

The Honorable Charles Hartke

Director

Illinois Department of Agriculture

State Fairgrounds

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Base Grant: \$500,000

Specialty Crop Grant: \$400,000

Total Grant: \$900,000

Specialty Crop Promotion and Education:

Illinois Specialty Growers Association, \$6,000.

Funds used to purchase a portable refrigerated display case for the Illinois Herb Association and toward the purchase of equipment for use at fairs, seminars and workshops for promotion and education of specialty crops.

Horticultural Research:

Illinois Specialty Growers Association, \$100,000.

Funds used to provide grants to public institutions of higher education for capital and infrastructure improvements needed to conduct and implement horticultural research.

Specialty Crop Grant - Marketing and Promotion Program:

Specialty Crop Producers, \$250,000.

Funds a grant program for Illinois specialty crop producers to aid in producers' efforts to aid in individual marketing and promotion efforts. Much of the money has been allocated to Illinois farmers markets and Illinois specialty crop producers to enable them to create and obtain advertising. The Department of Agriculture received 92 grant applications totaling more than \$1.9 million in funding requests. The \$250,000 helped fund 29 projects.

Specialty Crop Outreach:

Illinois Specialty Growers Association, \$15,000.

Funds used to assist the Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA) with educational opportunities that benefit the specialty crop industry in Illinois.

Specialty Crop Marketing Campaign:

Illinois Department of Agriculture, \$60,000.

Funds to Grantee for following purposes: to create and implement a regional advertising campaign to promote specialty crops and specialty crop related events.

Branding of Certified Crops:

Illinois Department of Agriculture, \$268,000.

Funds to Grantee for the following purposes: for the professional creation and design of a logo that can be used as a prototype for promoting certified crops that meet quality or safety specifications in order to increase markets and value for Illinois specialty crops.

Specialty Crop Survey:

Illinois Agriculture Statistics Service, \$25,000.

Funds used for design and completion of a survey of the Illinois fruit, vegetable, herb and Christmas tree growers that includes acreage dedicated to these crops and the value of production.

Illinois Wine and Wine Grape Promotion:

Illinois Grape Growers & Vintners Assn., \$10,000.

Funds to increase awareness and promote Illinois wines, vineyards and wineries at festivals throughout the State.

Food Safety and HACCP:

Southern Illinois University, \$50,000.

Funds for the development of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Plan (HACCP) templates and follow-up training sessions for producers interested in creating their own HACCP plans.

Food Safety and Best Practices:

Stewardship Alliance, \$20,000.

Funds to allow completion of activities 1 and 2 on the Addendum to the Concept Paper of their proposal. The funded activities are to research models and approved, safe guidelines of food processing used by other states such as California, New York and Vermont and to research existing and future needs of Illinois farmers and other potential artisan food producers.

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Pesticide Use and Best Practices:

University of Illinois Board of Trustees, \$10,000.

Funds for development, printing and distribution of a brochure on pesticide drift which includes: 1) information on specific risks to commercial and specialty crop producers; 2) best management practices that can be employed by pesticide applicators that reduce the effects of drift, including but not limited to product selection, equipment selection and equipment calibration; 3) best management practices that can be employed by specialty crop producers to reduce crop susceptibility to drift impact; and 4) the misuse complaint process.

LINK and Farmers' Markets:

Institute for Community Resource Development, \$25,000.

Funds to Grantee for the following purposes: to conduct a one-year pilot project to determine the economic impact of placing LINK machines in as many as 10 regionally distributed farmers' markets in Illinois. The Grantee will work with key farmers' markets representatives in each geographic area to place the LINK machines, track LINK sales and generate an impact report.