

State of Maine
Master Score Sheet

RFP# 202201008					
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program					
Bidder Name:		Blue Barn LLC	Em's Herbs LLC	Growing to Give	MOFGA
Proposed Cost:		\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$15,873.00	\$91,806.32
Scoring Sections	Points Available				
The Proposal is determined to address a Commissioner Priority Area.	5	5	5	3	5
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA	5	5	2	4	5
The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (Part II Section A)	25	23	12	10	25
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	18	7	10	20
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15	13	8	15
The budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	24	7	22	29
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>99</u>

RFP# 202201008

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Bidder Name:		Maine Potato Board	New England Apple Association	Newdawns Farms	University of Maine – Dr. Annis
Proposed Cost:		\$83,705.00	\$56,198.00	\$17,910.00	\$93,469.00
Scoring Sections	Points Available				
The Proposal is determined to address a Commissioner Priority Area.	5	5	3	3	5
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA	5	4	5	2	5
The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (Part II Section A)	25	22	10	5	25
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	20	5	5	18
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15	10	2	12
The budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	25	15	0	25
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>90</u>

RFP# 202201008

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Bidder Name:		University of Maine – Dr. Calderwood	University of Maine – Dr. Dill	University of Maine – Dr. Hao	University of Maine – Dr. Perry
Proposed Cost:		\$99,405.00	\$96,737.00	\$76,280.00	\$56,614.00
Scoring Sections	Points Available				
The Proposal is determined to address a Commissioner Priority Area.	5	3	5	5	5
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA	5	3	5	4	5
The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (Part II Section A)	25	23	20	23	24
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	18	15	18	18
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	15	12	15	13
The budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	21	15	21	25
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>90</u>

RFP# 202201008

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Bidder Name:		Mil's Farm			
Proposed Cost:		*Ineligible*			
Scoring Sections	Points Available				
The Proposal is determined to address a Commissioner Priority Area.	5				
The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA	5				
The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (Part II Section A)	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				
The budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30				
TOTAL	<u>100</u>				



**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

**Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner**

**Janet T. Mills
Governor**

May 9, 2022

Blue Barn LLC
Michael Terrien
15 Washington Ave Unit 9
Scarborough, ME 04074

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
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 & Forestry for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the Applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

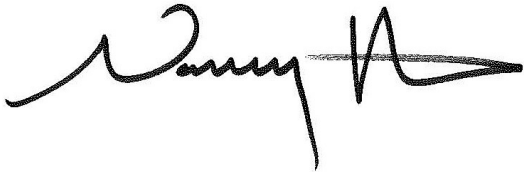
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result,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



**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

**Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner**

**Janet T. Mills
Governor**

May 9, 2022

Em's Herbs LLC dba Meeting House Herb Farm
Emilcy C Allis-Springer
35 Hunnewell Rd
Scarborough, ME 04074

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Maine Herb Growers Collaborative

Dear Ms. Allis-Springer:

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

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) 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 extending to the right.

Nancy McBrady, Director
Bureau of 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).



**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

**Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner**

**Janet T. Mills
Governor**

May 9, 2022

Growing to Give
Patty Carton
30 E. Coxon Rd
Brunswick, ME 04011

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Expanding Specialty Crop Production through Workforce Development

Dear Ms. Carton:

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

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

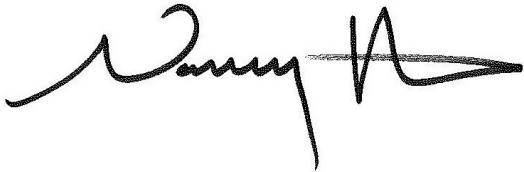
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result,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



**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

**Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner**

**Janet T. Mills
Governor**

May 9, 2022

Maine Potato Board
Donald Flannery
744 Main St STE 1
Presque Isle, ME 04769

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management
Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato. (Year 2 of 3)

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 & Forestry for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the Applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

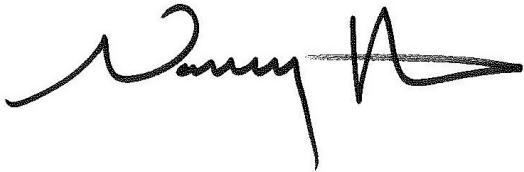
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result,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



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

May 9, 2022

Mil's Farm
Ann Silver
Sent via E-Mail Only

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

PROJECT TITLE:

Dear Ms. Silver:

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

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) 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

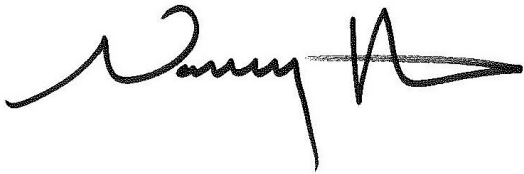
between the Department and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to the Department is executed. The Department further reserves the right to cancel this Notice 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", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Nancy McBrady, Director
Bureau of 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).



**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

**Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner**

**Janet T. Mills
Governor**

May 9, 2022

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Sarah Alexander
PO Box 170
Unity, ME 04988

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III

Dear Ms. Alexander:

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

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) 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 extending to the right.

Nancy McBrady, Director
Bureau of 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).



**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

**Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner**

**Janet T. Mills
Governor**

May 9, 2022

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

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Distinguishing Maine Apples Through History, Varieties, and Ciders

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 & Forestry for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the Applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) 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 extending to the right.

Nancy McBrady, Director
Bureau of 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).



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

May 9, 2022

Newdawns Farms
Lindsey Neville
112 Mcdonald Rd
Littleton, ME 04730

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Maine stone fruit orchard market expansion sustainability through inclusive
whole ecosystem tunnel farming

Dear Ms. Neville:

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

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

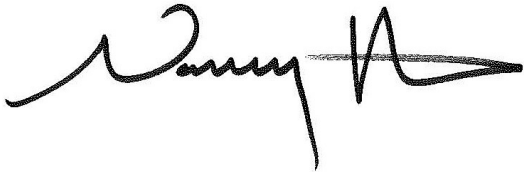
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result,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



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

May 9, 2022

University of Maine System - Annis
Debora Carver
5717 Corbett Hall
Orono, ME 04469

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

PROJECT TITLE: Improving leaf spot management to enhance wild blueberry health, yield, and
climate resilience Dr. Annis

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 & Forestry for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the Applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

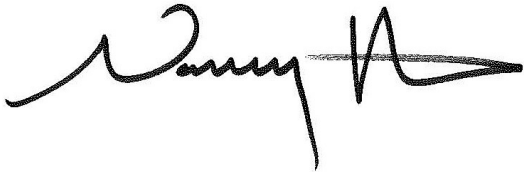
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result,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



**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

**Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner**

**Janet T. Mills
Governor**

May 9, 2022

University of Maine System - Calderwood
Debora Carver
5717 Corbett Hall
Orono, ME 04469

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers Dr. Calderwood

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 & Forestry for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the Applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) 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 of 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).



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

May 9, 2022

University of Maine System - Dill
Debora Carver
5717 Corbett Hall
Orono, ME 04469

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Maine Potato IPM Dr. Dill

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 & Forestry for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the Applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) 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", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nancy McBrady, Director
Bureau of 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).



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

May 9, 2022

University of Maine System - Hao
Debora Carver
5717 Corbett Hall
Orono, ME 04469

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

PROJECT TITLE: Enhancing the efficacy of managing soilborne diseases in potato production
through integrated soil improvement Dr. Hao

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 & Forestry for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the Applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

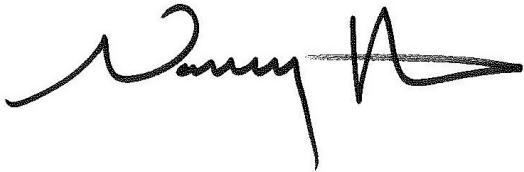
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result,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



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Janet T. Mills
Governor

May 9, 2022

University of Maine System - Perry
Debora Carver
5717 Corbett Hall
Orono, ME 04469

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202201008,
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
PROJECT TITLE: Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic collaboration to
protect and enhance safety and quality Dr. Perry

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 & Forestry for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Department has evaluated the Applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

- Blue Barn LLC: *The Millennial Opportunity: Expanding Supply, Demand, and Infrastructure for a New Era of Maine Wild Blueberry Sparkling Wine*
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association: *Maine Produce Safety Improvement Project III*
- Maine Potato Board: *Investigating Cultural Practices to Improve Integrated Pest Management Practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) of Potato*
- University of Maine System: *Improving Leaf Spot Management to Enhance Wild Blueberry Health, Yield, and Climate Resilience (Dr. Annis)*
- University of Maine System: *Drought Stress Adaptation for Wild Blueberry Growers (Dr. Calderwood)*
- University of Maine System: *Enhancing the Efficacy of Managing Soilborne Diseases in Potato Production Through Integrated Soil Improvement (Dr. Hao)*
- University of Maine System: *Fresh Maine Wild Blueberries: Industry, Extension, Academic Collaboration to Protect and Enhance Safety and Quality (Dr. Perry)*

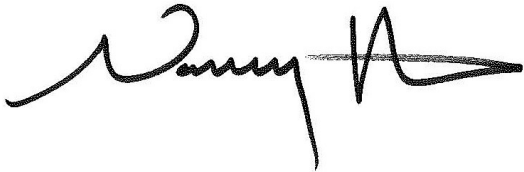
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). The Department will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result,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

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 04/13/2022

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	
• Executive Summary	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	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	24
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>90</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 04/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

The application clearly addresses multiple priority areas.

	<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:

Complete. Page 8 is extensive

	<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:

They identify sustainability. They did a good job of explaining how the project supports sustainability. They explain each area.

	<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:

This is a 3rd year project. They are collecting data on sales, marketing, etc., but don't necessarily explain how they will use or present the data. Discussion about whether external sharing would be important for this project? Consensus is that for this type of project external sharing of data is not key, rather using data to build the association appropriately is the important element. A little more detail about the collection plan would be helpful. How will the collection happen? Will trade group members want to offer data?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 04/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

5 producers, many growers. They say it will impact 500 growers, is that realistic? (Maybe b/c the project would stabilize prices? Committee discusses that stabilizing the market would help all growers. Will also impact tourism. Application included 7 letters of support.

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	24

**Evaluation Team Comments

Committee asks about travel. A 5 person team seems large. Discussion about whether the travel budget is too high? Discussion about how hard it is to market a Maine product that far away, and therefore consensus is that travel contingent is appropriate. 35% of budget is to subsidize growing. Will the the project generate enough to make this sustainable? How is this sustainable? Program income seems incomplete. Committee likes that some of the funding goes back to farmers. Concerns about cash flow for the enterprise, since blueberries are the fundamental component of the project. What are they paying to the growers, 85 or 79 cents? Committee is concerned about the visioning - where will this be next year? No charges for personnel, no fringe. Supplies and contract are most of the budget. Lack of clarity around what they are paying the growers.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Em's Herbs LLC
DATE: 04/14/2022

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	
• Executive Summary	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	2
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as state in the RFP	25	12
The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection	20	7
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	7
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>46</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Em's Herbs LLC
DATE: 04/14/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

Say they will address 2, 3, 4, 5. Partnering with MOFGA on the education piece, so it seems like the FSMA component is accurate. Committee has doubts about whether project will impact other priority areas.

