

**Missouri Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
2026-Reviewer's Evaluation Criteria and Written Score Sheet - Project No.**

Criteria	Score Range	Points Earned
Project Purpose: Does this project "Enhance the Competitiveness of Specialty Crops"? Will the project provide a direct benefit to Missouri's specialty crop industry? Is the need for the project clearly communicated and convincing? Is the project eligible and feasible based on information provided?	5 5 5 5	
Potential Impact: Does this project directly benefit Missouri specialty crop production and/or sales? Is there sufficient outreach that will benefit the industry? Does it demonstrate collaborative and partnering benefits which can be replicated? How many years will the project take to directly benefit the specialty crop industry?	5 5 5 1-5 years = 5pts 5+ years = 2 pts	
Measurable Outcomes: Is there at least one measurable, quantifiable outcome/indicator that will benefit the specialty crop industry in Missouri? Is data collection explained and is the method of measure reliable and sound? Are the outcomes of the project worth the total investment?	5 5 5	
Continuing Previously Funded Projects: Is the project likely to become self-sustaining and not indefinitely dependent upon publicly and privately granted funds?	5	
Applicant's Past Performance Were the applicant's past performance and financial reports submitted in a timely manner, containing the required information, and their obligated funds spent appropriately? (First time applicants receive full score of 5 for this question.)	5	
Budget: Is the budget financially realistic and reasonable? Are the budget items clearly outlined and justified? Are all expenses considered to complete the project?	5 5 5	
Work Plan: Do the activities relate to the objectives and measurable outcomes? Do the described tasks seem reasonable, well-thought-out, and feasible given the timeline and budget?	5 5	
Project Commitment: Is there industry support for the project and does the project partner with other organizations/institutions?	5	
Funding Priority: Does the application meet one of the project types listed on reverse side?	5	
Reviewer Name: _____ Date _____ TOTAL	100	

Comments:

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Project types for the Specialty Crop Industry:

- enhancing food safety.
- improving the capacity of all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain to comply with the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act ([21 U.S.C. Chapter 27](#)), for example, by developing “Good Agricultural Practices,” “Good Handling Practices,” “Good Manufacturing Practices,” and in cost-share arrangements for funding audits of such systems for small farmers, packers and processors.
- investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes.
- developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops.
- pest and disease control.
- increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops.
- improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems, and
- sustainability.

Additional Comments: