



The Honorable Patrick A. Takasugi

Secretary
Idaho Department of Agriculture
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Base Grant: \$500,000
Specialty Crop Grant: \$3,670,000
Total Grant: \$4,170,000

Idaho Receives \$4.2 Million Specialty Crop Grant

Idaho received \$4.2 million dollars in September 2001 to assist specialty crop producers in Idaho. The state received the fourth largest allocation of funding, which was made available to individual states through the Emergency Agricultural Assistance Act.

The grant specifically awarded \$500,000 to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Division of International Trade and Domestic Market Development for use in the state's marketing and promotion efforts. Additionally, \$44,047 was earmarked for costs related to transporting and distributing commodities through the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983.

Governor Dirk Kempthorne stated, "These grants will provide a much needed boost to Idaho agriculture. The program allows us to infuse capital directly into projects that will yield lasting returns to Idaho's important specialty crop industries."

Pat Takasugi, the director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, said he was "pleased to see some innovative projects and new ideas that will provide long-term solutions for Idaho's agriculture industry."

Competitive Crop Grants Fund Innovation

In allocating the funds, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture designed a program based on input from specialty crops producers. The majority of the money was placed into a competitive grants program. This program's focus was to fund as many high-priority agriculture industry projects as possible in a manner that was equitable and meaningful while promoting innovation. The program specifically looked for collaborative projects that would have measurable results with evidence of economic need and long-term benefit. Almost \$2 million

was awarded through 56 grants over two rounds of applications. Total matching funds to date for these projects amount to over \$818,000, with another \$224,000 pledged. Many of the projects are not yet completed, but preliminary results are promising.

Round 1 - Awarded March 8, 2002

Chefs at the Market:

Capital City Public Market, \$36,000.

"Chefs at the Market" is a unique program bringing local chefs and market vendors together to form a cooking demonstration partnership that draw shoppers to the market and downtown Boise. In 2002, twelve guest chefs conducted eighteen cooking demonstration, and thirteen chefs participated in 2003. The resulting media exposure and larger attendance at the market contributed to an increase of overall sales at the market of nearly 20%. The program is popular with market patrons and the city's chefs, and "Kids Cook at the Market" was added as a children's element of the program. Capital City Public Market plans to continue to offer the service. Grant completed October 31, 2003.

Idaho Mountain Blueberries:

Cedar Springs Farms, \$25,000.

Grant funds allowed a small blueberry operation to expand to five acres and help supply local demand. Small blueberry plants were bought, nurtured through the winter and are expected to provide excellent yields. This blueberry project has the potential to become a blueprint for other small acreage farms in providing jobs and resource diversification in rural communities. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

Cut Flowers Production:

City View Flower Farm, \$5,700.

This project covers a small-acreage cut flower production and sales operation. This operation's total sales from a half-acre under production

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during 2002 were \$2,204.20, which exceeded estimated revenues of \$2,000. A drip tape irrigation system was proven to be an ergonomically, economically and environmentally desirable method of raising flowers for cutting and growing ornamentals such as pumpkins, gourds and broomcorn. Grant completed April 1, 2003.

Crop Management Practices on Pollinators in Alfalfa Seed:

Idaho Alfalfa Seed and Clover Growers Association, \$46,500.

This project focuses on the compatibility of pest and pollinator management programs in alfalfa seed production in Idaho. The association is investigating the effects of pesticides and other pest management practices on pollinators, and crop pollination. These studies will be published and will most likely help not only alfalfa seed producers, but also producers of seed and fruit crops requiring insect pollination. Grant ends December 1, 2004.

Interactive Website:

Idaho Apple Commission, \$7,500.

Grant funds were used to create an interactive website and train two employees in website management. The website is geared towards providing information for children, adults and buyers to increase consumer awareness of Idaho apples and provide an easy-to-access source of information on shippers in the state. Grant ends April 1, 2004.

Anthraxnose Screening of Seed:

Idaho Bean Commission, \$5,000.

This pilot program screened imported dry bean seed samples for the presence of the disease anthracnose; any trace of the disease could ruin Idaho's reputation as a producer of disease-free seed. All test results were negative. Grant completed April 1, 2003.

