

# Grants offered to make specialty crops more competitive

Grants for producers to help enhance the competitiveness of Iowa-grown specialty crops are now available through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land

Stewardship (IDALS).

The department is eligible to receive approximately \$275,000 in grant dollars through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program,

according to Iowa Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey.

Grant awards will be considered up to a maximum of \$24,000.

Iowa agencies, universities, institutions, producers, industries and community based organizations are eligible to apply for the specialty crops grants.

In addition, single orga-

nizations, institutions and individuals are encouraged to participate as project partners.

"Specialty crops" eligible under this program are fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.

The grant dollars must be used for projects that solely

enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops and that benefit the specialty crop industry as a whole.

They will not be awarded for projects that directly benefit a particular product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual.

Proposals must be received by IDALS on or before 4 p.m. Friday, May 13.

For more information visit the IDALS Specialty Crop Block Grant program at the department's web site at [www.IowaAgriculture.gov/Horticulture\\_and\\_FarmersMarkets/specialtyCropGrant.asp](http://www.IowaAgriculture.gov/Horticulture_and_FarmersMarkets/specialtyCropGrant.asp).

The department is also establishing a Review Committee to help review, evalu-

ate, and make recommendations on grant proposals submitted to the department.

Those interested in participating in the Review Committee should have knowledge of specialty crops, and/or grant writing or grant management experience, and the ability to devote the necessary time to complete the review process.

Additional information about reviewer responsibilities, meeting dates and an application form can be found at [www.IowaAgriculture.gov/Horticulture\\_and\\_FarmersMarkets/specialtyCropGrant.asp](http://www.IowaAgriculture.gov/Horticulture_and_FarmersMarkets/specialtyCropGrant.asp).

Applications to participate in the Review Committee are due by 4 p.m. Friday, April 1.

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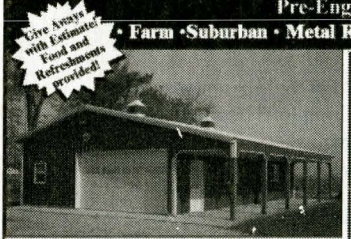
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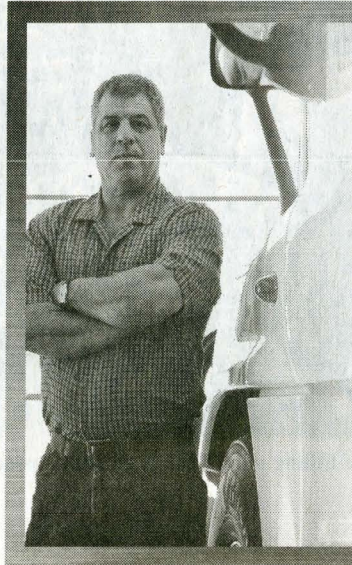


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