	<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:

In budget per mile rate is missing, travel justification is incomplete, project purpose not clear. Mileage not clear. There are line items in the summary that don't match the breakdown. Equipment rental shouldn't be under rental.

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	12

Evaluation Team Comments:

Not clear enough. Committee can't understand enough about the project to judge whether it's in alignment.

	<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	7

Evaluation Team Comments:

A lot of passive data collection. Very vague. Would be useful to track data for those implementing food safety measures. Little detail. No detail about personnel. Goals aren't clear.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Em's Herbs LLC
DATE: 04/14/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

Has LOS. Says it will impact 30 farms and 4 co-ops.

	<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

Not enough detail. Round numbers for everything. 80% is for personnel. Travel budget is low and only for herbs. How is this a marketing project? No details about qualifications of personnel. Who would be employing the personnel? Would it be the individual business or the collective? Why no fringe for the coordinator?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Growing to Give
DATE: 4/13/2022

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	
• Executive Summary	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	10
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	8
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	22
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>57</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Growing to Give
DATE: 4/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

Unclear. They mention food safety training for farm workers, but it's not clear what percentage of the project is directly related to food safety. There's not a commissioner priority for developing labor. Does the whole project have to address the priority area? Interest in training workers to improve safety. Doesn't seem to address area 3 as suggested.

	<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:

Some areas are lacking details. It's not clear what the existing program is? They answered every section.

	<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:

The alignment with USDA strategies is confusing. Committee has some trouble understanding the project.

	<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:

They will survey participants, but it's a bit vague. Committee is not clear who they are recruiting to participate. They are addressing 2, 3, 7.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Growing to Give
DATE: 4/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

They cite multiple producers. Questions about how many farmers will be impacted. They say will be creating jobs, but committee doesn't understand that assertion.

	<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

Question about mileage reimbursement rate and whether it would be allowable. The budget doesn't add up accurately (but only a slight discrepancy.) Budget is modest and is detailed. Seems like the modest budget will have a significant impact. No letters of support.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
DATE: 4/13/2022

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	
• Executive Summary	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	25
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	29
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>99</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
DATE: 4/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

Food safety is squarely addressed

	<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:

The proposal is complete.

	<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:

Enhanced food safety and distribution chain.

	<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:

What is the breakdown (convention/org for participants so far? They do provide detail. ***Include this in reporting. Committee wants to know each year.**

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

DATE: 4/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

Yes, clearly impacts multiple producers. Important that it trains organic and conventional. There is a LOS from at least one conventional grower. Had 9 LOS.

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	29

Evaluation Team Comments

Passthru to farmers is bulk of budget. Budget is detailed. The committee has no questions about the budget due to its thoroughness.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 04/13/2022

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	
• Executive Summary	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	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	25
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>91</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 04/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

They address 3 areas, including multi-year, IPM

	<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:

No project support, no LOS. There is no grower support evidenced. What growers will be involved? Support is the only part that seems incomplete.

	<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:

Pest and disease control is a clear alignment, but food safety seems a stretch.

	<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:

Two listed, 4 and 7. Seems measurable and defined. Committee wishes the prose were more clear. The data will be very valuable to farmers. These are issues that are well known to farmers.
 Collecting field data
 Explanation could be a little clearer
 Very valuable data for farmers

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 04/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

There are 110 seed growers and it will impact all of them. Committee feels this is a clearly impactful project.

	<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

Summer research tech is 100% full time for 6K. How many weeks? Why no fringe? The number is confusing to the committee. If they are funding from elsewhere, where? Justification seems incomplete. The “farmer land” charge is listed in the justification but not in the budget. There is \$10K to contract the Extension employee, and the committee discussed whether that is common. Assumption is it is the cost of running samples.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER: New England Apple Association

DATE: 4/13/2022

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	
• Executive Summary	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	10
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	15
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>48</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: New England Apple Association
DATE: 4/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

They say they are hitting priority 4, but the committee is unconvinced that the project will really increase the marketing of apples.

	<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:

Seems complete.

	<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:

Say they will be increasing education and increasing consumption of apples. It's not clear how the project will increase the consumption of Maine or New England apples. They identified a goal, but it doesn't seem they will meet it.

	<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:

They say in the proposal that the outcomes are not measurable. They say they will impact a lot of people, but it is not convincing. If we put Maine SCBG dollars to this, what happens if other states don't fund it? **Would be a better fit for a multi-state SCBG program.**

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER: New England Apple Association

DATE: 4/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

They say they will impact many producers.

	<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

Budget is 80% personnel, without a clear return. Where is the funding for the database development that they mention? How do the traveling museums fit in? There are tent rentals, but not much else. No details about booth rentals at events and what the rental income will be. Details are lacking.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Newdawns Farms
DATE: 04/14/2022

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

Pass/Fail Criteria	Pass	Fail
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
• Executive Summary	X	
Scoring Sections	Points Available	Points Awarded
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	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	2
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	0
Total Points	100	17

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Newdawns Farms
DATE: 04/14/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

They said they are meeting 3, 4, 5, but the committee isn't convinced the project aligns with these. The committee appreciates that they tried to find alignment, but the project doesn't convincingly address these.

	<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:

Individual businesses have to have a LOS, and there isn't one. There were sections that seemed incomplete. Outcome indicators are missing eligible info, no data collection measures. Where will this project location be?

	<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:

They say they align with most of the strategies, but the committee didn't find that to be accurate. No explanations. They say it will support FSMA and soil conservation, but those don't seem to be met by the project.

	<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:

Outcomes aren't clearly described, don't seem measurable. They list outcomes, but don't define them.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER: Newdawns Farms

DATE: 04/14/2022

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	2

Evaluation Team Comments:

Committee is not convinced this will impact multiple producers. No LOS. What will be learned in one year to benefit other producers? The idea is good, but they need to bring in info from other regions where this has been done.

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	0

Evaluation Team Comments

The equipment items are ineligible, leaving only the supplies as eligible. What kind of tunnel system are they buying for \$10K? It doesn't seem like a realistic budget.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Annis
DATE: 04/13/2022

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	
• Executive Summary	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	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	12
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	25
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>90</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Annis
DATE: 04/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

1, 3, 4, 5 and all well explained

	<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 complete

	<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:

Yes, research and pest and disease control are squarely addressed by this project.

	<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:

Clearly defined and measurable. The committee felt the proposal explained the desired outcomes and metrics well.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Annis
DATE: 04/13/2022

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	12

Evaluation Team Comments:

Yes, potentially impacts all growers of 400+. It does seem like they are building on past research. Is the research being put into practice? ***Note in contract that emphasize that the results of research be shared in a meaningful way in the contract.**

	<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

Budget is clear. Much of the budget is for personnel. Is there some explanation for the inequity between grad/undergrad wages? Committee is concerned about funding more for the grad students. Grad student budget narrative seems to be missing a section at the top of page 14. There are letters of support.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Calderwood
DATE: 04/13/2022

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

Pass/Fail Criteria	Pass	Fail
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page	X	
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification	X	
• Litigation	X	
• Executive Summary	X	
Scoring Sections	Points Available	Points Awarded
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	23
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	21
Total Points	100	83

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Calderwood
DATE: 04/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

Project hits 3 priority areas fully

	<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:

Beneficiaries aren't listed on page 8, nor explanation/justification of "Other".

	<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:

Project aligns on research and disease management

	<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:

They are defined and measurable. The data collection is well laid out (a little hard to find though).

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

BIDDER: University of Maine - Calderwood

DATE: 04/13/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

They note that 300 growers and stakeholders will be impacted. Managing drought is very timely. They will share the results at multiple meetings - demonstrate that in a meaningful way.

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	21

Evaluation Team Comments

70% is personnel - seems "top heavy.". Concerns again about tuition for the grad students again. Each trip is listed at 166 miles, but one of the locations is closer, so the mileage seems off. Fringe for the technician is high at 57%. What is the 1 FTE grad student at \$2000? No explanation in narrative for this confusing entry. Committee is confused about the personnel component, they seem to be asking for only a part of the overall project budget with this proposal, but the committee isn't clear. Needs more explanation. Staffing budget focuses on students.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Dill
DATE: 04/14/2022

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	
• Executive Summary	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	20
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	12
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	15
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>72</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Dill
DATE: 04/14/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:
 Areas 3 & 5

	<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 present

	<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:
 Pest and Disease control

	<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:
 Proposal says it will benefit 25 growers. Committee thought it would benefit more - how does this then impact all 400 growers? They have a detailed data collection plan. For the size of the budget and the expense of the research, the committee feels the project should impact more farmers.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Dill
DATE: 04/14/2022

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers	15	12

Evaluation Team Comments:

The testing will take place in 40 fields weekly, with data extrapolated to inform up to 400 growers. The text/email push of the data to farmers is an interesting innovation.

	<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

75% is personnel. Committee discusses the fact that there are two staff overseeing the students. Necessary? Seems top heavy. Is this service sustainable? The proposal addresses a potential fee for service. Committee is concerned about long-term support for such a personnel-intense expense. SCBG has funded it for a long time.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Hao
DATE: 04/14/2022

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	
• Executive Summary	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	23
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	21
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>86</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Hao
DATE: 04/14/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:
 priority area 3

	<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:
 Supply section weak in the budget - no unit costs, etc.

	<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:
 Sustainability and pest/disease control. Committee finds it in strong alignment.

	<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 are clearly defined, but there's not much info on data collection in this section. Committee would have liked more info about the data collection plan. Outcome 7 indicator 5: doesn't seem to impact much acreage (500 acres for soil health and 300 acres for biodiversity) - what does this mean? Is this just the plots that are under research, or farmers adopting the practices? They have selected a lot of outcomes and indicators and will probably need to pare them back.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Hao
DATE: 04/14/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

Fumigation is important to the industry, so finding alternatives is important. Will impact 200 potato growers. Committee finds this realistic. It's a new project and therefore might provide measurable new information to growers.

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Budget is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost	30	21

Evaluation Team Comments

One role has no budget requested and committee discussed whether that meant he was funded elsewhere - a little confusion. 2/3 of the budget is salary (but this only covers 11% of the principal investigator). Grad student insurance and health insurance are in "other," which makes the overall personnel part of the budget higher. Supply section wasn't detailed.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Perry
DATE: 04/14/2022

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	
• Executive Summary	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	24
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	13
Budge is complete and clearly indicates anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.	30	25
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>90</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Perry
DATE: 04/14/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

2, 4 are hit

	<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 has all components, but budget is a bit weak

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
The project addresses the issues put forth by USDA as stated in the RFP	25	24

Evaluation Team Comments:

Enhanced food safety/FSMA and improving distribution systems. Enhancing the opportunity for distribution is something the committee noticed.

