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Arkansas Department of Agriculture Offers Grant Opportunity for Specialty Crop Farmers and Farmers Market Managers Adapting to COVID-19 Pandemic

LITTLE ROCK, AR - The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is accepting submissions for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Alternative Selling Methods Campaign through September 30, 2020. Program information and instructions for submitting videos can be found [here](#).

The goal of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Alternative Selling Methods Campaign is to recognize and highlight Arkansas farmers and farmers market managers who have adapted their operations to continue meeting the needs of their communities during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Arkansas farmers and farmers market managers are invited to submit self-produced videos demonstrating the new selling methods they developed during COVID-19.

“Arkansas farmers and farmers market managers have developed an array of innovative and alternative methods of providing their locally grown and made products to consumers despite the challenges presented by COVID-19,” said Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward. “We appreciate their efforts and look forward to highlighting their hard work and ingenuity.”

All submissions will be reviewed by a committee established by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department). Ten applicants will be selected by the review committee and awarded a \$400 grant each for their Alternative Selling Methods.

The Department will visit each of the selected farms and markets to video their Alternative Selling Methods on-site. The Department will produce a video promoting these methods, which will be housed on the Department and Arkansas Grown websites for online training. Each of the selected farmers and farmers market managers will be included as a panelist for a virtual meeting to discuss Alternative Selling Methods.

Learn more about this program at <https://www.arkansasgrown.org/about-us/> or by contacting Karen Reynolds at 501-225-1598 or karen.reynolds@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture 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 [agriculture.arkansas.gov](https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov).