

Specialty Crop Multi-State Program

The [Specialty Crop Multi-State Program](#) (SCMP) is a new federal grant program offered by United States Department of Agriculture's - Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA-AMS). The SCMP competitively funds projects to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through collaborative, multi-state projects that address regional or national-level specialty crop issues in the following categories:

- Food Safety
- Plant pests and disease
- Research
- Crop-specific projects addressing common issues
- Marketing and promotion

States are encouraged to develop projects that bring together multi-state teams to research and develop solutions to practical problems that cross State boundaries and address the needs of specialty crop growers in the areas listed above.

What is considered a [Specialty Crop](#)?

Funding availability?

Approximately \$3 million in funding is available from USDA-AMS. Proposals can request between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000.

Proposal Deadline

The deadline for multi-state partners to submit applications will be 11:59 PM Eastern time, Tuesday December 15th. Applications must be emailed directly to the state contact of the Participating state in which you are applying; no walk-ins of hard copies will be accepted.

How does the program work?

Multi-state partners must submit proposals to a Participating State department of agriculture to be considered for funding. Participating State departments of agriculture are the only entities that can apply directly to USDA-AMS for SCMP funds.

Participating States will accept proposals from multi-state partners; screen proposals to ensure they are complete and meet the basic requirements outlined in the 2015 SCMP [Request for Applications](#); and submit all eligible proposals to USDA-AMS.

USDA-AMS will evaluate all submitted proposals and make final funding decisions. Participating States will then assume administrative responsibility for any funded proposals. As the official award recipients, Participating States will establish sub-grantee agreements with multi-state partners to complete funded projects. Participating States do not determine which projects are funded or in proposal development.

Multi-state partners should select a Participating State soon and contact them to receive updates on the SCMP application process. Multi-state partners must select only one participating State department of agriculture to work with. Multiple submissions of the same application are not allowed.

How to apply?

- Review the 2015 SCMP [Request for Applications](#) in its entirety.
- Choose a start date for your project in calendar year 2016.
 - Because this is a new program, USDA-AMS does not yet have a target date for announcing SCMP awards.
 - A no-cost time extension will be available to any funded project that was delayed because of seasonal issues.
- [Select a Participating State](#) to receive your proposal. If your proposal is funded, this is the state that will administer your sub-grantee agreement, disburse funds, and manage project reporting.
- Submit your proposal to the Participating State by the deadline (to be determined soon).

Once your proposal is under consideration for funding, you will work with the Participating State during the budget negotiation phase to allocate the award's indirect costs (also known as administrative costs), which may be used to reimburse the Participating State for the costs of administering your project. Indirect costs are capped at 8% of the total award.

Contact Jason Harvey at jason.harvey@ag.ok.gov or 405-606-1477 for more information or to be notified once a deadline for applications has been determined.