



**Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner**

# **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE** **2020 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**

## **Request for Applications**

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**Application Due Date: 11:59 PM on Friday, March 27, 2020**

South Carolina Department of Agriculture  
PO Box 11280  
Columbia, SC 29211  
803-734-2210

[www.scspecialtycropblockgrant.com](http://www.scspecialtycropblockgrant.com)

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**Please read all materials before preparing and submitting the application. Failure to follow the instructions and requirements described in this Request for Applications (RFA) may result in the disqualification of the application.**

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## PART I: General Information

### A. Introduction/Background

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) hereby requests applications for projects designed to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops grown in South Carolina. Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds will be made available to South Carolina from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the 2020 fiscal year budget to be administered by SCDA.

While the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has not yet announced the amounts awarded to states for the FY2020 SCBGP, over the past three years South Carolina has been awarded an average of \$526,000 per three year cycle. USDA determines the award amount for each state which is derived from a formula using the value of specialty crop production to the amount of acreage devoted to specialty crop production within that state.

The SCBGP is authorized under section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note) and amended under section 10010 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79 (Farm Bill). SCBGP is currently implemented under 7 CFR part 1291. Each state submits an application (referred to as the State Plan) that is reviewed and approved by AMS personnel. In an effort to reach specialty crop initiatives throughout the state, the SCDA has established a competitive grant process for these funds.

SCDA will accept applications for these funds through **11:59 PM on March 27, 2020**. All applications received in the SCDA Grants Administration office on or before March 27, 2020 will be carefully reviewed and evaluated based on the criteria posted at: [www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp). In its two-step competitive review process, external agricultural experts will review all eligible project applications objectively to assign scores. The scores will then be used to rank the projects to be presented before a selection committee which will determine which projects will be funded and the amount for which each one will be awarded.

### B. Definitions of Terms Used

**Specialty crops** are defined by law as “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).” Eligible plants must be cultivated or managed and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered specialty crops. Processed products shall consist of greater than 50% of the specialty crop by weight, exclusive of added water. For purposes of the SCBGP, honey is considered to be a horticultural crop and is therefore a specialty crop. A complete list of USDA AMS approved specialty crops can be found at: [www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp).

**Beginning Farmer** is an individual or entity that has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years and substantially participates in the operation.

**Socially Disadvantaged Farmer** is a farmer who is a member of a Socially Disadvantaged Group. A Socially Disadvantaged Group is a group whose members have been subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program.

### C. Eligible Applicants

Applications will only be accepted from producer, industry or community-based organizations involved with specialty crops. Each application must describe a project that meets the following criteria:

1. Clearly demonstrate that the purpose is to enhance the competitiveness of a specialty crop industry in South Carolina.
2. Use funds for activities that benefit the promotion, consumption, and/or accessibility of specialty crops in South Carolina.
3. Benefit more than one individual, institution or organization. Grant funds will not be awarded for projects that directly benefit or provide a profit to a single organization, institution or individual.
4. Special consideration will be given to projects with multiple organizations partnering together to create a greater impact on the SC specialty crop industry.

### D. Grant Funding Period

Projects funded by the SCBGP may be 1, 2, or 3 years in length, but must be completed within three years. SCDA will be funding projects for this RFA between **September 30, 2020 and September 29, 2023**. Upon notification of inclusion in the accepted State Plan, pre-award costs are allowable if necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of the project work up to 90 calendar days prior to the start date without prior approval.

### E. Funding Parameters

Projects may be funded at varying levels, depending on the nature of the project. SCDA reserves the right to alter project budgets as needed, prior to the award process. All projects must demonstrate strong justification for the requested budget, as well as the potential for providing significant demonstrable benefits to South Carolina specialty crops.

All SCBGP sub-awards are subject to the most recent award terms and conditions, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (2 CFR part 200), and other laws and regulations affecting Federal assistance.

All costs must be allowable in accordance with the Federal cost principles outlined in 2 CFR part 200 Subpart E and in the official Request for Applications announced by USDA AMS.

