

State of Maine
Master Score Sheet

RFP# 202102027					
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program					
Bidder Name:		Blue Barn LLC	Cajo, inc	Central Aroostook SWCD	Cumberland County SWCD
Proposed Cost:		\$99,525.00	\$78,410.00	\$43,258,50	\$38,877.04
Scoring Sections	Points Available				
Application Cover Page	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Litigation	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	4	2	3	4
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	3	2	2	5
The project addressed the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	20	0	20	23
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.	20	20	0	10	17
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	13	0	5	15
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	20	22	7	12	28
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>92</u>

RFP# 202102027

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Bidder Name:		Daybreak Growers Alliance	Maine Flower Collective	Maine Potato Board	MOFGA
Proposed Cost:		\$29,740.00	\$76,580.00	\$79,245.00	\$90,518,01
Scoring Sections	Points Available				
Application Cover Page	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Litigation	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	5	5	4	5
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	5	4	5	5
The project addressed the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	22	20	22	23
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.	20	20	18	17	17
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15	15	15	15
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	30	27	25	28
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>93</u>

RFP# 202102027

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Bidder Name:		New England Apple Association	Nezinscot Farm	The Hop Yard	University of Maine – Dr. Annis
Proposed Cost:		\$34,040.00	\$24,341.00	\$47,500.00	\$75,434.00
Scoring Sections	Points Available				
Application Cover Page	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Litigation	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	3	2	3	3
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	5	3	2	4
The project addressed the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	5	8	10	15
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.	20	5	8	12	15
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	10	0	5	15
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	10	10	15	22
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>74</u>

RFP# 202102027

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Bidder Name:		University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood	University of Maine – Dr. Tan	University of Maine – Dr. Ginakes	University of Maine – Dr. Hao
Proposed Cost:		\$99,894.00	\$75,420	\$62,378.00	\$74,349.00
Scoring Sections	Points Available				
Application Cover Page	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Litigation	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	4	3	4	3
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	5	4	5	3
The project addressed the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	25	15	23	17
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.	20	18	12	12	12
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15	11	15	10
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	17	13	20	15
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>60</u>

RFP# 202102027

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Bidder Name:		Wild Blueberry Heritage Center	Maine Seaweed Exchange		
Proposed Cost:		\$35,500.00	INELIGIBLE		
Scoring Sections	Points Available				
Application Cover Page	Pass/Fail	Pass			
Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	Pass/Fail	Pass			
Litigation	Pass/Fail	Pass			
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	3			
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	2			
The project addressed the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	10			
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.	20	12			
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	8			
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	10			
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>45</u>			

From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: [Michael Terrien](#)
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 9:50:00 AM
Attachments: [Blue Barn LLC.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Phone: 207-287-3491
Fax: 207-287-7548
www.maine.gov/dacf
www.getrealmaine.com



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Mr. Michael Terrien
Blue Barn LLC
15 Washington Ave Unit 9
Scarborough, Maine 04074

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure
for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine

Dear Mr. Terrien:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for A New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Daybreak Growers Alliance: *Expanding on Daybreak Growers Alliance's Wholesale Aggregation, Marketing and Distribution Model for Maine Specialty Grown Crops.*
- Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District: *Creating a Replicable Farm Equipment Sharing Co-Operative for Growers using Soil-Steaming Technology in Their Hoop-House Production*
- Maine Flower Collective: *Formation of Maine Flower Collective: A Cooperative to Enhance the Competitiveness and Market Reach of Maine's cut Flowers.*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvements Project II*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood: *Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming*

The bidders listed above received the evaluation team's highest rankings. The Department will be contacting the aforementioned bidders soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a

result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between the Department and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to the Department is executed. The Department further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy McBrady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Division of Purchases, Chapter 120, § (2) (2).

From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: pbchyk@outlook.com
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 9:48:00 AM
Attachments: [Cajo Inc.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
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STATE OF MAINE
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Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Dr. Peter Chykaliuk
Cajo Inc
20 Wildwood Lane
Scarborough, Maine 04074

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Fruit Storage and Marketing Using Freeze Drying Processing

Dear Dr. Chykaliuk:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for A New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Daybreak Growers Alliance: *Expanding on Daybreak Growers Alliance's Wholesale Aggregation, Marketing and Distribution Model for Maine Specialty Grown Crops.*
- Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District: *Creating a Replicable Farm Equipment Sharing Co-Operative for Growers using Soil-Steaming Technology in Their Hoop-House Production*
- Maine Flower Collective: *Formation of Maine Flower Collective: A Cooperative to Enhance the Competitiveness and Market Reach of Maine's cut Flowers.*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvements Project II*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood: *Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming*

The bidders listed above received the evaluation team's highest rankings. The Department will be contacting the aforementioned bidders soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between the Department and

the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to the Department is executed. The Department further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

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Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: ["centralaroostookswcd@gmail.com"](mailto:centralaroostookswcd@gmail.com)
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 9:52:00 AM
Attachments: [Central Aroostook SWCD.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Mr. Randy Martin
Central Aroostook SWCD
735 Main St Suite 3
Presque Isle, Maine 04769

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Carbon Sequestration for Maine Potato Farms

Dear Mr. Martin:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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- Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District: *Creating a Replicable Farm Equipment Sharing Co-Operative for Growers using Soil-Steamming Technology in Their Hoop-House Production*
- Maine Flower Collective: *Formation of Maine Flower Collective: A Cooperative to Enhance the Competitiveness and Market Reach of Maine's cut Flowers.*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvements Project II*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood: *Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming*

The bidders listed above received the evaluation team's highest rankings. The Department will be contacting the aforementioned bidders soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between the Department and

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This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

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Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: cbrewer@cumberlandswcd.org
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 9:53:00 AM
Attachments: [Cumberland County SWCD.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
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**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry**

**Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner**

**Janet T. Mills
Governor**

June 4, 2021

Mr. Christopher Brewer
Cumberland County SWCD
35 Main St
Windham, Maine 04062

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

PROJECT TITLE: Creating a replicable farm equipment sharing co-operative for growers using soil-steaming technology in their hoop-house production.

Dear Mr. Brewer:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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- Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District: *Creating a Replicable Farm Equipment Sharing Co-Operative for Growers using Soil-Steamming Technology in Their Hoop-House Production*
- Maine Flower Collective: *Formation of Maine Flower Collective: A Cooperative to Enhance the Competitiveness and Market Reach of Maine's cut Flowers.*
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- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood: *Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming*

The bidders listed above received the evaluation team's highest rankings. The Department will be contacting the aforementioned bidders soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a

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Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

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Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: [Colleen Hanlon-Smith](#)
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 9:55:00 AM
Attachments: [Daybreak Growers Alliance.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Ms. Colleen Hanlon-Smith
Daybreak Growers Alliance
66 School St
Unity, Maine 04988

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Expanding on Daybreak Growers Alliance's wholesale aggregation,
marketing and distribution model for Maine Specialty Grown Crops.

Dear Ms. Hanlon-Smith:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvements Project II*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood: *Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming*

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Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

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Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: ["info@plantoffice.net"](mailto:info@plantoffice.net)
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 9:58:00 AM
Attachments: [Maine Flower Collective.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Mr. John Sundling
Maine Flower Collective
17 Marion St
Portland, Maine 04101

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Formation of Maine Flower Collective: A cooperative to enhance the
competitiveness and market reach of Maine's cut flowers.

Dear Mr. Sundling:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood: *Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming*

The bidders listed above received the evaluation team's highest rankings. The Department will be contacting the aforementioned bidders soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a

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As stated in the RFA following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy McBrady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Division of Purchases, Chapter 120, § (2) (2).

From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: [Don Flannery](#)
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:01:00 AM
Attachments: [Maine Potato Board.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Phone: 207-287-3491
Fax: 207-287-7548
www.maine.gov/dacf
www.getrealmaine.com



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Mr. Donald Flannery
Maine Potato Board
744 Main St Suite 1
Presque Isle, Maine 04769

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management
Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato.

Dear Mr. Flannery:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for A New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Daybreak Growers Alliance: *Expanding on Daybreak Growers Alliance's Wholesale Aggregation, Marketing and Distribution Model for Maine Specialty Grown Crops.*
- Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District: *Creating a Replicable Farm Equipment Sharing Co-Operative for Growers using Soil-Steamming Technology in Their Hoop-House Production*
- Maine Flower Collective: *Formation of Maine Flower Collective: A Cooperative to Enhance the Competitiveness and Market Reach of Maine's cut Flowers.*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvements Project II*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood: *Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming*

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Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

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Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: trey@seaweedexchange.com
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:03:00 AM
Attachments: [Maine Seaweed Exchange.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Phone: 207-287-3491
Fax: 207-287-7548
www.maine.gov/dacf
www.getrealmaine.com



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Mr. Andrea Angera, Jr.
Maine Seaweed Exchange
14 Factory Rd
Gouldsboro, Maine 04607

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Support for Producers and Consumers of the Seaweed Specialty Crop
Industry of Maine.

Dear Mr. Angera, Jr.:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood: *Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming*

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Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

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Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: [Karen Stimpson](#)
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:05:00 AM
Attachments: [MOFGA.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Phone: 207-287-3491
Fax: 207-287-7548
www.maine.gov/dacf
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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Ms. Karen Stimpson
MOFGA
PO Box 170
Unity, Maine 04988

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project II

Dear Ms. Stimpson:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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- Maine Flower Collective: *Formation of Maine Flower Collective: A Cooperative to Enhance the Competitiveness and Market Reach of Maine's cut Flowers.*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvements Project II*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood: *Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming*

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This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy McBrady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: ["russ@newenglandapples.org"](mailto:russ@newenglandapples.org)
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:06:00 AM
Attachments: [New England Apple Association.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Phone: 207-287-3491
Fax: 207-287-7548
www.maine.gov/dacf
www.getrealmaine.com



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Mr. Russell Powell
New England Apple Association
8 Elm St
Hatfield, MA, Maine 01038

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Feasibility Study for a Museum of New England Apples and Cider

Dear Mr. Powell:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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- Maine Flower Collective: *Formation of Maine Flower Collective: A Cooperative to Enhance the Competitiveness and Market Reach of Maine's cut Flowers.*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvements Project II*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
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Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

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Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: ["gloria@nezinscotfarm.com"](mailto:gloria@nezinscotfarm.com)
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:11:00 AM
Attachments: [Nezinscot Farm.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Phone: 207-287-3491
Fax: 207-287-7548
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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Ms. Gloria Varney
Nezinscot Farm
284 Turner Center Rd
Turner, Maine 04282

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Creating a Specialty Herbal Tea Business

Dear Ms. Varney:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
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Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

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Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: ["ryan@thehopyard.com"](mailto:ryan@thehopyard.com)
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:13:00 AM
Attachments: [The Hop Yard LLC.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Phone: 207-287-3491
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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Mr. Ryan Houghton
The Hop Yard, LLC
26 Hamblen Rd
Gorham, Maine 04038

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

PROJECT TITLE: Using advanced irrigation and soil amendments to improve hops production under new climate conditions

Dear Mr. Houghton:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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Sincerely,

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Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: umgrants@maine.edu
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:15:00 AM
Attachments: [UMS - Annis.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Phone: 207-287-3491
Fax: 207-287-7548
www.maine.gov/dacf
www.getrealmaine.com



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Mr. Christopher Boynton
University of Maine - Annis
5717 Corbett Hall
Orono, Maine 04469

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Developing new methods to control pathogens of wild blueberry

Dear Mr. Boynton:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
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The bidders listed above received the evaluation team's highest rankings. The Department will be contacting the aforementioned bidders soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between the Department and

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This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy McBrady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Division of Purchases, Chapter 120, § (2) (2).

