



**State of Connecticut, Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Preservation  
Governor Dannel P. Malloy  
Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky**

**USDA SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**  
*Fiscal Year 2016*

APPLICATION GUIDELINES  
*PHASE ONE: CONCEPT PROPOSALS*



**Concept Proposal Deadline: April 6, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.**



## Table of Contents

New in 2016	4
Program Description	4
Who Can Apply	4
Number of Grantees and Max Awards	5
Project Duration	5
Examples of Acceptable and Unacceptable Projects	5
Submission Process	6
Concept Proposal Required Information	6
Concept Proposal Evaluation	13
Anticipated Timeline of Events	13
<u>Appendices</u>	
A: Restriction and Limitations on Grant Funds	14
B: Allowable Costs	15
C: Administration of Grants	16
D: Concept Paper Application Form	

**\*\*NEW IN 2016\*\***

Starting in FY 2016, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is required to report on the outcomes of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) at a national scale to demonstrate the performance of this program. By collecting, aggregating, and reporting performance data across all states and territories, AMS can share the impact of the SCBGP with all stakeholders, including the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Congress, the agricultural community, and the general public. Each project submitted must include and be measured by at least one of the eight outcomes and at least one of the indicators listed for each outcome further explained on pages 6-11. AMS will aggregate the data collected to assess the overall impact of the program and report to OMB and Congress on these national outcome measures.

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Connecticut Department of Agricultural (hereinafter, "CT DoAg") is soliciting concept proposals for projects that specifically address the goals the United States Department of Agriculture (hereinafter, "USDA") has for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP).

The goals of a submitted project must **solely** enhance the competitiveness of United States specialty crops in domestic and foreign markets. *Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, horticulture (including maple syrup and honey), and nursery crops (including floriculture).* A complete list of eligible and ineligible specialty crops can be found on the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant website: [www.ams.usda.gov/scbqp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbqp).

The USDA is the funding entity and has the final approval of projects. Prior to the USDA's approval, CT DoAg will make the initial review of the concept proposal and a review panel of industry representatives will make the secondary review and award recommendations to the Commissioner of Agriculture. The USDA will make the final award decisions.

The funds available through the SCBGP are authorized under the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act, amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014. All projects are subject to the availability of federal funds.

#### WHO CAN APPLY

Commodity groups, agricultural organizations, colleges and universities, municipalities, state agencies, and agricultural nonprofits are all eligible for this grant program, provided their concept proposals meet the specifications of this Request for Concept Papers and the USDA's Notice of Federal Assistance, CFDA 10.170.

Single organizations, institutions, and individuals/producers are encouraged to participate as project partners. Projects are required to impact and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop *industry and/or the public* rather than a single organization, institution or individual.

#### NUMBER OF GRANTEES AND MAXIMUM AWARD

This is a competitive grant process. The maximum award to any applicant is \$75,000.00, however, DoAg will entertain applications that request lesser amounts.

CT DoAg is looking to award multiple grants. Connecticut's total award from the USDA is based upon a formula analyzing the average of specialty crop cash receipts and specialty crop acreage in Connecticut.

#### PROJECT DURATION

Projects cannot begin until January 1, 2017 or later. Prior to starting a project the USDA must make their official award announcement (expected in October 2016), a contract must be signed with the State of Connecticut **and** a State of Connecticut Purchase Order (PO) must be issued.

Projects must be completed by September 30, 2019 or earlier however, the proposal must justify the timeline. No extensions of any kind are allowed. Please see Appendix C for USDA's regulations regarding Administration of Grants, which is dependent upon the type of applicant.

#### EXAMPLES OF UNACCEPTABLE AND ACCEPTABLE PROJECTS:

Applicants must describe how the project impacts and produces measurable outcomes for the specialty crop *industry and/or the public* rather than a single organization, institution or individual. Single organizations, institutions, and individuals are encouraged to participate as project partners. Grant funds will not be awarded for projects that benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual.

