



## Specialty crop grants available; optional workshops scheduled

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MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is accepting applications for the 2016 Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) program. Two optional grant-writing workshops are scheduled in late March, and applications are due to DATCP by April 15.

Grants are awarded to projects intended to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop industries through research, education or market development. Qualified projects are those meant to benefit the industry as a whole as opposed to benefiting one individual, farm or company. DATCP will use a competitive review process to select the most qualified projects and will submit Wisconsin's state plan to the USDA for approval and funding.

Specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, nursery crops, herbs and more. Find a full list of eligible crops and more information about the program at [www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp).

Non-profits, producer organizations, government agencies, universities and other agricultural organizations are encouraged to apply. Applications may involve collaborations or partnerships between entities.

Grant funds will be awarded for projects up to three years in duration. Typical projects are awarded between \$10,000 and \$100,000. In anticipation of receiving funding, project contracts and work would begin in the fall.

Eligible project expenses include compensation for personnel, consultant services, materials and supplies, and miscellaneous costs.

Optional workshops are scheduled for interested applicants.

- The first workshop will be held Tuesday, March 29, 2-4 p.m., at DATCP's Agricultural Building, 2811 Agriculture Drive.
- The second workshop will be held Wednesday, March 30, 6-8 p.m., in Stevens Point.

To attend a workshop, or for more information about the program, contact DATCP Grants Specialist Juli Speck at [juli.speck@wisconsin.gov](mailto:juli.speck@wisconsin.gov) or 608-224-5134.

Application materials are online at [http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Crops\\_and\\_Specialty\\_Crops](http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Crops_and_Specialty_Crops).