



Governor Ted Strickland
Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher
Director Robert J. Boggs

Office of Communication
8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: 614-752-9817 • Fax: 614-466-7754
www.agri.ohio.gov • communications@agri.ohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Department of Agriculture to Accept Food Safety Specialty Crop Grant Proposals

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (June 12, 2009) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture is now accepting project proposals that will enhance Ohio’s competitiveness in the specialty crop industry through food safety procedures, certification protocols, or marketing standards.

Specialty crops range in variety from fruits and vegetables to dried fruit and nursery crops, including floriculture. Funding for the grants is made available by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Services. All applicants must provide a minimum match of 25 percent of total project costs.

Proposals should address the need for food safety plans for the specialty crop industry as a whole. This may include, but is not limited to, development components, research needs, and education and outreach for the industry. Additionally proposals should identify a measuring system to quantify the outcome and illustrate how the proposal improves the potential of the industry.

The department will accept proposals from Ohio non-profit organizations, universities, research institutions, cooperatives, associations and commodity groups. Private individuals and companies are not eligible to apply.

Proposals must be received by the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Division of Markets no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, July 10. They must be mailed or hand-delivered to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Markets, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068, to the attention of Amalie Lipstreu.

For more information, contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 614-728-6200. To obtain a copy of the request for proposals, visit www.agri.ohio.gov.

-30-

Media Contact: Kaleigh Frazier, Public Information Officer, 614-728-6211