Dry Bean Seed Sales Initiative for North America and Mexico:

Idaho Bean Commission, \$62,000.

The Idaho Bean Commission used funding provided by this grant to promote Idaho's dry bean seed in the United States, Mexico and Canada. Funds have allowed the Commission to produce a video promoting dry bean seed production, obtain a new table-top booth and attend grower meetings in both Mexico and Canada. In August, members of the Mexico Dry Bean Growers Council visited Idaho to learn

about the state's dry bean seeds, and two members of the Commission participated in the Governor's Trade Mission to Mexico 2003 to meet with members of the Mexico Bean Council, the Mexico Government Agriculture Department and others. Because of their participation on the trade mission, the Commission has been invited to return to Mexico to begin discussions on possible trials of Idaho bean seed. Grant ends April 1, 2004.

University Foodservice Vegetarian Meals Promotion:

Idaho Bean Commission, \$33,000.

The College & University Foodservice Vegetarian Meals Promotion Program aimed to increase the awareness and usage of Idaho dry beans in the college and university segments of the foodservice industry by creating and cooperating with the National Association of College & University Foodservices (NACUFS). A contest was held to recognize and reward innovative vegetarian meal plans and menu items using Idaho dry beans. Developed recipes were quality-tested and can be used in food trade magazines for several years. Grant completed July 1, 2003.

Weather Network:

Idaho Hop Commission, \$28,000.

Weather stations were installed in the hop growing area of Idaho to determine the effect of the pest forecasting model of hop powdery mildew. Preliminary data indicates growers who used the disease forecasting model controlled the disease with fewer pesticide sprays than those using label-based suggestions, translating into a savings of over \$50 per acre in pesticide costs. Grant completed November 1, 2003.

Weed Control in Mint:

Idaho Mint Commission, \$8,000.

A weed control project determined which herbicide combinations provide the best control over common weeds, including field bindweed, groundsel and pigweed. This project addressed weed problems in Idaho mint production by evaluating combinations and application timing of currently registered herbicides. Completed activities include a study to evaluate post-emergence prickly lettuce control in peppermint and evaluating field bindweed control using MCPB, fluroxypyr and quinclorac. Grant completed October 31, 2003.

Mint Variety Assessment:

Idaho Mint Commission, \$8,600.

This project involved planting a test plot in Parma at the University of Idaho Research and Extension Center to measure the overall performance of selected mint varieties in relation to currently accepted standard varieties. The peppermint line B90-9 showed promise as a potentially superior oil yielding variety in the first year. Additionally, the project provided growers with an excellent varietal testing environment, which can be used in the future to provide information about oil yield and the responses of peppermint and spearmint varieties to *Verticillium* wilt. Grant completed March 31, 2003.

Season Extension for Organic Lettuce:

Idaho Organics Cooperative, \$25,000.

This pilot project is researching in-season extension techniques for organic lettuce production and sets the groundwork for other producers interested in lettuce production. During the 2003 growing season, the cooperative harvested spring and summer lettuce and planted fall lettuce in the greenhouse, demonstrating the feasibility of season-extension in lettuce production during winter and summer. Grant ends February 28, 2004.

Truck Transportation Supply**Promotion for Onions and Apples:**

Idaho-Oregon

Fruit and Vegetable Association, \$12,000.

The association is increasing the number of available trucks and developing additional means of transportation during peak truck shortage periods of Idaho apples and Idaho-Eastern Oregon onions. During the 2002 shortage period, the association was able to attract 125 additional trucks to haul apples and onions using a fuel certificate redemption program. Grant ends April 30, 2004.

School on the Farm -**An Educational Experience:**

Koto Farms, \$25,000.

“School on the Farm: An Educational Experience” is an educational farm program developed for scheduled school tours. This program taps a new market for Idaho specialty crop producers and serves as a model for an innovative on-farm marketing strategy. 434 students, 19 teachers and 98 parent/adult chaperones have participated. Grant completed December 31, 2003.

Pesticide Management Commission:

Minor Crop Alliance, \$100,000.

