DATCP Accepting Applications for Specialty Crop Block Grants until June 9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 14, 2025 **Contact:** Kelly Mella, Public Information Officer, (608) 440-0295 <u>kelly.mella@wisconsin.gov</u>

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is accepting applications for 2025 Specialty Crop Block Grants until 10 a.m. on June 9, 2025. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently notified DATCP that the application window is now open.

Eligible projects include those that focus on enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crop industries through research, education, or market development. DATCP encourages non-profit organizations, producer groups, government agencies, universities, and other agricultural organizations to apply. Applications may involve collaborations or partnerships between entities.

DATCP will use a competitive review process to select the most qualified projects. Selected projects will be included in Wisconsin's state plan, which is submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for approval and funding.

Projects can receive grant funds between \$10,000 and \$100,000. Eligible project expenses include compensation for personnel, consultant services, materials, and supplies. In anticipation of receiving funding, selected project contracts and work will begin in early 2026.

Grant information and application materials, including a video detailing the application process, are available at

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing_WI/SpecialtyCropBlockGrants.aspx. For more information, contact DATCP Grants at <u>datcpdadgrants@wisconsin.gov</u>.

Since 2007, the Specialty Crop Block Grant program has provided funding for more than 345 projects, totaling more than \$19.1 million. Specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, nursery crops, herbs, and more. Find a full list of eligible crops and more information about the program at <u>www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp</u>.

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