From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: umgrants@maine.edu
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:16:00 AM
Attachments: [UMS - Calderwood.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Phone: 207-287-3491
Fax: 207-287-7548
www.maine.gov/dacf
www.getrealmaine.com



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Ms. Debora Carver
University of Maine - Calderwood
5717 Corbett Hall
Orono, Maine 04469

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

PROJECT TITLE: Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming

Dear Ms. Carver:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for A New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Daybreak Growers Alliance: *Expanding on Daybreak Growers Alliance's Wholesale Aggregation, Marketing and Distribution Model for Maine Specialty Grown Crops.*
- Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District: *Creating a Replicable Farm Equipment Sharing Co-Operative for Growers using Soil-Steamming Technology in Their Hoop-House Production*
- Maine Flower Collective: *Formation of Maine Flower Collective: A Cooperative to Enhance the Competitiveness and Market Reach of Maine's cut Flowers.*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvements Project II*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood: *Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming*

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Sincerely,

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Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: umgrants@maine.edu
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:18:00 AM
Attachments: [UMS - E Han Tan.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Phone: 207-287-3491
Fax: 207-287-7548
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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Mr. Christopher Boynton
University of Maine - E HanTan
5717 Corbett Hall
Orono, Maine 04469

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Genetics of Host Resistance to Potato Blackleg and Soft Rot Disease

Dear Mr. Boynton:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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- University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood: *Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming*

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Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

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Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: umgrants@maine.edu
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:20:00 AM
Attachments: [UMS - Ginakes.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

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Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Ms. Debora Carver
University of Maine - Ginakes
5717 Corbett Hall
Orono, Maine 04469

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Enhancing Maine vegetable production by evaluating variety disease
resistance and cultural practices to mitigate emerging diseases

Dear Ms. Carver:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: umgrants@maine.edu
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:21:00 AM
Attachments: [UMS - Hao.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

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Tonya K. Perkins
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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Ms. Debora Carver
University of Maine - Hao
5717 Corbett Hall
Orono, Maine 04469

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

PROJECT TITLE: Infectiousness and impact of *Dickeya dianthicola* strains causing the potato blackleg and soft rot outbreak

Dear Ms. Carver:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

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From: [Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)
To: "dell emerson"
Subject: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant
Date: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:23:00 AM
Attachments: [Wild Blueberry Heritage Center and Museum.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the notice for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant review process for RFA #202102027.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Tonya K. Perkins
Office Specialist II
Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
Agricultural Resource Development
28 State House Station
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Phone: 207-287-3491
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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

June 4, 2021

Mr. Dell Emerson
Wild Blueberry Heritage Center and Museum
1067 U.S. Route 1
Columbia Falls, Maine 04623

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards under RFA # 2021027,
2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Saving a Heritage Industry Through Historical Inspiration and Innovative
Strategies for Wild Blueberry Farmers

Dear Mr. Emerson:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following bidders:

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Nancy McBrady
Director
Bureau Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

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**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 4/21/2021

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	4
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	3
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	20
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	20
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	13
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	22
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>82</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 4/21/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	4

Evaluation Team Comments:

2nd year
Meets #4, Projects that market Maine specialty crops to diversified audiences.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 4/21/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	3

Evaluation Team Comments:

The committee posed questions about compensating people for participating in surveys. Did this happen in Year 1? That piece of Y1 has not been completed yet.
Did not feel the answers were complete as far as data collection is concerned. Discussion about the application cycle, and that Blue Barn has, in effect, only had a few months so far to work on Y1 of the project, so had no obligation to report on outcomes yet, or include it in this proposal.
Questions about how the data collection was going to be solicited from the growers.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 4/21/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	20

Evaluation Team Comments:

Strong for it's sustainability for the blueberry industry, and enhancing the competitiveness of the industry
Not entirely clear with which issue the proposal is aligning.
High points for sustaining the industry with a *new product*.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 4/21/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	20

Evaluation Team Comments:

Some question about whether there was enough data collection. Committed to asking for more funds in future years; but has this plan well mapped out.
Reasonable outcomes and indicators
Outcomes are clearly defined and reasonable. Three years are well projected.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 4/21/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	13

Evaluation Team Comments:

It's a value-added product relying on multiple producers for raw materials. They plan to pay more to the growers than recent market price, which was deemed favorable.
Impacts the growers that provides the products to the processors.
Showcases the product in a new and positive way.
They aren't suggesting expanding acreage of blueberries, but rather utilizing yield from current acreage that may otherwise not be sold.
Impacts growers and increases interest in product, potentially nationwide and in new markets. Will help maintain acreage. Some concern about whether the project will be sustainable.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 4/21/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	22

Evaluation Team Comments

Budget is complete: Discussion about the high amount of travel. Is it reasonable? It is a marketing project; they are getting a brand new market started, and their primary market is out of state. Success of the program seems dependent on the marketing. It is a product with a story; it is difficult to market a product with a story without in person component. Trades shows can benefit an industry like this. Is it sustainable to pay for that much of the berries at this point? Will the product be able to carry itself without the grant paying for fruit? Discussion about fees exhibitor fees. What about sustainability of model? Subsidizing growers doesn't seem sustainable; but they have articulated a plan to rely on increasing member fees in the future, which seems possible.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cajo Inc
DATE: 4/22/2021

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	2
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	2
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	0
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	0
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	0
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	7
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>11</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cajo Inc
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	2

Evaluation Team Comments:

#4; it is related to marketing.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cajo Inc
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	2

Evaluation Team Comments:

The litigation form was incomplete.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cajo Inc
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	0

Evaluation Team Comments:

Freeze drying is not a new technology.
Does not align with any USDA issues.
This project is not innovative. The approach has been well researched elsewhere.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cajo Inc
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	0

Evaluation Team Comments:

Nothing is measurable, or mentioned. Methods of monitoring and data collection are insufficient.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cajo Inc
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	0

Evaluation Team Comments:

This will not impact multiple processors.
The project only impacts one business, with no evidence of impact for multiple producers or an industry.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cajo Inc
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	7

Evaluation Team Comments

All personnel are family members. Personnel budget is high.
Overall budget justification is insufficient – need is not explained.
No mention of where the product will be purchased.
High equipment costs, without adequate justification.
Equipment and salaries only.
Supplies justification and equipment justification were both left blank.
Where is product going to be purchased and how?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Central Aroostook SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	3
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	2
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	20
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	10
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	5
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	12
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>52</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Central Aroostook SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	3

Evaluation Team Comments:

Meets #3 and #5

Proposal doesn't clearly demonstrate how they will meet the priorities, but seems related to these 2.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Central Aroostook SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	2

Evaluation Team Comments:

Missed the \$ amount on the page 1
Confusion about the # of acres
Since the proposal hinges upon participation of 3 farmers, there should have been information about how they would be recruited, and LOS or LOC showing industry engagement.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Central Aroostook SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	20

Evaluation Team Comments:
Conservation and Research for environmental outcome.
Sustainability.
Environmental and conservation; sustainability.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Central Aroostook SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	10

Evaluation Team Comments:

Did not specify how they would measure/quantify the outcomes. Nothing specific for defining or measuring the outcomes and indicators. Extensive narrative, but no metrics.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Central Aroostook SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	5

Evaluation Team Comments:

It does not state clearly how many producers this will impact. The proposal asserts that it applies to multiple producers; however, there are no LOS. No reference to the Maine Potato Board. Committee questions how this project integrates with the community, b/c there is no evidence of stakeholder engagement.

Some of the language is a concern – seems pejorative in some ways. Committee favors bringing forestry and ag together. Will they be able to enroll enough producers? How does clover discussion fit in? How many acres are involved? (Land use incentive is budgeted at 12 acres.) Is this actually carbon sequestration? There isn't much technical info about how it works. Is it adding carbon or carbon sequestration?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Central Aroostook SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	12

Evaluation Team Comments

The budget is confusing and unclear.

The committee had to compare notes and reread sections of the proposal to try to understand the budget. (e.g. supplies budget was half for fertilizer, for 12 tons, equaling 1 ton of fertilizer per acres. Land use budget is for 12 acres)

Asking for funds for three years, but this program can only fund one year at a time. 50% is personnel. Equipment is challenging to track. Discussion about whether they should have proposed renting equipment instead. Seems like there is an error in calculating the land use incentive to growers.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cumberland County SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	4
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	5
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	23
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	17
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	28
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>92</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cumberland County SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	4

Evaluation Team Comments:

Priority area #5 and #3

(Note this is not an existing SCBG project; it was previously funded by UVM, not for ME SCBG.)

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cumberland County SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	5

Evaluation Team Comments:

Proposal is complete. This sort of model will allow small growers to become competitive and grow in the industry.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cumberland County SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	23

Evaluation Team Comments:

The project meets multiple USDA issues:

- Pest and disease control
- Efficiency
- Distribution and sustainability
- Research and conservation

Discussed how to make this sustainable in the future.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cumberland County SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	17

Evaluation Team Comments:

Most of the outcomes included clearly defined and measurable indicators. Reasonable.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cumberland County SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15

Evaluation Team Comments:

Proposal included multiple letters of support that the committee found compelling. LOS are thorough. Support of producers is clear. Producers clearly engaged in the project. Committee felt clear stakeholder engagement was a strong component of the proposal.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Cumberland County SWCD
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	28

Evaluation Team Comments

Committee viewed budget as very practical (e.g. not salary or travel intense)
The proposal demonstrates how the project will be sustainable, which committee felt indicated the grant funds would be leveraged maximally.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Daybreak Growers Alliance
DATE: 4/21/21

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	5
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	5
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	22
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	20
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	30
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>97</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Daybreak Growers Alliance
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	5

Evaluation Team Comments:

Multi-year project. Markets Maine projects to a diversified audience. (1,4)

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Daybreak Growers Alliance
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	5

Evaluation Team Comments:

No missing pieces.
Very thorough. Seems like “the training wheels are coming off.” Progress is clear. Proposal includes very thorough information.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Daybreak Growers Alliance
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	22

Evaluation Team Comments:
Facilitates small farmers becoming GAP certified.
Also improves efficiency and reduces costs of distribution.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Daybreak Growers Alliance
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	20

Evaluation Team Comments:

Very specific and measurable. Indicates a clear understanding of the outcomes and indicators and how to track them. Good level of detail, and the reasoning for each indicator.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Daybreak Growers Alliance
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15

Evaluation Team Comments:

Indicates multiple producers.

Clearly impacts many, with hard numbers included, and has LOS. Demonstrated measurable impact in previous years, as noted in proposal.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Daybreak Growers Alliance
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	30

Evaluation Team Comments

Mostly personnel, but frugal and good justification. Budget is thorough and no errors.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Flower Collective
DATE: 4/21/21

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	5
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	4
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	20
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	18
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	27
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>89</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Flower Collective
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	5

Evaluation Team Comments:

Marketing specialty crops to diversified and expanded markets – explicit alignment with #4.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Flower Collective
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	4

Evaluation Team Comments:

Proposal is complete but given its nature LOS would have better completed the proposal.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Flower Collective
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	20

Evaluation Team Comments:

Improve distribution systems.
Enhance competitiveness.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Flower Collective
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	18

Evaluation Team Comments:

Numbers and percentages are listed for a lot of outcomes

Seems realistic

Liked to have seen a bit more of how the data will be collected and a little more thinking about the logistics.

Realistic goals. (Too many?) How will they get the data? It's not clear.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Flower Collective
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15

Evaluation Team Comments:

This proposal represents a new producer group that has been developing over a few years and starting to formalize. The committee appreciated particularly that both the florist and the producers are working together on this project – indicates collaboration from both sides. Flower growers initiated the proposal and a florist submitted the proposal. Everyone that will use the co-op will be impacted, so potentially dozens of growers and designers as well.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Flower Collective
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	27

Evaluation Team Comments

A lot of funding for personnel, but the justification makes it clear why this would be necessary for a new industry group just coalescing. Committee appreciated that membership fees will increasingly offset these costs in future years for a sustainable model.

Committee also appreciates that the project draws on models that have worked elsewhere, as well as existing technology. If the project is successful, they plan to charge dues in future years to help make the work sustainable. Not enough information about the van driver and van rental. Have they allocated enough budget? High personnel makes for new organization. They aren't reinventing the wheel – are using new resources.

Fuel costs, licensing costs, delivery salary low, website development low, cold storage, more than one rental vehicle (2 vehicles in different areas?). Committee asks that we verify these latter areas.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 4/22/2021

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	4
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	5
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	22
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	17
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	25
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>88</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	4

Evaluation Team Comments:

Touches on 2 areas, but not clearly defined:
Pest Management
Long-term farm viability

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	5

Evaluation Team Comments:
No components missing and adheres to the format.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	22

Evaluation Team Comments:
Project addresses two areas:
Investing in specialty crop research
Pest and Disease Control

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	17

Evaluation Team Comments:

The outcomes overlap with data that is key for DACF inspectors as well (key to certifying seed). The proposal outlines measurable indicators. It is somewhat vague regarding how to measure improved revenue on yields.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15

Evaluation Team Comments:

Basis for seed testing for the State.
Will potentially impact all potato growers. Potatoes are one of the primary ag crops in SOM.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	25

Evaluation Team Comments

Has some questions about the budget

Personnel accounts 60+% of budget and fringe is high. Are the hours realistic? (Committee discusses the high FTE.) Contract with UMaine Diagnostic lab, is this a certain # of samples, or the price per sample – confusing explanation.

The contract with UM (\$10K) is too vague. (Is it \$100/test? Not clear.) Not clear what it is for. Personnel makes up a major amount of the budget. The budget narrative is too complicated.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: MOFGA
DATE: 4/22/21

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	5
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	5
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	23
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	17
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	28
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>93</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: MOFGA
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	5

Evaluation Team Comments:
2nd Year (#1)
Food Safety (#2)

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: MOFGA
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	5

Evaluation Team Comments:
All components are included, each is thorough and complete.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: MOFGA
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	23

Evaluation Team Comments:
Enhanced Food Safety and FSMA compliance. Well articulated.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: MOFGA
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	17

Evaluation Team Comments:

Numbers of individuals and growers are clearly defined.
Committee discussed how the outcomes will be tracked, and suggested that could be more clear.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: MOFGA
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15

Evaluation Team Comments:

Project clearly impacts multiple producers. (Some who participated in past years contributed LOS.)