Funding provided the initial investment to create the Idaho State Pesticide Management Commission. The commission is seeking to help minor crop growers in the state obtain pesticide products for controlling critical pest problems. Providing the necessary tools to raise healthy and profitable crops in Idaho ensures the diversity needed to maintain a healthy agricultural community in our state. Grant ends April 30, 2004.

Gasification of Pelletized Crop Waste**Residue for Energy Production:**

Renaissance Engineering & Design, \$65,000.

This organization tested and evaluated several specific agriculture waste feedstock for commercial and private gasification as a means to generate process heating and/or electricity (cogeneration). Preliminary data shows that actual impacts of the varying mineral contents in waste products can be as much of an issue in the pelletizing process as it is in the final gasification process itself. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

Market Development and Expansion:

Sandstone Farms, \$50,000.

Grant funding allowed Sandstone Farms to attend international food shows and boost production to meet increased demand. This market and production expansion project of specialty foods and high-end products led to gross sales in 2002 that were five times that of 2001, with an additional growth of 125 percent projected for 2003. Products are now found nationally and have been featured on a nationally syndicated television show. Grant completed April 30, 2003.

Development of**Specialty Fruit Packaging:**

Symms Fruit Ranch, Inc., \$45,000.

Funding went towards the purchase of a machine for the specialty packaging of fruit. Market demand is moving towards specialty packaging that holds smaller quantities of fruit per package. Specialty pack customers include large accounts such as Albertson's, Costco Company and Publix Supermarkets, as well as various Taiwanese accounts. Grant completed April 30, 2003.

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**International Trade Mission and
Market Trips:**

[Symms Fruit Ranch, Inc., \\$30,000.](#)

An international trade mission to Argentina, as well as marketing trips to Florida and California, succeeded in promoting interest in Idaho produce and establishing crucial relationships. These are both important when striving to increase market share and sales in those markets. Grant completed April 30, 2003.

**Concentrated Barley Protein for
Fish Production:**

[University of Idaho, \\$75,000.](#)

This project is determined the potential use of concentrated barley protein in fish diets nationally and globally, while also identifying a commercial fractionation process and evaluating markets for remaining co-products. The use of barley as a protein component in aquaculture feeds could lead to an additional demand of 1,640,000 metric tons worldwide. All findings up to this point have indicated that the fractionation of barley is a viable, innovative venture that will bring added value to the barley and aquaculture industries in Idaho. Grant completed December 31, 2003.

**Nematode Management Study in
Potatoes and Sugar Beets:**

[University of Idaho, \\$98,000.](#)

This project is developing an economically viable nematode management practice for the sustainable production of potatoes and sugar beets in Idaho. The project will evaluate the effects of new oil radish varieties on each crop, as well as determine the host status of *M. chitwoodi* and *M. hapla* on the predominant commercial cultivators of corn in Idaho and the host status of SBCN on dry bean. Grant ends September 30, 2004.

**Proportional Chemical Injection
Control for Center Pivot:**

[University of Idaho, \\$10,000.](#)

This study researched the cost-efficient flow of proportional chemical injection control for center pivot irrigation. The university collected results to publish in educational materials to increase producer awareness about the need for flow-proportional injection systems with center pivot irrigation. Grant completed April 30, 2003.

**Development of Specialty and
Alternative Fruit Crops, Including Table
Grapes for Idaho:**

[University of Idaho, \\$100,000.](#)

A project involving the development of specialty and alternative fruit crops for Idaho has yielded outstanding results, discovering possible wine and table grape varieties for Idaho. Researchers believe the table grape has become the best alternative fruit crop for the state. Other alternative fruit crops being researched include pomegranate, quince, persimmon, mulberry, Asian pear, fig and walnut. Grant ends April 30, 2004.

**Food Aid Promotion of
Peas and Lentils:**

[USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, \\$50,000.](#)

The promotion of peas and lentils as a food aid component will educate private voluntary organizations involved in food aid projects throughout the world on the benefits of using peas and lentils as part of their food aid programs. Increased sales as a result of this promotion are expected to lead to \$7.7 million in payments at the grower level, with an additional 50,000 metric tons being sold. Grant ends June 30, 2004.