SCDA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals submitted. SCDA is under no legal or other obligation to execute a grant on the basis of a response submitted to this RFA. SCDA shall not pay for any costs incurred by any entity in responding to this RFA.

### F. Project Types

USDA AMS encourages each state department of agriculture to develop projects to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops pertaining to the following issues affecting the specialty crop industry:

- Enhancing food safety
- Developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops

- Improving the capacity of all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain to comply with the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act, for example, developing “Good Agricultural Practices”, “Good Handling Practices”, “Good Manufacturing Practices”, and in cost-share arrangements for funding audits of such systems for small farmers, packers and processors
- Investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes
- Pest and disease control
- Increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops
- Improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems
- Sustainability

### **Projects more relevant for other Federal grant programs**

Projects that support the increase in sales of fruits and vegetables in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by providing incentives at the point of purchase and/or include technologies for benefit redemption systems, should consider submitting those projects to the **Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grants Program**.

Projects that support domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities, as well as local and regional food business enterprises that process, distribute, aggregate, or store locally or regionally produced food products, should consider submitting those projects to the **Farmers Market Promotion Program** and/or the **Local Food Promotion Program**.

Projects that support bio based products and bioenergy and energy programs, including biofuels, and other alternative uses for agricultural and forestry commodities (development of bio based products), should see the USDA energy website at <http://www.usda.gov/energy/matrix/home> for information on how to submit those projects for consideration to the energy programs supported by the USDA.

## **PART II: Grantee Information**

### **A. Responsibilities and Accountability**

Each project included in the 2020 SCDA State Plan is referred to as a “grantee” and/or a “subrecipient.”

The grantee or subrecipient has full responsibility for the conduct of the project and for timely reporting of achieved results. Each subrecipient shall monitor the day-to-day performance of the grant project to assure adherence to statutes, regulations, and grant terms and conditions. The subrecipient will carry out the activities described in the scope of work to achieve project goals, objectives, and desired outcomes.

The subrecipient organization will be accountable for all grant funds, ensuring all funds are used solely for authorized purposes. Accepted projects will receive funding on a cost-reimbursement basis only.

The grantee will ensure by written agreement:

- Funds will be used only for activities covered by the approved project plan
- Funds will not be used in violation of any restrictions and/or prohibitions of applicable statutes
- All budget and performance reports will be completed and submitted in a timely manner
- All project records will be kept for three years upon close-out of the award by SCDA
- An adequate accounting system is in place with good internal controls to ensure expenditures and reimbursements are reported accurately from all funding sources related to the project

All grantees are required by USDA AMS to have a DUNS number. The Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) is a system developed and regulated by Dun and Bradstreet that assigns a unique numeric identifier to a single business entity. This may be obtained by phone at 1-866-705-5711 or via the following website: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.

## **B. Risk Assessment**

Each organization applying for the SCDA SCBGP will undergo a risk assessment evaluation. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.331, SCDA must determine the ability of the subrecipient to comply with Federal statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions of the sub-award agreement. Some factors to be considered by SCDA during this risk assessment include:

1. SCDA prior experience with subrecipient (i.e. on-time reports, accurate invoicing, communication)
2. Results of previous site visits or audits
3. New or frequently changing personnel and/or substantially changed internal control systems
4. Extent and results of any prior Federal awarding agency monitoring, debarment, suspension or delinquency on Federal debt

Organizations deemed at-risk by SCDA may still receive SCBGP sub-awards. However, SCDA is authorized to impose special conditions on high risk subrecipients as listed in 2 CFR 200.207. Examples of special conditions may include additional measures for project monitoring, and/or more detailed or frequent financial reporting.

## **C. Selection Criteria**

Only the required application template in its original format will be accepted. Each application will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility. Applications will be scored using the following criteria (a complete rubric may be downloaded at [www.scspecialtycropblockgrant.com](http://www.scspecialtycropblockgrant.com)).