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: MOFGA
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	28

Evaluation Team Comments

Budget is complete and thorough. Committee appreciates clarity. \$70K of project is being redistributed to farmers, so the indirect costs are low.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: New England Apple Association
DATE: 4/22/21

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	3
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	5
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	5
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	5
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	10
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	10
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>38</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: New England Apple Association
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	3

Evaluation Team Comments:

Expanding markets

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: New England Apple Association
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	5

Evaluation Team Comments:
LOS included

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: New England Apple Association
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	5

Evaluation Team Comments:

Marketing strategy wasn't resonating and how would the price of apples go up?
No plan for the culinary portion of the application, how will the culinary professionals
Not clear how education will happen
Does not seem to fit well.
Minimal alignment with nutritional goals, but not much alignment.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: New England Apple Association
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	5

Evaluation Team Comments:

Seems pretty weak
Increasing sales and prices seems counter intuitive
Data collection is a survey
They argue the price will go up AND consumption will go up. There is no plan provided for culinary piece.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: New England Apple Association
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	10

Evaluation Team Comments:

59 Orchards and 17 Cideries in Maine will be impacted
Includes letters of support, indicating multiple Maine sites.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: New England Apple Association
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	10

Evaluation Team Comments

Going to other states and what happens if there is no other funding from other states.
 Fairly modest
 There are consultants for \$50/hr, but what is their expertise and what will they be doing.
 Budget doesn't stand alone without other funding.
 A match was offered.
 Overall funding for this project wasn't clear. If other states don't provide funds, what will happen? Seems unfinis

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Nezinscot Farm
DATE: 4/22/2021

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	2
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	3
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	8
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	8
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	0
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	10
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>31</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Nezinscot Farm
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	2

Evaluation Team Comments:

Marketing #4; however it is not a direct example of a marketing proposal, since it only impacts one farm, and not multiple producers.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Nezinscot Farm
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	3

Evaluation Team Comments:

Some missing pieces, justifications. Including historical financials was helpful and compelling to the committee.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Nezinscot Farm
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	8

Evaluation Team Comments:

At what point does value-added products stop being a Specialty Crop? Committee was unsure about whether marketing a dried tea product aligns with USDA goals. Project does not seem to address USDA SCBG issues.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Nezinscot Farm
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	8

Evaluation Team Comments:

This section is vague. It is not clear how many people be impacted or how impact will be quantified. Not a lot of information or numbers on how the outcomes would be measured and how defined they are

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Nezinscot Farm
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	0

Evaluation Team Comments:

There is no indication this project will impact multiple producers.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Nezinscot Farm
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	10

Evaluation Team Comments

Though the budget is modest, the committee has trouble understanding it. Travel is high and seems incorrectly calculated; narrative is not sufficient. Personnel not detailed enough. How does the greenhouse fit in, do the already own it? The contractor is only \$25/ hour, which is low, but \$10K to install greenhouse is high. Leaves committee guessing.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: The Hop Yard
DATE: 4/22/21

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	3
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	2
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	10
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	12
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	5
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	15
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>47</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: The Hop Yard
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	3

Evaluation Team Comments:

#3 and #5 and soil health

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: The Hop Yard
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	2

Evaluation Team Comments:

The cover page and litigation page are incomplete.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: The Hop Yard
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	10

Evaluation Team Comments:

Environmental Conservation, loosely. Sustainability loosely.
Overall does not align with USDA SCBG issues as stated.
Not clear how it supports other producers, making alignment doubtful.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: The Hop Yard
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	12

Evaluation Team Comments:

The outcomes are vague. The project seems focused on installing irrigation at one site, and as such is not a match for USDA outcomes and indicators.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: The Hop Yard
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	5

Evaluation Team Comments:

While recognizing that there aren't many hops producers in Maine, there just isn't enough indication of how this will impact others. It seems like a project to benefit the one farm by adding irrigation. No letters of support.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: The Hop Yard
DATE: 4/22/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	15

Evaluation Team Comments

Mostly equipment , contractual and personnel
Concerned that this is to purchase equipment for one company alone.

The committee was very concerned that the bulk of the budget is for equipment to be installed on leased land.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Annis
DATE: 4/22/2021

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	3
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	4
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	15
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	15
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	22
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>74</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Annis
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	3

Evaluation Team Comments:

Pest Management
#3 and #5

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Annis
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	4

Evaluation Team Comments:

Does it impact beginning farmers? Y/N?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Annis
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	15

Evaluation Team Comments:

Project is not innovative.
Discussion about whether this work is the best way to help the industry.
Some alignment – pest (IPM) and disease control

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Annis
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	15

Evaluation Team Comments:

Numbers listed on how many growers will adopt and gain knowledge.
Not a lot of explanation on how the outcomes will be measured.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Annis
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15

Evaluation Team Comments:

Will impact multiple producers. There are letters of support from producers stating how this will help and has helped.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Annis
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	22

Evaluation Team Comments

The weather data equipment costs have been funded for multiple years. Good detail in supplies budget. Travel is reasonable (fuel is included). Significant personnel. No indication of a move toward sustainability, despite the fact that this project has previously been funded for many years. 2/3 is salary/fringe.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood
DATE: 4/22/2021

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	4
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	5
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	25
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	18
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	17
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>84</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	4

Evaluation Team Comments:

#1, #3, and #5, are listed, but not fully articulated.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	5

Evaluation Team Comments:

Very complete and thorough, including pictures.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	25

Evaluation Team Comments:

Pests, sustainability, environmental outcomes. Clearly aligns with USDA issues. Committee appreciated that the project may help growers adapt to climate change and make their businesses more viable.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	18

Evaluation Team Comments:

The outcomes and indicators are each thoroughly explained. Committee appreciated the plan for disseminating information to growers.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15

Evaluation Team Comments:

The project will impact multiple producers, both growers and processors. Excellent set of LOS that represent industry, producers, and processors.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	17

Evaluation Team Comments

A lot of personnel and confusing land use charges
A lot of staff for the project including a full time 100% research assistant
75% of the budget is personnel. Significant land use fees.
The committee would have preferred that the budget not have such a high percentage of personnel, unless it is more clear that those hours are reasonable.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. E Han Tan
DATE: 4/21/21

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	3
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	4
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	15
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	12
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	11
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	13
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>58</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. E Han Tan
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	3

Evaluation Team Comments:
Meeting #3 and #5 for priority areas.
Very specific proposal.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. E Han Tan
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	4

Evaluation Team Comments:

The proposal is complete, but was composed as technical writing rather than as a narrative, which made it difficult for the committee to distinguish the components.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. E Han Tan
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	15

Evaluation Team Comments:

Research
 Pest and Disease Control

Disease found in 2015, found in seed being shipped out of state.
 Difficult to manage, spreads easily. Manifests when warm climate.
 Haven't had a lot of problem with it in the seed certification program. Haven't found it in the field that much.
 Growers have been able to winnow it out.
 Turning into a management issue for the growers. Being worked on nationally.
 Important long-term, academic, concerned how this will be implemented by the producers.
 Caribou Russet may be a resistant variety.
 Very specific and narrow in scope.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. E Han Tan
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	12

Evaluation Team Comments:

Pretty narrow even with numbers.
 Not a lot of information provided about measuring outcome.

This disease is already being studied at the national level. The outcomes and indicators didn't recognize this ongoing work or converse with it.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. E Han Tan
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	11

Evaluation Team Comments:

Does not indicate industry support; one letter of support.

Although this disease is a problem nationally, it hasn't been a major problem in the ME seed certification program. Haven't found it in the field that much. Growers have been able to winnow it out.

This is important long-term, academic research, but it's unclear how it would directly impact ME producers.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. E Han Tan
DATE: 4/21/21

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	13

Evaluation Team Comments

Heavy on personnel. Full time graduate research assistant. A lot of people working on this project including 2 professors
 One professor listed on two separate proposals. Requesting one month summer salary on each proposal
 Travel budget is high (includes a costly conference in California).
 Round numbers without specifics on supplies (e.g. quantities and price per unit).
 Overlaps with other blackleg project without indicating any areas of efficiency.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Ginakes
DATE: 4/22/2021

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	4
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	5
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	23
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	12
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	20
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>75</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Ginakes
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	4

Evaluation Team Comments:

Aligns with #5.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Ginakes
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	5

Evaluation Team Comments:

Proposal is complete and letter of support is included

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Ginakes
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	23

Evaluation Team Comments:

Pest and Disease control, leaf spot/mildew is difficult to control.
Trying to determine which seed variety is most useful; investing in crop research.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Ginakes
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	12

Evaluation Team Comments:

Pretty light in explanations of outcomes and how they will be measured. This portion was not adequately developed.

“100 will try and/or adopt” – but no measure of success from there. This is vague.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Ginakes
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15

Evaluation Team Comments:

Yes, will impact multiple producers. Includes a LOS from Small Veg Producers Assoc.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Ginakes
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	20

Evaluation Team Comments

Equipment justification could have been more clear and detailed.
 Personnel and fringe are 77% of the budget
 Wasn't sure how many acres would be planted.
 Planter expense, water wheel transfer equipment questioned. Personnel and fringe are 77% of budget, with fringe is particularly high. Could water wheel transplanter be rented?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Hao
DATE: 4/21/2021

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	3
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	3
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	17
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	12
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	10
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	15
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>60</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Hao
DATE: 4/21/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	3

Evaluation Team Comments:

Meets #3 and #5

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Hao
DATE: 4/21/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	3

Evaluation Team Comments:

The committee felt that this proposal was difficult to read, which made it difficult to determine completeness. Discussion about incomplete information about data collection process.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Hao
DATE: 4/21/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	17

Evaluation Team Comments:

Addresses area of pest and disease control.
Committee was confused about the specific goals of this project. Trying to determine which strains are most infectious. The connection to Maine producers is weak.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Hao
DATE: 4/21/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	12

Evaluation Team Comments:

Committee discussed data collection, and thought this needed more explanation. It's unclear how this will impact growers. What is the new dx technique, and how will it be evaluated? How will they know that people have gained knowledge?

"First response" team is welcome, but there has been training in this area already. What is different? From a practical standpoint, it's either dickeya or it's not. Not clear how they will collect data.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Hao
DATE: 4/21/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	10

Evaluation Team Comments:

Proposal indicates 300 – 450 farmers will be impacted.

Proposal indicates 300 growers will learn, but what does that mean? What is the *practical impact*? Committee discusses whether this is research for research's sake, as opposed to a practical project that will measurably impact growers.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine – Dr. Hao
DATE: 4/21/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	15

Evaluation Team Comments

A lot of funding for personnel and one professor is listed on two proposals, without an explanation of the interaction, which was confusing.
 Fringe is high for the technician at 53.6% not explained in justification
 Supplies budget was not sufficiently detailed.
 Tractor maintenance fee raised questions - why the tractor maintenance for a lab project?
 Lot of money for personnel, and personnel is on multiple projects without referencing. Supplies budget is vague.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Wild Blueberry Heritage Center and Museum
DATE: 4/22/2021

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
 Names of Evaluators: Ann Gibbs, Joy Bonenfant, Marge Kilkelly, Alex Fouliard

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	3
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	2
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	10
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	12
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	8
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	10
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>45</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Wild Blueberry Heritage Center and Museum
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area	5	3

Evaluation Team Comments:

Proposing to address Expanded Markets
Very indirect on how the markets will be expanded
They are proposing to address area 4, but it is indirectly proposed.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Wild Blueberry Heritage Center and Museum
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlines in the RFP	5	2

Evaluation Team Comments:

Budget is lacking in pieces and not complete with the numbers in the summary.
Budget incomplete and summary is inaccurate. Travel inaccurate. No personnel or contractual justification.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Wild Blueberry Heritage Center and Museum
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	10

Evaluation Team Comments:

Committee was unsure how this project would help growers to expand their markets.
Well intentioned, but difficult to figure out how this will work.
Not a lot of detail on the important points. There is a lot of history about the industry, but insufficient details for the project.
It's not clear what the project trying to do. There isn't enough detail to understand any area of alignment.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Wild Blueberry Heritage Center and Museum
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	12

Evaluation Team Comments:

Project proposes to create 150 small business in Washington County with 35 careers being maintained and created: seems unrealistically high.
 One outcome has no measurable data included. Outcomes do not seem realistic – very high numbers. The activities for the project are unclear, which makes it even harder to understand how the outcomes might be achieved, never mind measured.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Wild Blueberry Heritage Center and Museum
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	8

Evaluation Team Comments:

Proposal included letters of support.
The beneficiaries are unclear – are the 100 beneficiaries going to be the people attending the trainings?
It's not clear how this will impact producers, or what will be provided to them.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Wild Blueberry Heritage Center and Museum
DATE: 4/22/2021

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	10

Evaluation Team Comments

Not a lot of explanation on the contractual justification. What is the role of the contractors?
 The social media expenses are unclear - is that for the museum, training, or --?
 \$50 a farmer is generous
 The budget is problematic. It's not clear what the expenses are for (promotion for what? The museum? The trainings?) Swag is not allowable. Thumb drives are no longer practical.

