



## The Honorable Merlyn Carlson

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Bae Grant: \$500,000  
Specialty Crop Grant: \$640,000  
Total Grant: \$1,140,000

### **AroniBerry Farms of Nebraska:**

AroniBerry Co-op of Nebraska, \$5,000.

The purpose of this grant was to educate small and medium sized farms about the opportunity to grow, sustain, harvest, and market aroniaberries. To do this, a cooperative must be formed to aid in the education, research, and promotional efforts.

### **Controlling Aphanomyces Root Rot in Sugar Beets in Nebraska:**

Nebraska Non-Stock Sugarbeet Grower's Association and Sugarbeet PROFIT, Inc., \$19,000.

The purpose of this grant was to provide research and test plots to study aphanomyces root rot, compare the profitability and disease control practices of each plot, and provide information to producers to aid their next year's production practices.

### **Clean Bean Project**

OCIA NE Chapter 1, \$3,000.

This project is designed to help organic farmers find a treatment to protect clear hilum soybeans from becoming infected with the soybean mosaic virus, which discolors soybeans making them unacceptable for food grade use.

### **Education and Organization for Farmers' Markets:**

Nebraska Cooperative Extension and Nebraska Farmers' Market Association, \$25,000.

This project provided an educational and organizational support program for farmers' market managers and vendors in Nebraska. It provided guidance and information and generated enthusiasm for prospective farmers markets.

### **Growing Dryland Low-Input Potatoes for Dehydration in Western Nebraska:**

University of Nebraska, \$25,000.

The purpose of this project was to determine the feasibility of a potato dehydration industry in the Nebraska panhandle.

### **Evaluating Production Costs and Returns for Western Nebraska**

#### **Specialty Crops:**

University of Nebraska and Western Nebraska Ag Producers, \$24,000.

This project was designed to assist specialty crop producers by using their own information to develop a comprehensive set of crop budgets for numerous specialty crops, including: sugarbeets, dry edible beans, proso millet, potatoes, turfgrass seed, chickpeas, chicory, peas, lentils, dryland forages, alfalfa hay, vineyards, amaranth, niger thistle, canarygrass seed, organic crops, and seed production.

### **Grass Seed Industry Promotion for Western Nebraska:**

High Plains Grass Seed Association and University of Nebraska, \$75,000.

This project was designed to promote to producers proprietary and specialty grasses that need seed production and to enhance the success of new producers.

### **Enhancement of Chickpea Production Success in Nebraska Panhandle:**

University of Nebraska and High Plains Dry Pea Growers Association, \$78,000.

This project was designed to broaden the research basis of chickpea production, make current information available and put better production practices in place.

### **Increased Nursery Production in Nebraska:**

Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association, \$60,000.

The Association is working to obtain growth parameters for five ornamental woody plant production locations in Nebraska to provide a database for those interested in establishing commercial nurseries.

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**Onion Produce-Ability Variety Trials:**

South Central Nebraska – UNL Cooperative Extension, \$13,000.

This project is three-tiered, including onion produce-ability variety trials, onion marketing study, and specialty crop education program. These projects intended to determine the impact of onion production on Nebraska and any potential markets or opportunities.

**Potential for Niger Seed and Canary Grass Production for Bird Seed:**

University of Nebraska and High Plains Ag Lab Advisory Board, \$20,000.

This project was designed to evaluate the potential to produce niger thistle seed and canary grass seed in Nebraska. These products could be used for bird seed, possibly giving Nebraska producers the opportunity to take advantage of new markets.

**Production, Processing, and Marketing Chicory:**

Panhandle Chicory Growers Association, UNL Panhandle Research and Extension Center, UNL Food Processing Center, UNL Food Science and Technology Department, \$80,000.

This project is designed to provide the research for market assessment of chicory and to provide funds for processing development of chicory to possibly add value and create new markets for the end product.

**Promotion and Education Efforts - Nebraska Grown Wood Products:**

Niobrara Valley Wood Products, LLC, \$13,000.

This project is designed to increase promotion and educational efforts, through materials, displays and trade shows, thereby adding value to native wood products by accessing new market opportunities and options.

**Promotion and Research of NWGGA:**

Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association, \$35,000.

The Association utilized funds to produce and distribute a promotional brochure, provide funds for trade shows, maintain websites, fund workshops, and recruit new members.

**Quality Alfalfa Production and Promotion:**

Nebraska Alfalfa Marketing Association, \$20,000.

The Association promoted the production of high quality alfalfa, including marketing it to potential customers throughout the Midwest.

**Cooperative Vineyard:**

Southeastern Nebraska Alternative Crops Association, \$35,000.

The Association utilized the funding for a feasibility study, professional presentation, commercial winemaking course, and leveraging private investment to support the startup of a winery.

**Research and Education Designed to Stabilize the Dry Bean Industry:**

Nebraska Dry Bean Commission, \$80,000.

The Commission utilized funding for research related to dry beans, including looking into new uses, new markets, innovative food products and new varieties. It designed promotional materials to help identify and develop new markets for dry beans and the products produced from them.

**Value-Added Pepper and Specialty Vegetable Processing and Marketing:**

Platte Valley Pepper and Specialty Vegetable Producers, \$30,000.

The goal of this project was to fund market research, production research, and processing research on peppers and similar specialty vegetables to determine the economic feasibility of these alternative vegetables and their potential markets.