

Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant Program 2016 Grant Cycle

Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds enhance the competitiveness of Vermont specialty crops including fruits and vegetables, herbs and spices, honey, hops, maple syrup, Christmas trees and nursery crops. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets awards SCBGP funds through a competitive review process guided by industry, nonprofit and government stakeholders.



Monday, February 1

Request for Proposals Released



Thursday, February 11 3:00 PM

Information Session Webinar

Register at <http://bit.ly/webinar0216>



Friday, March 11

Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline

Friday, May 6

Full Application Deadline



Monday, October 3

Awards Announced

Contact Kristina Sweet at kristina.sweet@vermont.gov or (802) 522-7811 with questions or to receive a copy of the RFP. Visit the Vermont SCBGP webpage at <http://go.usa.gov/3JGBG> (case sensitive URL).

Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

New in 2016

Expected Measurable Outcomes

Beginning in 2016, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is required to report on the outcomes of the SCBGP at a national scale to demonstrate program performance. Each proposal must include at least one of eight specified outcomes and indicators (quantifiable measures). 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. The Vermont SCBGP request for proposals and information session will provide guidance on meeting these new requirements.

WebGrants

In 2016, all Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) letters of intent (LOI) and applications will be submitted through the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' new online grants management system, WebGrants. WebGrants may be accessed at <https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov>. We will provide additional guidance for working with WebGrants on our SCBGP webpage at <http://go.usa.gov/3JGBG> (case sensitive URL) and in our information session (see below).

Information Session

Please register for Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Information Session Webinar on February 11, 2016 at 3:00 PM EST at <http://bit.ly/webinar0216>.

- In this webinar, you will gain an introduction to the Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP), the 2016 application process—including new USDA standards for outcome measures—and our agency's new online grants management system, WebGrants.
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
- The webinar will be recorded and made available on the Vermont SCBGP webpage at <http://go.usa.gov/3JGBG> (case sensitive URL).
- To attend in person at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, RSVP to Kristina Sweet at kristina.sweet@vermont.gov. Due to building restrictions, all visitors to the Agency of Agriculture must register in advance.

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