	<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:

Project identifies data collection as a goal to further the project. In the proposal they put a lot of effort into explaining the data collection. Committee appreciated the clarity of the description and could understand that the data collected would be measurable. Committee wonders if they are drawing from a broad enough pool to draw conclusions from the results? Committee appreciates that they are planning to build on this research, so if even a few salient points are learned it could be worthwhile.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: University of Maine - Perry
DATE: 04/14/2022

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

Evaluation Team Comments:

Includes letters of support. The challenges of the fresh market are well known - addressing those problems and finding those opportunities would help stabilize the industry. Three producers and one distributor will be directly involved, and will impact 40 stakeholders.

	<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

70% of the budget is for personnel, tuition credits, etc. There's a conference in the budget that isn't explained in the narrative. The conference is TBD. Is an in person conference that important?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
BIDDER: Mil's Farm
DATE: 3/5/2022

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

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• Application Cover Page		
• Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification		
• Litigation		
• Executive Summary		
<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>	

Per the RFA Part III, Section C, Subsection 2, Sub-subsection F: "Applications must be submitted in MS WORD format. Any other format will disqualify the application from the review process. Mil's Farm submitted their application in ".page" format and was determined to be ineligible and not reviewed.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Blue Barn LLC

DATE:

4/9/2022

EVALUATOR NAME:

Alex 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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

- Yes, clearly.
- Does anyone have a press list? Much of their current and past proposals have been around generating interest, press, "putting Maine on the map"... can they demonstrate success here?

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

- Seems to be.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

- Sustainability.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- In their previous application, what were their sales goals for Y1 and Y2? Were they able to achieve them? Stated sales of \$85,000 in 2021. – In the Outcomes section, 2021 sales goal of \$150,000. So they're still pretty far off from end of Y3 sales goal.
- Would have liked more detail on the data collection plan.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

- Would love to see more gender diversity represented on the Trade Group's board.
- In Lessons Learned: Many new growers have reached out to us in the past year to learn more about our efforts and explore different ways to be involved.
 - o How many growers?
- It's a small # of growers, but yes. And that seems appropriate for building a new product and market.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Blue Barn LLC

DATE:

4/9/2022

EVALUATOR NAME:

Alex Fouliard

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Maine Farmland Trust

- This project seems like it's been a slow burn of a project. Ten years in product development, three years of SCBG support for marketing and networking, and they're clear that it still needs years of public funding to stay upright.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

- Application states average price of \$0.79/lb to growers (in likelihood of being self-sustaining), and also in Outcomes states \$0.85/lb. Still higher than conventional commodity prices, though lower than some certified organic prices, I think. Budget includes \$0.85/lb. What price is paid to the growers? Where is the additional funds requested for fruit going? This is a core operational cost, and I think should be a cost that the businesses can cash flow.
 - o In budget, state: pay at least either \$.85/lb or 25% premium on the estimated field price set by crop insurers. Does that mean growers get the higher of those two prices? Lower?
 - o Fruit purchases are matched 1:1.
- Why does their per diem rate change for each location?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Em's Herbs LLC

DATE:

4/11/2022

EVALUATOR NAME:

Alex 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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

- Yes, #2 seems the clearest.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

- Not complete, the budget isn't finished.
- I don't love the rounded #s in the budget.
- Generally, the proposal has some great ideas, and I suspect that they are more thought-through than the proposal includes, because they have commitment from MOFGA for a specific part of the project, and letters of support from key buyers so they've worked through distribution logistics. The proposal lacks detail though.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

- Yes, #5.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- Yes, clear, but I think more info about data collection would be helpful. It's coming from a lot of different sources, and that takes a lot of effort to plan, collect, and analyze.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

- How does the project benefit socially disadvantaged farmers?
- Some clarity on if Meeting House is a collaborative, or an aggregating business, would be helpful. Around the personnel support request – are these employees of Meeting House (a business), or serving a collaborative function?
- Great to see so much grower and buyer support!

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

- Mileage rate?
- No total personnel (though it does match in the overall and detail budgets)
- In the budget summary, the equipment, supplies, and other lines don't match the details.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Growing to Give

DATE:

4/9/2022

EVALUATOR NAME:

Alex 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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

- It's not the most direct or obvious connection, but I think they make the case. It's an interesting angle to consider how farm workers or farm employees can manifest those goals on farms too.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

- Seems to be.
- I didn't receive any letters of support for this application, though I don't think it was required.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

- Yes, clearly.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- Yes, although it seems like they're relying on additional farmers to attend their workshops and trainings to meet the measureables, not just program participants.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

- Yes, though less clearly or directly.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

- Love the level of detail. Probably going to need more toilet paper!
- Seems like a fairly small investment, with outsized impact for participants, and addressing a root cause of significant challenge for specialty crop growers.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

DATE: 4/11/22

EVALUATOR NAME: Alex 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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

- Yes, clearly, multiple (1 and 2).

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

- Seems to be.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

- Yes, clearly, multiple.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- Yes, clearly, and appropriate to project. Data collection plan is clear.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

- Yes, and multiple growers submitted letters of support. Also great to see the grower feedback from previous years being incorporated.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

- Seems to be.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Maine Potato Board

DATE:

4/11/22

EVALUATOR NAME:

Alex 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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

- Yes, clearly, multiple.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

- Seems to be.
- No letters of support, though they aren't required. Is this the same grower committed as Y1? Did they provide a letter of commitment in Y1 application?

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

- Yes, clearly.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- Yes, clearly. Their grower numbers might be a little high, considering they only have 1 grower involved in the research.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

- I think so. They only have 1 grower involved in the research though.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

- Are those fringe benefits high?
- Farmer land use charge is in supplies justification, but not the budget request.
- Are Extension personnel usually contracted?
- Love that they've included compensation for the grower's time.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: New England Apple Association
DATE: **4/9/22**
EVALUATOR NAME: Alex 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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

- Yes, clearly.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

- Seems to be.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

- Yes.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- Yes, though not very robustly.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

- I think so, but it doesn't seem like a very direct impact on specific producers. Maybe the three who are being interviewed.
- I don't think they made a strong case for an inventory of historical assets. What value does that bring to the project? How does that help growers market their products?

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

- The travel costs are a little unclear with X people taking the trip in the budget and less people taking the trip in the budget justification.
- Would like to see compensation for the apple growers who are getting interviewed. Also, why isn't John Bunker included as a contractor?
- The contractors are very well qualified!

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Newdawns Farms

DATE:

4/11/22

EVALUATOR NAME:

Alex 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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

- Yes, multiple ones.
- Although they indicate food safety, it's not selected as an outcome.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

- Is this an ag operation? Are they required to have an organizational letter of support? I did not see one included.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

- Sort of?

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- Proposal is only for one year. Will that be enough time to document successes and failures? How far along are they on these plans?
- 150 stakeholders that will learn from this project? That seems ambitious? Generally all of their indicators seem ambitious, as well as the number of outcomes for this project.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

- I don't think extensively so, as they've outlined the project. I think it could in the future, but they don't have many growers involved in this research or interested/supportive.
- Have they researched the tunnel orchards in other parts of the country or world?
- How does the project benefit socially disadvantaged farmers? They ticked the box, but there's no mention of it in the narrative.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

- Is a \$10k tunnel going to be large enough for an orchard? They don't have a specified model in the budget.
- What maturity trees are they purchasing in? When will they yield? Have they considered different varieties?
- Would have liked more info about the costs.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: UMS - Annis

DATE:

4/11/22

EVALUATOR NAME:

Alex 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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

- Yes clearly, multiple.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

- Seems to be.
- LOS from WBB Commission, Cherryfield Foods, and Wyman's

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

- Yes, clearly, multiple.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- Yes, clearly. Robust data collection plan.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

- How does this project support socially disadvantaged farmers?
- Yes, seems like it will impact multiple growers, though it would be great to see more about growers who are adopting different management practices based on this research, if that's happening.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

- Yes, complete.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: UMS - Calderwood

DATE:

4/11/22

EVALUATOR NAME:

Alex 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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

- Yes, multiple, clearly.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

- Total # of project beneficiaries missing.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

- Yes, clearly.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- Summary of previous efforts outcomes is so good. So appreciative of those specifics.
- Yes, clearly defined and a robust data collection plan.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

- Yes, and there are grower letters of support.
- How does the project benefit socially disadvantaged farmers?

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

- Is this a high fringe rate?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: UMS - Dill

DATE:

04/09/22

EVALUATOR NAME:

Alex 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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

- Yes, clearly, and multiple.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

- Yes, seems to be. No letters of support, but I don't think they are required. Still would be good to see grower support and interest.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

- Yes, clearly.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- They are clear, and they have a data collection plan.
- Though, I think their indicator estimates are pretty low-impact for the extensiveness of their research and budget.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

- I think so. But not many growers, and no growers have been identified. It's unclear if the 40 monitored fields are Extension/UMaine or grower fields.
- The text and email availability of data and interpretation seems like it would be really valuable.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

- Yes, complete and detailed.
- Fringe rate is high.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: UMS - Hao

DATE:

4/9/22

EVALUATOR NAME:

Alex 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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

- Yes, clearly.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

- Budget breakdown is missing some details. Otherwise, I think so.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

- Yes, clearly.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- Indicators are clear, but without any info about data collection, it's hard to judge if they are achievable.
- There is not sufficient explanation of the data collection plan for indicators.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

- Unclear. I think so. But there's no grower support. I had questions about if this is even a grower-identified need. The first two objectives of the proposal are focused on determining if there's an issue and what's causing it. They don't supply much evidence that this is an emerging issue.
- Checked that this proposal supports socially disadvantaged farmers, but I don't see how.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: UMS - Hao

DATE:

4/9/22

EVALUATOR NAME:

Alex Fouliard

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:

Maine Farmland Trust

- Outcome 7, Indicator 5 states that for a \$76k investment, they anticipate 500 additional acres will be managed with soil health practices, and 300 for biodiversity, so at most 800 acres, which is not much potato land.
- Why is fringe rate so high for a 25% FTE Field tech?
- Airfare for trip #1 seems high.
- Mileage for trips #2 also seems high. 4090 miles, in 9 days is 450 mi/dy. Is that a reasonable expectation? Where is the lab based?
- Supplies budget details is incomplete.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: UMS - Perry

DATE:

04/09/2022

EVALUATOR NAME:

Alex 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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

- Yes, clearly. And multiple.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

- Seems to be.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

- Yes, clearly. And multiple.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- Really strong plans.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

- Are two farms going to provide enough data points to draw conclusions for all the factors specified (such as CV vs. OG, burn vs. mow, rake vs. pull behind)?