Nationwide Promotion Campaign:

[USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, \\$15,000.](#)

A nationwide promotion of peas, lentils and chickpeas focused on taste, ease of preparation and health benefits. The promotion included media events, advertising and participation in food shows in California and Washington D.C. Grant completed November 30, 2003.

International Reverse Trade Mission:

[USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, \\$15,000.](#)

An India Reverse Trade Mission brought five major Indian lentil and chickpea buyers to see the Palouse and gain an understanding of the high standards in growing, processing, and shipping Idaho pulses. Buyers met with processors and exporters in northern Idaho and have begun initiating purchases of peas and chickpeas. Grant completed April 30, 2003.

**Greens and Specialty Crop
Pilot Project:**

[Wood River Farmer's Market Association, \\$45,000.](#)

This winter greens and specialty crops pilot project is evaluating season extension in four south central Idaho locations, extending the season up to five months in some areas. Results

of the 2002 growing season are being made available to other small farms interested in extending their growing seasons. Grant ends April 30, 2004.

Round 2 - Awarded July 19, 2002

New Warmwater Fish for Aquaculture:

[ACE Development USA, Inc., \\$50,000.](#)

This project is determining the potential and feasibility of several species of finfish for warm water aquaculture in Idaho. So far, fish have adapted well to the system and commercial dry feeds. Goals of the project include marketing these fish at a premium price both domestically and internationally while serving existing markets and creating new ones. Grant ends June 30, 2004.

Non Hardy Bulb & Perennial Flower Production:

[Bindweed Farm, \\$6,700.](#)

Non-hardy bulb and perennial production was tested in the northern climate of eastern Idaho, utilizing low input hoop houses to expand the growing season for plant species not typically cultivated in this climate. Bindweed Farm identified several types of flowers that can be successfully grown, harvested and sold from colder climates, including Callas and Lobelia varieties. Grant completed June 30, 2003.

Specialty Food Processing Equipment Upgrade:

[Blacks-Creek Specialties, \\$75,000.](#)

Responding to a growing need for small-scale food processing facilities in Idaho, this grant funded the expansion of a commercial kitchen that currently serves as a processing facility for several successful value-added processing companies. The grant has increased efficiency and reduced facility rental costs for producers by 15 percent. Unique products manufactured by Blacks-Creek have jumped 300 percent from 35 to 105. Grant completed June 30, 2003.

Freeze Dried Huckleberries:

[Dorothy's, LLC, \\$17,500.](#)

This project developed a freeze-dried huckleberry ingredient for the specialty food industry in Idaho. Dorothy's will market this ingredient to Idaho food producers and stimulate the development of new products from several different Idaho companies, thereby increasing the market share for Idaho produced specialty foods. Grant completed December 31, 2003.

Commercial Specialty Onion and Vegetable Production:

[Great American Appetizers, \\$75,000.](#)

Equipment was purchased to support the process and method used to create specialty onion and vegetable appetizer products. This equipment allowed Great American to secure a contract with Popeye's, a national chain, to process some 3,500,000 pounds of product a year. The contract with Popeye's will require an initial purchase of approximately 4,500,000 pounds of raw onions from Idaho growers. Grant completed February 28, 2003.

Bacterial Wilt Dry Bean Seed Testing Program:

[Idaho Bean Commission, \\$5000.](#)

Funds were allocated to test random samples of dry bean seed grown in Idaho for bacterial diseases. Test results from the program will be used to confirm that Idaho bean seed is free from all bacterial diseases, including bacterial wilt, and can continue to be marketed as disease-free seed in the future. Grant ends March 31, 2004.

Building an Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Identity:

[Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee, \\$20,000.](#)

Grant funds were used to build awareness of yellow onions from the Idaho-Eastern Oregon growing region, highlighting the mild flavor and excellent quality during a tour for category managers of major retail chains. Grant completed September 30, 2004.

Expo Agro Sinaloa:

[Idaho Farm Bureau, \\$15,000.](#)

Grant funding allowed for a collaborative project between the Idaho Farm Bureau and Idaho agriculture commodity commissions and organizations to promote Idaho specialty crops at the 2003 Expo Agro Sinaloa trade show in Sinaloa, Mexico. The representatives who attended the show promoted all aspects of Idaho agriculture from production to food consumption. Grant completed March 31, 2003.