1. **Project Purpose** (25 points) – Does the project describe a specific and existing issue or need? Is it relevant to and will it provide a direct benefit to the SC specialty crop industry?
2. **External Support** (5 points) – Does the project demonstrate support from external stakeholders, and does it include letters of support?
3. **Project Plan** (20 points) – Does the application provide a clear, viable, and well-conceived overall methodology for fulfilling the goals and objectives of the proposed project?
4. **Measurable Outcomes** (25 points) – Are the objectives precise, attainable, and meet the purpose of the grant program to significantly benefit stakeholders? Have the AMS guidelines for selecting Outcomes/Indicators been followed and are they well-selected for the overall project objectives?

5. **Budget** (15 points) – Does the budget narrative and justification give a sufficient description of each category? Is the overall budget sufficiently detailed and consistent with the size/scope of the project?
6. **Overall Application** (10 points) – Does the overall application present a clear, focused, and viable plan to increase the competitiveness of South Carolina specialty crops in a well-written manner?

The application for grant funds should describe how the project potentially affects and produces measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public rather than a single organization, institution, or individual. SCDA will not award grant funds for projects that solely benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual. In addition, subrecipients cannot use grant funds to compete unfairly with private companies that provide equivalent products or services. Single organizations, institutions, and individuals are encouraged to participate together as project partners.

Projects where one organization specifically attempts to disparage the mission, goals, and/or actions of another organization are unallowable.

Research projects should be applied research and all results should be available to producers, processors and/or consumers within one to two years of the ending date of the grant. Projects with a large research component will be evaluated on their ability to document and transfer results to industry stakeholders.

SCDA may choose to use a portion of the funds for internally conducted projects, including but not limited to, outreach activities, regulatory and/or marketing activities, and trainings. All internal projects will also be evaluated in the competitive process.

#### **D. Performance Measures**

AMS is required to report the outcomes of the SCBGP on a national scale to demonstrate the performance of this program. To fulfill this requirement, AMS collaborated with stakeholders, including the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to develop a list of measurable outcomes and indicators that quantifiably measure performance toward fulfilling the program’s purpose to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. By collecting, aggregating, and reporting performance data across all states and territories, AMS can share the impact of the SCBGP with all stakeholders, including OMB, the U.S. Congress, the agricultural community, and the general public.

Each project application submitted to the SCDA for consideration as part of the State Plan must include at least one of the eight outcomes listed in the FY20 SCDA SCBGP Application Template. At least one of the indicators listed within the selected outcome(s) must also be selected. Subrecipients must report on the progress of the selected outcomes and indicators in the Annual Performance Report(s), and end-of-project results must be reported in the Final Performance Report. (This is discussed in more detail in Section III. C.)

#### **E. Budget Development**

All SCBGP awards are subject to the most recent Federal award terms and conditions, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (2 CFR part 200), and other laws and regulations affecting Federal assistance.

All costs must be allowable, allocable and reasonable in accordance with the Federal cost principles outlined in 2 CFR part 200 Subpart E. Applicants must acknowledge reading of the complete list of specific funding restrictions for the SCBGP which may be found at [www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp).

**Grantees must adhere to the State of South Carolina Procurement Code for all purchases, contracts, travel, and personnel costs (per diem, meals) being paid with SCBGP funds.**

General equipment purchases are not allowed by SCDA for the SCBGP. Specific equipment deemed crucial to the success of the project may be applied for as Supplies accompanied by detailed justification.

**Grantees are not eligible to receive indirect costs through the SCDA SCBGP.** All indirect costs (8% as allowed by AMS) are to be retained by SCDA to 1) encumber administrative expenses incurred by SCDA for operating the SCBGP and 2) allow all direct funds from AMS to be applied to programmatic funding related to the projects within the State Plan.

#### **F. Award Notification**

Each organization whose application is reviewed in the competitive process will receive written correspondence from SCDA regarding the acceptance or non-acceptance of the project as part of the State Plan. Accepted projects may be requested to provide additional information or to make adjustments to its proposal. SCDA will notify each project lead regarding the status of the application by July 15, 2020.