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

- TBD conference costs: what are those for? Don't recall mention of them in the narrative. Is it primarily for the benefit of the Grad student?
- Is there any compensation to the growers who are providing berries and access?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 4/12/22
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.
Yes, year 3 of a multiyear project and marketing to diversified and expanded markets.
Acknowledging that there is an effort to develop a stand alone entity, Maine Wild Blueberry Wine Trade Group, to continue these marketing efforts in the future.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.
The proposal is complete. Very thorough explanation of outcomes and lessons learned from the previous two years of the project. Well thought out and written project proposal.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).
Yes focusing on sustainability. Provided an explanation as to how this would be accomplished.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.
This is a multiyear project and the year 3 outcomes are building off the previous two years of outcomes. Data will be collected on sales, marketing and job creation etc. but there is no indication as to how this data will be used or presented.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.'
5 wine producers, 10 growers and 500 blueberry growers. Question how the 500 growers will be directly impacted.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.
35% of the budget is to subsidize growers for their blueberries. Will this third year generate enough productions from growers to continue the growth of this product? There is no detailed explanation of how the trade group materials will be used.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Growing to Give
DATE: 4/9/22
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area. There seems to be a component of food safety training of potential farm workers. There also seems to be a component of hands on training to work on a farm. It is a little unclear what percentage of the training is for food safety.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA. It seems that goal of the project is to train farm workers to be able to work for local farmers. There seems to already be a Farm Skills Program, but not any detail of what is included. It is unclear how this will be accomplished, so there needs to be more detail of the actual training. Is this funding geared to training farmers on food safety or potential farm workers? There is some reference within USDA strategies to training in 2023 and 2022. Which is being funded as part of this project? Aspects of this project are funded by another federal program: WIOA (Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act). Is this a conflict?

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A). Again it indicates that new farm workers will be trained on food safety and climate-friendly farming practices. Are these strategies aimed at farmers implementing these processes or farm workers? This project is focusing on getting more farm workers trained.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection. Outcomes will be measured by surveying participants. No specifics regarding what will be included in the survey questions.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers. There will be 20 potential farm workers trained, but it is not clear how many specialty crop growers will benefit. There were quotes in the application from 2 vegetable farmers. Maybe 5 farmers or farm managers.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost. There seems to be 3 people who will be helping with the Farm Skills program, but it is not clear exactly their roles as there seems to be overlap. This should be more clearly defined. Supplies are included for a bathroom and hand washing stations, but not for the actual bathroom and

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Growing to Give

DATE: 4/9/22

EVALUATOR NAME: Ann Gibbs

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

handwashing stations. Are these supplies used at the farm facilities? It is a very reasonable budget, but there needs to be better explanation of the components.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

DATE: 4/9/22

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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area. This is the third year continuation of a project dealing with food safety education. A well-written explanation regarding how this third year project is different and builds off the first 2 years previously funded projects.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA. The proposal is complete and adheres to the RFA. Reference to PFAS contamination and it would be helpful to understand how PFAS is regulated under these federal programs. This would be an important aspect to the SOPs being developed.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A). Yes it addresses 2 strategies: enhanced food safety and improving capacity of farms to comply with FSMA, GHP/GAP providing cost share. Indicated there were letters of reference, but none were included.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection. Increasing food safety knowledge and processes. They will focus on surveying participants at various times during the project to make certain they meet certain criteria. The data collection and reporting builds off previous experience.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers. Will work to train about 115 farmers (both organic and conventional) and of this group provide 15 with funding to make on-farm improvements to mitigate food safety risks.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost. Budget seems reasonable with about 10% for personnel and the bulk of the requested funding going directly to farmers to implement mitigation measures to enhance food safety. Thorough explanation of each budget item included.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 4/9/22
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.
Addresses two priorities: 1 (multi year project) 3 (improve pest management and biodiversity).

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.
It seems to be complete except for some discrepancies in the budget. No letters of support were included.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).
Addresses two priorities: research had the potential for conservation using intercropping and side in pest and disease control. Indicated it would enhance food safety, but don't think that is relevant.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

Outcomes would improve pest and disease control processes and improve environmental sustainability of specialty crops (potatoes). Data will be collected from a field trial on one commercial farm using randomized complete blocks with 4 treatments. Survey of 50 fields to quantify the impact of volunteer potatoes. Disease testing will be done on leaf samples and results will be analyzed and shared with growers. Designated individuals were identified for data collection and analysis.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.
Most potato growers in Maine will benefit from this project, but especially the 110 seed growers

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.
64% of the budget is for personnel. In the supplies section justification there is a reference to a farmer land use charge of \$950, but this was not included in the budget. In the contract section there is reference to grower cooperator payment of \$3000. Is there just one grower cooperator

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Meeting House Herbs LLC
DATE: 3/29/22
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.
Yes

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.
Not a very detailed explanation of the project purpose. Letters of support from external partners.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).
Yes

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.
A lot of passive data collection (attendance at meetings, additional farms etc.). It would be useful to track data for those implementing food safety measures.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.
30 Maine Farms.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate the anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost. Personnel is 80% of the budget. There is no details about the qualifications of personnel funded in this project. Not a lot of detail about the equipment to be rented or the work proposed by the contractor. Who is being charged yearly membership that is included in the program income?
Generally not enough detail in the budget.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: New England Apple Association
DATE: 4/11/22
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area. Indicates that this project will expand markets for specialty crops in this case apples. There are not very many specifics regarding how this will be done.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA. The applicant has completed all the sections of the proposal, but there is details lacking on the specifics of the project and data collection.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A). Increasing child and adult nutrition value of specialty crops in this case apples. There are not specifics about how nutrition value will be conveyed to children and adults.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection. Outcome of increasing consumption and marketing of New England apples. This will impact between 2,000 – 5,000 people. Not a lot of detail on how the data will be collected and not certain they are clearly measurable.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers. Makes note of impacting 60 apple growers and 20 cider makers in Maine

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost. About 80% of the budget is for contracts to support personnel. These funds will mostly be used for travel and filming. The end result of the project will be archival quality oral histories, a database of old varieties of apples and travel to scout out and put in place to traveling museums. There is no funds to cover database development, and not clear that there were fund to cover the details of the traveling museums.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Newdawns Farms
DATE: 3/28/22
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.
Yes, but there is not much detailed information throughout the proposal regarding how the priority areas will be met.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.
No. Not enough detail in many of the sections of the proposal

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).
Project claims to comply with most of the strategies, but this is not explained in the rest of the proposal.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.
Project claims to benefit 50 stakeholders, but not clearly describe who these will be.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.
Not clearly stated who would benefit from this project.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.
Very little detail in the budget. The bulk of the money is to pay for tunnel and irrigation system, but few details about the components of these systems. What is a DMAIC format by a six sigma black belt for documenting research data?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Annis
DATE: 3/28/22
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.
Yes. Priorities 1,3,4 & 5.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.
Yes. Well written project summary and purpose. Thorough summary of

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).
Yes. Specialty crop research and pest and disease control.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.
The outcomes and data collection are well spelled out for each of the specific objectives

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.
Could impact 485 blueberry growers

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.
The budget is clearly laid out. Over 50% is for personnel. Includes expenses for graduate student tuition and health insurance.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Calderwood
DATE: 4/9/22
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.
Yes priorities 1 (multi-year project) 3 (enhance soil and biotic health) 5 (improve adaptation to climate change)

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.
The project is fairly complete, but did not list the number of beneficiaries and did not provide an explanation of other expenses requested in the budget. Letter of support were included.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).
Addresses two of the strategies: Investing in specialty crop research focusing on water conservation and pest and disease management and sustainability.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.
Outcomes will expand specialty crop research and development and improve environmental sustainability of specialty crops. Data collection is well laid out for each of the objections of the proposed project to meet the outcomes.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.
Project is focused on managing drought in blueberry crops. 300 growers will benefit from the results of this project, 40 will adapt these new sustainable best practices.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.
70%+ of the budget pays for a technician, graduate and undergrad students. \$9 K to pay for tuition and health insurance. Are these allowable expenses? No explanation of the other expenses included in the budget.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Dill
DATE: 3/29/22
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.
Yes, priorities 3 & 5 via and IPM scouting program for potatoes. Also this is a previously funded project.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.
Yes. This is an ongoing project that has been funded for many years. Is there any effort to make this effort more self-sustaining by getting growers more involved in scouting or charging a small fee for the service?

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).
Yes focusing on pest and disease control.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.
This project will impact a maximum of 25 stakeholder which seems low given the number of potato growers benefiting from this information.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.
400 commercial potato growers

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

About 75% of the budget is for personnel. Is there a need to 2 staff overseeing 8 students? Funds for 3 separate part time management positions in the budget which accounts for 33% of the budget.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Hao
DATE: 4/12/22
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area. Yes to enhance soil biotic health to enhance pest management and biodiversity. Utilizing several techniques to determine the best overall process for treating to control 2 important diseases of potatoes. Looking at alternatives to repeated soil fumigation treatments. This project is very timely and relevant to the potato growers in Maine.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA. The graphic on page 5 needs a more detailed key. Project objectives are included and details for meeting each objective are included. The projects looks at several strategies for soil borne disease management. Includes and explanation of a similar project funded to study soil health improvement.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A). Yes pest and disease control and sustainability. Control soilborne diseases by improving current strategies of soil treatment.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection. The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined focusing on research and pest and disease control processes. Not a lot of detail in the data collection section, but in the project objectives there was some detail on data collection.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers. The project will benefit 200 potato growers.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost. 70% of the budget is for personnel. Travel budget has an error in conference registration. Supplies list consumables, but no explanation of what this includes. No reference to the organic matter being supplied (lobster shells). Are these being donated to the project? Includes grad student tuition and health insurance.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Perry
DATE: 3/28/22
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.
Yes priority areas 2 and 4

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.
The proposal has all the pieces, but the budget needs more detail in sections.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).
Enhanced food safety

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.
Outcomes for increased knowledge regarding food safety will be via presentations and expanding speciality crop research will focus on collecting data to inform the next phase of the project.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.
Focused on marketing fresh wild blueberries. 3 producers will be involved and 1 distributor will be directly involved in the project. Project expected to impact 40 stakeholders.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.
50% of the budget pays for a graduate student. \$15.9 K to pay for publication costs, tuition and health insurance. Are these allowable expenses/

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 4-11-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

In Year Three of this proposed project, we will continue to directly address Commissioner Priority Area #4: Projects that market Maine specialty crops to diversified and expanded markets. Through this project, we will expand the supply, demand and infrastructure for low-intervention sparkling wines made with 100% Maine wild blueberries through a strategy that targets the Millennial market outside Maine. By working to build a national category for low-intervention Maine wild blueberry wine, this project can help expand a market for wild blueberry value-added products with significant untapped potential for growth, as evidenced by today's \$25 billion low-alcohol and natural drinks segment that includes natural wine, ciders, wild beers, kombucha, and hard seltzer, which together are projected to hit \$40 billion in 2025.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