The budget needs to be tightened up, and there needs to be a clear justification for each item.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Seaweed Exchange
DATE: 4/22/2021

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Name of RFP Coordinator: Leigh Hallett
Names of Evaluators: Not Evaluated

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
• Application Cover Page		
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification		
• Litigation		
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The proposal is determined to be a Commissioner priority area.	5	
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFP	5	
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	

- Disqualified – Non Responsive to RFP - Seaweed not a Specialty Crop

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Blue Barn LLC dba Bluet

DATE: 4-5-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$99,525, no litigation, SPA #1 & 4, 2nd year

1. *Project Purpose: expand supply, demand and infrastructure for new era of low-intervention Maine wild blueberry sparkling wine.*
2. *Potential Impact: benefit multiple growers, producers, and industry stakeholders by creating national and global demand for a emerging wild blueberry beverage category, boosting field prices.*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1-2-3-8*
 - *Indicator: 1 Non-Maine Sales 150% increase from 20K to 50k, Maine Sales 33% from 90k to 120k*
 - 2d. *4 new specialty crop products introduced to non-Maine consumers*
 - 3c & d. *20 existing non-Maine grocers expanded/improved offerings plus*
 - 20 *new non-Maine offering value-added wine products*
4. *Data Collection Methods: No details provided as to how or what data will be collected, "solicited from and provided by" is not enough information. In year 2, data collection providers will be compensated for providing data, compensated how? Cost?*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative, I did verify the per diem rates for Dallas, Aspen, and Boston, they are in line with the budget. In my opinion sending 4 and 5 people on Grant dollars is excessive spending (a negative) while 40% of ask dollars will be spent on purchasing blueberries benefitting Maine farmers (a positive). Contractor/consultant fees seem reasonable.*
6. *Project Commitment: Self-sustaining? "may be able to sustain itself thru member dues/fees", "this group will likely rely on public funds", "potentially through other ecosystem grants or support". Committed to finding funding sources!*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Cajo Inc

DATE: 4-5-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

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Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$78,410, Litigation – not defined assuming none, SPA # 4, 1st year

1. *Project Purpose - Fruit storage and marketing using freeze drying processing*
2. *Potential Impact - 1 million Maine consumers, socially disadvantaged farmers and beginning farmers will benefit.*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1-2-6-8*
 - *Indicator:*
 1. *Allow potential for internet sales due to increased shelf life & decreased shipping weight.*
 2. *Increased storage abilities and fruit crop consumption. Light weight/dry option allows for expanded market to hikers and children by providing new, portable snack option.*
 6. *Reduce spoilage/bacteria while maintaining netter nutrient profiles vs other stg options*
 8. *Of season sales at a stable price for farmers*
4. *Data Collection Methods: I would like to have more detail on this section, the process is rather vaguely explained, very interesting.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: 73% of budget is personnel, we know who the personnel are and their responsibilities but we do not know what they will be doing to make this project successful. Equipment/supply purchases seem reasonable and necessary*
6. *Project Commitment: ?? I see no verbiage about project commitment?? Why?*

Whole application seems vague, I like the concept, seems like a great idea but the application is lacking information.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Central Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District

DATE: 4-6-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$43,258.50, No litigation, SPA # 3 & 5

1. *Project Purpose: Demonstrate the positive effect of adding 10 tons of wood waste with line, following potatoes, in 3 yr rotation on soil organic matter and improved soil health.*
2. *Potential Impact: 800 beneficiaries, Socially disadvantaged farmers and beginning farmers will benefit.*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes: 1-2-3-4-5-8*
 - *Outcome:*
 1. *Improved soil health = increase in yield generating more sales*
 2. *Increased yields = increased consumption in both fresh & process markets*
 3. *Increased yields creates more fresh potato availability in farmers mkts/roadside*
 4. *Improved soil health generating great yields, lessen erosion, better soil congregation and improved tith. Helps reduce costly inputs, fertilizer and fumigation, and will provide growers with profitable 3 yr rotation*
 5. *Improved soil health will create more healthy soil biota reducing soil pressure from monocropping.*
 8. *Economic improvement thru use of valuable by-product currently diverted to landfill.*
 - *Indicator:*
 - 2a. *Increased crop availability compelling growers to be more creative in marketing*
 - 3b. *Local availability will increase children will have access to fresh produce*
 - 4a. *Incorporating best mngmnt practices will reduce costly inputs to grow potatoes*
 - 4b. *Improved soil health = improved soil aggregates = keeps soil in fields and out of water*
 - 4c. *Fish and wildlife will benefit*
 - 4d. *Growers will be more likely to apply practices to their own production systems*
 - 4e. *NRCS offers cost share programs to assist growers in implementing BMP that improve soil health & encourage multiple-yr crop rotation.*
 - 8a. *New jobs created*
 - 8b. *Truck garden producers will benefit*
 - 8c *NRCS & Farm Services Agencies offer incentives for beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers and Veterans*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Central Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District

DATE: 4-6-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

4. Data Collection Methods:

Process is detailed, well explained and makes sense to me.

5. Budget/Budget Narrative:

Pg 16 - Land Use incentive to growers...\$100 acre X 12 acres X 3 growers is \$3600, 3 growers not listed in the budget section. I am surprised that salary/fringe/travel was not requested/budgeted.

6. Project Commitment:

Committed for 3 years.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District

DATE: 4-8-2021 and 4-12-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$38,877.04, No lit, SPA # 1 & 3, 2nd year

1. *Project Purpose: Creating a replicable farm equip sharing co-op for growers using soil-steaming technology in their hoop-house production.*
2. *Potential Impact: 5 farms directly impacted, >500 growers indirectly through outreach including farm tours, social media & video media.*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 4-5-6-8*
 - *Indicator:*
 -
- 4b. *5 farm producers will implement the steaming practice, yield will be increased thru use of steamer by killing weeds/weed seed, eliminating diseases/pests.*
- 5a. *2 innovations – a business model and a network of growers learning and innovating steam technology*
- 5b. *2 innovations above will be adopted*
- 5c. *5 farm producers will have demonstrably increased revenue*
- 5d. *Coop will be a network which will diagnose pests/diseases/conditions in hoop houses. New diagnostic metrics will be added – temperature for adequate soil pasteurization*
- 5g. *Tech will increase spec crop production including shoulder season veggies/flowers*
- 5h. *5 farms and 35 individuals in year 1 through outreach*
- 6d. *Soil steaming technology may improve prevention, control, and intervention of certain food borne illnesses. Steam is a non-chemical solution for other non-food borne disease sterilization*
- 8 & 6. *Access to affordable technology will help maintain many small scale farms. Lowering capital costs of small scale spec crop production will allow more farmers to enter the mkt.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District

DATE: 4-8-2021 and 4-12-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

4. *Data Collection Methods: Attendance and survey records, published article. No detail on what information will be collected*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Budget totals \$40,642.04 - ask was only for \$38,877.04 \$1,765 short . Individual lines calculated correctly, total of all line is short. Will project be completed with a shortfall of \$1,765?*
6. *Project Commitment: 5 years equipment capital cost realization and will then begin generating a profit to benefit farming practices.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Daybreak Growers Alliance

DATE: 4/12/2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$29,740, No Lit, SPA # 1-2-4, 2nd year

1. *Project Purpose: Expanding wholesale aggregation, marketing and distribution model for Maine Specialty Grown Crops.*
2. *Potential Impact: 70 beneficiaries including socially disadvantaged farmers and beginning farmers*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1-3-5-8*
 - *Indicator:*
 - '1. *By end of yr 3 of this project, projected \$520k in spec crop sales realized*
 - '3. *a. 35 wholesale accts will increase purchasing wholesale products by at least 50%, they will also increase their knowledge on how to access spec crops and report intention to access and will purchase spec crops thru this program*
 - '5. *a. Development of new, innovative model for getting spec crops to market creating expanded access to wholesale markets.*
 - c. *Average partnering farm will see sales increase for 50% by end of year 2 and again in yr 3*
 8. *a. Project will contribute to the creation of 2 new jobs in Rural Maine*
 - b. *2 positions sustained*
 - d. *Project will directly contribute to maintenance & viability of the alliance dist company and 40 partnering specialty crop farms. (41 small businesses maintained).*
4. *Data Collection Methods: Sales tracking through QuickBooks reporting by vendor, customer and crop. FarmSmart consulting collects and evaluates reports/metrics*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: 100% of Ask is personnel costs which seem reasonable*
6. *Project Commitment: \$534k 3 yr total income*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Maine Flower Collective

DATE: 4-16-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$76,580, No Lit, SPA # 4, 1st Year

1. *Project Purpose: A cooperative to enhance competitiveness and market research of Maine's cut flowers*
2. *Potential Impact: 75 beneficiaries, and both disadvantaged and beginning farmers*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

- *Outcome: 1-2-3-4-5-8*
- *Indicator:*

1. *Special cut flower growers that are a part of the MFC will see an increase in sales by 15-20%*
2. *Local flower purchases made by florists and flower designers in Maine will increase, boosting sales of Maine-grown specialty cut flower by 5-10%.*

'3. *The number of wholesale floral customers served by Maine flower farmers will increase by 20% and the number of retail customers served by Maine flower farmers will increase by 15%*
'4. *Number of delivery trips avoided for growers & pick ups avoided for florists and mileage/time save for individual growers.*

'5. *The MFC will aggregate the Maine-grown flowers available at any given time into a streamlined and comprehensive mktg channel. This will boost sales and lead to more profit for growers = improved viability and resilience of Maine farms and flower businesses.*

'8. *The MFC will strengthen the local market for cut flowers, taking market share away from importers and foreign growers and redirecting it to Maine's local economy = business growth and profitability for Maine farms and floral businesses, creating more jobs in Maine and the region.*

4. *Data Collection Methods: Series of surveys, separate surveys for growers and their clients, standard set of sales data recorded/developed and collected from 10 anonymous growers.*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative:*
2/3 of budget is for personnel to operate this co-op.
Vehicle rental, contracting, venue rentals, meals and marketing budgets are all in order

6. *Project Commitment: 76% of 51 = 39 floral growers/farmers will be likely to participate in this co-op (approx \$1958 per participant), Will growers pay enough dues to sustain the program going forward?*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Maine Potato Board

DATE: 4-16-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$79,245, No Lit, SPA # 3 & 5, 1st Year

1. *Project Purpose: Investigating Cultural practices to improve integrated pest management practices for potato virus Y(PVY) of potato.*
2. *Potential Impact: 110 beneficiaries none of which are disadvantaged or beginning farmers*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 4-5*
 - *Indicator:*
 - 4.2.a *Of the 110 total seed producers, 20 will adopt recommended practices (<20%??)*
 - 4.2.b *Of the 110 total seed producers, 20 will report a decrease in pesticide usage (<20%??)*
 - 5.3. *50 specialty crop growers/producers (and other members of the specialty crop supply chain) will report increased revenue through improved yields, quality and marketability (<50%)*
4. *Data Collection Methods: Survey approx 50 fields, transects will be taken and counts of volunteers will be recorded to provide a per acre density estimate. 100 leaf sample from volunteer plants, PVY detection via ELISA testing in the laboratory, positive samples will be shipped to another UMaine laboratory for strain-typing.*

*Field data collected from **multiple years of trials** will be used to create an improved IPM plan for the industry.*

Achievement of listed outcome indicators will be evaluated post-project to determine the level of practice adoption, decrease in pesticide usage and increased revenue reported by area potato growers. an online survey instrument will be developed and distributed through the Maine Potato Board's grower database.

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Budget is in order, however, very expensive for the outcome of:*
 - 20 will adopt recommended practices*
 - 20 will report a decrease in pesticide usage*
 - 50 specialty crop growers/producers will report increased revenue*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Maine Potato Board

DATE: 4-16-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

6. *Project Commitment: Planning on multiple years of trials...program will never be self-sustaining, no income potential.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association

DATE: 4-15-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

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Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$90,518, No Lit, SPA # 1 & 2, 2nd year

1. *Project Purpose: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops by increasing the number of farms able to come into compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, and/or a GAP?GHP audit, by providing food safety education, one-on-one technical assistance, and financial resources to Maine Farmers.*
2. *Potential Impact: 115 new beneficiaries including beginning farmers but not disadvantaged farmers*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 6 & 7*
 - *Indicator:*
 - 6.3. *# (115) of individuals who learn about prevention, detection, control and intervention food safety practices and # of those who increase their food safety skills & knowledge.*
 - 6.4. *# (50) of improved prevention, detection, control and intervention technologies*
 - 6.5. *# (35) of reported changes in prevention, detection, control and intervention technologies*
 - 7.2. *Increased safety of all inputs into the specialty crop chain = 50*
 - 7.3. *Increased understanding of the roles of humans, plants, and animals as vectors = 84*
 - 7.4. *Increased understanding of preharvest and postharvest process impacts on microbial and chemical threats = 84*
 - 7.5. *# of growers or producers obtaining on-farm food safety certifications = 10+*
4. *Data Collection Methods: Survey education participants at workshops for increased knowledge and anticipated changes in food safety plans. Follow-up to ensure changes have been made and certifications acquired. Grant award requirement condition to report current safety certifications and any new certification obtained. Follow up w/ participants of food safety measures one year after start of project and record %ages of food safety improvement measures.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Personnel costs seem reasonable, Consultant travel costs can't be determined as accurate (travel location unknown). \$4,400 per day seems excessive on top of travel and workshop materials. 15 farmers receiving \$5k each for on farm food safety.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association

DATE: 4-15-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

6. *Project Commitment: 7 people providing technical assistance to farmers, participating in grant application review, providing free farm visits and participating in advisory panel for this project.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: New England Apple Association

DATE: 4-15-21

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

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Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$34,040, No Lit, SPA # 4. 1st year

1. *Project Purpose: Feasibility study for a Museum of New England apples and cider, the museum will provide year round promotion for the NE apple industry.*
2. *Potential Impact: 400+ apple orchards (59 in Maine) and >80 cideries*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1-2-3*
 - *Indicator:*
 1. *Increase in sales from \$0.679 to \$0.815/lb and by 20%*
 2. *Reach 5000 people and encourage them to eat more apples, ciders and other value-added apple products and introduce 20 apple varieties and ciders.*
 3. *Educate 2000 on ways to prepare apples and ciders and expand availability on both at 20 stores.*
4. *Data Collection Methods: Grower survey developed/distributed online and supplemented with personal visits. Consumer survey will be distributed/collected at traveling museum events. Online analytics will be used to measure the success of social media efforts, record attendance and apples consumed at events and monitor the per-pound price of apples at project end.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Government travel per diem rate is \$0.56 miles not \$0.58 mile, however standard hotel rate is \$96 and meals is \$55. Other expenses all reasonable. I am impressed with the match!*
6. *Project Commitment: I think the match shows commitment to the project.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: The Hop Yard

DATE: 4-16-21

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$47,660, ?? Lit, SPA # 5, 1st year

1. *Project Purpose: Building out advanced irrigation and fertilizer systems to enhance hops production under new climate (global warming) conditions.*
2. *Potential Impact: 12 current hop growers and additional future growers*

Beginning farmers will benefit but not disadvantaged farmers.

