



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
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COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MDAC Announces Availability of Specialty Crop Grant Funds

Jackson, Miss. – Commissioner Lester Spell announced that the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is now accepting proposals for Mississippi's FY 2010 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The purpose of the program is to solely enhance the competitiveness of Mississippi's specialty crop industry. Projects funded through the program must address at least one of the following priority areas: research, promotion/marketing, education/training, and food safety/product handling.

“Mississippi's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program positively impacts many facets of the state's specialty crop industry by allowing for projects that address issues that are important to growers across our state to be funded,” said Spell.

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture). 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.

To obtain an application, visit www.mdac.state.ms.us, call (601) 359-1163, or email paige@mdac.state.ms.us. Applications will be accepted until May 3, 2010.

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