#### **Unacceptable** projects; based upon information provided by the USDA:

1. A company applied for funds to purchase starter plants or equipment used to plant, cultivate, and grow a specialty crop for the purpose of making a profit, or to expand production of a single business.
2. A proposal for funds from a specialty crop organization to promote their members' businesses.
3. A sole proprietor request grant funds to redesign his/her logo in order to make her/his specialty crop value-added product stand out at the local farmers' market.

#### **Acceptable** projects; based upon information provided by the USDA:

1. A State requests funding to contract with a university to conduct research on the feasibility of planting, cultivating, and growing a specialty crop in a particular area, the results of which can be shared with many growers throughout the State.
2. A single grower requests funds to demonstrate the viability of organic small fruit production and partners with Cooperative Extension to publicize the

- working model of diversification to other regional growers.
3. A single company requests funds to provide a viable pollination alternative to specialty crop stakeholders in the region, which currently does not have one.
  4. A single specialty crop organization requests funds to conduct an advertising campaign that will benefit their specialty crop members.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

**Phase One:** Concept Paper Submission – **Deadline: April 6, 2016**

**Phase Two:** Full Application Submission – Deadline: May 9, 2016

*All submissions are required via email to Jaime Smith, [jaime.smith@ct.gov](mailto:jaime.smith@ct.gov) by close of business (4:00 p.m.) on the day specified.*

Late applications will not be considered. Please keep in mind there is an occasional delay with email, therefore it is recommended you allow ample time for the email to be successfully received by CT DoAg. Once your application is received, a confirmation email will be sent.

CONCEPT PROPOSAL REQUIRED INFORMATION:

The Concept Proposal must be submitted by using the Concept Proposal Application Form which can be found in Appendix D.

In addition to providing information on the type of organization, contact information, project title, organizational DUNS number, and funding history, you must also provide information on:

1. *Area of Focus:* You must identify a primary area of focus (select only one).
  - Enhancement of food safety/security
  - Adaptation to climate change
  - Production, aggregation, and distribution for wholesale markets
  - Increasing Connecticut Grown production and consumption
  - Crop pest and disease control/management
  - Crop research/conservation
  - Promotion/marketing of Connecticut Grown specialty crops
  - Agricultural education and outreach
  - Nutrition education and consumption
2. *Beginning or Socially Disadvantaged Farmer:* A beginning farmer means an individual or entity that has not operated a farm for more than ten years and substantially participates in the operation. A socially disadvantaged farmer means a farmer who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group which is a group whose members have been subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital

status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. *If you are an organization and the majority of your target audience is one of these groups, please check YES on the application form.*

3. *Estimated Timeline:* Enter the estimated timeline for the proposed project. Projects cannot start until January 1, 2017, and can last up to three years in length. All projects must be completed on or before September 30, 2019.
4. *Project Purpose:* Clearly state the specific issue, problem, interest and/or need, and how the project will address it. Explain why the project is important and timely.
5. *Statement of Solely Enhancing Specialty Crops:* Applicants must acknowledge the submitted project will **solely** enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops only.
6. **NEW** *Goals:* Select the outcome measure(s) and indicator(s) that apply to the project.

***Outcome 1:*** *To enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased sales. THIS IS MANDATORY FOR ALL MARKETING AND PROMOTION PROJECTS.*

*Indicator:* Sales increased from \$\_\_\_\_\_ to \$\_\_\_\_\_ and by \_\_\_\_\_percent, as result of marketing and/or promotion activities

Marketing and promotion projects focus efforts to sell, advertise, promote, market, and generate publicity, attract new customers, or raise customer awareness for specialty crops or a specialty crop venue. These include, but are not limited to:

- Uses of social media to market and promote;
- Specialty crop local, regional, and national campaigns;
- Specialty crop only tradeshow;
- Website promotion and development;
- Use/development of billboards, radio, television, magazine and email ads, marketing materials such as direct mail, brochures;
- Agritourism;
- Export market development;
- Retail promotions including point-of-purchase items, labels, packaging etc.;
- Farmers market promotions; and
- Marketing and promotion campaigns with an education component directed to consumers.