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

- *Outcome: 4-5-7-8*

- *Indicator:*

4. *2b. Growers will reduce overall pesticide use, conserve total water use, and increase soil organic matter on 20 acres.*
- 2c. *2 growers will see a yield increase of 300 lb per acre, resulting in \$2400/acre revenue*
5. *1. Improved biological growing model will increase yields and bring production closer/comparable to PNW. This would allow other 12 hops farms to increase production and become more competitive and improve soil health and crop resilience.*
- '7. *Box is check no indicators described???*
8. *3. Hurdle to becoming large industry = achieving high yields, If proper yields are achieved, the state could consume an additional 400-500 acres of local hops resulting in 100-150 jobs depending on farm scales.*
8. *4. 12 farms would be maintained with the potential of 10-20 more small farms created to scale to production needed.*
6. *Data Collection Methods: Data will be tracked weekly and compared to historical data and industry standards. Spreadsheet recording plot of land, crop, variety and site specific weather patterns. Overall state production if reported to Hop Growers of America annually – used to show increase in acreage and # of growers.*
7. *Budget/Budget Narrative: 200 in kind hours! Personnel, Contractual, equipment budgets all seem reasonable and in order.*
8. *Project Commitment: 200 in kind hours shows commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: UMS-Annis

DATE: 4-16-21

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

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Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$75,434, 5 pending 7 settlements, SPA # 1-3-5, 2nd year

1. *Project Purpose: Developing new methods to control pathogens of wild blueberry as an integrated pest management program*
2. *Potential Impact: 510 wild blueberry growers, will benefit disadvantaged farmers and unknown if beginning farmers will benefit as no box is checked*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 4 & 5*
 - *Indicator:*
 - 4.b. *Adoption of best practices and technologies resulting in increased yields , reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return and conservation of resources*
 1. *60 growers/producers indication adoption of recommended practices*
 - 5.h. *60 growers/producers gain knowledge about science-based tools through outreach and education programs*
4. *Data Collection Methods: Data on use of disease control practices and knowledge of new techniques will be collected from growers at IPM training sessions with a paper survey and by web/paper survey given to growers on the wild blueberry mailing list to determine their acceptance and adoption of the new diseases management recommendations.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Personnel, fringe, travel, supplies, contractual and other budgets all seem to be reasonable and calculate correctly.*
6. *Project Commitment: 12 months. Year 2 with plans for a 3rd year since 3 field seasons are needed to properly evaluate new fungicides.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: UMS-Calderwood

DATE: 4-20-21

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

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Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$99,894, 5 pending + 7 settlements, SPA # 1-3-5, 2nd year

1. *Project Purpose: Exploring fertilizers, soil amendments and pollination as tool to improve wild blueberry resilience to warming*
2. *Potential Impact: 485 beneficiaries including disadvantaged and beginning farmers.*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 4 & 5*
 - *Indicator:*
- 4.2. *Adoption of best practices resulting in reduced input cost per acre farmed, increased efficiency,, increased economic return and conservation of resources.*
 - 40 *adopting recommended practices*
 - 40 *reporting knowledge gained about climate change impacts*
- 5.1. *2 new or improved innovation biological models developed for specialty crop entities*
- 5.8. *360 gained knowledge about science based tools through outreach/education programs*
4. *Data Collection Methods:2 field trials, surveys conducted, reports written and presented to industry at conferences, field meetings and field days. Collection plan well documented in application.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Budget is in order, calculates correctly and seems reasonable.*
6. *Project Commitment: 2nd year*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: UMS-E Han Tan

DATE: 4-20-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

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Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$75,420, 5 pending, 7 settled, SPA # 3 & 5, 1st year

1. *Project Purpose: Investigate the genetics behind the resistance to potato blackleg and soft rot disease in Caribou Russet which will help fast-track potato breeding and germplasm enhancement efforts to introduce improved, widely adapted and more resilient potato varieties that will benefit potato growers, processors and stakeholders in the potato industry.*
2. *Potential Impact: 50-60 beneficiaries, none of which are socially disadvantaged or beginning farmers*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 4 & 5*
 - *Indicator:*
 - 4.1. *1-2 plant/seed releases – released as tissue culture plantlets for diploid potato breeding*
 - 5.2. *1 lab and greenhouse based screening for PBSR for genetic studies*
 - 5.5. *1 QTL markers for PBSR resistance for potato breeding*
 - 5.8. *40-50 growers will gain knowledge about science-based tools through outreach and education programs*
4. *Data Collection Methods: Spreadsheet to track # of requests for primary dihaploid derived from Caribou Russet. Publication of the work in the form of a peer-reviewed journal. Record will be kept of the # of stakeholder attendees at presentations and workshops.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Budget items calculate correctly and seem reasonable.*
6. *Project Commitment: 1st year project, no plans for continuation of project*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: UMS-Ginakes

DATE: 4-20-21

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

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Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$62,378, 5 pending, 7 settlements, SPA # 5, 1st Year

1. *Project Purpose: Enhancing Maine vegetable production by evaluating variety disease resistance and cultural practices to mitigate emerging diseases.*
2. *Potential Impact: 100 beneficiaries including socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 4*
 - *Indicator:*
4. *Of the 150 farmers with whom results are shared, 100 will try and/or adopt recommended varieties and cultural practices.*
5. *Data Collection Methods: Brief surveys distributed at all presentation venues to determine whether participants intend to use specific recommended varieties and/or highlighted cultural practices. This will provide insight to what types of changes growers are willing to adopt in order to mitigate disease pressure, which will be useful for shaping future research possibilities.*
6. *Budget/Budget Narrative: 77% of ask is salary & fringe, supplies etc calculate correctly and seem reasonable.*
7. *Project Commitment: 1 year, no discussion of a 2nd year.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: University of Maine System - Hao

DATE: 4-20-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

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Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$74,349, Lit 5 pending, 7 settlements, SPA # 5, 1st year

1. *Project Purpose: Infectiousness and impact of Dickeya dianthicola strains causing the potato blackleg and soft rot outbreak*

2. *Potential Impact: 100 growers including socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

- *Outcome: 5*

- *Indicator:*

5.c. Of the 60 growers reached, 30 will gain knowledge of dickeya detection and management, leading to increased revenue of 10% over previous year.

5.d. Of the 450 farmers and allied industry personnel reached, 300 will gain knowledge of a new diagnostic approach to Dickeya detection and management.

5.f. 12 members of an established group of the 1st responders will be trained in early detection and rapid response to combat dickeya, blackleg and soft rot. This group covers 95% of the potato acreage in Maine.

5.h. Of the 450 potato farmers and allied industry personnel reached in this study, 300 will gain knowledge on new diagnostic technologies being used for identification of dickeya, blackleg and soft rot.

4. *Data Collection Methods: No method described in application only noted that it will be part of a student thesis and presented at field days, conferences and in on line articles.*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Calculates correctly, seems reasonable. Supplies should have been itemized better than simply listed in the paragraph,*

6. *Project Commitment: 1 year, no mention of a year 2.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Wild Blueberry Heritage Center Museum

DATE: 4-20-2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$ 35,500, no lit, SPA # 4, 1st year

1. *Project Purpose: Saving a heritage industry through historical inspirations and expert innovations for wild blueberry farmers. Engage farmers in expert value-added, product development and marketing training that will result in new small business for farmers who are now at risk giving up their farms for lack of profitability.*
2. *Potential Impact: 100 beneficiaries including socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1-6-8*
 - *Indicator:*
 1. *1. Measurements cannot be estimated. Will look for the # of farmers who bring products to commercialization, if farming becomes profitable and how loss of blueberry acreage was slowed as a result of this training.*
 6. *Box check – no description of outcome/indicator*
 8. *25 new rural careers created*
150 jobs maintained/created
150 small businesses maintained/created
4. *Data Collection Methods: Pre & post training session survey for increased knowledge, then survey again in 3 months, 6 months, one year and longer for successful businesses.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Travel overstated! Per diem hotel is \$96/night + \$55/day meals \$1208 not \$2000, Mileage correct. Consultants/marketing budgets seem reasonable.*
6. *Project Commitment: 1 year trainings/marketing*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Nezinscot Farm

DATE: 4-16-21

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

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Individual Evaluator Comments: Ask \$23,341, No Lit, SPA # 4, 1st year

1. *Project Purpose: Expanding herb gardens for wholesale and specialty tea production. Expanding line of medicinal teas that will be sold through existing farm store, café and online.*
2. *Potential Impact: 6 regional herbalist, local community of 6,000, 100+ online herbal tea customers. Both disadvantaged and beginning farmers will benefit.*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1-2-4*
 - *Indicator:*
 1. *1a and 1h Enhance spec crop sales thru social media network and continued customer support. Growth anticipated through weekly posting not on the benefits of each of the herbs and teas that they create but the correlation of how they are grown as a key element of nutritional value. In house store will offer samples and staff will be available to answer questions.*
 2. *B.ii. Enhance competitiveness thru increased consumption in café by providing weekly samples of select herbs/tea blends. Based on samples hopefully sales and consumption will increase.*
 4. *a. Enhance competitiveness of specialty crop through continued organic, permaculture, biodynamic and companion planting practices while utilizing low till & mulching as a way to conserve water losses and disease prevention.*
 - 4. *Data Collection Methods: Data of ingredients will be reports through weights of goods collected and sold in a given yr with comparable sales of previous yr prior to expansion. Data of value-added herbal tea blends will be collected through consumption rate as well as products purchased.*
 - 5. *Budget/Budget Narrative:*

Personnel justification incomplete, no titles, no time frame, no time line provided.
Travel budget to high. 157 miles x \$0.56 (govt rate) = \$88, 4 nights at \$96 = \$384, 3 days x 2 people @ \$55 = \$330 = Total \$802 not \$1200.
6. *Project Commitment: Committed to asset/capital expansion and increased sales.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Nezinscot Farm

DATE: 4-16-21

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Dept Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Blue Barn LLC dba Bluet

DATE: 4/16/2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*

- *Does any more recent data exist about producer prices and cost of production?*
- *Good supporting data about changes in the alcoholic beverage industry (although why kombucha? Is it a similar style, but non-alcoholic?)*

2. *Potential Impact*

- *“Ensure flexibility for grower purchase funds to address scheduling and product cycle challenges.” In their lessons learned – I’m not sure what they mean by this.*
- *I don’t have a strong sense of if 27 ME and 9 out of state new accounts is a good # despite COVID.*
- *The grant will cover about 1/3 of their projected berry purchases in Year 2. How will the business absorb the cost of those berries in the future?*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

- *How will the project benefit 5 wine producers with product sales, if they’re the only ones selling this product currently and 1 other producer has a product in development?*
- *Still some hesitation about the rate of growth projected here; considering they didn’t report on how successful they were at meeting Year 1 targets, and are projecting that gross income from out of state sales will equal expense of fruit in Year 3... does that mean the in-state sales are high enough to cover everything else?*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

- *Seems good.*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

- *Don’t like that producers are compensated for providing sales data in Year 2, when they haven’t reported on Year 1 data. \$500 seems like a lot for each business, too.*
- *Price to producers is decreasing \$0.79/lb to \$0.75/lb.*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Cajo Inc
DATE: 04/16/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
 - *Really cool idea*
2. *Potential Impact*
 - *Is this eligible, if it only benefits 1 business?*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Would like to see some numbers in the indicators*
4. *Data Collection Methods:*
 - *I think the data they want to collect (nutrient content, energy used, sales) is valuable and interesting. Not a lot of details on how they're going to collect it though.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
 - *Would like more info about personnel responsibilities and justification for spending so much of the budget on this cost.*
6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Central Aroostook County SWCD
DATE: 04/16/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
 - *Very interesting idea to research*