SCDA reserves the right to alter, amend, or clarify any provisions, terms, or conditions of this program or any grant awarded as a result thereof, or to terminate this program at any time prior to the execution of an agreement, should SCDA deem any such action to be in the best interest of SCDA and of the State of South Carolina. The decision of SCDA will be administratively final in this regard.

The applicant is required to disclose any existing or potential conflicts of interest relative to this grant program. Failure to disclose any such relationship may result in the applicant's disqualification or termination of agreement.

#### **G. Program Requirements**

Grantees must comply with both AMS and SCDA reporting requirements and financial procedures as outlined in the Grant Agreement which shall be signed by both the grantee and SCDA officials upon acknowledgement of funding. Any delegation by the Grantee to a subcontractor regarding any duties and responsibilities imposed by the grant award must be approved in advance by SCDA and shall not relieve the grantee of its responsibilities to SCDA for their performance.

Grantees must remain in full compliance with State and Federal laws and regulations. Non-compliance may result in termination of the grant or ineligibility for reimbursement of expenses.

Each Grantee must ensure they have an adequate accounting system in place and good internal controls to ensure expenditures and reimbursements are reported and maintained for a minimum of three years after the conclusion of the project.

Reporting requirements are project-specific and based on the duration of each project. By signing the Grant Agreement, the Grantee agrees to all accountability and reporting requirements. Grantees must show both a strong progress of work completed on all programmatic and financial progress by submitting Quarterly Memo updates. Grantees will be required to submit Annual Performance Report(s); one for each fiscal year of the project, and a Final Performance Report which is inclusive for all three years, or the total duration of the project, whichever comes first. Failure to comply with reporting requirements may result in the withholding of a request for reimbursement and/or termination of the award.

Grantees will be required to submit payment requests quarterly, but no more frequently than monthly. Payment requests must include sufficient detail and supporting documentation. Backup detail may include, but is not limited to, documentation of personnel expenses, or copies of invoices and receipts.

Up to 90% of the total grant award may be paid provided the work for which payment is requested has been completed and proper documentation has been submitted. The remaining 10% will only be disbursed once all reporting requirements have been met, including, but not limited to, the Final Performance Report approved by AMS staff.

### **Part III: Application Information**

#### **A. Submission Requirements**

All proposed applications must be received by **11:59 pm, Friday, March 27, 2020** to be considered. Applications must be submitted by email ONLY to [bdorton@scda.sc.gov](mailto:bdorton@scda.sc.gov) and must include the email subject line: **FY20 SCBGP Application**.

Electronic applications will only be accepted in Microsoft Word. Any applications submitted as a PDF will not be considered. Each applicant is required by SCDA and AMS to have a current and active DUNS number.

#### **B. Project Application Requirements**

The South Carolina State Plan which will be submitted to USDA AMS for consideration, will include a series of project profiles that detail the necessary information to fulfill the goals and objectives of each project. Applicants **must** use the provided SCDA FY2020 SCBGP Application Template to be considered. The official application template may be obtained at the following link: [www.scspecialtycropblockgrant.com](http://www.scspecialtycropblockgrant.com).

Because the application format may be updated annually, it is imperative for the applicant to closely review the FY2020 application format. Please pay close attention to all italicized instructions in the project profile template. Furthermore, please do not alter or remove any portions of the template and be sure to include an answer for every question, even if the answer is "Not Applicable."

#### **C. Expected Measurable Outcomes/Performance Evaluations**

Reporting the measurable outcomes and determining methods of evaluating these outcomes have been aggregated into eight categories by AMS. As previously stated, USDA will use the data from each of these

eight outcome measures to demonstrate the performance of the program to all stakeholders, including the OMB, the U.S. Congress, the agricultural community and the general public.