Promotional Campaign and Website Development:

[Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission, \\$15,000.](#)

This funding was used to promote Idaho's grape and wine industry through the production and distribution of promotional materials.

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Promotions were placed in the 2003 Idaho Official State Travel Guide, 2002 Idaho Winery Brochures, the 2003 Southwest Idaho Travel Association and the Fall 2003 Skywest Magazine. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

Green Industry Promotion:

**Idaho Nursery and
Landscape Association, \$30,000.**

This project aimed to increase the awareness of Idahoans about the state's nursery industry through a series of television campaigns, print media campaigns and an exhibit booth. The association highlighted the value of purchasing nursery material grown in Idaho while promoting basic plant care, maintenance and health. The Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association saw an increase in traffic on their website and calls to their toll-free number. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

**Organic Agriculture Education &
Promotional Initiative:**

Idaho Organic Alliance, \$20,000.

Funding allows the Idaho Organic Alliance to better educate producers on organic production through on-farm tours of existing operations, a directory of organic producers and producers utilizing sustainable production practices, and the creation of an interactive website. Over 10,000 copies of the 2003 Local Foods Guide for Southern Idaho have been distributed at farmers' markets, county extension offices, public libraries, retail outlets and conferences. Three farm tours have succeeded in educating youth and adults about organic farming practices and more tours are scheduled for next spring. Grant ends September 30, 2004.

Certified Organic Market Research:

Idaho Organic Alliance, \$15,000.

This grant is funding basic certified organic market research and the creation of a buyers' guide to supplement the producer guide provided by the Idaho Department of Agriculture. Farmers need market research to plan for the marketing of their organic production. Without this information, it is difficult to sell enough product locally, produce enough product to market nationally, or find a market at all, forcing some farmers to sell organically grown products into the conventional market. Grant ends October 1, 2004.

Asparagus:

L&M Landleveling, Inc., \$7,500.

This grant allowed for the expansion of an asparagus farm to determine if asparagus is a feasible alternative crop in Southeastern Idaho. The project focused on different varieties to determine which ones grew best in Idaho's soil and climate, along with what the market demand is for asparagus. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

**Distribution, Marketing & Education of
the Specialty Food Industry:**

Lewis and Clark Gifts, \$17,500.

Funding is being used to develop a network of Idaho Specialty Food gift centers in retail stores around the state of Idaho. This includes participation at regional wholesale gift shows, a website to promote corporate gifts and gift baskets, and a series of workshops to promote business opportunities using Idaho specialty crops. Grant ends March 31, 2004.

Farmers' Market Promotion:

Mountain Home Farmers' Market, \$3,300.

This farmers' market is benefiting from increased vendor participation as a result of efforts to publicize the market and involve as many new vendors and customers as possible. The Mountain Home News will advertise the farmers' market in their visitors' guide, and grant money will be used to print the Mountain Home Farmers' Market Cookbook, which will be sold to raise money for the continued promotion and operation of the market. Grant ends June 30, 2004.

**Mustard Meal as a Natural Pesticide
and Nitrogen Fertilizer:**

Paradise Farms Organic, \$50,000.

Grant monies will fund research into the use of mustard meal as a natural pesticide and nitrogen fertilizer. Objectives include: producing a soil amendment that can be used by organic producers; decreasing the use of synthetic pesticides and the associated potential for environmental contamination; and developing an innovative, value-added industry for Idaho agriculture that will contribute to rural development. Initial trials have provided excellent data on seed emergence and nitrogen. Grant ends February 29, 2004.

Hybrid Poplar Product Development:

Payette County and the Agricultural Wood Producers Association, \$20,000.

Payette County and the Agricultural Wood Producers Association received this grant to conduct product testing and market research on Plantation Hybrid Trees for the purpose of creating an alternative agriculture product for local landowners. The project focused on testing materials and conducting a market study to identify potential products that are sustainable and profitable. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

Ag in the Classroom: Education on Pollination:

Pollination and Pest Management Consulting Services, \$17,500.

