

New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets

2010 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Webinar
May 10, 2010

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Program Authority

- Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004
- Amended by the 2008 Farm Bill
- Mandatory outlays in federal Fiscal Years 2009-2012
 - \$55 million each year in 2010-2012

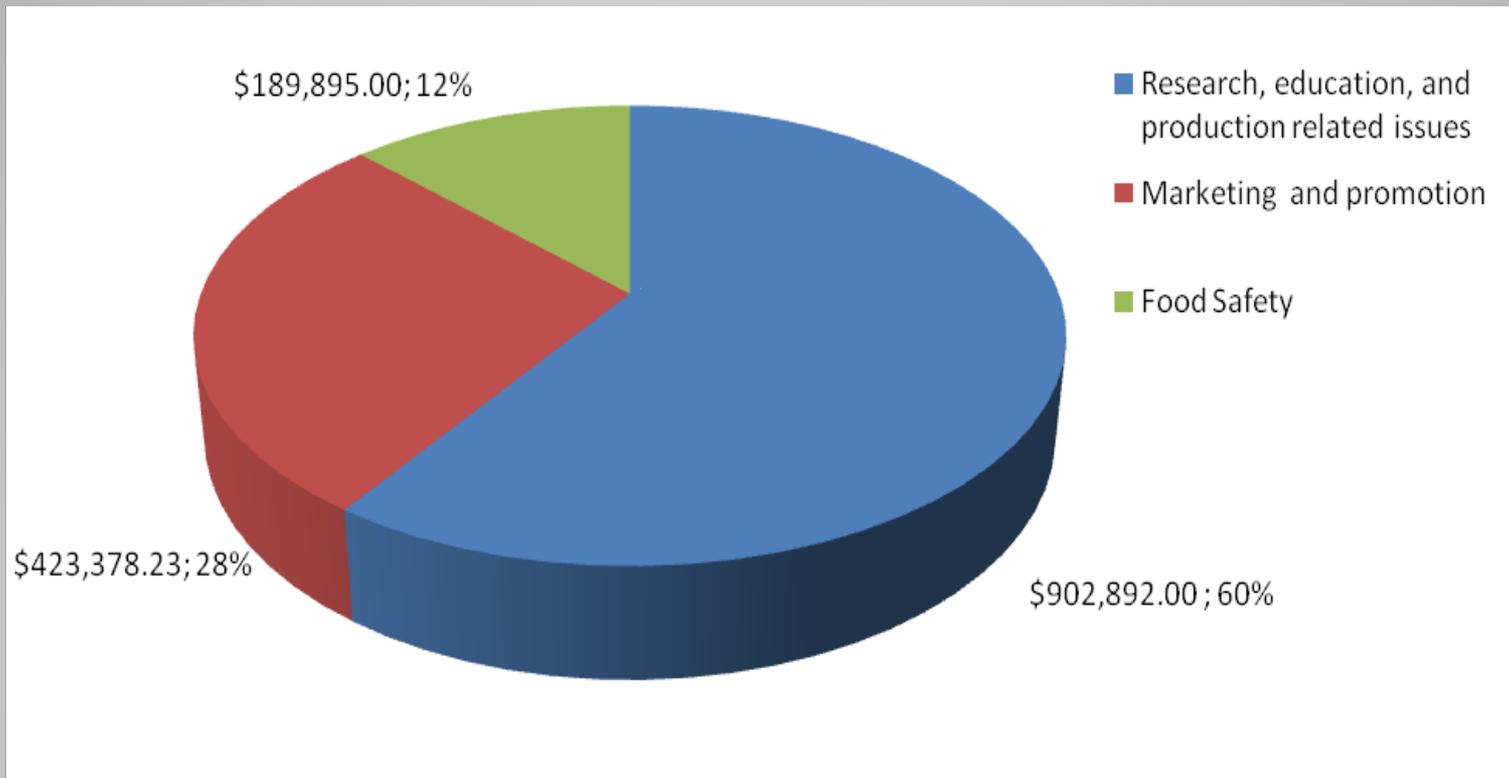
Definition of Specialty Crops

- Fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, nursery crops
- Full list of eligible and ineligible crops included in Appendix B of RFP
- See link to USDA web site for updated list

Program Purpose/Description

- Solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops
- State departments of agriculture apply to USDA
- Allocation based on proportion of the value of state's specialty crop production in relation to national value

New York State's Use of Funds FY 2006-2009



SCBG Advisory Committee

- Made up of 15 industry leaders representing diverse range of commodities and subject areas
- Advise and provide recommendations regarding:
 - Needs and priorities
 - Competitive grant development & implementation

General RFP Information

- Table of contents
- Submission requirements
- Application checklist
- Total available funding = \$835,000
 - Research and grower education = \$600,000
 - Consumer outreach and market development = \$235,000

Eligible Applicants

- State, local, and Indian tribal governments
- Not-for-profit organizations
- Not-for-profit educational institutions

➤ **Commitment letters from project partners must be included with application**

Project Eligibility

- Solely enhance specialty crops
- Address one of the two funding categories
(See pages 6-7 for examples)
- Minimum of \$30,000/maximum of \$100,000
- Must benefit more than one commercial product or individual/entity
- Benefit greatest number of beneficiaries
- Completed within 3 years

Project Eligibility, cont.

- Biobased and bioenergy programs should visit USDA energy website at:
www.energymatrix.usda.gov
- Projects that support farmers markets that do not solely enhance specialty crops should visit the Farmers Market Promotion Program website at www.ams.usda.gov/fmpp

Eligible Costs

- Personnel
- Fringe benefits
- Travel
- Special purpose equipment
- Supplies
- Contractual

Must follow *OMB Federal Cost Principles* and be directly associated with activities that enhance specialty crops only.

➤ **See website link on Page 7 of RFP**

Ineligible Costs

- Non-specialty crops are not eligible
 - See **Appendix C** of RFP (Page 15) for list.
- Indirect costs
- Political activities
- Lobbying activities
- General purpose equipment, buildings, land
 - Not limited to research, scientific or technical activities.
 - Examples include: office equipment, furnishings, motor vehicles, etc.

State Conditions

- Must comply with applicable State statutes, regulations and policy requirements.
- Contract terms and conditions are dependent on specific project, scope of work, budget, etc.

➤ See Pages 9-12, Attachments 2 & 4 of RFP

Federal Conditions

- Must comply with applicable federal statutes, regulations and policy requirements.
 - Specific requirements depend on type of applicant (i.e. local government, not-for-profit, educational institution, etc.)

➤ See website link on Page 12 of RFP

Funding Criteria

- Review pages 8-9 carefully.
 - Project purpose (12 points)
 - Potential impact (27 points)
 - Measurable outcomes (20 points)
 - Work Plan (21 points)
 - Budget (20 points)
 - BONUS: Project partners & industry support (10 points)

➤ This is what reviewers will refer to when scoring projects!

Questions Concerning RFP

Must be submitted in writing to:

Tim Pezolesi

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