The specific measure must be expressed as a dollar value and percentage increase in sales of one or more specialty crops in one or more States or foreign markets as a result of marketing and/or promotion activities. For example, an expected outcome of growth in sales from 5% to 10% is not acceptable by itself, but in combination with an increase in sales of \$1 million to \$2 million it is acceptable. This requirement means that an established baseline of sales in dollars must should already exist at the time of application. For projects that do not already have a baseline the applicant should determine such a baseline in order to meet the requirement to document the value of sales increases by the end of the project.

***Outcome 2: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased consumption.***

*Indicators:*

1. Of the total number of children and youth reached,
  - a. The number that gained knowledge about eating more specialty crops
  - b. The number that reported an intention to eat more specialty crops
  - c. The number that reported eating more specialty crops
2. Of the total number of adults reached,
  - a. The number that gained knowledge about eating more specialty crops
  - b. The number that reported an intention to eat more specialty crops
  - c. The number that reported eating more specialty crops
3. Number of new and improved technologies and processes to enhance the nutritional value and consumer acceptance of specialty crops (excluding patents)
4. Number of new specialty crops and/or specialty crop products introduced to consumers

***Outcome 3: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased access and awareness.***

*Indicators:*

1. Of the total number of consumers or wholesale buyers reached,
  - a. The number that gained knowledge on how to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops
  - b. The number that reported an intention to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops
  - c. The number that reported supplementing their diets with specialty crops that they produced/preserved/obtained/prepared

2. Of the total number of individuals (culinary professionals, institutional kitchens, specialty crop entrepreneurs such as kitchen incubators/shared-use kitchens, etc.) reached,
  - a. The number that gained knowledge on how to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops
  - b. The number that reported an intention to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops
  - c. The number that reported supplementing their diets with specialty crops that they produced/prepared/preserved/obtained
3. Number of existing delivery systems/access points of those reached that expanded and/or improved offerings of specialty crops
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ farmers markets
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ produce at corner stores
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ school food programs and other food options (vending machines, school events, etc.)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ grocery stores
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ wholesale markets
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_ food hubs that process, aggregate, distribute, or store specialty crops
  - g. \_\_\_\_\_ home improvement centers with lawn and garden centers
  - h. \_\_\_\_\_ lawn and garden centers
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_ other systems/access points, not noted
  - j. \_\_\_\_\_ total (if not reported above)
4. Number of new delivery systems/access points offering specialty crops
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ farmers markets
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ produce at corner stores
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ school food programs and other food options (vending machines, school events, etc.)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ grocery stores
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ wholesale markets
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_ food hubs that process, aggregate, distribute, or store specialty crops
  - g. \_\_\_\_\_ home improvement centers with lawn and garden centers
  - h. \_\_\_\_\_ lawn and garden centers
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_ other systems/access points, not noted
  - j. \_\_\_\_\_ total (if not reported above)

**Outcome 4:** *Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through greater capacity of sustainable practices of specialty crop production resulting in increased yield, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and/or conservation of resources.*

*Indicators:*

1. Numbers of plant/seed releases (i.e., cultivars, drought-tolerant plants, organic, enhanced nutritional composition, etc.)

2. Adoption of best practices and technologies resulting in increased yields, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and conservation of resources (select at least one below).
  - a. Number of growers/producers indicating adoption of recommended practices
  - b. Number of growers/producers reporting reduction in pesticides, fertilizer, water used/acre
  - c. Number of producers reporting increased dollar returns per acre or reduced costs per acre
  - d. Number of acres in conservation tillage or acres in other best management practices
3. Number of habitat acres established and maintained for the mutual benefit of pollinators and specialty crops

***Outcome 5: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through more sustainable, diverse, and resilient specialty crop systems***

