



The Honorable W. Ralph Peck

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Montana Department of Agriculture
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Base Grant: \$500,000
Specialty Crop Grant: \$140,000
Total Grant: \$640,000

Agriculture Economic Opportunity:

Governor's Office of
Economic Opportunity, \$60,000.

This project provides funds to the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity to support activities that promote and develop Montana's agricultural industry and economy including specialty crops.

Agriculture Education PSA's:

North Country Media Group, \$2,703.

The purpose is to produce and place one 30-second Montana Value-Added Agriculture Television Public Service Announcement. The North Country Media Group is the producer.

Agriculture In Montana Schools:

Agriculture In Montana Schools Program, \$10,000.

The Agriculture in Montana Schools program proposes to conduct two projects that will enhance the public's (i.e. school children's) awareness and knowledge of specialty crops grown in Montana, and of their importance to Montana's agricultural economy.

Agriculture Rail Consulting Services:

Montana Departments of Agriculture and
Commerce & Transportation, \$5,000.

This cooperative agreement between the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce and Transportation is to provide rail-consulting services affecting Montana including the shipment of Montana agricultural commodities.

Alternative Crop Market Research:

Montana State University, \$70,000.

This project provides funds to the MSU-College of Agriculture to support activities that promote and develop Montana's agricultural specialty crops, industry and economy. MSU-College of agriculture is to conduct three studies:

1. Alternative Crops: Market Structure and Exchange Rates
2. Development of Horse Care and Health Products Using Montana Alternative Crops
3. Malt barley development for irrigated dry land production in eastern Montana

"Chef For All Seasons":

Chef for All Seasons
Marketing Campaign, \$24,700.

Chef for All Seasons Marketing Campaign – The funding for this project will assist Montana producers of specialty value-added food items to open new and expand existing markets in the HRI sector of Kyushu, Japan. The proposal includes technical seminars for chefs of fine-dining independent and hotel restaurants, increasing their knowledge of the products, their quality and versatility, a tabletop product show and product sampling for Japanese buyers, importers and distributors. This activity will be followed by a reverse buyers mission hosted by the state of Montana, allowing Japanese delegates the opportunity to increase their knowledge of production methods and appreciation of Montana products, further serving to increase sales of Montana's value-added specialty food products in this sector of the Japanese market.

Cherry Fruit Fly Certification Program:

Flathead Lake Cherry Growers Association,
\$10,000.

This project will monitor, control and manage the western cherry fruit fly so that Montana cherries can be certified for markets in California. The Flathead Lake Cherry Growers Association is the sponsoring organization.

Farmers Markets & Specialty Crop

Business Incubation:

LC Community Development
Corporation, \$23,000.

This project is to assist Northwest Montana specialty crop producers who need advice and support in: Analyzing the processing technologies and developing Hazardous Analysis Critical Control Plans and process Control Authorities as required by the FDA starting in 2003.

- Labeling of product appropriately to include both nutritional analysis and ingredients.
- Establishing quality control over their product to protect themselves against consumer lawsuits.
- Understanding the issues of food allergens.

Continued...

Farmers Markets & Specialty Crop Business Incubation.
Continued...

The LC Community Development Corp. will also work with local farmer market participants, supporters and stakeholders to determine their needs and the opportunities for further expansion of local markets and outlets for Montana grown products.

“Follow The Grain” University Course:

[Montana State University, \\$2,500.](#)

This project will provide support to incorporate discussion of the role of alternative crops in the ongoing interdisciplinary Follow the Grain course at Montana State University. Through real-time telecommunications technology, participants and students will understand the agronomic and economic reasons for the differences between the specialty crops role in Saskatchewan and in Montana.

Malt Barley Trade Team:

[Montana Department of Agriculture, \\$5,900.](#)

Following up on the malting barley trade mission conducted in 2002, the Montana Department of Agriculture will host a group(s) of Mexican maltsters and brewers on a trade mission to the State of Montana. This activity serves to increase sales of Montana malt barley to Mexican maltsters and brewers. The activity also serves to strengthen relations between the Mexican malting and brewing industry and Montana’s malt barley producers and merchandisers.

Market Structure and Exchange Rate Research:

[Montana State University, \\$40,000.](#)

The Agriculture Policy Center-Montana State University, Bozeman will conduct activities that promote and develop Montana’s agricultural industry and economy. The center is to conduct two studies: Market structures and market prices for alternative crops pertinent to Montana, and Exchange rate movements and market prices for alternative crops.

