

Wyoming Specialty Crop Small Grant Program Guidelines

PURPOSE

Small grants will be awarded to farmers to implement season extension and water conservation methods to increase productivity. Grants will also be available for native seed production.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Wyoming farmers/ranchers are eligible to apply for a Wyoming Specialty Crop Grant if they meet the following criteria:

1. Be a private-sector Wyoming-based agricultural producer as defined by USDA.
2. Demonstrate that the producer is capable of capitalizing on methods that will enhance their specialty crop production through season extensions, water conservation, and native seed production.
3. Has received a recommendation from a local entity or individual that can vouch for your involvement in agricultural production.

Eligible expenditures are limited to the purchase of materials necessary to construct a high tunnel; equipment for small acreage drip irrigation systems, the production, harvesting and enhancement of native seed plants.

Ineligible expenditures include travel such as lodging and meals and mileage, and expenditures directly related to the operation of the business, such as salaries.

AWARD LIMITATIONS

This is a matching program. Farmers/Ranchers may receive a maximum of one grant in one fiscal year (July-June). A company cannot exceed \$2,000 in the twelve-month period. The total grant award is limited to 50% of the actual eligible expenditures. The minimum amount of a grant is \$500. The maximum a company can receive is \$2,000 per year.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE BUSINESS PARTICIPANT

Documentation. The Farmer/Rancher must complete and submit to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture the following forms for reimbursement: 1) *Request for Reimbursement*; 2) *Itemized Expenditure*; and, 3) a *Final Report* on the grant by December 31, 2009. Copies of, canceled checks (both sides), invoices, and other confirmation of payment must be submitted for reimbursement.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Potential participants of the Wyoming Specialty Crop Grant Program must complete and return the application and the required attachments **by April 15, 2009.**

PLEASE NOTE: Expenditures incurred without written or electronic confirmation from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture are not eligible for reimbursement. **The application process cannot be started after the company has purchased grant related expenditures.**

GENERAL GRANT INFORMATION

The Wyoming Specialty Grant Program is a reimbursable grant; and as such, the applicant must pay all expenditures before the grant award can be disbursed. The business shall function independently in performing this activity and shall assume sole responsibility of any debts or liabilities that may be incurred in regard to this grant. The grant award cannot be assigned.

Return application forms to:

Specialty Crop Small Grants Program
Wyoming Department of Agriculture
2219 Carey Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82002

*****This program has a limited amount of funds. Grants will be reviewed on a first come, first serve basis and. Wyoming Department of Agriculture reserves the right to deny applications that are not complete or otherwise deemed not eligible.*****