*Indicators:*

1. Number of new or improved innovation models (biological, economic, business, management, etc.), technologies, networks, products, processes, etc. developed for specialty crop entities including producers, processors, distributors, etc.
2. Number of innovations adopted
3. Number of specialty crop growers/producers (and other members of the specialty crop supply chain) that have increased revenue expressed in dollars
4. Number of new diagnostic systems analyzing specialty crop pests and diseases. [Diagnostic systems refer to, among other things: labs, networks, procedures, access points.]
5. Number of new diagnostic technologies available for detecting plant pests and diseases. [The intent here is not to count individual pieces of equipment or devices, but to enumerate technologies that add to the diagnostic capacity.]
6. Number of first responders trained in early detection and rapid response to combat plant pests and diseases
7. Number of viable technologies/processes developed or modified that will increase specialty crop distribution and/or production\_
8. Number of growers/producers that gained knowledge about science-based tools through outreach and education programs

***Outcome 6: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increasing the number of viable technologies to improve food safety***

*Indicators:*

1. Number of viable technologies developed or modified for the detection and characterization of specialty crop supply contamination from foodborne threats

2. Number of viable prevention, control and intervention strategies for all specialty crop production scales for foodborne threats along the production continuum
3. Number of individuals who learn about prevention, detection, control, and intervention food safety practices and number of those individuals who increase their food safety skills and knowledge
4. Number of improved prevention, detection, control, and intervention technologies
5. Number of reported changes in prevention, detection, control, and intervention strategies

**Outcome 7:** *Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased understanding of threats to food safety from microbial and chemical sources.*

*Indicators:*

Number of projects focused on:

1. Increased understanding of fecal indicators and pathogens
2. Increased safety of all inputs into the specialty crop chain
3. Increased understanding of the roles of humans, plants and animals as vectors
4. Increased understanding of preharvest and postharvest process impacts on microbial and chemical threats
5. Number of growers or producers obtaining on-farm food safety certifications (such as Good Agricultural Practices or Good Handling Practices)

**Outcome 8:** *Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through enhancing or improving the economy as a result of specialty crop development.*

*Indicators:*

1. Number of new rural careers created
2. Number of new urban careers created
3. Number of jobs maintained/created
4. Number of small businesses maintained/created
5. Increased revenue/increased savings/one-time capital purchases (in dollars)
6. Number of new beginning farmers who went into specialty crop production
7. Number of socially disadvantaged famers who went into specialty crop production

7. *Project Sustainability:* Describe the likelihood of the project becoming self-sustaining and not indefinitely dependent on grant funds.
8. *Project Collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture:* Describe how the applicant will collaborate and coordinate with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture on execution of the project and

accomplish the Expected Measureable Outcomes.

9. *Projected Budget:* Provide the total budget amount and the total amounts for each of the sections below. If a project is selected to submit a full application, a much more detailed budget will be required.

NOTE: A cash match is not required, however if additional funds are contributing to the project, please note accordingly. In-kind matches are not applicable.

1. Personnel. Reminder: Personnel expenses cannot be applied to current employees, but only to special hires or durational employees hired specifically for the proposed project.
2. Fringe Benefits. Reminder: Fringe benefit expenses cannot be applied to current employees, but only to special hires or durational employees hired specifically for the proposed project. Tuition reimbursement expenses are not applicable.
3. Travel – Total travel costs include destinations, number of trips, days traveling, transportation, estimated lodging and meals, and estimated mileage rate.
4. Equipment – This category includes items having an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more and a useful life of more than one year. If the cost is under \$5,000, then include these items under Supplies. If purchasing or renting equipment, include an itemized list of each item along with a brief narrative on the intended use of each equipment item and the cost for all the equipment purchases or rentals. Capital expenditures for general purpose equipment, buildings, and land are unallowable.
5. Supplies – This includes anything with acquisition cost under \$5,000 and could be anything from office supplies and software to education or field supplies.
6. Contractual – If contractual work will be involved with carrying out the work of the project, identify the total contractual expenses. When determining the total cost for this category, include the fees for the professional services, travel costs, lodging expenses, indirect costs, and any other related contractual expenses.
7. Other – This includes fees for conferences or meetings, facility and equipment rental, lodging and meal expenses, communication costs, speaker fees, publication costs, data collection, etc.
8. Program Income – If program income is earned, it may be used for (1) expanding the project or program; (2) continuing the project or program after grant/sub grant support ends; and (3) supporting other projects or programs that further the objectives of the grant program. Any earned income must be fully reinvested to help sustain and grow the project.