Montana Agri-Women:

[Montana Agri-Women, \\$1,000.](#)

Block grant funds were utilized for public outreach regarding agricultural issues including: environmental regulations, agricultural property rights, estate planning, trade issues, and promotion and productions of agricultural commodities including traditional and new specialty crops.

“Montana’s Choice” Agriculture Products Promotion:

[Montana Department of Agriculture, \\$8,300.](#)

The Montana’s Choice program, sponsored by the Montana Department of Agriculture, encourages Montanans and tourists to purchase Montana value-added agricultural products from their local grocery

stores. The program utilizes in-store promotions to introduce Montanans to the products available to them in their areas; television, radio and print media advertisements to encourage the purchase of Montana products; and point-of-purchase materials to point out the Montana’s Choice products on grocery shelves.

Montana Ag Live! PBS Agriculture Education Show:

[Montana Public Broadcasting System, \\$2,500.](#)

Funds are authorized in this project to provide technical education and information to agricultural producers and the public via the “Montana Ag Live!” television show aired on the Montana Public Broadcasting System (PBS) stations across the state. The show’s format consists of a panel of university and extension agricultural experts answering questions called in by the public. Questions vary across the wide spectrum of agricultural productions, with many questions pertaining to specialty crops.

Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Marketing Campaign:

[Montana Department of Agriculture, \\$10,500.](#)

To further the marketing exposure of growing and using Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage (NWSFF), the Montana Department of Agriculture will produce informational brochures, producer signs, radio public service announcements and billboards to promote the benefits of using the product. The marketing campaign will work to educate the public on the benefits of using NWSFF as a tool for mitigating the spread of noxious weeds, as well as promote NWSFF as a value added option for forage producers in Montana.

Organic Crop Certification:

[Montana Department of Agriculture, \\$20,000.](#)

Specialty crop funds will fund a portion of the Montana Department of Agriculture’s organic certification program’s expenses to provide certification services to organic producers and handlers. The program is in its first year of operation and funding is needed to help defray start up costs until revenue for services will fully fund the program. The department’s services provide independent verification that operations are conducted in strict compliance with organic standards established by the USDA, National Organic Program. The department’s program enables producers and handlers to add value to crops and processed foods.

Pacific Rim Trade Mission:

[Montana Department of Agriculture, \\$60,000.](#)

The Governor of the State of Montana, the Directors of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce, industry representatives and supporting staff members will travel to Japan and Taiwan to promote Montana agricultural products in markets in

Japan and Taiwan. These products include many processed specialty food products including organic products.

Potato Marketing And Research:

[Montana Potato Advisory Committee, \\$5,000.](#)

These funds would provide funding for the Montana Potato Advisory Committee as it works to establish rules and guidelines for the efficient operation of the Montana Potato Research and Market Development Program.

Potato Nematode Certification For Taiwan Market:

[Montana Department of Agriculture, \\$10,000.](#)

This project will assist Montana seed potato growers to conduct potato nematode surveys so that their potatoes can be certified for export to the Taiwan market.

Pulse Crop Tour:

[Montana Department of Agriculture, \\$7,000.](#)

To provide Montana grain producers exposure to diversified cropping options, the Montana Department of Agriculture will lead a group of Montana producers through western Canada to visit pulse crop research, production and processing facilities. The activity will further serve to enhance the knowledge of Montana producers regarding the use of specialty crops as a viable option for production in Montana.

Restricted Feeder Program:

[Montana Department of Livestock, \\$160,000.](#)

This project sponsored by the Montana Department of Livestock is to promote agriculture and protect animal health through enablement of the livestock industry to attain the necessary information to expand the Restricted Feeder Program to allow year-around exports that are currently limited to a six-month vector season. Determine the prevalence of bluetongue and anaplasmosis in Montana feeder cattle exported to Canada.

Specialty Crop Agricultural Statistics:

[Montana Agricultural Statistics Service, \\$10,000.](#)

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) will conduct specialty crop surveys throughout Montana to determine production and value statistics.

Specialty Crop Education Articles:

[Montana Department of Agriculture and William M. Brewster, Jr., \\$5,000.](#)

A consultant journalist, William M. Brewster, Jr., will write and disseminate, in cooperation with the Department, news articles for the promotion of agriculture and specialty crops in Montana.

Leadership Conference:

[Montana Department of Agriculture, \\$1,000.](#)

This project is to assist in the funding of the 23rd annual Young Ag Couples Conference (YACC). This conference, sponsored by the Montana Department of Agriculture provides leadership training.