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2019 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Proposals Due April 5

Little Rock, AR. – The Arkansas Agriculture Department (AAD) is now accepting applications for the 2019 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. These grants are funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enhance the specialty crop industry of Arkansas, which includes the growing and selling of fruits, vegetables, floriculture, and nuts. Applications must be submitted by April 5 through this form.

Based on a survey of Arkansas specialty crop producers and stakeholders, funding for 2019 grant projects will be prioritized in the following areas:

- Research and Best Production Practices on: (1) disease and pest management or devices, or (2) value-added products;
- Marketing insight on consumer trends/demands/spending, and direct marketing best practices;
- Sales and business development activities between growers and food buyers, and new or stronger grower associations or co-ops;
- Consumer outreach and education on the benefits of specialty crops and access to local healthy foods.

The AAD uses a two-phase application process for administering the grant funds. Project concept proposals must be submitted by April 5 and outline the project’s goals, tasks, and budget requirements. After all concept proposals are reviewed by an advisory committee, selected projects will be invited to submit detailed project proposals.

The full Request for Applications (RFA), along with additional guidelines and instructions on completing and submitting an application, are available here. For additional information, contact Bob Midles at (501) 219-6377 or bob.midles@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

The AAD is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit www.agriculture.arkansas.gov.

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The Arkansas Agriculture Department offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.