CONCEPT PROPOSAL EVALUATION:

Concept Proposals will undergo an administrative evaluation. The final award recommendations will be made by an industry review panel. Those recommendations will be determined based on how well the application meets the following:

1. Does the application meet all the submission requirements?
2. Does the project increase the competitiveness of specialty crops? How?
3. Is the project needed by the industry?
4. Is it a project noted as an area of importance by the USDA?
5. Is it a project noted as an area of importance in Connecticut?
6. Is the project work plan reasonable and achievable? Is the strategy for implementation appropriate?
7. Does the project affect specialty crops as a whole and not an individual in any way? Does the application elaborate on how that will be accomplished?
8. Is there a well constructed budget showing, in the highest detail possible, how funds are to be expended.

**\*\*If you are asked to submit a full proposal, you will be required to participate in a training workshop. This workshop will break down the entire application in an effort to enable a successful application.\*\***

#### ANTICIPATED TIMELINE OF EVENTS

March 8	Announcement of open RFA/Concept Proposal submission
April 6	Concept Proposals due
April 15	Full application requests announced
April 21	Training workshop for applicants (save the date!)
May 9	Full applications are due via email by 4:00 p.m.
May 26	Review Panel Meeting
June 6	Announcement of awards
July 1	CT DoAg submits compiled application to USDA
October 1	Expected date of federal award announcement
January 1, 2016	Release of funds to sub-grantees (approximately)

*Dates are subject to change, please check the agency website for the most current timeline of events.*

#### APPENDICES THAT FOLLOW:

- A: Restrictions and Limitations on Funds
- B: Allowable Costs
- C: Administration of Grants
- D. Concept Paper Application *(also available on our website, [www.ctgrown.gov/grants](http://www.ctgrown.gov/grants))*

## **APPENDIX A**

### RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS ON GRANT FUNDS

Grant funds may not be used to fund political activities in accordance with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. 1501-1508 and 7321-7326).

Development or participation in lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352 including costs of membership in organizations substantially engaged in lobbying are unallowable.

Capital expenditures for general purpose equipment, buildings, and land are unallowable as direct and indirect charges.

Capital expenditures means expenditures for the acquisition cost of capital assets (equipment, buildings, land), or expenditures to make improvements to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life. Acquisition cost means the cost of the asset including the cost to put it in place. Acquisition cost for equipment, for example, means the net invoice price of the equipment, including the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for the purpose for which it is acquired. Ancillary charges, such as taxes, duty, protective in transit insurance, freight, and installation may be included in, or excluded from the acquisition cost in accordance with the governmental unit's regular accounting practices.

General purpose equipment means equipment, which is not limited to research, scientific or other technical activities. Examples include office equipment and furnishings, telephone networks, information technology equipment and systems, reproduction and printing equipment, and motor vehicles.

Equipment means an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost which equals or exceeds \$5000.

Capital expenditures for special purpose equipment are allowable as direct costs, provided that items with a unit cost of \$5000 or more have the prior approval of AMS. (Note: Prior approval from AMS means that the special purpose equipment must be included in the State Plan, and the State Plan must receive approval from AMS. If special purpose equipment was not originally included in the approved State plan, then the grantee must request approval from AMS to purchase the equipment before utilizing grant funds.)

Special purpose equipment means equipment which is used only for research, scientific, or other technical activities. The special purpose equipment must solely enhance the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops and benefit the specialty crop industry.

Rental costs of buildings and equipment are allowable as direct costs in accordance with the cost principles in Subpart T of 7 CFR 3015.

## **APPENDIX B**

### ALLOWABLE COSTS

All subawards are subject to those cost principles applicable to the particular organization concerned. For example, if a State government subawards to a university, the cost principles applicable to a university will apply. All costs must be associated with project activities that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

State and Local Governments and Indian Tribal Governments - [2 CFR 225 \(OMB Circular A-87\)](#).

Colleges and Universities - [2 CFR 220 \(OMB Circular A-21\)](#).

Non-Profits - [2 CFR 230 \(OMB Circular A-122\)](#).