Page 8 asks for 3 to 5 sentences, they provided 7+ paragraphs.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

The USDA Project Strategy of sustainability lies at the heart of this project for winemakers, growers, and other industry stakeholders alike. Our sustainability strategies focus on:

- 1) Expanding consumer markets for wild blueberry wine. Specialized distributors in California, Massachusetts and New York have been early focus areas as we seek to build sustainable year-round national and international markets for Maine wild blueberry wine. These larger markets provide the scale needed for sustainable growth and lasting impact. Capturing even a tiny percentage of the global multi-billion market for natural wine, ciders, wild beers, kombucha, and hard seltzer would be transformative for the Maine wild blueberry industry.*
- 2) Expanding small- and mid-sized growers' market for their wild blueberries. A handful of major processors are the only wholesale customers for many growers, with payments customarily delayed months after harvest. Our work to connect a growing number of winemakers with an ever-expanding pool of growers seeks to create alternative markets for these growers and provide real-time competitive field prices that can boost long-term sustainability.*
- 3) Building infrastructure needed for continued industry growth. Project partners include a coalition of winemakers, growers, and industry stakeholders who continue to work together on supply chain issues that connect grower to producer to distributor. Addressing these issues, which range from fruit*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Blue Barn LLC

DATE: 4-11-2022

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

transport, shared juicing infrastructure, excise tax policy, alcohol distributor education, among others, is key to long-term sustainability for the industry. These efforts also impact the USDA Project Strategy of improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

Outcome 1: Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops

1.1a Total number of adult consumers who gain knowledge about Maine wild blueberries via wine marketing and education - Year 3: 1000 consumers of products and marketing, as measured by social media shares of informational posts and industry event encounters

1.2a Total number of adult consumers who consume more Maine wild blueberries via wine - Year 3: 5000 new consumers of Maine wild blueberry sparkling wine, as measured by increases in year-over-year sales

1.3a Number of additional Maine wild blueberries customers counted - Year 3: 5000 new customers of Maine wild blueberry sparkling wine, as measured by increases in year-over-year sales

1.5a and b Increased non-Maine sales of Maine wild blueberry sparkling wine measured in dollars and percent change: Year 3: 66% increase from \$150,000 to \$250,000

1.5a and b Increased sales of wild blueberries by growers to wine producers - Year 3: increase from \$120,000 to \$150,000, at an average price of \$.85/lb.

Outcome 2: Increasing Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and Distribution

2.1 Number of stakeholders that gained technical knowledge about producing, preparing, procuring and/or accessing specialty crops - Year 3: 50, as measured by participation in educational events and winemaking seminars

2.2 Number of stakeholders that reported producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing more specialty crops - Year 3: 6, as measured by reporting by wild blueberry wine producers

2.3c and 2.3d Number of existing market access points that expanded Maine wild blueberry offerings - Year 3: 40 existing non-Maine grocery stores that expanded/improved offerings of value-added wine products (2.3c); 40 new non-Maine grocery stores offering value-added wine products (2.3d).

2.6 and 2.6a Total number of partnerships established between producers, distributors and/or other relevant intermediaries - Year 3: 10 partnerships, including 5 partnerships formalized with contracts between wine producers, wild blueberry growers and/or alcohol distributors.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Blue Barn LLC
DATE: 4-11-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

2.7 Total number of new/improved distribution systems developed - Year 3: 5 new distributors of Maine wild blueberry sparkling wine, as measured by Trade Group reporting

2.8a and b, Number of wild blueberry-related jobs created and maintained - Year 3: 5 jobs created, 10 jobs maintained, as measured by Trade Group reporting

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

5 wine producers (product sales); 10 growers (fruit sales); 500 growers (ecosystem efforts); Maine tourism stakeholders; Maine wild blueberry industry stakeholders.

The project does not directly benefit socially disadvantaged or beginning farmers.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

Expense Category	Funds Requested
Personnel	\$0
Fringe Benefits	\$0
Travel	\$13,000
Equipment	\$0
Supplies	\$37,000
Contractual	\$45,000
Other	\$5,000
Direct Costs Sub-Total	\$100,000
Indirect Costs	\$0
Total Budget	\$100,000

Additional Info: 7 letters of support

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Em's Herbs LLC
DATE: 4-13-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

(2) This project will seek to improve the capacity of growers & producers in the Maine herb market to comply with the requirements of the food safety modernization act by developing good agricultural practices for growing, processing & drying herbs. Specifically, we will partner with MOFGA to create an education series and farm visits to provide education on growing, drying, drying rooms and processing medicinal herbs safely. This project will fund resources to answer questions and offer guidance for all collaborative farms with a special focus on new farmers. (3) This project will enhance soil and biotic health by encouraging farmers to grow herbs in addition to traditional crops on their farm. Herbs increase biodiversity on vegetable, animal and flower farms. Many herbs can be grown, sold and also act as a cover crop, building soil health. (4) This project will grow a market for Maine specialty crops (herbs) to expanded markets within Maine and throughout the US through enhanced online marketplace and wholesale opportunities (5) This project will help Maine farms to improve adaptation and increase resilience to climate related crop disturbances in support of long-term farm vitality. As vegetable, flower and animal farmers add herbs into their crop plan this brings diversity to not only the farm and soil but also to the farm income. This project will assist in mitigating climate change through biodiversity of crop and improve soil health with crops that need little pest management and thrive in poor soils – in some cases actually improving the health of those soils. This will be accomplished as additional farmers add herbs to their crop plan.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

Budget section, per mile rate omitted, and the travel justification is incomplete.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

This project will improve the efficiency of the distribution system by enhancing one central location for farmers to sell their herb crop and one location for wholesalers and retail customers to purchase herbs online. An online market allows consumers and wholesale accounts outside of Maine access to these herbs – creating an efficiently expanded reach

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Em's Herbs LLC

DATE: 4-13-2022

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

for farms. This model is already functioning to reduce the cost to sell herbs for farmers by sharing the cost of marketing and ecommerce across all of the collaborative farms. This project will enhance an already functioning model allowing more farms to take advantage of the collaborative. This project will include a pickup system that will collect herbs from the farms. These visits will make it easier for farmers to get product to market, allow this project to check in on the farms, offer education and answer questions.

This project improves sustainability of Maine farms in three ways. First, it encourages collaborative farms to add biodiversity to their farms with herb crops. Many herbs can also be used as cover crops – building the soil and then being sold at market after harvest. Second, participating farms can diversify their income by adding herbs to their crop plan. Many herbs are perennial and a single planting can yield years of harvest. Finally, this project will reduce carbon footprint by encouraging consumers to purchase herbs locally instead of from large out of state producers.

Sustainability will be impacted through our farm education and outreach efforts funded with this project.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

Outcome 1 Indicators:

1.3 Number of additional specialty crop customers counted: 100.

1.4 Number of additional business transactions executed: 200.

1.5 Increased sales measured in 1.5b Percent change 30%.

Outcome 2 Indicators

2.1 Number of stakeholders that gained technical knowledge about producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing specialty crops: 40.

2.2 Number of stakeholders that reported producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing more specialty crops: 40.

2.4 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about more efficient and effective distribution systems 30.

2.5 Number of stakeholders that adopted best practices or new technologies to improve distribution systems 20.

Outcome 3 Indicators

3.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about prevention, detection, control, and/or intervention food safety practices, including relevant regulations (to improve their ability to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and/or meet the standards for aligned third party food safety audits such as Harmonized GAP/GHP): 20

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Em's Herbs LLC
DATE: 4-13-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

Estimate the number of project beneficiaries: 30 Maine Farms, 4 Maine Co-Ops, 100+ Maine retail consumers. This project directly benefits socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

Expense Category	Funds Requested
Personnel	80.4K
Fringe Benefits	0
Travel	1.6K
Equipment	8K
Supplies	5K
Contractual	MOFGA 3K
Other	2K Advertising
Direct Costs Sub-Total	100K
Indirect Costs	0
Total Budget	100K

*Travel calculated at .5925 per mile (not listed on proposal)
80% of Budget is Personnel*

Additional Info: 8 Letters of support

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Growing to Give
DATE: 4-11-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

Our Farm Skills Training Program provides an opportunity for participants to learn the skills necessary for the production of specialty crops. This training reduces barriers to employment by offering support in the form of a salary, transportation, and more to participants. The Training Program incorporates Commissioner Priority Area 2 by including Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Training as a component; offering that training to program participants, area farmers, farm managers, and as space allows, to key Growing to Give and Merrymeeting Gleaners staff and lead volunteers. This training enhances the food safety education of area farm workers, farmers, and partners working to increase access to specialty crops for all in our region.

Our Farm Skills Training Program incorporates Commissioner Priority Area 3 because of the innovative and climate friendly farming practices utilized at our primary training site, Growing to Give, a food bank farm in Brunswick. The farm is certified organic by MOFGA and Real Organic Project and biointensive and regenerative practices are used, including no-till bed preparation, diverse cover cropping, companion planting, living and non-living mulches, biochar use, and native perennial propagation. These practices enhance soil and biotic health and improve pest management and biodiversity. Upon graduating from the program as candidates for farm hand work across the state, participants will be equipped with an intimate understanding of how these techniques can be implemented to grow a broad range of specialty crops, and the overarching impact these practices have on soil carbon sequestration and increased biodiversity and how they relate to crop yield, soil health, climate change, and farm resilience.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

In 2023 Program Participants will receive an 8 hour training in food safety and handling. We will open this training to area farmers and cover the cost of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety certification (from the Association of Food and Drug Officials) for farmers as well as program participants. In 2022, Robson Machado, the lead FSMA Produce Safety Trainer, based at the University of Maine is leading this training. Increasing the number of farm employees and farmers trained in food

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Growing to Give
DATE: 4-11-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

safety enhances the food safety of our local food production chain and saves farmers training time and money.

Program Participants will be trained in sustainable and climate-friendly farming practices. Growing to Give staff have a strong commitment to soil-centered farming that promotes biodiversity beneath the surface, above the soil, and in the surrounding environment. Participants will learn the how and why of growing specialty crops using no-till, organic methods that prioritize soil health and carbon sequestration. This includes hands-on learning about use of smother tarps, companion planting, crop rotation, applications of different mulches and soil amendments, and choosing cover crop species based on soil needs, seasonal timing, and the crop plan. The overarching philosophy behind each practice will be emphasized, with the aim of building a broader understanding of how sustainable farming, healthy soil, and climate change are all interconnected.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

Outcome 2, Indicator 2.1 Number of stakeholders that gained technical knowledge about producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing specialty crops, 20+ (Minimum. 10+ program participants, 5+ farmers and staff plus Growing to Give staff and key volunteers participating in food safety training.)

Outcome 2, Indicator 2.2 Number of stakeholders that reported producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing more specialty crops 10+ (We will assess participant access to specialty crops AND Growing to Give's production for donation.)