2. *Potential Impact*
 - *Is adding wood chips to the soil and tilling them in carbon sequestration? Or is it just adding carbon to the soil? If not sequestration, maybe request a language change in the project?*
 - *10 tons/acre seems like a lot, but maybe the woodchips are wet? I don't really know.*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Some of these objectives and indicators don't seem entirely relevant.*
 - *Would like to see clearer objectives and indicators related to increasing soil organic matter, soil aggregates, and sequestered carbon.*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
 - *Seems like a good idea to include the land use incentive for growers*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Cumberland County SWCD
DATE: 04/16/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
 - *Seems like a great fit.*

2. *Potential Impact*
 - *Seems like it will be really valuable to farms in the area.*
 - *Shared use equipment seems to be really, really localized and I wonder if it's under-utilized? The Unity-area has a program, too.*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Seems adequate.*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
 - *Seems adequate.*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
 - *Really minimal personnel time.*

6. *Project Commitment*
 - *"Steam Team" is so good.*
 - *Really established farmers, and a solid team!*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Daybreak Growers Alliance
DATE: 04/17/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
 - *Really well put together, and on point with the program's intent*

2. *Potential Impact*
 - *Seems like the program is being impactful and has potential to continue being impactful.*
 - *Some concern that they report exceeding Y1 sales goals, and don't have any documentation of that (though the application doesn't request it), despite WS sales also nearly shutting down/DTC sales taking nearly all product available in 2020.*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Seems good.*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
 - *Seems good. Would be nice to be able to see this documentation.*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
 - *Seems good.*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Maine Flower Collective
DATE: 04/17/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*

- *Love this idea! I think it's great they are planning on two steps – first a convergence to further research need, and then implementation of the collective based on those results.*

2. *Potential Impact*

- *How many farms to they intend to recruit in the first year of the collective?*
- *How will they handle ordering and sales logistics? Similar to Daybreak or Milk Mavens?*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

- *Objectives all seem good, and reasonable expectations if ambitious for a new venture.*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

- *Would be great to see more data collection – like all farms participating in the collective and falling within the “average” range of #s must share anonymously?*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

- *Is \$20/hr for delivery drivers market rate?*
- *What about other costs the collective will incur – how are they covering those? Fuel, licenses for resale of product?*

6. *Project Commitment*

- *There's no farmers signed onto this proposal. John is a Portland-based floral designer and was on the Broadturn Farm flower crew.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 04/17/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
 - *Is this a continuation of a project? Or further research into PVY?*

2. *Potential Impact*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Like that they include adoption of researched practices*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
 - *Fringe rates really high*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: MOFGA
DATE: 04/17/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
 - *Spot on. Seems great, and they demonstrated success with their last grant.*

2. *Potential Impact*
 - *Seems good.*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Seems good.*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
 - *Seems good.*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
 - *No comments.*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: New England Apple Association
DATE: 04/17/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*

- *This seems a pretty indirect marketing project...*
- *But I love the idea...*

2. *Potential Impact*

- *Some hesitations....*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

- *Metrics seem unreasonably high! How is such indirect marketing going to increase price per lb and volume purchased by 20%? Also reaching 5000 people... will schools be entirely in-person by fall?*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

- *I wonder perhaps if there are museum trade groups, in which they could get some info about traffic expectations, plans for rebounding from COVID, etc. that would be more informative than self-reported data at apple events?*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

- *Supplies budget, but the items are not itemized.*
- *Russell Powell – should that be personnel, and not contractual?*

6. *Project Commitment*

- *Is there sufficient grower interest in this project?*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Nezinscot Farm
DATE: 04/17/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*

- *Are dried herbs blended into teas a specialty crop?*
- *How does this project benefit more than 1 business? Didn't provide letters of support or commitment to partnerships with specific other herbal businesses who will purchase the increase in volume.*

2. *Potential Impact*

- *100 customers for tea in 3 years.*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

- *Indicators are not quantified.*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

- *I like that they included historical revenue data.*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

- *Most of this budget is going towards greenhouse construction.*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: The Hop Yard
DATE: 04/17/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
 - *Seems like an okay fit.*

2. *Potential Impact*
 - *How will the results be shared with other businesses? They say that other businesses have the potential to benefit, but since they are not involved directly, how does The Hop Yard plan to share learning?*
 - *I'm unclear how this is proposing practices that are new or different to research for the industry (as opposed to resolving their water source issues – they don't have enough water in their private well with the increasing occurrence and longevity of drought – is that an okay use of funds?).*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Look good.*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
 - *Seems good.*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
 - *Are some of the supplies actually equipment?*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: University of Maine - Annis
DATE: 04/17/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
 - *Seems like a good fit.*

2. *Potential Impact*
 - *Seems good.*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Some metrics about effectiveness of strategies would be interesting.*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
 - *okay*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
 - *Fringe for Research Assistant seems high*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – Calderwood
DATE: 04/17/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
 - *Great fit. Seems really timely and important.*

2. *Potential Impact*
 - *Surprised to see only half of participants learned more about management at the conference.*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Would like to see objectives quantified...*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
 - *Very thorough*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
 - *No comments*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – E Han Tan

DATE: 04/17/2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*

- *Trusting that the science is there, since I don't really understand the technical parts of proposal.*
- *Seems like a great fit.*

2. *Potential Impact*

- *Looks good*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

- *Looks good*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

- *Looks good*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

- *No comments*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – Ginakes
DATE: 04/17/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*

- *Seems like a good fit, although there's not a lot of detail about the research.*

2. *Potential Impact*

- *No comments*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

- *Seems ambitious, but adopting certain varieties seems pretty low-barrier.*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

- *Okay*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

- *Fringe rate?*
- *No travel expenses?*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – Hao
DATE: 04/17/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*

- *A little unclear on exactly what they want to establish through this research.*

2. *Potential Impact*

- *No comments*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

- *No comments*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

- *Assuming data is collected through their research; and this section elaborates on how results will be shared*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

- *Fringe rate?*
- *Formatting of supplies not being itemized*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Wild Blueberry Heritage Center & Museum
DATE: 04/17/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Alexandria Fouliard
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Farmland Trust

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
 - *Unclear how the project will lead to proposed outcomes.*

2. *Potential Impact*
 - *How many farm businesses will actually benefit? How many will attend trainings?*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *How will they measure acres in production based on their activities?*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
 - *No comments*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
 - *Would like more info about the roles of the contractors.*
 - *It's a very small funding request to get something off the ground.*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Bluet LLC
DATE: 4/7/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: MACF

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – This is the second year of a 3 year project and applicants were able to be flexible and shift activities that could not be completed due to the pandemic. It was great to see the addition of a training program exposing students to winemaking. Incorporated changes to the proposal based on recorded lessons learned from the first year's experience. Establishing a Project still seems to be on track. Comment: Confusion from the reviewer regarding the use of the term "ecosystem" as it was not referring to biological systems.*
2. *Potential Impact – Should impact the wild blueberry industry of 500 growers through the marketing and value added product and directly plans on impacting 5 wine producers and 10 growers supplying berries. Also an impact on job prospects for students involved in the training course with WCCC*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1, 2, 3 & 8*
 - *Indicator: 1 a. out of state sales of wine increase 150%, b. fruit sales increase 33%, 2 d. 4 new specialty crop products introduced 3 c & d. 20 existing & 20 new non Maine grocery stores will offer wine products 8 not outcome indicator was included*
 - *Noted that the year 1 indicators may not be accurate because the project has only been active for 6 months*
4. *Data Collection Methods: Noted that in year 2 the producer would be compensated for data collection. There is not a lot of detail regarding how the data will be collected, so some explanation regarding why the compensation in year 2.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Budget seems reasonable and commend the applicants for being able to be flexible with the activities from last year. Appreciate the updated explanation of the wild blueberry stipend. Are all the blueberries needed by the producers supplied by these qualified growers? What is the \$3500 food and wine exhibitor fee used for?*
6. *Project Commitment – Looks like there is support from the blueberry industry and the other wine producer. Letters of support from all. It would be interesting to understand how the UMCE NIFA grant results will be used to help in this project's success*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Bluet LLC

DATE: 4/7/21

EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: MACF

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Cajo Inc
DATE: 4/8/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Looking at freeze drying of fruit as a storage method. Analyzing various fruits and methods of freeze drying. Very little detail regarding the project purpose.*

2. *Potential Impact – No external support for this project.*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1,2,6 &8*

 - *Indicator: There were no measurable indicators presented for each of the outcomes*

4. *Data Collection Methods: No specifics in the data collection listing quantities or data collection processes*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: The majority of the budget is for personnel. Cost/benefit ratio is very high given that there are not specifics regarding beneficiaries for this project.*

6. *Project Commitment – There is not commitment indicators of outside partners and entities. This project seems to be solely benefiting a private entity.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Central Aroostook SWCD
DATE: 4/8/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: MACF

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – The purpose clearly stated and would benefit the potato growers by improving soil health and the forest industry by providing a use for wood waste. Promoting potato industry recommendations to encourage 3 year rotations to build up the soil. Also, looking at planting specific cover crops favorable to pollinators.*

2. *Potential Impact – Would impact potato growers, but there was not indication of how many growers would benefit. Would also provide a use for wood waste that would normally be added to landfills. By building up the soils there would be less need for inputs to grow the potato crop and less need to pulling water from water bodies for irrigation.*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8*

 - *Indicator: There were 6 indicators listed, but there were no quantifiable measurements included.*

4. *Data Collection Methods: This section was very comprehensive. Working with 3 growers and included the design for the research and how and what type of data would be collected. Important data collected would use techniques to measure carbon sequestration.*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative – Budget seems reasonable to complete the project. Of the \$43K budget 35% will be used for personnel costs.*

6. *Project Commitment – There is a commitment to fund farmers participation in year 1, but for the next 2 years the farmers would participate at their own cost. There are 3 farmers participating, but there is no plan included to provide outreach to the other growers at least that the project is occurring and plans for releasing some results when available.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Cumberland County SWCD
DATE: 4/8/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: MACF

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Develop a farm equipment sharing cooperative for growers using soil steaming technology in hoop house production. This technology will be used to deal with a long standing issue for growers of controlling persistent weeds and disease organisms. This also provides a method providing access to this equipment that is too costly for one grower to purchase.*

2. *Potential Impact – This will immediately benefit 5 growers involved in the project with potential to benefit 500 other farmers including beginning farmers. Utilizing a piece of equipment more efficiently instead of having it sitting idle. Sanitation protocols will have to be put in place, so disease and weeds are not spread between farms as the equipment is moved. Not clear who will actually train the growers on how to use the equipment. Growers will also benefit from learning how to develop a cooperative model for sharing equipment in the future.*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 4, 5, 6, 8*

 - *Indicator: These were quantified for each of the outcomes. 4 b. 5 farms will implement weed killing on 2.5A. 5 a. 2 innovations will be put in place: the cooperative business model and network of growers implementing steam technology. 6 d steam technology. 8 access to affordable technology*

4. *Data Collection Methods: Farms will report out results and outcomes. There are not specifics regarding what type of data will be collected, might be helpful to share that information. There will also be data collected via survey to participants at the trainings.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Cumberland County SWCD

DATE: 4/8/21

EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: MACF

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Personnel costs account for 3% of the budget. Equipment costs account for 92% of the budget. Growers will be paying a usage fee to help recoup the costs associated with the equipment. It wasn't clear if there would be training regarding using the equipment and if so, how that would be handled. How will the equipment be moved from grower to grower? Is there a properly equipped vehicle to haul the equipment? Regarding the use of this equipment as a long term investment, there was discussion about a new group of (5-7) farmers using the equipment the following year.*

6. *Project Commitment: There are support letters from MOFGA, UMCE and the Steam-Team (equipment sharing coop) the group of farmers who will be using the equipment. Letters of commitment laid out very clearly what each group would bring to the project.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Daybreak Growers Alliance
DATE: 4/8/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: MACF

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Continuation of a multiyear project to aggregate, market and distribute specialty crops (fruits and vegetables). Working with 30 farms to facilitate access to wholesale markets. This third year will continue to increase sales by increasing farmer participation to 40 farmers and focus on marketing. Well defined project that has consistently met or exceeded the goals set in prior years. One objective is to serve as a model for other farmer groups in Maine.*
2. *Potential Impact – 70 farmers including beginning farmers will benefit. Also helping to start other similar farmer groups. Because of previous years experience there will be a focus on schools, supplying more Maine fruit and marketing.*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1, 3, 5, 8*

 - *Indicator: Did present measurable indicators. 1. Total sales of \$520K 3. 35 wholesale accounts will increase purchases by 50% 5. Model will increase sales for each farm by 50% 8. Contribute 2 jobs and maintain 41 small businesses in rural Maine*
4. *Data Collection Methods: Sales and vendor data will be collected using Quickbooks and working with Farm Smart.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Personnel accounts for 68% of the budget. The applicant is funding a large portion of the entire personnel costs for the operation. Personnel are experienced in working with this operation. 30% of the budget will be used for marketing, social media and website design. This seems appropriate given this was one of the objectives of this project for year three.*
6. *Project Commitment: There is external support from the 40 growers involved along with MOFGA, UMCE and Johnny's Selected Seeds helping with sharing information.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Maine Flower Collective
DATE: 4/8/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: MACF

