



April 21st, 2020

Re: Grad Student Mini Grant RFP

The Alaska Division of Agriculture is requesting proposals for USDA Specialty Crop graduate student mini grant projects that will benefit the specialty crops industries in Alaska. These grad student mini grants are designed to promote student engagement in research of specialty crops. Applicants may pursue projects related to pest identification and mitigation, regional food systems, crop efficiencies, variety trials, feasibility studies, etc. Specialty crops include a wide variety of agricultural products, including vegetables, fruits, cut flowers, honey, and more. For more information on specialty crops please refer to this link:

https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/USDA_Specialty_Crop_Definition.pdf

Grants will be awarded on a first come first serve basis to all qualified and complete applications turned into the Alaska Division of Agriculture, for more information contact Lyssa Frohling lyssa.frohling@alaska.gov 907-795-9242

The application link is included here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gradstudentminigrant>
Please attach a 1-2 page project narrative and budget detailing work plan and timeline. The project description should demonstrate how your project will benefit the industry, and the budget should itemize expected costs and justifications.

Sample budget:

| Budget Summary | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Expense Category | Funds Requested |
| Personnel | |
| Travel | |
| Equipment | |
| Supplies | |
| Contractual | |
| Other | |
| Direct Costs Subtotal | |

| Item Description | Per unit cost | # of units | Total Cost |
|------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

*Please list all personnel participating in your project.

Eligibility:

- Must be currently enrolled in an accredited college or university
- Open to graduate students only
- All applicants must have a faculty sponsor/advisor or industry professional for their grant
- Applications must come from a single student
- Project and work must take place in Alaska

Awards will be granted in amounts UP TO \$10,000 TO THE APPLICANT. The deadline for application will be **May 20th 2020**. Projects must be completed by the end of September 2020 with project reports due October 30th. Any publication resulting from the research project should state the source of financial support for the project. A presentation of the project results is required to share findings with industry.

If funds are available, the mini grants will be offered again in 2021. The Division of Agriculture may adjust your final budget to meet the specialty crop guidelines but will otherwise try to fund as much of the proposed budget that is eligible if you are approved.

Grants will be awarded on a first come first serve basis to all qualified and complete applications turned into the Alaska Division of Agriculture. For more information, or if you have questions about the allowability of a project, please contact Lyssa Frohling at lyssa.frohling@alaska.gov / 907-795-9242.