Outcome 2, Indicator 2.8a Number of specialty crop-related jobs created 10+ (We will measure the number of program participants connected with on-farm employment within a year.)

Outcome 3, Indicator 3.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about prevention, detection, control, and/or intervention food safety practices, including relevant regulation (to improve their ability to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and/or meet the standards for aligned third party food safety audits such as Harmonized GAP/GHP) 20+ (Food safety training will be delivered to 10+ program participants, 5+ area farmers and farm managers, with additional room for Growing to Give staff and volunteers. We will survey all attending the training.)

Outcome 3, Indicator 3.2b Number of stakeholders that revised or updated their food safety plan 5+ (Farmers or farm managers attending training. We will survey farm staff attending the training.)

Outcome 3, Indicator 3.3 Number of specialty crop stakeholders who implemented new/improved prevention, detection, control, and intervention practices, tools, or technologies to mitigate food safety risks (to improve their ability to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and/or meet the standards for aligned third party food safety audits such as Harmonized GAP/GHP) 5+ (Farmers or farm managers attending training. We will survey farm staff attending the training.)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Growing to Give
DATE: 4-11-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

Outcome 7: Indicator 7.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies 10+ (Program participants. We will survey participants as part of program evaluation.)

Outcome 7: Indicator 7.2 Number of stakeholders reported with an intent to adopt environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies 10+ (Program participants. We will survey participants as part of program evaluation.)

Data collection for the above Outcomes and Indicators will be collected through our process of program tracking and evaluation as well as targeted surveys of training attendees (Program Participants and others).

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

20 minimum (10+ Program Participants, plus farmers, Growing to Give staff and volunteers that join training sessions).

The project directly benefits socially disadvantaged as beginning farmers.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

Expense Category	Funds Requested
Personnel	\$4520
Fringe Benefits	\$0
Travel	\$3387
Equipment	\$0
Supplies	\$266
Contractual	\$6000
Other	\$1700
Direct Costs Sub-Total	\$15,873
Indirect Costs	\$0
Total Budget	\$15,873

Travel budget doesn't add up.

- 1. 15 trips per participant at 30 miles per trip does = $1350 \times 1.63 = \$2200.50$ not \$2209.*
- 2. 5 trips per participant at 40 miles per trip – 600 miles $\times 1.63 = \$978$ not \$981.*

Additional Notes – No letters of support included.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
DATE: 4-12-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

Our project aligns with Priority #2. "Projects that enhance food safety education, primarily in relation to FDA rules regarding improved handling and processing of specialty crops."

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

Misc Outcome measure and Program income are both incomplete and the Commissioner Priority Area is not explained.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

Our proposal addresses the first two USDA Project Strategies: "Enhanced food safety" and "Improving the capacity of all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain to comply with the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act." We will accomplish these by providing, to a new group of farmers, needed one-on-one technical assistance to improve on-farm produce safety, help with SOP plans, and recommendations for upgrades, system changes, and facility layouts. We will provide enhanced educational workshops, trainings, on-farm demonstrations, and assistance with planning, construction, and renovation of infrastructure and equipment that align with Produce Safety Rule standards. We will also assist with grower/designer/builder communication and project planning. We will support the implementation of resultant plans with grants of up to \$10,000.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

3.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about prevention, detection, control, and/or intervention food safety practices, including relevant regulations (to improve their ability to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and/or meet the

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

DATE: 4-12-2022

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

standards for aligned third party food safety audits such as Harmonized GAP/GHP) _115__.

3.2 Number of stakeholders that:

3.2a Established a food safety plan _10__.

3.2b Revised or updated their food safety plan _5__.

3.3 Number of specialty crop stakeholders who implemented new/improved prevention, detection, control, and intervention practices, tools, or technologies to mitigate food safety risks (to improve their ability to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and/or meet the standards for aligned third party food safety audits such as Harmonized GAP/GHP) _15__.

3.4 Number of prevention, detection, control, or intervention practices developed or enhanced to mitigate food safety risks _50__.

3.5 Number of stakeholders that used grant funds to:

3.5a Purchase _5__.

3.5b Upgrade food safety equipment 10__.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

A range of grants up to \$10,000 (averaging \$5,000) will be awarded to 15 farmers for the purpose of reimbursing on-farm food safety investments. Financial support for food safety improvements will directly increase the food safety on-farm and is tied to the development of a broader food safety plan required of program participants, magnifying the impact of the direct investment.

Estimate the number of project beneficiaries: 115

This project benefits beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged farmers.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

<i>Expense Category</i>	<i>Funds Requested</i>
<i>Personnel</i>	<i>\$9,479.71</i>
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	
<i>Travel</i>	
<i>Equipment</i>	
<i>Supplies</i>	

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

DATE: 4-12-2022

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

<i>Contractual</i>	<i>\$7,326.61</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>\$75,000.00</i>
<i>Direct Costs Sub-Total</i>	
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	
<i>Total Budget</i>	<i>\$91,806.32</i>

I like the pass thru back to the farmers being the bulk of this budget.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 4-12-22
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

Our project incorporates priority areas (1), (3), and (5). (1) This is the second-year application for a possible three-year study. (3) Our project looks to improve pest management of potato viruses by increasing the use of cultural control measures with the expected outcome of decreased pesticide applications and incorporating intercropping into our potato production. (5) Improve management of volunteer potatoes which have emerged in the past five years as a significant pest, harboring potato diseases and insects of consequence to our potato production. This increase is largely seen a direct effect of climate change and warmer than normal falls and winters.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

No external project support.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

This project will help enhance food safety with the goal with the goal of decreasing the need for insecticide sprays for the management of aphid virus vectors in our potato production system. This project will invest in research that has the potential to have conservation and environmental benefits. Through the cultural methods of intercropping and crop borders, grower adoption would help increase landscape biodiversity, decrease pesticide use, and would additionally benefit growers by mitigating soil erosion and nutrient run-off. The project will aid in pest and disease control through decreasing the spread of aphid-vectorred viruses and improved control of volunteer potato disease reservoirs.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

4.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about science-based tools to combat pests and diseases _110__.

4.2 Number of stakeholders that adopted pest and disease control best practices, technologies, or innovations _20__.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Maine Potato Board
DATE: 4-12-22
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

4.5 Total number of producers/processors that enhanced or maintained pest and disease control practices _20__.
Of those, the number that reported: 4.5a Reduction in product lost to pest and diseases _15__.
4.5b Improved crop quality _10__.
4.5c Reduction in labor costs _0__.
4.5d Reduction in pesticide use _20__

7.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies _110__.
7.2 Number of stakeholders reported with an intent to adopt environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies _30__.
7.3 Number of producers that adopted environmental best practices or tools _20__.
7.4 Number of new tools/technologies developed or enhanced to improve sustainability/conservation or other environmental outcomes _2__.
7.5 Number of additional acres managed with sustainable practices, tools, or technologies that focused on:
7.5a Water quality/ conservation _2000__.
7.5b Soil health _2000__.
7.5c Biodiversity _2000__.
7.5d Reduction in energy use ____.
7.5e Other positive environmental outcomes (optional) _2000 decreased pesticide usage.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

This project will directly benefit Maine's 110 seed potato producers.
This project will indirectly benefit an additional 190 of Maine's process and table stock growers who procure seed from Maine.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

Expense Category	Funds Requested
Personnel	\$35,900
Fringe Benefits	\$17,255
Travel	\$1,594
Equipment	0
Supplies	\$4,856
Contractual	\$13,000
Other	\$11,100
Direct Costs Sub-Total	\$83,705
Indirect Costs	0
Total Budget	\$83,705

Additional Info: No letters of support

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: New England Apple Association
DATE: 3-17-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

#4 - increase the marketing power of Maine apples by preserving and promoting its history to help distinguish Maine apples from those grown outside the New England region.

The project will strengthen the marketing of Maine apples and ciders while contributing to a feasibility study for a proposed New England Museum of Apples and Cider that would provide year-round promotion and attract additional marketing funds from allied industries.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

No, the proposal is not complete, The Continuation of Project Information and the Miscellaneous Outcome Measure sections are both missing. Did we fund this last year?

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

#6: "Distinguishing Maine Apples Through History, Varieties, and Ciders" will increase child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops through in-state promotional events for apples and ciders (a "traveling museum"), and contribute to the New England Apple Industry's long-term sustainability through the year-round presence of a museum that will raise new marketing funds from the general public, cultural and historic preservation organizations, and tourism.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

Outcome 1, Indicator 1.1: 5,000 children and adults will gain knowledge about Maine-grown apples, ciders, and other value-added apple products.

Outcome 1, Indicator 1.1a: 2,000 children will gain knowledge Maine-grown apples, ciders, and other value-added apple products.

Outcome 1, Indicator 1.1b: 3,000 adults will gain knowledge Maine-grown apples, ciders, and other value-added apple products.

Outcome 1, Indicator 1.2: 4,000 children and adults will consume more Maine-grown apples, ciders, and other value-added apple products.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: New England Apple Association

DATE: 3-17-2022

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

Outcome 1, Indicator 1.2a: 1,500 children will consume more Maine-grown apples, ciders, and other value-added apple products.

Outcome 1, Indicator 1.2b: 2,500 adults will consume more Maine-grown apples, ciders, and other value-added apple products.

Attendance and sales figures will be collected at the two "traveling museum" events to calculate the number of people who gain knowledge of apples and ciders, and their consumption of these Specialty Crops at these novel marketing events.

Most of the benchmarks of the proposal are not immediately economically measurable but include the stated targets of a written inventory of Maine's cultural and historic artifacts; a database of preservation orchards, and three archival-quality oral histories. We will record the number of orchards contacted or visited, and the number and characteristics of artifacts and their potential availability to a museum.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

Direct beneficiaries include the 60 orchards listed on the Maine Pomological Society website and the state's 20-plus commercial cideries. But every grower and producer, large and small, will benefit from the excitement, regional pride, and increased sales and consumption resulting from this project.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

Ask \$56,198 includes travel \$8,698, supplies \$500, Contracts \$41,500 and hall/tent rental \$5,500.

No details on booth rental income, how many at what cost, to who???