The project "From Bees to Big Macs" will focus on the importance of pollination in the nation's food supply. A series of lesson plans, research projects and an interactive website were developed around the leafcutting bee for grade school and high school classrooms, and developing new lesson plans will be an ongoing project of the freshman biology class at Albertson College. Ag in the Classroom will be the first vehicle for demonstrating this project, and interest in the program has been generated on a national level. Grant completed December 31, 2003.

Inland Port Authority Feasibility Study:

Potato Growers of Idaho / Idaho Produce Transportation Improvement Coalition, \$50,000.

Since transportation costs are a major component in the end price customers pay for Idaho goods, new methods of transporting goods must be explored if Idaho is to remain competitive in the marketplace. Funds were used to study the feasibility of establishing an inland port authority to build, operate and maintain a central loading terminal for refrigerated containers and the assembly of unit trains to carry Idaho agricultural products. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

Market Development for Refrigerated Value Added Potato Products:

Purely Supreme Foods, \$40,000.

A multi-faceted marketing program was created to develop new products and enhance the awareness of the "Purely Idaho" brands. A new product platform was created, along with bilingual packaging and a website. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

Pelletization of Crop Waste Residues for Gasification:

Renaissance Engineering & Design, \$35,000.

This project focused on the pelletization of crop waste residues for gasification. Research included the evaluation of the economics and equipment for the production of the crop waste pellets as well as the development of mixtures or recipes for agricultural waste pellets. Waste pellets could create a revenue stream by providing electricity and carbon from wastes that historically incur a disposal cost. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

Market Development and Expansion:

Ronniger's Potato Farm, \$50,000.

This grant helped fund the expansion of an existing farm in order to capture additional market share in the seed potato market through increased efficiency and product diversification. Ronniger's Potato Farm was able to build a new potato storage facility and handling area, purchase a new fork lift, develop a website, and design, layout and print a product catalog. Implementation of this project will help them continue to provide some of the only double certified seed potatoes available, helping to keep Idaho's reputation as the premier potato state strong. Grant completed December 31, 2003.

Develop On-line and Printed Specialty Crop Directory:

Rural Roots, \$30,000.

Grant funds will go to support the project, "Using Direct Marketing to Increase Idaho Specialty Crop Income." The project will entail producing an online, county-level GIS directory of Idaho Specialty Crops and retail outlets where they may be found. In addition, an instructional booklet on how to sell directly to restaurants will be produced and disseminated with grant funds. Through booklet sales and other sources of revenue, a printed version of the online directory will be made available in 2004. Grant ends April 30, 2004.

Organic Stone Fruits:

Shiloh Fruits, \$25,000.

Funding for this project allowed for the construction of an advanced sprinkler system to help develop a plumcot crop and increase the organic production of cherries, apricots and peaches. This system will help prevent potential frost damage, control insects, and control the application rate. Using an effective frost

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Competitive Crop Grants Fund

Innovation:

Organic Stone Fruits:

Continued...

prevention system helps increase the quantity of fruit retained on the trees after late frosts, bringing more balance of production quantity from year to year. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

Garlic Seed Production:

Southwind Farms, \$75,000.

Restrictions on the importation of garlic seed into many parts of the state have limited the size of Idaho's garlic industry. Grant monies were used to expand the garlic seed production at a farm within a quarantined area from 6.5 acres to 35 acres. The increased supply will aid in the development of the garlic industry in Idaho. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

Plant Pest Identification:

University of Idaho, \$12,800.

Grant funds enabled the Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences (PSES) to purchase microscope and specimen storage cabinets. New equipment allows PSES to retain specimens for future reference and provide prompt, accurate responses to pest situations, minimize crop damage and control costs for the producer. In addition, ensuring the absence of quarantined pests avoids legal constraints on agriculture exports. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

Specialty Foods Entrepreneurship / Commercial Kitchen:

University of Idaho

Business and Technology Incubator, \$52,000.

This project helped the University of Idaho equip a commercial kitchen/pilot plant. The facility provides affordable and convenient access for specialty food entrepreneurs to increase the production and profitability of their products. Grant funds were also used to provide extensive business and technical assistance to specialty food processors on-site and through statewide outreach. Grant completed September 30, 2003.

Strategic Investments Grants Program:

University of Idaho, \$100,000.

