

THE FARM BILL:

SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS

RESEARCH. MARKETING. NUTRITION EDUCATION. SUSTAINABILITY.

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) provides important tools to enhance specialty crop production, while also advancing foods with critical health benefits to the American people. Funding for the SCBGP should be increased and Congress should ensure a flexible, locally responsive, and state-led program.

Since the inception of the program in 2006, state departments of agriculture have funded more than \$537 million in projects enhancing the competitiveness of U.S. grown specialty crops. Specialty crops are fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, horticulture, and nursery crops.

These competitive grants are awarded to local commodity groups, colleges and universities, municipalities, tribal organizations, non-profits, and other food-focused entities with the end game of furthering the success of U.S.-grown specialty crops. This means supporting farmers while making Americans healthier!

SPECIALTY CROPS IN THE NEXT FARM BILL:

- Flexibility and local responsiveness in program administration by the states must be ensured.
- Marketing projects, a fundamental function of the SCBGP, must remain feasible.
- Funding for this critical program must be protected.
 - We encourage Congress to provide additional funds in order to ensure states receive a minimum allocation of \$500,000 to make a more meaningful impact to the competitiveness of the specialty crop industry in their state.

THE FARM BILL IMPACTS EVERYONE.




Agricultural producers, the rural economy, and communities of every size rely upon a forward looking, and fully funded Farm Bill. NASDA calls for enhanced investment in American agriculture that provides producers the tools they need to succeed. The Farm Bill is also vital to providing consumers access to the safest, highest quality and affordable food supply, which is essential for our nation's economy and security.

OUR FARM BILL PRIORITIES

- Conservation
- Trade Promotion
- Specialty Crops
- Invasive Species
- Animal Diseases
- Research
- Food Safety

Over for more details.



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MORE ON THE SCBCP

61ST STREET FARMERS MARKET:

The 61st Street Farmers Market, a program of Experimental Station, increases access to locally grown fresh and nutritious foods in Chicago's underserved Woodlawn neighborhood. Since its inception in 2008, the 61st Street Farmers Market has been the neighborhood's source of fresh and healthy foods and food education. The project rebuilt knowledge of the many benefits of consuming fruits and vegetables, supported local specialty crop producers, and increased economic vibrancy in the community.

The \$15,800 SCBG project fully integrated low-income apartment residents into the management and use of their neighboring hoop house and expanded outreach to SNAP customers. The grant also provided at-Market, in-school, after-school and summer educational programming aimed at teaching low-income children and adults how to grow, prepare and enjoy specialty crops.






TAOS VETERANS FARMERS PROJECT:

The Not Forgotten Outreach (NFO) Farmers Project provides veterans and survivors of fallen heroes with horticulture therapy and beginning specialty crop farmer training. NFO utilizes previously uncultivated land by means of Memorandums of Understanding with elderly landowners as well as hoop houses for season extension purposes in the Taos area in northern New Mexico.

By the end of the second year of the \$12,785 project, NFO had introduced 17 military families and three beginning veteran farmers to land reclamation, planting specialty crops, and preparing the crops for various wholesale and retail sales throughout their community. NFO also hosted an aquaponics workshop for 32 individuals that included both military families and civilians.



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