Additional Info: 3 letters of support provided

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Newdawns Farms
DATE: 4-12-22
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

This project will incorporate priority areas three, four, and five in the following ways. We will create diversity in soils by laying cover crop within the orchard. These crops mixed with the compost created from other parts of the farm will help us to ensure we have the proper balance of microorganism to enhance our soils and maintain a healthy balance over the pest attracted to the trees we plant. We will use the methodology of inclusive ecosystem farming and document how this method helps peach, cherry, and nectarine trees thrive in our colder climates. We will use this research to educate other farmers on how these practices can diversify and expand Maine's position in the market for the specialty crops. Publishing our findings and establishing our stone fruit tunnel orchard will strengthen Maine position in the local availability of the high demand specialty crops and make us less reliant on external market to meet the demand we have in our state. Once the project is fully implemented and the orchards have reached their highest productivity we will have the capacity to serve new demand markets outside of our state and create a demand for Maine grown stone fruits. By using our tunnel orchard system to create the ideal needed climate conditions to incorporate a biodiverse ecosystem that will make these stone fruit trees more resilient and capable of sustaining and even thriving in our climate. These This method will help create long term farm business vitality and productivity for stone fruits.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

No external project support, outcome indicators missing measurable info, no misc outcome measure, no data collection measures, program income (or none) left blank.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

This project will improve the capacity of all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain to comply with the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act by developing " Good Agricultural Practices." The practices of using diverse soil sediments that are created naturally and organically on our farm and the use of cover crop to protect those soils are good farming practices that we will document and publish so other farmers have the tools they need to develop these practices on their farms. The implementation of the tunnel ecosystem will teach farmers how to work with nature and use its natural balance to make maintaining pests easier. The specialty crop research done in this project is geared toward using what nature teaches us about balance and applying that to farming practices. By conservation of the soils we will strengthen the stones fruits ability to with stand the climate. We will create a balance that allow the trees to fight off the pest and climate and not take away from the ecosystem around them. This research will be documented in a DMAIC format by a six-sigma black belt so other farms can replicate these

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Newdawns Farms
DATE: 4-12-22
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

practices. By implementing this type of farming and creating a tool to teach other farmers to do so as well we will create sustainability in farming practices with every farm that implements our methods. We will also strengthen the knowledge in those farms' communities about ecosystem farming and the great specialty crops it can create.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

*Outcome 1, Indicator 1.5b Percentage change- measured by the number of farms that implement these practices
Outcome 2, Indicator 2.1 Number of stakeholders that gained technical knowledge about producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing specialty crops 150.
Outcome 2, Indicator 2.2 Number of stakeholders that reported producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing specialty crops 50.
Outcome 4, Indicator 4.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about science-based tools to combat pests and diseases 50.
Outcome 4, Indicator 4.2 Number of stakeholders that adopted pest and disease control best practices, technologies, or innovation 50.
Outcome 6, Indicator 6.1 Number of research goals accomplished 5
Outcome 6, Indicator 6.4 Total number of research outputs published to industry publications and/or academic journals 20. For each published research outputs, the: 6.4a Number of views/ reads of published research/data 200.
Outcome 7, Indicator 7.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about environmental sustainability best practices, tools or technologies 150.
Outcome 7, Indicator 7.2 Number of stakeholders reported with intent to adopt environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies 50.*

These are not clearly measurable – no explanation.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

The research from this project will be publish in established farming blogs, on social media platforms with 850 plus followers, and there will be how to guides and videos published on YouTube so that Maine farmers will have access to these tools in various ways. We will also provide a forum for questions to be answered for any farmers trying to replicate these practices.

This project directly benefits socially disadvantage and beginning farmers.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

Expense Category	Funds Requested
Personnel	0
Fringe Benefits	0
Travel	0
Equipment	\$14,900
Supplies	\$3010
Contractual	0
Other	0
Direct Costs Sub-Total	0
Indirect Costs	0

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Newdawns Farms
DATE: 4-12-22
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

Total Budget	\$17910
---------------------	----------------

Budget is all equipment and fruit trees! Adds up.

*Additional Info – No external project support or letters or support.
I like this project concept, but the proposal is lacking key elements.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Annis
DATE: 4-7-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

This project will incorporate studies that will address Commissioner Priority Areas 3, 4 and 5.

Improve the crop's ability to mitigate the damage of disease on crop health and yield, and increase the resilience of the wild blueberries to wetter springs and summer drought under a changing climate (Priority area 5).

If we can find lower risk fungicides or if fertilizer treatments alone are effective without fungicide applications, we may be able to open up new markets for wild blueberry (Priority area 4) that are currently closed or restricted due to the necessity of fungicide use to control leaf spots.

By comparing the microbiome of blueberries under these different conditions, we can determine if certain microbes are associated with plant health or disease management (Priority area 3).

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

This project directly addresses USDA Strategies on "Investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes", "pest and disease control", and "sustainability". This project will examine the impact of leaf spot diseases on the specialty crop, wild lowbush blueberries.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

Outcome 4. Indicator 1: *Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about science-based tools to combat pests and diseases: 300.*

Outcome 6. Indicator 1: *Number of research goals accomplished: 4.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Annis
DATE: 4-7-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

Outcome 6. Indicator 2: *For research conclusions, the number that:*

6.2a Yielded findings that supported the continued research: 4.

Outcome 6. Indicator 3: *Number of industry representatives and other stakeholders who engaged with research results: 300.*

Outcome 6. Indicator 4: *Total number of research outputs published to industry publications and/or academic journals: 2. For each published research output, the:*

6.4a Number of views/reads of published research/data _ 100__.

Outcome 7. Indicator 1. *Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies: 300.*

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

Est 485 project beneficiaries including socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

Expense Category	Funds Requested
Personnel	\$49,289
Fringe Benefits	\$9,618
Travel	\$8,340
Equipment	\$0
Supplies	\$5,540
Contractual	
Other	\$20,682
Direct Costs Sub-Total	\$93,469
Indirect Costs	\$0
Total Budget	\$93,469

Budget appears accurate and is detailed.

Other: 3 Letters of support

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Calderwood
DATE: 4-7-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

Our project activities and goals align closely with priorities 3 “projects to enhance soil and biotic health to improve pest management and biodiversity” and 5 “projects that improve adaptation and increase resilience to climate-related crop disturbances in support of long-term farm business vitality and productivity, such as through projects that address specialty crop’s ability to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change, conserve agricultural land and water, detect and manage emerging pests and diseases, or implementation of practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases, and/or improve soil health.” Specifically, we aim to hone in on drought management practices for wild blueberry growers by identifying what wild blueberry development stage(s) require water for optimum performance and further examine mulch and biochar as materials to apply to increase soil moisture. These approaches can significantly increase the resilience of the wild blueberry production system to climate disturbances in the future. With the application of mulches and biochar we plan to explore soil microorganisms in the wild blueberry rhizosphere to bolster soil health practices

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA except for the number of beneficiaries on page 8 is incomplete.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A). This project addresses two of the USDA Project Strategies: A) Investing in specialty crop research including pest and disease control and increasing efficiency and B) Sustainability. Specifically, disease presence and severity will be documented in both irrigation timing and soil amendment rate trials. Our identification of what stage(s) of wild blueberry development require irrigation improves crop efficiency and the sustainability of wild blueberry production. Our exploration of soil microorganisms in wild blueberry is long overdue and will contribute to soil health management for this unique but culturally and economically important crop.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Calderwood
DATE: 4-7-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

Outcome 7, Indicator 2. Number of stakeholders reported with an intent to adopt environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies: 40.

Outcome 7, Indicator 4. Number of new tools/technologies developed or enhanced to improve sustainability/ conservation or other environmental outcomes: 3.

Outcome 6, Indicator 3. Number of industry representatives and other stakeholders who engaged with research results: 300.

Outcome 7, Indicator 1. Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies: 300.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

700 growers and stakeholders.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

<i>Expense Category</i>	<i>Funds Requested</i>
<i>Personnel</i>	<i>\$62,474</i>
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	<i>\$19,837</i>
<i>Travel</i>	<i>\$730</i>
<i>Equipment</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Supplies</i>	<i>\$1,524</i>
<i>Contractual</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>\$14,840</i>
<i>Direct Costs Sub-Total</i>	<i>\$99,405</i>
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Total Budget</i>	<i>\$99,405</i>

Travel is inflated – 164 RT miles from UMaine to Jonesboro and 115 miles from UMaine to Deblois – budget lists 166 miles each for all 10 trips

Additional Info – 3 Letters of support

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Dill
DATE: 4-1-22
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

This project incorporates Priority Areas 3 and 5. The project will rely heavily on the utilization of past and present weather data to model and predict climate conditions that are conducive to insect and plant disease outbreaks. Modeling and subsequent field evaluation of these models will allow for proactive responses to climate-related shifts in emerging potato pest complexes. A focus on minimizing pesticide use through increased grower adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) strategies can have the combined effect of reducing crop production costs and enhancing soil and biotic health within potato production systems.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

The primary objectives of this project specifically address the USDA Project Strategy regarding pest and disease control. Through a combination of widespread field monitoring, plant disease forecasting, and grower outreach, the implementation of IPM will be facilitated throughout the Maine potato industry. Applied research into emerging pests and the incorporation of weather/climate data into pest forecasting will enhance our understanding of pest distribution and allow for proactive responses to emerging threats to potato crop health. In addition to dissemination of information, this project relies on a collaborative effort between University of Maine researchers and Maine potato growers to create a network of monitoring sites that will provide potato pest information on a statewide level.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

- 4.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about science-based tools to combat pests and diseases: 25.
- 4.2 Number of stakeholders that adopted pest and disease control best practices, technologies, or innovations 25.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Dill
DATE: 4-1-22
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

- 4.5 Total number of producers/processors that enhanced or maintained pest and disease control practices 20. Of
- those, the number that reported:
 - 4.5a Reduction in product lost to pest and diseases 12.
 - 4.5b Improved crop quality 12.
 - 4.5d Reduction in pesticide use 15.

Measurable: In order to evaluate expected measurable outcomes, benchmark data from grower records, grower surveys, and from information gathered through the Potato IPM Program during the previous growing seasons will be collected. Performance measures will be based upon a written evaluation survey to measure the effectiveness of the educational and practical components of the program which will be circulated to program participants as well as newsletter and grower training recipients. In addition, grower records and spray logs will be compared to identify effective management strategies and to determine the relationship between these strategies and crop yield/quality.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

Approximately 400 commercial potato growers including both socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

Expense Category	Funds Requested
Personnel	\$70,768
Fringe Benefits	\$11,808
Travel	\$10,159
Equipment	0
Supplies	\$4,002
Contractual	0
Other	0
Direct Costs Sub-Total	\$96,737
Indirect Costs	0
Total Budget	\$96,737

Supply list is detailed

Other: No letters of support

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Hao
DATE: 3-18-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

#3: "to enhance soil and biotic health to improve pest management and biodiversity." The proposed soil treatments tend to improve the soil health and enhance biodiversity, which will increase the efficacy of soil fumigation and likely to eliminate the accelerated degradation. This strategy can improve the quality and sustainability of disease management as a long-term consideration.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

This proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA with the exception of the supplies section of the budget is missing details.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

This project is on the alignment with "pest and disease control" and "sustainability" strategies. The focus is to effectively control soilborne diseases of potato by improving current strategies of soil treatment and retain its consistency of efficacy. Using biological based materials to enhance the disease control will greatly enhance microbial diversity of soil and sustainability of potato production.

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

O4 | 1-2-5, O6 | 1-2, O7 | 1-2-5

Outcome 4, Indicator 1. Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about science-based tools to combat pests and diseases _50_.

