

**Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
Grant Proposal
Submitted April 10, 2010**

1) **Project Name** Detecting and Preventing Disease in Fruit Orchards

2) **Activity Location** Brookings, SD

3) **Individual, Organization, or Business Name**

South Dakota Orchard Association
123 North Ave,
Hill Valley SD 57000

4) **Principle Investigator and Contacts**

Joe Hardshell and Jane Rocher
SD Orchard Association
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Hill Valley, SD 57000
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5) **Total Grant Funds Requested \$3,282**

6) **What is the specific issue, problem, interest, or need to be addressed? How is this project important and timely?**

Detecting and preventing disease in fruit orchards is one of the most difficult management issues that our producers face. Increased disease can lead to lower quality fruit, which can reduce profits for our growers. As the saying goes, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” The South Dakota Orchard Association (SDOA) sees the problem that growers aren’t able to keep up with current practices to not only prevent diseases in their orchards but also to identify the diseases once they do become present.

7) **How many people or operations will be affected by this project? Who will benefit from this project? What is the potential economic impact of this project?**

There are currently 50 grower-members of the SDOA. All of these members could be potentially affected by this project. In addition, growers who are not members of the SDOA could also benefit from this project by attending the workshops that we have planned.

According to studies, diseases in fruit orchards have a \$3 million impact on the state. We hope to provide growers with information on how to manage disease to reduce that number, thereby increasing growers’ profits.

8) **Expected Result – What are the expected measurable outcomes as a result of the activity? The measurable outcome, when possible, should include the following: GOAL, PERFORMANCE MEASURE, BENCHMARK, TARGET**

The result of the project will be that growers will gain skills in preventing, identifying, and managing diseases in their apple orchards (GOAL). The workshops will help 25 growers gain or improve these skills (TARGET). We will administer a pre-test and post-test at the workshop to measure how much information the growers gained (PERFORMANCE MEASURE). Our hope is that the scores from the post-test will increase 25% from the pre-test (BENCHMARK AND TARGET).

9) What is the overall goal of this project?

The overall goal of this project is to help growers gain skills in preventing, identifying and managing diseases in their orchards.

10) How does this project “solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops?”

This project will specifically focus on fruit orchard growers (i.e. apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums, etc.)

11) Briefly explain the activities that will be performed.

The SDOA will host three one-day workshops for fruit orchard growers specifically focused on preventing, identifying and managing diseases in orchards. The three workshops will be geographically spaced with one workshop each in eastern, western and southern South Dakota. SDOA will invite experts from universities, government agencies and private industry to speak to the growers.

The workshops will be planned for November 2010.

Possible topics include: Plant Pathology 101, Managing for Weather Conditions, Fungicide Updates, and Pruning to Control Disease.

12) Budget Example

Claim Cost Category	SCBG request	Applicant Cash	Applicant In Kind	Partner Organization Cash	Partner Organization In-Kind	TOTAL
A) Personnel		\$2,400				\$2,400
B) Contractual	\$1,000					\$1,000
C) Travel	\$332					\$332
D) Supplies	\$500				\$500	\$1,000
E) Equipment			\$1,000			\$1,000
F) Lease/Rental	\$450					\$450
G) Other	\$1,000			\$1,000		\$2,000
Total Budgets	\$3,282	\$2,400	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$8,182

13) Budget Explanation

- A) SDOA Executive Director. 80 hours @ \$30/hour.
- B) Speaker Stipends. 2 speakers @ \$500 each
- C) Travel = 950 miles * \$.35/mile
- D) Conference materials and handouts. SDSU to provide an “Identifying Diseases” CD to all participants.
- E) SDOA providing use of laptop and projector for meetings
- F) 3 meeting rooms @ \$150/each

- G) Advertising costs for the workshop. SD Fruit Growers will also provide \$1,000 to go towards advertising.

14) List any partnerships, alliances or other collaborative efforts of this project.

The SDOA will be the main point of contact on this project. SDOA will also work with the SD Fruit Growers to recruit growers to the workshops. SD Fruit Growers have also agreed to provide \$1,000 cash to SDOA for advertising the workshops.

SDSU has agreed to provide a CD with pictures of different diseases in fruit trees to all workshop participants. SDSU has verbally agreed to provide at least one speaker for the workshops as well.

15) Describe the leadership ability and oversight practices to ensure proper and efficient administration of grant funds.

SDOA has an executive director that will oversee this project. The executive director will keep track of all project expenses and receipts and provide those to the treasurer. The treasurer will then make payment to the vendors and will also keep an accounting of all SCBGP expenses. The executive director will be responsible for all reporting requirements of the grant.

SDOA has received 3 grants from various organizations in the last five years. We have successfully managed and completed all of those grants in a timely manner.

16) Are you claiming socially disadvantaged or beginning farmer status?

Yes. Of the 50 members of SDOA, 30 of them have been farming for less than 10 years. These new growers are the ones who will primarily benefit from this workshop.

17) Indicate if the project will be or has been submitted to or funded by another Federal or State grant program.

No. This project has not and will not be submitted to any other grant programs for funding.