Each project submitted to the SCDA SCBGP must include **at least one of the eight outcomes** listed below, except by special request. Additionally, **at least one of the indicators** listed underneath the selected outcome(s) must be chosen. If there are multiple sub-indicators under the selected indicator, select **at least one**.

If the indicator(s) below the selected outcome(s) are not relevant to a project, a project-specific indicator(s) may be developed which will be subject to approval by AMS. Include the proposed indicator under the Miscellaneous Outcome Measure section of the Project Application Template.

**Note:** The *progress* of each indicator must be reported in the Annual Performance Report(s) and the *result* must be reported in the Final Performance Report. This should be carefully considered in the number of outcomes/indicators selected so as not to create a burdensome reporting situation. It is highly advisable to limit the project to 1-3 total indicators.

## **Outcome Measures**

### ***Outcome 1: To enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased sales***

***NOTE: Outcome 1 is mandatory for all marketing and promotion projects.***

Marketing and promotion projects focus efforts to sell, advertise, promote, market, and generate publicity, attract new customers, or raise customer awareness for specialty crops or a specialty crop venue. These include, but are not limited to:

- Uses of social media to market and promote;
- Specialty crop local, regional and national campaigns;
- Specialty crop only tradeshow;
- Website promotion and development;
- Use/development of billboards, radio, television, magazine and email ads, and other marketing materials such as direct mail or brochures;
- Export market development;
- Retail promotions including point-of-purchase items, labels, packaging, etc.;
- Marketing and promotion campaign with an education component directed to consumers.

The specific measure must be expressed as a dollar value and percentage increase in sales of one or more specialty crops in one or more States or foreign markets as a result of marketing and/or promotion activities. For example, an expected outcome of growth in sales from 5% to 10% is not acceptable by itself, but in combination with an increase in sales of \$1 million to \$2 million it is acceptable. This requirement means that an established baseline of sales in dollars should already exist at the time of application. For projects that do not already have a baseline of sales in dollars, one of the objectives of the project must be to determine such a baseline in order to meet the requirement to document the value of sales increases by the end of the project.

**Indicator:**

Sales increased from \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and by \_\_\_\_\_ percent, as result of marketing and/or promotion activities

AMS understands that sales can be impacted by a host of unrelated issues including trade disputes, phytosanitary issues, export conditions, weather, and other factors affecting the farmer, supply chain, retailers, wholesalers and/or consumers. The above factors demonstrate that even a perfectly executed marketing campaign can result in sales remaining constant or even declining. These factors and events that either positively or negatively impacted the sales of a project can be explained in the performance report.

***Outcome 2: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased consumption***

**Indicators:**

1. Of the \_\_\_\_ total number of children and youth reached,
  - a. The number that gained knowledge about eating more specialty crops
  - b. The number that reported an intention to eat more specialty crops
  - c. The number that reported eating more specialty crops
  
2. Of the \_\_\_\_ total number of adults reached,
  - a. The number that gained knowledge about eating more specialty crops
  - b. The number that reported an intention to eat more specialty crops
  - c. The number that reported eating more specialty crops
  
3. Number of new and improved technologies and processes to enhance the nutritional value and consumer acceptance of specialty crops (excluding patents) \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Number of new specialty crops and/or specialty crop products introduced to consumers \_\_\_\_\_

**Outcome 3: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased access and awareness**

**Indicators:**

1. Of the \_\_\_\_\_ total number of consumers or wholesale buyers reached,
  - a. The number that gained knowledge on how to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops
  - b. The number that reported an intention to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops
  - c. The number that reported supplementing their diets with specialty crops that they produced/preserved/obtained/prepared
  
2. Of the \_\_\_\_\_ total number of individuals (culinary professionals, institutional kitchens, specialty crop entrepreneurs such as kitchen incubators/shared-use kitchens, etc.) reached,
  - a. The number that gained knowledge on how to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops
  - b. The number that reported an intention to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops
  - c. The number that reported supplementing their diets with specialty crops that they produced/prepared/preserved/obtained
  