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Developing a process to research the potential for market expansion of Maine grown cutflowers. This will be accomplished by hosting a meeting, Maine Cutflower Convergence, of growers, florists and floral designers to discuss forming a cooperative. If these discussions are positive then the Maine Flower Collective will be established as a formal group with vision, mission etc. and a strategic plan to move forward. Well presented and seems like an achievable purpose for an often underserved agriculture industry in Maine.*
2. *Potential Impact – Conducted a survey of growers and florists and there was 76% interest in moving forward with this project. There were 75 businesses that would be positively impacted by this project, including both disadvantaged and beginning farmers. These would include: cut flower growers, florists and floral designers and other wholesale purchasers of cut flowers.*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8*
 - *Indicator: Measurable impacts were included for several objectives. 1. Growers would increase sales by 15-20%. 2. Florals will increase purchases by 15-20%. 3. Wholesale sales increase by 20% and retail sales increase by 15%. 4. Less cost regarding mileage & time for deliveries. 5. Streamline marketing 8. Redirecting marketing share from offshore imports to locally grown.*
4. *Data Collection Methods: Survey will be conducted by UMCE and sales data collected from 10 growers will be presented.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: 73% of the budget will be used for personnel to hire a coordinator and delivery drivers. The delivery drivers are scheduled to deliver locally grown cutflowers for 32 hours/week for 40 weeks. How much greenhouse grown production is this including? Equipment cost is \$4.7K for delivery van rental. Is this for 1 van for 40 weeks? Several vans for short periods of time? Will other vehicles be used? What product will the group receive from the meeting facilitator? What has to be in place before the marketing consultant is brought on board? The total cost of hosting the convergence is \$9750 or \$65/attendee with 150 attendees for 2 days. This seems reasonable.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: Maine Flower Collective

DATE: 4/8/21

EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: MACF

6. *Project Commitment: UMCE is providing some help with conducting surveys and working with the grower industry. After the initial year the MFC plans to institute membership dues/fees with a plan to be self-sustaining. There are plans to host another cutflower convergence in winter 2021/2022 to establish a funding mechanism for the cooperative. Working with the Rooted Farmers Coop seems like a really useful resource.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 4/13/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Investigate the efficacy of cultural practices to control potato virus Y (PVY). This is a serious problem for seed potato growers as it impacts the certification of their crop. Recombinant strains of PVY make it difficult to detect with traditional visual inspections and volunteer potatoes are becoming an important source of inoculum.*
2. *Potential Impact – This impact the 110 seed potato growers growing about 10,000 A. If this disease isn't controlled it can impact the growers ability to sell their seed. Could impact the tablestock and processed growers as they have difficulty obtaining seed and consumers when there is a shortage of potatoes.*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 4, 5*
 - *Indicator: Provided measurable indicators. 4 2a. of the 110 producers, 20 will adopt the recommended practices 2b. of the 110 producers, 20 will decrease the use of pesticides 5 3 50 growers will report increased revenues*
4. *Data Collection Methods: The experimental design was outlined in the proposal listing the control and treatments. Leaf samples will be collected 3 times during the growing season and lab tested for PVY 50 field will be surveyed for volunteer plants to quantify the impact on the level of PVY and strains. This field data will be collected and then used to write the IPM plan. An online survey will be sent to grower to determine the adoption of practices and the impacts of PVY on their farms.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: Personnel accounts for 67% of the budget. There is a high fringe rate of 58%. A contract for \$10K will be awarded to UMaine diagnostic lab for PVY strain typing. What is the estimated number of samples that will be typed? What is the approximate cost per sample? Is this funding reimbursed for tests completed?*
6. *Project Commitment – There were no letters of support. This is the first year of a proposed three year project after which time growers should adopt the practices after the research is completed.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: MOFGA
DATE: 4/13/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Increase the number of farms able to comply with FSMA produce safety rule or GAP/GHP audit by providing, outreach, technical and financial assistance. Educate 100 farmers through workshops and demonstrations about FSMA and provide technical & financial assistance to 15 farmers who are ready to make changes.*
2. *Potential Impact – This project is in it's second year and has already impacted 117 in the first year and is hoping to reach 115 farmers this second year. Have learned from the previous year and changes will be made to: have a more robust outreach about the program (FSMA) and increase the stipend to farmers. The outreach will be expanded through UMCE, DACF along with MOFGA*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 6, 7*
 - *Indicator: Measurable indicators were included. Obj. 6 3. 115 will learn about food safety, 4.& 5. 50 will improve prevention, detection and control technologies and strategies, Obj. 7 2. 50 increased safety of inputs, 3. 84 increased understanding of the role of human and animal vectors 4. 84 increase understanding of pre and post harvest handling 5. 10+ will obtain on farm food safety certification*
4. *Data Collection Methods: Survey participants at the conclusion of workshops. Followup of participants in the pilot program to see if changes were made. Survey through the development of the food safety plan template. Grant recipients must report and changes they have made related to food safety.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative – A large part of this program is administering the grant program of \$75K to benefit 15 growers. These funds will be reimbursed after the investments are made. Why only 15 growers if this is the second year of the project? A contract of \$7.4K will be awarded to put on a workshop and purchase 30 manuals. How many participants are expected to attend the workshop?*
6. *Project Commitment – Many letter of support from UVM, DACF and UMCE. Assistance is offered to provide outreach for the project and FSMA, technical assistance and grant reviews. Letters of support were also from 2 farmers who had benefitted from the program and could provide specifics on the impact to their operation.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: New England Apple Association
DATE: 4/16/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Feasibility of a NE museum of apples and cider. Provide year found promotion of apple industry. Study will determine long term stability and increase demand with this traveling museum. Addressing the issue of a decline in wholesale apple growers. Is visiting a museum going to make people buy more apples? The project also is focusing on other Maine products, does this dilute the message? Is the end goal to build a stationary museum? If so will it be in each state or just one location in NE?*

2. *Potential Impact – In New England 500 orchards (59 in Maine), 80 cideries (17 in Maine). Will the focus just be on Maine orchards & cideries or will all of NE be included in the outreach?*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1,2,3*

 - *Indicator: 1. Increase sales from 0.67/lb to 0.81/lb because of the museum Can someone explain how this would work? 2. Reach 5000 people to eat more apples and introduce to 20 apple varieties Will these 5000 people attend 2 travelling events in Maine or is this in NE? 3. Educate 2000 consumers and culinary professionals and expand sales to 20 convenience stores. How will these sales be secured at convenience stores?*

4. *Data Collection Methods: Surveys of growers will occur online and in person visits and of consumers at the travelling museum and Eastern States. NASS will monitor the price of apples at the end of the project. How will this project affect the price of apples? There is mention of survey for a permanent museum, where would this be housed? There is not a lot of detail on the data collection for this project. There is no mention or use of social media to get the word out about this project.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: New England Apple Association

DATE: 4/16/21

EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative – About 70% of the budget is to pay a contract for people to organize and set up the travelling exhibit. The salary is set for all participants at \$50/hour and it is priced out to pay for 2 years or more. This project is for 12 months.*

6. *Project Commitment – Letters of support from several stakeholders in Maine. How many other states are proposed to participate in this project across New England? It is not clear whether this is intended to be an ongoing project or not.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Nezinscot Farm
DATE: 4/16/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Create a specialty herb tea business and expand the organic culinary and medicinal herb garden to provide more ingredients. The dates of this project will need to be changed as they are listed as May 2021 to June 2022. Seems like a growing area in herb sales.*
2. *Potential Impact – 6 regional herbalists, 6000 consumers in the Turner area and 100+ online customers. Not clear how there is outreach to other farmers about this project. How will outreach occur to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers?*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1,2,3,4*
 - *Indicator: No specific measurable indicators are included. The only number referred to currently 2000 followers online would encourage more sales*
4. *Data Collection Methods: Data will be collected of ingredients will be through weights of product collected and sold. Date on herbal teas will be based on consumption at the café and purchased product. Will the data be collected for what is sold for the season regardless of source (current year harvested or past year stored product)?*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative – 25% of the budget is for personnel. There is a contract for 10K to erect a greenhouse structure. Will the greenhouse structure be included with these funds? Other funds are listed for marketing and distribution as 4 separate expenses of \$100. What will these be used for? Is it 4 separate advertising opportunities or point of sale collection data?*
6. *Project Commitment – Not clear how this project will benefit other growers and whether there is active outreach to this group. No letters of support. A little more detail in some of the justifications and presentation of some of the information would be helpful (project income section it would be helpful to reference the attached data and more detail on the contract justification)*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: The Hop Yard
DATE: 4/16/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: MACF

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Demonstrate advanced irrigation and fertilizer systems to enhance hop production under new climate conditions (more drought). Private wells are sufficient. Seems like an important project to increase hops production/acre to compete with the west coast and provide hops to Maine breweries.*

2. *Potential Impact*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:*

 - *Indicator:*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: The Hop Yard

DATE: 4/16/21

EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: MACF

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: University of Maine - Annis
DATE: 4/19/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: MACF

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Develop methods to control blueberry fungal pathogens using IPM. Specific need to organic growers who need approved disease controls. Use weather data to help forecast disease prevalence. Continuation of a project from previous year. Is this the 2nd or 3rd year of this project? The major focus of this project seems to be testing different fungicides.*

2. *Potential Impact – 510 blueberry growers and socially disadvantaged farmers.*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 4, 5*

 - *Indicator: 4 b. number of growers adopting recommended practices = 60 5 h. number of growers that gained knowledge through outreach = 60*

4. *Data Collection Methods: Not a lot of detail in the data collection section. Paper and web based surveys of growers to determine adoption of new management recommendations.*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative: \$75K Personnel 69% Travel has a \$5K expense for truck rental & \$2K for fuel. Is this to be used for the growing season or year round? Is the fuel for the vehicle or some other purpose? Is \$100/sample enough for fungicide testing?*

6. *Project Commitment – Letters from several growers and the Wild Blueberry Commission.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – Calderwood
DATE: 4/19/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Help wild blueberry growers become more agronomically resilient, by exploring fertilizers, soil amendments and pollination as tools. A lot of helpful details as to the purpose of this project. Thorough summary of the results of prior years funding for this project. Clear objectives 1. Evaluate Ca as a foliar nutrient 2. Test mulching and biochar to manage drought stress and pests 3. Disseminate results to wild blueberry community. Specifically addressed that these were priorities of the Wild Blueberry Commission.*
2. *Potential Impact – 485 growers & socially disadvantaged farmers. Project will result in a revision of the best management practices for wild blueberries.*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 4, 5*
 - *Indicator: measurable outcomes 4 2. a, b 40 growers will adopt recommended practices and gain knowledge about the impacts of climate change on wild blueberries 5 1. 2 new biological models will be developed 8. 360 growers will gain knowledge through outreach*
4. *Data Collection Methods: Research: 2 field trials will occur at 1 research site in Jonesboro: 1. Product assessment - Ca, mulch and biochar 2. Temperature effects using 15 climate controlled chambers. Measurements for both trials include: water use & status, carbon assimilation, nutrient uptake, types of weeds and pests. Also yield and quality of berries will be measured. Extension: Growers will be surveyed before and after the project to determine what practices have been adopted. There is also a very detailed work plan included in the proposal.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative - \$99.8K Personnel 81% There are 2 positions funded research tech 91% of time grad research 100%. Will these positions be working on this project fulltime year round? Is grad student tuition and approved expense?*
6. *Project Commitment – Many letters of support from growers and the wild blueberry commission. These project areas have been included in the commission's requested research priorities.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – E Han Tan

DATE: 4/19/21

EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – To investigate the genetics behind resistance of Caribou russet to potato blackleg and soft rot (PBSR). The results will be used to infer the mechanism for genetic inheritance of this resistance. This is important because PBSR are difficult to control and breeding resistance would be helpful. This project is very specific to one variety of potato, and it was not explained how this would impact other varieties of potatoes. The objectives should be written in a much simpler language for reviewers to understand.*
2. *Potential Impact – 50-60, this is a new project*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 4, 5*
 - *Indicator: some measurable indicators recorded 4 1. Number of plant/seed releases 1-2 5 2. Number of innovation – 1 5. Number of new diagnostic systems – 1 8. Number of growers gaining knowledge – 40 to 50*
4. *Data Collection Methods: spreadsheet to keep track of dihaploid requests Who will make these requests? What does this mean? Publication of results in peer reviewed journal. Record number of stakeholders attending outreach meetings. Need a lot more information on how the data will be collected and used.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative – \$75.4k Personnel 65%. Travel costs \$2650 to attend one meeting. Supplies \$10K. Are costs for tuition (6175) and health insurance (2450) and allowable expense?*
6. *Project Commitment – There is a letter of support from Potatoes USA. There are no letters of support from anyone in the Maine potato industry. Is this a top issue of concern to the Maine potato industry? Is 100 samples of one variety enough to extrapolate out and determine this is the mechanism for resistance in other varieties? There needs to be more explanation as to how the results of this research will help potato growers.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – Ginakes
DATE: 4/20/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Evaluating varieties of beets, spinach, basil and cucurbits for resistance to leaf spot and downy mildew and cultural practices for these emerging diseases. These diseases are a major problem impacting these high value crops. This is a top priority of the MVSFG research group. Mentioned the Commissioner priority area*
 5. *Project seems of value to the vegetable growers in the state.*

2. *Potential Impact – 100 growers*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:4*

 - *Indicator: 4 b. 150 farmers will be shared results and 100 would adopt these changes of planting recommended varieties and cultural practices*

4. *Data Collection Methods: Brief surveys will be distributed at presentation venues to determine which varieties growers will plant and what cultural practices they will implement. Also will ask what changes they are willing to adopt.*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative - \$62K Personnel \$75K mostly funding 2 field assistants for 8 weeks. Supplies \$10K including \$2800 for seed and \$3600 for a transplanter. How*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – Ginakes

DATE: 4/20/21

EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

large an area is being planted for this project? Will this transplanter be used exclusively for this project?