This program gives pass-through funds to the University of Idaho for researching projects for use in educating Idaho producers on new practices and technology. A total of ten individual projects were funded, including curriculum for pasture management and nutrient management, alternative forage crop production and nitrate and water use efficiency in onion production.

Biosecurity and Food Safety:

\$269,000.

Specialty Crop funds were utilized to fund positions for an animal health inspector and a veterinary medical officer (veterinarian). The animal health inspector inspects farms, feedlots and livestock markets to prevent or detect the incursion of an emergency or foreign animal disease in Idaho. She works on the "trace-back" of livestock to the farm or market of origin in case an emergency disease gains entry into Idaho livestock. The veterinary medical officer was hired to work on animal health emergency management issues. Since March of 2002, this person has re-written and finalized the Idaho Animal Health Emergency Management Plan (an appendix to the state's emergency operations plan), facilitated the purchase of an animal health emergency response trailer and equipped it for use in case of an emergency disease outbreak, and participated in the rule-writing process to develop the state's "Rules Governing Animal Health Emergencies." She has also managed the purchase of and coordinated employee training on equipment used for the destruction of diseased animals. A cadre of private veterinary practitioners and technicians from all areas of Idaho was identified and trained to help state and/or federal animal health officials respond to an animal health emergency. This group of responders was named the Idaho Veterinary Emergency Response Team (IVERT). The veterinary medical officer arranged for the Department of Lands and Bureau of Disaster Services to deliver Incident Command System training to over 40 ISDA employees and over 100 IVERT members.

University of Idaho

Waste Management Research:

University of Idaho, \$175,000.

The University of Idaho was given a grant to address critical waste issues within the state. The funds were split between two projects. The project on nutrient management practices seeks to improve current educational projects that will ensure proper waste management. Curriculum has been developed for training nutrient management planners, as well as the end-users of the nutrient management plan. Six competitive mini-grants were awarded within the project to areas identified as needing more research. The second project addressed under grant funds is entitled "Integrated Residue Management Systems for Sustained Seed Yield of Kentucky Bluegrass." This project started a Kentucky Bluegrass extension program that is

working on research to maintain or increase bluegrass seed yield without burning. Regulations may soon disallow burning residue from Kentucky Bluegrass fields, and this grant is researching alternatives. For more information on waste management research, please contact Rob Spear at (208) 885-6681.

Market Promotion and Assistance:

Idaho Preferred™, \$650,000.

The Idaho Preferred™ program was launched at the end of the summer/harvest time period with a statewide promotion. Designed to educate consumers about the variety of agricultural products produced in Idaho, the advertisements encouraged consumers to seek Idaho food and agriculture by looking for the Idaho Preferred™ label. The Idaho Preferred™ program is actively engaging the food retail and distribution community to win their endorsement and support of the program. Program managers have been working with large as well as independent retailers, including Wal-Mart and Paul's Markets. Wal-Mart used the Idaho Preferred™ program as the flagship model of their support for state agriculture marketing initiatives. To qualify for participation in the program, fresh produce, meat, and commodities must be 100 percent grown and raised in Idaho. Processed food and beverage products must contain a minimum of 20 percent agricultural content grown or raised in Idaho. The percentage of agricultural content and the percentage of the value added to the product in the state of Idaho must total no less than 80 percent. The requirements are defined in the Participation Application and program rules. More information about the Idaho Preferred™ Program is available online at www.idahopreferred.com or from Peter Mundt with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture at 208-332-8530

Pest and Disease Issues:

Idaho State Department of Agriculture: \$275,000.

Grant funding has been used for several projects at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Detection surveys for exotic pests and disease are required to maintain current export markets and establish new markets, especially in Japan, Mexico, Korea, China and Taiwan. Grant funds have enabled the department to hire someone to oversee the revamping of survey work. A program combating apple maggots was brought into accordance with international standards. In addition, 740 samples of seed potatoes were tested for the presence of nematodes and potato mop top virus. All results were negative. A survey

of commercial potatoes was completed on over 3,000 soil samples from packing sheds, representing 13 counties. All were found negative for golden nematode *Globodera rostochiensis* (GN), as were 120 tuber samples drawn from packing shed processing lines and cull piles. Additionally, 751 samples from the Idaho Crop Improvement Association Seed Lot Tuber Analysis tested negative for two established nematode species. More information on these programs is available from Ben Simko, manager of the Pest Survey and Detection Program for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, at 208-332-8627.

