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# Media Advisory

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## **USDA Announces Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Funding Awarded to New Mexico**

**WASHINGTON, August 25, 2022**—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today awarded over \$565,000 in Fiscal Year 2022 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funding to New Mexico. This USDA grant will help the New Mexico Department of Agriculture fund projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in the state and support specialty crop growers through marketing, education, and research.

“USDA applauds New Mexico’s continued commitment to supporting our nation’s producers of fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and nursery crops through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program,” said USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt. “The projects funded will foster innovative research and new market opportunities within the specialty crop sector, while furthering USDA’s goals of creating a more fair and equitable food system and supporting local and regional producers.”

Through the SCBGP, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture will support seven specialty crop projects. Many of the funded projects will benefit the state through innovative research, food safety, and value chain efforts.

“With New Mexico being the top chile pepper-producing state in the nation, we look forward to the projects furthering important crop-related research,” said New Mexico Agriculture Secretary Jeff Witte. “Spearheaded by our state’s land-grant university,

farmers' marketing association and nursery and greenhouse association, projects will also address and enhance the importance of food safety, value-chain coordination and education in support of specialty crops.”

The funding to New Mexico is part of a total of \$72.9 million in non-competitive FY 2022 SCBGP funding awarded to 55 states, territories and the District of Columbia. The SCBGP funding supports farmers growing specialty crops, including fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and nursery crops. USDA's support will strengthen U.S. specialty crop production and markets, ensuring an abundant, affordable supply of highly nutritious fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops, which are vital to the health and well-being of all Americans.

The funding for the SCBGP grants is authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill and FY2022 funding is awarded for a three-year period beginning September 30, 2022. Since 2006, USDA has invested more than \$953 million through the SCBGP to fund 11,331 projects that have increased the long-term successes of producers and broadened the market for specialty crops in the U.S. and abroad.

More information about these awards is available on this webpage: [2022 SCBGP Awarded Grants \(pdf\)](#).

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