6. *Project Commitment – There was a letter of support from the MVSFGA representing 120 farmers indicating this is a very important issue and that this research is timely and valuable to the members and other vegetable growers in the state. Also listing the many outreach opportunities available to share results.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – Hao
DATE: 4/20/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Conduct lab and field studies to determine the predominant and most infectious strains of *Dickeya dianthicola* using genetic testing to identify and eliminate the most dangerous strains of this pathogen. Comparing *D. dianthicola* strains and then confirm that ME 30 is the predominant genome. Field evaluation of Type 1 strains. This project purpose is confusing and not clearly stated. There is a mention of blackleg and soft rot. Is soft rot the same as blackleg? If not there is no mention of soft rot as part of this proposal.*
2. *Potential Impact – estimated beneficiaries 100 growers, could help growers identify the most problematic strains of *Dickeya*.*
3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 5*
 - *Indicator: 5 c. 60 growers will be reached in this study and 30 will gain knowledge leading to 10% increase in revenue d. & h. 450 potato growers and industry will be reached and 300 will gain knowledge on this new diagnostic technique and technology (Will this diagnostic technique be available to growers?) f 12 members of a first responders will be trained in early detection to cover 95% of the acreage (Hasn't this already been done as the disease has been an issue for 6 years?)*
4. *Data Collection Methods: The data will be a contribution to a grad student thesis, presented to growers at field days and conferences and articles. Research papers will be published.*
5. *Budget/Budget Narrative - \$74K Personnel 65% (100% grad student, 3 months salaried field tech & undergrad) Contract for DNA sequencing at MSU (What lab testing will be conducted at UMaine?) Tractor maintenance for \$1000 Is this the only project using this tractor? Other includes tuition and health insurance Are these eligible expenses*
6. *Project Commitment – project is already receiving funds from another federal source (USDA NIFA SCRI). Not clear how this project will be self sustaining in the future. Indicates support from the Maine Potato Board and potato growers, but there are no letters of support.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Wild Blueberry Heritage Center & Museum
DATE: 4/20/21
EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose – Utilizing the Wild Blueberry Heritage Center Museum to hold trainings for small blueberry growers to help them become more profitable focusing on developing value added products. Provide expert training to 25% of the active growers. Slow the loss of blueberry acreage in the future. Amplify the plight of growers. Help growers to find new markets for their berries. Not a lot of details regarding what will be included in these trainings.*

2. *Potential Impact – 100 growers.*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1, 6 & 8*

 - *Indicator: 1 & 6. No measurable indicators 8. 25 rural careers created, 150 jobs created or maintained, 150 small businesses created or maintained*

4. *Data Collection Methods: Survey training participants prior to training and after (at various intervals) to determine their understanding of value-added techniques.*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative – Budget summary is incomplete. Should include more detail regarding activities of the contractors. Large amount for other. Is it appropriate to provide \$50/person for swag? There are \$16K costs for public relations, website updates, social media, marketing and agritourism promotion. It is unclear if this is for the training workshops or for promoting the museum?*

6. *Project Commitment – No letters of support for the project. There is mention of UMaine Cooperative Extension as a partner, but reference to current UMCE staff.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Blue Barn, LLC
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
Expand market for wild blueberry sparkling wine-
Expand market for wild blueberries
Increase number of growers participating

2. *Potential Impact*
Priorities 1, 4
5 wine producers and 10 growers
General benefit to agritourism- tourism as a whole in Maine

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1,2,3,8*

 - *Indicator: Increase sales, expand states*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
fruit purchase and Out of state sales
Collaboration with WCCC for careers and job creation

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
2nd year of project
Reasonable for work to be done

6. *Project Commitment*
Support from industry and education and research facilities

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Cajo Inc
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
on farm research freeze drying fruits

2. *Potential Impact*
Expand access to freeze dried fruits /increase consumption

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:1,2,6,8*

 - *Indicator:*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
Data collected on weight and nutritional value – is this not already available? How is it applicable to other growers? Will a service be developed that purchases products from other producers?

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

6. *Project Commitment*
none besides the applicant

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Central Aroostook SWCD
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
Carbon Sequestration on Potato farms – pilot/ research on 3 farms utilizing wood waste and lime on fields to improve soil health

2. *Potential Impact 800*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1,2,3,4,5,8*

Need more info as to how increasing production increases consumption.

 - *Indicator:*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

6. *Project Commitment*
Are there farms that have agreed to participate?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Cumberland County SWCD
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
equipt sharing co-op re steamer for hoop house growing
education on soil steaming
Sharing equipt is important for smaller growers

2. *Potential Impact*
5 direct farms others through info tours and outreach

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:4,5,6,8*
 - *Indicator: improve soil quality, innovative business model which could work for other pieces of equipt*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
sustainability achieved through fees for use of steamer
travel seems a bit light

6. *Project Commitment*
local farm support

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Daybreak Growers Alliance
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
continue work on expanding wholesale markets for Maine Specialty Crops
request for marketing and promotion funds- to finish the 3 year effort
Increase in sales volume to cover additional cold storage and freezer rental as well as
some staffing – moving to sustainability

2. *Potential Impact*
30+ growers to expand to 40 in this third year + shared info to another 30 growers
Current project has exceeded goals of sales and is expand by using the

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:1.3.5,8*

 - *Indicator:*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
Collect data on sales
Collaboration with Farm Smart Maine

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
change in focus based on new needs and what can be covered by expanded sales

6. *Project Commitment*
market share increases indicates support..

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Maine Flower Collective
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
Explore the launch of Maine Flower Collective and host Flower Convergence

2. *Potential Impact*
75 growers, designers, retailers

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1,2,3,4,5,8*

 - *Indicator:*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
surveys of sales for both growers and florists UM

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
Meeting costs seem low and Website developer seems low
Are other meeting /venue costs absorbed otherwise

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments: Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato.

1. *Project Purpose*
3 year project, evaluate methods of addressing PVY through management practices that disrupt the spread. Further explore impact of climate change and how harvesting practices may need to change to address new and expanded existing threats

2. *Potential Impact 110 growers*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:4,5*

 - *Indicator: of producers who adopt new practices, there will b increase in yield and decrease in pesticide use/cost- = increase in revenue*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
field component at UM Experiment station

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
58% fringe?

6. *Project Commitment*
MPB, seed growers, UM

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: MOFGA
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
year 2 -FSMA Training

2. *Potential Impact*
15 farms receive Food Safety grants
10+ farms to receive certification
participating in wqorkshop

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:6,7*
 - *Indicator: surveys*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
surveys

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

6. *Project Commitment*
University ME VT
Farmers

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: New England Apple Association
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose 2.5 year project
Feasibility study Apple and cider museum*

2. *Potential Impact
50 Maine Orchards and 17 cideries – cost shared by the SCBGP in New England states
and NE Apple Assoc
What if other states choose not to participate in the funding? Which states have had
requests submitted?*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1,2,3*

 - *Indicator:
Outcome 1. need more info on how price increase to growers will increase sales
to consumers*

 - Outcome 3. How will outreach and education occur for culinary professionals?
Webinars? On site demos? Recipe contests?
How does this project increase access to apples?*

4. *Data Collection Methods:
surveys for growers/ apple consumption at events/*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

6. *Project Commitment
state and regional apple groups and growers*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Nezinscot Farm
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
Expanding herb garden for specialty tea production. Drying and packaging facilities

2. *Potential Impact*
Herbalists and tea customers

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
increased production and sales
 - *Outcome: 1,2,4*
 - *Indicator:*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
weights of goods sold compared to previous years

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
Is the greenhouse construction contractual or facility building?

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: The Hop Yard
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
Expanding irrigation and fertilization re climate change conditions
ongoing costs absorbed

2. *Potential Impact*
12 hop growers

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:4,5,7,8*

 - *Indicator: Increased yield, increased revenue*
increase competitiveness of Maine hop growers

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
water use, pesticide use per acre- tracked weekly

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: University of Maine - Annis
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
Develop new methods to control wild blueberry pathogens IPM

2. *Potential Impact*
510 growers – industry in general as fruit is more acceptable to consumers

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:4,5*
 - *Indicator:*
60 out of 510 growers expected to use new practices

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

6. *Project Commitment*
Wild Blueberry Commission /Growers

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – Calderwood

DATE: 4/20/2021

EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
Exploring Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, and Pollination as Tools to Improve Wild Blueberry Resilience to Warming
Follow up to looking at fertilizer and temperature impact on crop
Climate change- drier/warmer weather as well as late frosts are significant impacts to crop- which is already struggling with price and market issues- maintaining the acreage and the opportunity to harvest blueberries will only be accomplished by creating/maintaining profitability for acreage

2. *Potential Impact*
> 300 attendees at in-person/virtual events annually. 700 through newsletter.

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:4,5*

 - *Indicator:*
past surveys of participants have indicated that growers do implement/adopt new practices that are presented
growers adopting good practices 40
growers gaining knowledge of climate change impact 40

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
for growers -surveys

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

6. *Project Commitment*
blueberry growers, processors, associations

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – E Han Tan
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
Research the resistance of potato blackleg and soft rot in Caribou Russet

2. *Potential Impact*
Seed potato growers - nationwide

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:4,5*

 - *Indicator:*
40-50 potato growers outreach and education field day and Extension

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
track requests, publications, record number of stakeholder attendees at O&E events

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

6. *Project Commitment*
national as well as state potato industry

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – Ginakes
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose
Enhancing veggie production – evaluating variety disease resistance and cultural practices to mitigate disease*

2. *Potential Impact 100+*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:4*
 - *Indicator: est. of the 150 farmers will receive information and 100 will try/adopt*

4. *Data Collection Methods:
surveys- who will use and which types of changes are farmers willing to adopt in general-
to assist int the development of future research*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative
no questions*

6. *Project Commitment
Growers assoc./ DACFS*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: University of Maine – Hao
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
Infectiousness and impact of *Dickeya dianthicola* strains causing the potato blackleg and soft rot outbreak

2. *Potential Impact*
100 growers

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome:5*
identify and disseminate information to approx. 450 farmers et al.
create "first responder" team which covers 955 of potato acreage in Maine

 - *Indicator:*
out of 60 – who receive O&E 30 will try/adopt and increase revenue by 10%

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
data use and dissemination is clear- data collection is part of research project and thesis

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
tractor maintenance needs clarification
good to see health insurance included

6. *Project Commitment*
MPB /growers/regional and national

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER NAME: Wild Blueberry Heritage Center & Museum
DATE: 4/20/2021
EVALUATOR NAME: Marge L. Kilkelly
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. *Project Purpose*
improving viability of wild blueberry industry – with a focus on smaller growers
workshops on value added product opportunities, media campaign

2. *Potential Impact*
reduce loss of jobs and blueberry acreage by exploring and sharing new opportunities for
profitability
Agritourism and general Maine tourism as a destination

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*
 - *Outcome: 1,6,8*

 - *Indicator:*
job creation, small business creation, career creation
slow loss of/ or maintain blueberry acreage

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
surveys – before, during and in the future

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
Venue/ event planning costs for training?
Developing ads, website, social media- how will that be managed and maintained and
updated?

6. *Project Commitment*
Local residents, farmers, UM, travel/tourism. Local natural resource advocates



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION
AND FORESTRY

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

I, (print name at right) **ALEXANDRIA M FOULIARD**

accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the funding decision notices for public distribution.

Signature

4/2/2021

Date



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION
AND FORESTRY

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

I, (print name at right) Marge L Kilkelly
accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the funding decision notices for public distribution.

April 16, 2021

Signature

Date



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION
AND FORESTRY

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

I, (print name at right) Ann Gibbs
accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the funding decision notices for public distribution.

E. Ann Gibbs

4/19/21

Signature

Date



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION
AND FORESTRY

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202102027
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

I, Joy Bonenfant, accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the funding decision notices for public distribution.

Joy Bonenfant

4/1/2021

Signature

Date