

Things that are ok...

- Partial funding
 - Exclusion of certain expenses
 - Funding a portion of the years requested
 - Excluding aspects of a project (and therefore expenses) that are unattainable.
- Do not need to select a 'lesser of two evils' project
 - If it's not a good project, don't fund it just because funds are available

10 Projects Submitted

Funding Requested: **\$548,029**

Funding Available: **\$257,934**

Discussion on submitted projects

Agrivolution LLC	Technical Development of Year-Round Hydroponic Strawberry Cultivation in Controlled Environment Agriculture	\$73,404
Hartford Food System	Hartford Mobile Market - Bringing Fresh CT Fruits and Vegetables to Low-Income Hartford Neighborhoods	\$75,000
CT Christmas Tree Growers' Association	Phytophthora management in Christmas tree plantings of true firs	\$31,296
Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association	CT Greenhouse Industry Specialty Crop Marketing Through Technology	\$69,087

Discussion on submitted projects cont.

UConn Dept. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture	Propogation and marketing of sterile barberries for the nursery and landscape industries	\$36,941
UConn Extension	A Multi-Dimensional Food Safety Education Program for CT Fruit and Vegetables	\$20,681
UConn Ag. Resources Economics	Exploring the Economics and Production Viability of Ethnic Vegetables and Novel Small Fruits in CT	\$74,892
UConn Dept. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture	Producing cut flowers for profit and to enhance biological control of vegetable pests	\$75,000
UConn Extension	CT "Green" Sustainable Initiative and ertification Program for Specialty Crop Producers	\$37,155
UConn Extension	Demonstrating the Use and Value of Scientific Based Management Tools for Fertilizer Decisions	\$54,793

Wrap Up



Thank You!!