For Profits - [48 CFR Part 31.2](#).

## **Appendix C**

### ADMINISTRATION OF GRANTS

AMS applies the following federal grant uniform administrative requirements to the management of each grant award, and the State department of agriculture shall in turn apply these requirements to their subgrantees based on the type of organization through their contractual or cooperative linkages. For example, if the State government subawards to a non-profit, the administrative requirements applicable to a non-profit will apply.

State and Local Governments and Indian Tribal Governments - [7 CFR 3015](#) and [7 CFR 3016](#)

Colleges and Universities - [7 CFR 3015](#) and [7 CFR 3019](#)

Non-Profits - [7 CFR 3015](#) and [7 CFR 3019](#)

For Profits - [7 CFR 3015](#) and [7 CFR 3019](#)

**Fiscal Year 2016**

**SPECIALTY CROP  
BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**



**CONCEPT PROPOSAL**  
***Application Form***  
*All projects are subject to availability of funding.*

Organization /  
Business Name:

**Project Title:**

**APPLICANT DETAILS**

Project Coordinator:

Organization / Business Type:

- Agricultural Non-Profit/Commodity Association
- Municipality/Agricultural Commission
- For-Profit/Producer
- College or University
- State Government

DUNS #:

Instructions as to how obtain a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) Number can be found at [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/duns\\_num\\_guide.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/duns_num_guide.pdf)

Address:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Web Site  
Address:

E-mail Address:

**Requested  
Grant Amount**

Has the applicant received grant funds through the Connecticut Department of Agriculture in the past?  No  Yes, Please elaborate:

**AREA OF FOCUS** (check only one category)

<input type="checkbox"/> Enhancement of food safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Crop research/conservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptation to climate change	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion/marketing of Connecticut Grown specialty crops
<input type="checkbox"/> Production, aggregation, and distribution for wholesale markets	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture education and outreach
<input type="checkbox"/> Increasing production and consumption of Connecticut Grown specialty crops	<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition education and consumption
<input type="checkbox"/> Crop pest and disease control/management	

Are you working with a beginning farmer or a socially disadvantaged farmer?  No  Yes

**Estimated Timeline**

Project start date: January, 1, 2017 (or later)  
Project completion deadline: September 30, 2019 (or earlier)

**Start date:**

**End Date:**

**Project Purpose** Clearly state the specific issue, problem, interest, or need your project will address. Explain why your project is important and timely:

**Statement of Solely Enhancing Specialty Crops**

By checking the box below, I confirm that this project **solely** enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops in accordance with and defined by [7 U.S.C. 1621](#). Further information regarding the definition of a specialty crop can be found at [www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp).

YES

**Goals** Select the outcome measure(s) that are applicable for this project from the listing below.

- Outcome 1:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased sales (required for marketing projects)
- Outcome 2:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased consumption
- Outcome 3:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased access
- Outcome 4:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through greater capacity of sustainable practices of specialty crop production resulting in increased yield, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and/or conservation of resources
- Outcome 5:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through more sustainable, diverse, and resilient specialty crop systems
- Outcome 6:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increasing the number of viable technologies to improve food safety
- Outcome 7:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased understanding of the ecology of threats to food safety from microbial and chemical sources
- Outcome 8:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through enhancing or improving the economy as a result of specialty crop development

**Project Sustainability** Describe the likelihood of the project becoming self-sustaining and not indefinitely dependent on grant funds

**Project Collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture** Describe how you will work with the agency to execute and accomplish the project.

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**Projected Budget** Complete the below budget for the proposed project. A cash match is preferred, but not required.

Category	SCBGP	Cash	Total	Comments
Personnel				
Fringe Benefits				
Travel				
Equipment				
Supplies				
Contractual				
Other				
Program Income				
<b>Total</b>				

**When complete, e-mail this document to:**

Jaime Smith, Marketing Rep and SCBG Program Coordinator

[Jaime.smith@ct.gov](mailto:Jaime.smith@ct.gov)

**By 4:00pm on April 6, 2016**