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For Immediate Release

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### **2024 SPECIALTY CROP PROJECT PROPOSALS DUE JAN. 31**

LINCOLN – Nebraska’s diverse landscape, soil, and climate work together to support a wide variety of traditional and specialty crops. To benefit Nebraska agriculture, and strengthen the state’s specialty crop industry, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is seeking proposals for research, development, and marketing projects 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, 2024.

“Specialty crops allow farmers to diversify their operations, adding value and variety to Nebraska agriculture,” said SCBG Program Manager Casey Foster. “SCBGP’s online application streamlines the application process allowing farmers to focus more on innovative ways to grow and market their specialty crops.”

For the 2024 SCBG program, NDA anticipates approximately \$820,000 will be available to fund new projects. Producers, organizations, and associations, as well as state and local agencies, educational groups and other specialty crops stakeholders are eligible to apply. Last fall, several organizations in Nebraska received more than \$823,000 in USDA grants.

AmpliFund is the grant application software NDA is using. 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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