Protecting Our Potato Industry - Testing for Seed Potato Crop:

\$283,000.

In the fall of 2001, the presence of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in potatoes became a concern because of finds in potato product shipped to Japan. GMOs in potatoes were developed by Monsanto as a way of strengthening resistance against potato beetle and certain viruses in the plant. The end goal was a plant requiring fewer inputs with an additional benefit of the reduced use of pesticides in the environment. Consumer rejection of this concept has caused processors to demand GMO-free seed sources. At the same time, concerns about strains in the potato virus Y (PVY) complex caused seed potato producing states to take a close look at the health of the seed sources that "feed" the system. The Idaho Crop Improvement Association worked as a service lab to the seed potato industry to test seed lots for the presence of GMOs. In addition, the University of Idaho undertook a study to test seed lots for the presence or absence of new PVY strains. The seed and commercial portions of Idaho's potato industry put their support behind these studies. The importance of this testing has not gone unnoticed. In a recent newsletter, the U.S. Potato Board commended the Idaho industry and growers for their complete efforts to address the GMO issue. Dr. Phil Nolte's University of Idaho laboratory has also surveyed seed lots for PVY in each of the last two years. The information obtained has been used to help Idaho seed producers remove potential virus sources from the Idaho system and was provided to the growers in the form of lab test results for the PVY complex. For more information on seed potato crop testing, contact Colleen Thompson at (208)522-9198 or Dr. Phil Nolte at (208)529-8376.

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Idaho Trade Issues:

\$270,000.

For 2001-2005, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture dedicated grant funding to trade policy. One of the department's core promotional strategies is to expand international markets and export development. The funded activities amplified Idaho's voice in international negotiations through improved distribution of Idaho's Trade Issues Action Plan and Idaho Trade Facts Brochure. Coordination and communication increased on trade disputes and phytosanitary issues being spearheaded by the office of the United States Trade Representative and the United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service.

Support for phytosanitary trade teams occurred for fruit to Chile in 2002. Additional tours are being schedule for 2004, potentially for stonefruit to Mexico and corn seed to Australia. In 2003, trade issues and disputes affected Idaho exports, specifically on apples and beans exported to Mexico. Fresh potato shipments to Mexico encountered some issues which were resolved through negotiations. Technical issues have become increasingly prevalent in trade policy as countries utilize non-tariff trade barriers to protect domestic producers. The department received federal grants to concentrate on access issues for potatoes, wheat, fruit and beans. Extensive research and briefings have supplied state officials with information to utilize during international trade discussions. As Idaho's voice becomes more clear and precise in communicating to federal officials and international delegates, Idaho's market access increases.

Idaho Food Quality Assurance Lab:

[University of Idaho, \\$257,000.](#)

The specialty crop grant funding allocation to the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Lab was used to update aging instrument infrastructure. Among purchases were analytical measurement devices consisting of a chromatograph, which is a separation tool, and a detector. Along with the measurement devices, the IFQAL was able to purchase computers, software and printers, which have almost doubled laboratory efficiency. The lab now has the ability to look for compounds that were not detectable with the older equipment. Now, with improved efficiency of earlier capabilities, the lab is looking to expand its presence. This could provide significant assistance to Idaho agriculture both in residue screening and research. For more information on this project, contact Michael A. Bacerra,

Laboratory Manager, Idaho Food Quality Assurance Laboratory at (208) 732-5325.

Emergency Food Assistance Program:

[Idaho Department of Health and Welfare: \\$44,067.](#)

A portion of the grant was specifically allocated by congress for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). TEFAP is a Federal program that provides low-income needy persons emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost. One hundred percent of the money Idaho received was transferred to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, who administers TEFAP. The funds were reserved to be used for costs related to the transportation and distribution of donated food. For more information on the TEFAP program in Idaho, contact Linda Stokes with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare at 208-334-5734.