



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 5, 2017

**Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
(601) 359-1163
E-mail: paige@mdac.ms.gov**

MS Department of Agriculture Accepting Applications for the Specialty Crop Grant

JACKSON, Miss. - Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith announced the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) is now accepting FY 2017 proposals for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and authorized by the Farm, Food, and Jobs Bill (Farm Bill). The purpose of the program is to solely enhance the competitiveness of Mississippi's specialty crop industry. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture).

Projects funded through this program must address at least one of the following priority areas: research and development; promotion/marketing; education/extension; economics or agriculture policy. Funding will not be awarded to projects that solely benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution or individual. Applications must be submitted to MDAC by April 27, 2017. To obtain an application, visit the Alerts and Announcements section at www.mdac.ms.gov, call (601) 359-1196, or email susan@mdac.ms.gov.

###

About the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

Under the leadership of Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith, the mission of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is to protect and promote agricultural-related businesses within the state and to promote Mississippi's products throughout both the state and the rest of the world for the benefit of all Mississippi citizens. This is accomplished through many bureaus and departments within the agency including the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum, Mississippi Farmers Market, Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau, Bureau of Plant Industry, Market Development Division and Bureau of Regulatory Services. To learn more about MDAC, visit www.mdac.ms.gov.