3. Number of existing delivery systems/access points of those reached that **expanded** and/or improved offerings of specialty crops
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ farmers' markets
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ produce at corner stores
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ school food programs and other food options (vending machines, school events)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ grocery stores
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ wholesale markets
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_ food hubs that process, aggregate, distribute, or store specialty crops
  - g. \_\_\_\_\_ home improvement centers with lawn and garden centers
  - h. \_\_\_\_\_ lawn and garden centers
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_ other systems/access points, not noted
  - j. \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL
  
4. Number of **new** delivery systems/access points offering specialty crops
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ farmers' markets
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ produce at corner stores
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ school food programs and other food options (vending machines, school events)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ grocery stores
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ wholesale markets
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_ food hubs that process, aggregate, distribute, or store specialty crops
  - g. \_\_\_\_\_ home improvement centers with lawn and garden centers
  - h. \_\_\_\_\_ lawn and garden centers
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_ other systems/access points, no noted
  - j. \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

***Outcome 4: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through greater capacity of sustainable practices of specialty crop production resulting in increased yield, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and/or conservation of resources.***

**Indicators:**

1. Numbers of plant/seed releases (i.e., cultivars, drought-tolerant plants, organic, enhanced nutritional composition, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Adoption of best practices and technologies resulting in increased yields, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and conservation of resources (select one)
  - a. Number of growers indicating adoption of recommended practices \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Number of growers reporting reduction in pesticides, fertilizer, water used/acre \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Number of growers reporting increased dollar returns per acre or reduced costs per acre \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Number of acres in conservation tillage or acres in other best management practices \_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of habitat acres established and maintained for the mutual benefit of pollinators and specialty crops \_\_\_\_\_

***Outcome 5: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through more sustainable, diverse, and resilient specialty crop systems***

**Indicators:**

1. Number of new or improved innovation models (biological, economic, business, management, etc.), technologies, networks, products, processes, etc. developed for specialty crop entities including producers, processors, distributors, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of innovations adopted \_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of specialty crop growers/producers (and other members of the specialty crop supply chain) that have increased revenue expressed in dollars \_\_\_\_\_
4. Number of new diagnostic systems analyzing specialty crop pests and diseases. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Number of new diagnostic technologies available for detecting plant pests and diseases \_\_\_\_\_
6. Number of first responders trained in early detection and rapid response to combat plant pests and diseases \_\_\_\_\_
7. Number of viable technologies/processes developed or modified that will increase specialty crop distribution and/or production \_\_\_\_\_
8. Number of growers/producers that gained knowledge about science-based tools through outreach and education programs \_\_\_\_\_

***Outcome 6: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increasing the number of viable technologies to improve food safety.***

**Indicators:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of viable technologies developed or modified for the detection and characterization of specialty crop supply contamination from foodborne threats
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of viable prevention, control and intervention strategies for all specialty crop production scales for foodborne threats along the production continuum
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of individuals who learned about prevention, detection, control, and intervention food safety practices and number of those individuals who increased their food safety skills and knowledge
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of improved prevention, detection, control, and intervention technologies
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of reported changes in prevention, detection, control, and intervention strategies

***Outcome 7: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased understanding of threats to food safety from microbial and chemical sources.***

**Indicators:**

*Number of projects focused on:*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Increased understanding of fecal indicators and pathogens
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Increased safety of all inputs into the specialty crop chain
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Increased understanding of the roles of humans, plants and animals as vectors
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Increased understanding of preharvest and postharvest process impacts on microbial and chemical threats
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of growers or producers obtaining on-farm food safety certifications (such as Good Agricultural Practices or Good Handling Practices)

***Outcome 8: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through enhancing or improving the economy as a result of specialty crop development.***

**Indicators:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of new rural careers created
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of new urban careers created
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of jobs maintained/created
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of small businesses maintained/created
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Increased revenue/increased savings/one-time capital purchases
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of new beginning farmers who went into specialty crop production
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of socially disadvantaged farmers who went into specialty crop production