



15 Iowa Organization Receive Grant Funds to Help Promote Specialty Crops

USDA funds will help groups promoting fruits, vegetables, nuts, and flowers

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey announced that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will be awarding \$238,548 grants to Iowa organizations to help enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops grown in Iowa. The Department received \$276,310 through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service to support the program.

“Specialty crops are a very important part of Iowa agriculture as they allow farmers to diversify and give customers access to locally grown products,” Northey said. “These federal funds will support food safety, research and marketing efforts that will encourage Iowans to choose fruits, vegetables, nuts and flowers that are produced right here in our state.”

Iowa agricultural non-profit organizations, cooperatives, specialty crop industry associations or organizations, and producer groups were eligible to apply for funding to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

The Department also invited public comment from specialty crop stakeholders to help identify priorities for the program and established a Review Committee to help review, evaluate, and make recommendations on which grant proposals submitted to the Department should receive funding.

The maximum grant award is \$20,000 and administrative and indirect costs are not allowed.

Grant funds shall be used for projects that benefit and enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops industry as a whole, and will not be awarded for projects that directly benefit a particular product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual.

“Specialty Crops” that are eligible under this program are fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. The funds not passed through to Iowa organizations will be used by the Department to administer the grant.

The full list of 15 grant recipients follows here:

- **Geode RC&D** - \$20,000 for a Local Foods Coordinator to expand local food marketing opportunities in the Great River Region
- **Iowa Christmas Tree Growers Association** - \$3,000 to provide educational speakers for their summer meetings
- **Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship** - \$20,000 to expand markets for specialty

crop producers through the Farm to School program

- **Iowa Fruit & Vegetable Growers Assoc./Iowa State University** - \$10,000 for research to increase the cropping potential and profitability for growing scab resistant apple cultivars
- **Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association – \$17,100 to expand educational programming and professional development for Iowa’s Green Industry**
- **Iowa Lakes RC&D** – \$19,570 for specialty crop market development through promotion and education
- **Iowa Valley RC&D** – \$20,000 to develop a self-supporting, direct-to-consumer food cooperative for east central Iowa
- **Iowa State Horticulture Society Expo** – \$16,000 to promote and encourage horticulture in Iowa through an Expo and website
- **Iowa State University Extension** - \$19,543 to create budgets for vegetable crop production in high tunnels
- **Iowa State University Dining Services** – \$14,620 to increase purchases of Iowa specialty crops at Iowa State University
- **Mississippi Valley Growers Association** – \$20,000 for promotions to expand the purchase of specialty crops at local farmers markets
- **NE Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative** – \$15,700 to provide technical assistance for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification
- **Pathfinders RCD** – \$10,000 for high tunnel production, business development, and marketing workshop for fruit and vegetable producers in SE Iowa
- **Practical Farmers of Iowa** – \$20,000 for Community Supported Agriculture mini-school, workshop, and webinar
- **Southern Iowa RC&D** - \$13,015 for research to identify a unique aronia berry marker

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INLA would like to thank Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Iowa State University, for her work on the grant application. INLA would not have received the \$17,100 grant without Ann Marie’s hard work on the application.

Ten thousand dollars of the grant will be used towards drawing in speakers for the Shade Tree Short Course & INLA Trade Show. The remaining grant funding will be used to create webinars for INLA members. Please look for more information as programs are established.

INLA Now Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association offers two different scholarships to students majoring in the nursery and landscaping fields. In order to qualify for the Haber Scholarship, students must be an undergraduate in horticulture at Iowa State University; or students enrolled as a full-time student in the horticulture program at any of Iowa's community college may apply to receive one of two

Community College Scholarships awarded annually.

Additional applicant criteria and application forms are attached, and can also be found on the INLA website at: <http://www.iowanla.org/>. The application deadline for both scholarships is November 5, 2010. Please call the INLA office at 515.262.8323 if you have any questions about the scholarships or the application.

Job Opening within ISU Department of Horticulture

Iowa State University's Department of Horticulture is looking for a lecturer to teach two of the landscape design classes during the spring semester.

Primary responsibilities for the position include teaching courses in residential landscape design including Hort 380: Principles of Garden Composition and Hort 381: Beginning Garden Composition Stu-

dio. The successful applicant will advise undergraduate students in the department's Landscape Design, Installation and Management option, and the student Chapter of PLANET.

Interested applicants must submit their resume by October 31, 2010. For more information or to apply for the position, go to: www.iastatejobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=79137.

