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**For Immediate Release**

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### **2025 SPECIALTY CROP PROJECT PROPOSALS DUE JAN. 31**

LINCOLN – Specialty crops, like fruits, tree nuts, vegetables, herbs and spices, are grown on more than 1,500 farms in the state and are an important part of Nebraska’s agriculture industry. To benefit Nebraska agriculture and strengthen the state’s specialty crop industry, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is seeking proposals for the research, development, and/or marketing of specialty crops through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP). The program is administered by NDA and funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The deadline for submitting SCBGP proposals is Jan. 31, 2025.

“Nebraska is one of the most diversified agricultural states in the nation producing a wide variety of traditional and specialty crops,” said SCBG Program Manager Casey Foster. “The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program gives producers, educational groups and other stakeholders, additional opportunities to research, develop and market specialty crops.”

For the 2025 SCBG Program, NDA anticipates approximately \$820,000 will be available to fund new projects. Last fall, several organizations in Nebraska received more than \$824,000 in USDA grants. Producers, organizations, and associations, as well as state and local agencies, educational groups and other specialty crops stakeholders are eligible to apply.

NDA uses AmpliFund for the grant application software. A recorded webinar training is available on NDA’s website at <https://nda.nebraska.gov/promotion/scbgp/index.html> along with proposal instructions, grant performance measures and program guidelines.

As in years past, this year’s proposals will be reviewed and scored using select criteria. Applicants who make it through the first round will be asked to submit additional information. NDA and USDA will announce the projects receiving funding in the fall.

To view a comprehensive list of eligible specialty crops and examples of projects funded, visit USDA’s website at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp>. For additional information, contact Casey Foster at 402-471-6857, or by email at [casey.foster@nebraska.gov](mailto:casey.foster@nebraska.gov).

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