Outcome 4, Indicator 2. Number of stakeholders that adopted pest and disease control best practices, technologies, or innovations _50_.

Outcome 4, Indicator 5 Total number of producers/processors that enhanced or maintained pest and disease control practices _3_. Of those, the number that reported:

a Reduction in product lost to pest and diseases _3_. b Improved crop quality _3_.

c Reduction in labor costs _0_. d Reduction in pesticide use _2_.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Hao
DATE: 3-18-2022
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

Outcome 6, Indicator 1 Number of research goals accomplished _2_.

*Outcome 6, Indicator 4 Total number of research outputs published to industry publications and/or academic journals _5_. For each published research output, the:
a Number of views/reads of published research/data _50_.
b Number of citations counted _30_.*

Outcome 7, Indicator 1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies _100_.

Outcome 7, Indicator 2 Number of stakeholders reported with an intent to adopt environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies _30_.

Outcome 7, Indicator 5 Number of additional acres managed with sustainable practices, tools, or technologies that focused on: b Soil health _500_. c Biodiversity _300_.

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

200

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

Expense Category	Funds Requested
Personnel	\$46,163
Fringe Benefits	\$5,674
Travel	\$3,800
Equipment	\$0
Supplies	\$7,200
Contractual	\$0
Other	\$13,443
Direct Costs Sub-Total	\$76,280
Indirect Costs	\$0
Total Budget	\$76,280

Supplies section not detailed, qty, per price, #pcs.

Additional Info: No letters of support

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Perry
DATE: 3-31-22
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
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:

The proposal is determined to address a Commissioner priority area.

The project primarily addresses Commissioner Priority Area 2. "2. Projects that enhance food safety education, primarily in relation to FDA rules regarding improved handling and processing of specialty crops." Work on this project will not only generate much needed data regarding the impact of handling and processing practices on the safety of fresh wild blueberries, but will also use these data for the generation of educational materials, scaffolded according to FDA rules (GAP, GHP, FSMA). To a lesser extent, the project also addresses Priority Area 4. There is currently very limited information regarding the expected shelf life and drivers of shelf life extension in fresh, unprocessed, Maine wild blueberries. This work will include directed, replicated shelf life studies, including determination of physical and/or microbial point of failure and assessment of handling practices on shelf life length. The knowledge generated by such experiments will allow participation in geographically expanded markets by virtue of accurate assessment of expected product quality across a longer transport chain.

The proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

I agree, the proposal is complete and adheres to the format outlined in the RFA.

The project utilizes designated USDA Project Strategies as stated in the RFA (part II section A).

*The project primarily addresses **enhanced food safety** for fresh Maine wild blueberries. Produce and environmental swab samples from processing lines, food contact surfaces, Zone 2 surfaces, etc. will be analyzed **across two growing seasons** to assess areas of concern that may harbor foodborne pathogens (*Salmonella*, *STEC*, *Listeria spp.*, etc.). The analysis will be based on published methods from the FDA Bacteriological Analytical Manual. Results of this sampling will be analyzed in concert with relevant metadata including, but not limited to management strategy (organic/conventional), method of harvest, current cleaning and sanitation practices (frequency, sanitizer used, etc.), surface composition, storage and ambient temperatures to ascertain practices that may be correlated with a higher likelihood of contamination.*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: UMS - Perry

DATE: 3-31-22

EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

The outcomes and indicators are clearly defined and are clearly measurable, including methods of monitoring and data collection.

*3.1 Number of Stakeholders that gained knowledge about prevention, detection, control, and/or intervention food safety practices, including relevant regulations (to improve their ability to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and/or meet the standards for aligned third party food safety audits such as Harmonized GAP/GHP: **40**.*

3.2 Number of stakeholders that:

*3.2a Established a food safety plan: **3, expected to exceed project duration**.*

*3.2b Revised or updated their food safety plan: **10, likely to exceed project duration**.*

*3.3 Number of specialty crop stakeholders who implemented new/improved prevention, detection, control, and intervention practices, tools, or technologies to mitigate food safety risks (to improve their ability to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and/or meet the standards for aligned third party food safety audits such as Harmonized GAP/GHP: **20**.*

Outcome 6: Expand Specialty Crop Research and Development

*6.1 Number of research goals accomplished: **3, corresponding with Objectives**.*

6.2 For research conclusions, the number that:

*6.2a Yielded findings that supported the continued research: **2, resulting from work on Objectives 1 and 2**.*

*6.2b Yielded findings that led to completion of study: **2, resulting from work on Objectives 1 and 2**.*

*6.2c Yielded findings that allow for implementation of new practice, process, or technology: **2, including sanitation and handling outcomes**.*

*6.3 Number of industry representatives and other stakeholders who engaged with research results: **40**.*

*6.4 Total number of research outputs published to industry publications and/or academic journals: **3, comprising at least one factsheet and two academic journal papers**. For each published research output, the:*

*6.4a Number of views/reads of published research/data: **50, of which majority will exceed project duration**.*

*6.4b Number of citations counted: **2, expected to exceed project duration**.*

Data collection methods explained on page 8 of the proposal, clear and analytical measurements are measurable.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Perry
DATE: 3-31-22
EVALUATOR NAME: Joy Bonenfant
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: DACF

The project proposed will measurably impact multiple Specialty Crop producers.

40 beneficiaries including disadvantages and beginning farmers.

Budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost.

Expense Category	Funds Requested
Personnel	\$22660
Fringe Benefits	\$0
Travel	\$5104
Equipment	\$0
Supplies	\$6900
Contractual	\$0
Other	\$15950
Direct Costs Sub-Total	\$50614
Indirect Costs	\$0
Total Budget	\$50614

I agree the budget is complete and clearly indicate anticipated benefit in relation to the proposed cost. The level of detailed required is supplied.

Additional note(s): 6 letters of support provided

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Blue Barn LLC
DATE:
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*

*Comm Priorities 1-4 3rd year of three. Expand market for blueberry wine- address price fluctuations in market
Create sustainability for growers*

2. *Potential Impact*

Growers/producers and associated businesses

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

• Outcome:

No box checked = all? Steady growth in the first two years – in spite of the challenges of Covid etc.

• Indicator:

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

Data in sales - survey

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

*Travel si reasonable
Consultants for staffing Comm & developing curriculum*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Em's Herbs LLC
DATE:
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 collaborative of herb growers

2. *Potential Impact*
30 farms/4 co-ops/retail

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

Is there currently an online market/ or is this to formalize online?

• Outcome: 1-2-3

• Indicator:

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
are these new positions or in addition to existing positions
Program Coord -\$20hr?? but no fringe? How long are equipment rentals/lease?
Travel seems low & only for 1 person

6. *Project Commitment*

Strong support from growers etc.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Growing to Give
DATE:
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*
Comm Priority 2
Train potential farm workers

2. *Potential Impact*
How are disadvantageded farmers supported?

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

• *Outcome:*

• *Indicator:*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
How long is our project? How does the staffing fit the timeline? 11 weeks?

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008

RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant

BIDDER NAME: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

DATE:

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*

FSMA Training

2. *Potential Impact*

Will farms need to be organic to qualify?

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

• *Outcome:*

• *Indicator:*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

*From last grant - 115 participated
10 Food safety Plan
5 updated Food safety plan
Are these unduplicated numbers?*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

Complete- \$'s directly to farmers

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Maine Potato Board
DATE:
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*

*Priorities 1-3-5
Continuation of research to reduce spread of potato virus*

2. *Potential Impact*

Maine potato industry

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

defined

. Outcome:

. Indicator:

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

Complete- but 100% summer research tech \$6240??

6. *Project Commitment*

Yes- potato industry

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: New England Apple Association
DATE:
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 create history display of NE Apples Are other States involved?*

2. *Potential Impact*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

Increase consumption – not sure how that is measured

· Outcome:

· Indicator:

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

Attendance & sales at events

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

6. *Project Commitment*

How do other states fit into this project?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: Newdawns Farms
DATE:
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*
Comm priorities 3-4-5

Create tunnel system for stone fruit production Document process to share with farmers

2. *Potential Impact*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

. Outcome:
? How much info can be gathered in 1 year?

. Indicator:

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
unsure

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative Primarily purchase of equipment and infrastructure*

6. *Project Commitment*

--

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Calderwood
DATE:
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*
Continuation – drought stress in blueberries

2. *Potential Impact*
All blueberry growers

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

 . *Outcome:*
Improve soil moisture retention
Reduce drought stress

 . *Indicator:*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*
Involvement of blueberry industry groups & support of individual growing individuals interest and need

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*
?tuition & Insurance in All other??

6. *Project Commitment*

yes

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Hao
DATE:
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*

*New- manage soil borne disease
Improve soil health and sustainability*

2. *Potential Impact*

growers

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

• *Outcome:*

Pest control- sustainability

• *Indicator:*

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

*Yes- but- why 3% FTE for Co-PI – but no funding?
Undergraduate \$12.75- but no fringe?*

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Perry
DATE:
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*

Enhance fresh market options for wild blueberries

2. *Potential Impact*

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

· *Outcome:*

*Increased food safety knowledge
Why not #2- Expand Spec crop distribution*

· *Indicator:*

Wide support

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

question about Budget – direct costs = tuition dn Health Ins??

6. *Project Commitment*

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202201008
RFP TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant
BIDDER NAME: UMS - Annis
DATE:
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*

Study impact of leaf spot in blueberries impact on climate change re: warming and rainfall

2. *Potential Impact*

485 growers

3. *Expected Measurable Outcomes*

• Outcome:

350 people engaged / research info – how- attendance at events- Trade Show Blueberry Hill day

• Indicator:

4. *Data Collection Methods:*

5. *Budget/Budget Narrative*

Complete ? Undergrad student at \$13.25hr at 40 hours at 14 weeks... ?

6. *Project Commitment*



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION &
FORESTRY

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202201008
RFA TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

I, Alex Fouliard accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Applications (RFA) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & 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 an application to this RFA.

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 RFA nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. 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 Applications presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

Mar 14, 2022

Signature

Date



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION &
FORESTRY

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202201008
RFA TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

I, E Ann Gibbs accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Applications (RFA) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & 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 an application to this RFA.

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 RFA nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. 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 Applications presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

E Ann Gibbs
E Ann Gibbs (Mar 14, 2022 08:35 EDT)

Signature

Mar 14, 2022

Date



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION &
FORESTRY

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202201008
RFA TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

I, Joy Bonenfant accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Applications (RFA) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & 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 an application to this RFA.

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 RFA nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. 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 Applications presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

Joy Bonenfant
Joy Bonenfant (Mar 11, 2022 11:57 EST)

Signature

Mar 11, 2022

Date



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION &
FORESTRY

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202201008
RFA TITLE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

I, marge kilkelly accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Applications (RFA) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & 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 an application to this RFA.

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 RFA nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. 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 Applications presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

M. Kilkelly

Mar 14, 2022

Signature

Date