



The Honorable Ken Givens

Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
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Base Grant: \$500,000
Specialty Crop Grant: \$400,000
Total Grant: \$900,000

Farm Income

Improvement Foundation:

Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA), \$416,000.
TDA made \$416,000 available for direct on-farm grants to eligible Tennessee specialty crop producers through the Farm Income Improvement Foundation (FIIF). FIIF is a non-profit organization, affiliated with the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, which exists for the specific purpose of administering grants to farmers.

Farmers' Market Grant Program:

Tennessee Department of Agriculture, \$43,000.
TDA made available grant funds to Farmers' Markets from around the state to improve their marketing efforts for locally produced specialty crops. Markets include:

- Agri-center International;
- Franklin Farmers' Market;
- West Tennessee Farmers' Market;
- McMinnville Farmers' Market;
- Bristol Farmers' Market; and,
- Cookeville Farmers' Market.

Market Development:

Tennessee Department of Agriculture, \$80,000.
TDA funded market development projects to increase consumption of specialty crops by identifying new marketing opportunities. Programs were coordinated with specialty crop associations from around the state to help them advance the interests of their members. The Associations include:

- Farmers' Market Association;
- Tennessee Fruit and Vegetable Association;
- Tennessee Nursery and Landscaping Association;
- Tennessee Christmas Tree Association;
- Tennessee Nursery and Landscaping Association;
- Middle Tennessee Nursery Association;
- Tennessee Forage and Grasslands Council;
- Tennessee Beekeepers Association;
- Tennessee Viticulture Association; and,
- Tennessee Flower Growers Association

Specialty Crop Marketing Promotions:

Tennessee Department of Agriculture, \$57,000.
TDA funded internal specialty crop marketing promotions for the nursery and fruit and vegetable industries. The department charged no administrative fees for any projects and supplemented the projects with its own operating and marketing funds.

Distance Diagnostics:

University of Tennessee, \$200,000.
The Distance Diagnostics through Digital Imaging System is a system that allows textual information and digital images to be submitted from imaging stations in county Extension offices to the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Center via the internet. Specialty Crop Block grant funds allowed this capability to expand to an additional 21 counties.

Research:

University of Tennessee, \$35,000.
TDA made funds available for a series of research/extension projects. The subjects of these grants were: evaluation of hydroponically growing leafy vegetables in Tennessee, Tennessee wine grape analysis, development of HAACP training for specialty crop growers, opportunities with freshwater shrimp.

Emergency Response System:

Tennessee Department of Agriculture, \$50,000.
The Tennessee state veterinarian, collaborating with the federal veterinarian-in-charge for Tennessee, developed a umbrella emergency support plan for animal care to meets the needs for food animals, equine, companion animals and zoo animals. It specifically focuses on animal disease management especially designed to meet requirements associated with a foreign animal disease outbreak, an act of agri-terrorism, or bio-terrorism.