Find the Latest Information on Immigration Issues

Many Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association members have indicated they are interested in immigration policies and how they will affect their business. For the latest state and national information on immigration issues, please go to the Iowa Immigration Education Coalition (IIEC) website at: <http://iowaimmigrationeducation.org/>. The Iowa Immigration Education Coalition is a multi-perspective group of business, labor, civil rights, religious, immigrant, education, social service, government, and other community leaders united for the purpose of providing Iowans with relevant and timely information about immigration issues and their impact on Iowans and their communities.

The mission of the Iowa Immigration Education Coalition is to educate Iowans about immigrants and inform the development of common-sense immigration policies that enhance Iowa's economy and quality of life, preserve families, and affirm the dignity of immigrants. IIEC strives to provide accurate, balanced, and fact-based information about immigration issues. Sign-up to receive electronic newsletters and e-alerts from the IIEC, including recent news updates for Iowa and the nation at: http://iowaimmigrationeducation.org/en/join_our_mailing_list.



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SAVE THE DATES

55th Annual Iowa State University Shade Tree Short Course and Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association Conference and Trade Show

February 23-25, 2011 . Scheman Building . ISU . Ames, IA

Attendees, look for registration forms in December. If you are interested in displaying your wares and services at the Shade Tree Short Course and INLA Trade Show, please contact the INLA office at 515.262.8323. Go to www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/shadetree/home.html for more information.

Labor Department Proposes H-2B Program Changes

The U.S. Department of Labor has published long-expected rules modifying the H-2B program. What's in it for employers? A lot of grief. The American Nursery & Landscape Association is carefully analyzing the proposal and will file comments on behalf of the

nursery and landscaping industries in advance of the November 4 deadline.

To view a copy of the proposed rules, go to:
www.anla.org/docs/Government%20Relations/2010-25142.pdf.

Thank you to Members who have Renewed their Commitment to INLA!

Thank you to the following INLA members who have renewed their membership and paid 2011 dues since the last INLA newsletter. We appreciate your support of the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association! INLA strives to promote certified Garden Center and Landscaping professionals.

Aunt Rhodie's Landscaping & Design Studio

Alec Schrog - Davenport, IA*
Todd Wiebenga - Davenport, IA

Bob Lenc Landscaping, Inc. & Lawn Care

Gary Garles - Des Moines, IA*

City of Ankeny

Vincent Knoot - Ankeny, IA*

DNS Nursery

Donna Borowycz - Drakesville, IA*

Dutch Meadows Landscaping Inc.

Sherryl Nunnikhoven - Pella, IA

Eagle Bay Farms

Dan Wiederin - Rock Rapids, MN

Farber Bag & Supply Co.

Jim Farber - Peosta, IA

Herndon's Des Moines Seed and Nursery Co.

Steve Herndon - Des Moines, IA

Maifeld Landscaping LLC

Tyler Maifeld - Sumner, IA*

Midwest Trading Horticultural Supplies, Inc.

Arelis Velazquez - Maple Park, IL

Plant Life Designs

Tara Dudley - Ankeny, IA*

Platt's Inc.

Loren Williams - Cedar Falls, IA*

The Bruce Company of Wisconsin, Inc.

Bliss C. Nicholson - Middleton, WI

Wells Hollow Landscaping LLC

Matthew Wells - Waverly, IA

Xylem, LTD/Golden Valley Hardscapes

Carrie Tresemer - Cordova, IL

* Indicates an ICNP dues paying member.

INLA Dues Reminder

If you have not paid your 2011 dues yet, please consider doing so as soon as possible. Membership to the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association puts you in an elite category of leaders who are on the cutting edge of the industry. Change is inevitable and the unity of an entire industry makes a difference on many issues. INLA prides itself on representing you on the many things impacting your business.

INLA members are the most progressive thinkers in the nursery and landscaping industry. INLA offers many opportunities for members to keep in touch with the newest and best in the industry. Recently INLA began a great partnership with Iowa State University's Shade Tree Short Course. The combination of highly regarded speakers and the newest products and equipment at the trade show makes

this event a "must-attend" member benefit. INLA is also proud to be a partner with the American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA) through the Lighthouse Program. As a partner INLA contributes \$10 per member in dues to the ANLA Lighthouse Program. The Lighthouse Program, representing close to 15,000 Green Industry professionals throughout the country, raised over \$145,000 to promote the industry's best interests on the federal level last year. This membership gives you access to lobbying power and information on a national level.

If you have any questions about membership with the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association or need a new dues statement sent to you, please contact the INLA office at 515.262.8323 or 800.383.1682.