

**SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

**FARM BILL**

**CFDA: 10.170**

**USDA-AMS-TM-SCBGP-G-17-0003**

**FAIN: AM170100XXXXG003**

**STATE PLAN SUMMARIES**

**PROJECT COORDINATOR**

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## RECIPIENT INFORMATION

### Administration

#### **ORGANIZATION: Oregon Department of Agriculture**

#### **State Plan Coordinator:**

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## OUTREACH

### *Outreach to Specialty Crop Stakeholders to Identify Funding Priorities*

#### *Outreach*

The Oregon SCBGP manager works with ODA Trade Development Managers, Management Staff, and Specialty Crop Block Grant Advisory Committee Members made up of industry representatives from around Oregon in the development of an outreach plan with the goals being:

- Educate prospective SCBGP applicants about the program,
- Ensure that applicants are aware of the programs priorities are clear and well defined
- Inform applicants about the timing and details relative to Oregon's program
- Work with applicants in order to achieve high impact, successful projects across the range of Oregon's specialty crop industries
- To increase efforts to rural Oregon agricultural areas and as well to increase development within urban specialty crop value added sectors

Oregon Department of Agriculture has an open competitive process which consists of an outreach program conducted year round and consists of:

- Print and electronic media (e.g. ODA website, press releases, e-blasts, partner e-blasts and websites, social media, etc.),
- Presentations at events and conferences, one-on-one meetings, phone calls, and trainings throughout the state.
- Outreach materials included Program Guidelines, distributed at meetings and through program partners and online training videos that were easily accessible to everyone.
- In addition, Oregon made available to the public the 2016 National Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Coordinators Conference training videos – allowing for additional opportunities to learn about program requirements through YouTube.

Program priorities are updated in the fall each year to include priority areas to Oregon agriculture, national and worldwide trends, the program manager works with the SCBGP

Advisory Committee and ODA SCBGP administrators to strategically align outreach goals for the program and target areas throughout Oregon’s specialty crop industries where enhancements are needed.

### *Informational Trainings*

The program manager conducts trainings at various times throughout the year. Project proposal trainings are held and made easily accessible through recordings on a “how to” training video for applicants posted to the web. Live video trainings are offering during this time question and answer sessions are hosted for participants. The trainings provide a general overview of the program and offer guidance on how to write proposals.

### ***Identified Funding Priorities***

*Oregon funding priorities (in no particular order)*

1. Market development and access,
  - a. International —
    - i. Understanding and addressing trade barriers or regulatory constraints in foreign markets (e.g. tariffs, TRQs, FTAs, quotas, bilateral agreements).
    - ii. Obtaining market information and providing product exposure through trade shows, conferences, seminars, market research, consumer testing, in-bound and outbound trade missions, etc.
    - iii. Applying new technologies to help identify new customers and facilitate shipments (e.g. packaging configurations, customer data, logistics, transportation enhancements, etc.).
  - b. Local/farm-direct, regional and domestic markets —
    - i. Obtaining market information and providing product exposure through trade shows, conferences, seminars, market research, consumer testing, in-bound and outbound trade missions, etc.
    - ii. Connect farmers to consumers by enhancing direct marketing opportunities that highlight production practices, farmers, and growing locations.
    - iii. Support the development and advancement of co-operatives to leverage grower and producer efforts.
    - iv. Develop and enhance economic opportunities in local communities that increase the awareness and consumption of specialty crops.
    - v. Increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops by expanding access at schools, at work and in local neighborhoods.
2. Assisting all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain in developing certification programs that enhance market access and increase sales by addressing food safety, sustainability, or other outcomes, including, but not limited to: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Handling Practices (GHP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), identity preserved, sustainability, Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs), development of organic sustainable production practices, or other market assurance programs.

3. Investing in specialty crop research toward food safety compliance and traceability through implementation of practices, trainings, or systems development and preparation for and/or assistance in compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).
4. Improving efficiency of distribution systems by enhancing the shelf life and marketability of crops/farm products through shared post-harvest handling and storage, logistics, warehousing, cold storage, or transportation.
5. Address pest and disease management issues that affect or protect markets and minimize economic harm to specialty crop growers.
6. Training and equipping the next generation of farmers in agronomic, economic and environmental stewardship skills by introducing, educating and recruiting people to the variety of specialty crop career opportunities.
7. On-farm labor needs, connecting growers with hiring resources, providing technical information about laws and compliance, or developing mechanization or methodologies for routine or repetitive labor demands. Create and implement workforce training programs or tools to maintain the technical skills required to keep the Oregon specialty crops sector competitive.
8. Investing in projects that address productivity enhancements, innovation, value added products and other production efficiencies for specialty crops.
9. Agriculture and food-related priorities identified by Oregon Solutions Network Regional Solutions Centers to address rural economic development in Oregon. Projects must also comply with one or more of the required previously listed program priorities.

## **OUTREACH TO SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED AND BEGINNING FARMERS**

ODA continues to focus attention to rural economic development with specific attention geared toward socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers, staff have had a key focus to reach out in small farm and culturally specific crops in an effort to increase awareness toward the requirements necessary to meet the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). In addition water and pest/disease related issues continues to be a concern for Oregon specialty crop industry so staff at ODA focused outreach in this area as well.

In developing the outreach plan, the program manager along with the support of SCBGP Advisory Committee and ODA SCBGP administrators, as well as stakeholders in identifying the most effective means to reach out to these communities. More targeted trainings, media blitz, phone calls and emails - use of social media, and specific trainings in rural communities helped increase interest among socially disadvantaged and training next generation of beginning farmers or agriculture careers.

## **COMPETITIVE REVIEW PROCESS**

### ***Proposal Solicitation***

#### **Competitive Process:**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program conducts a yearly competitive process.

Solicitation of proposals is conducted through a variety of ways, including: print and electronic media (e.g. ODA website, press releases, e-blasts, partner e-blasts and websites, social media, etc.), presentations at events, conferences, one-on-one meetings and phone calls. Easily accessible online training video, one live Q & A webinar, as well as optional “one-on-one” counseling with the program manager throughout the competitive process. The “FY2017 Oregon Program Guidelines” and a leave-behind program flyer were distributed at trainings, meetings and via program partners.

In early April, Oregon received 36 proposals for the FY2017 funding cycle. Our Specialty Crop Block Grant Program advisory committee and three ODA technical advisory members reviewed and scored proposals. Four committee members and a minimum of two ODA members each score the proposal for a total of 6 reviewers per proposal. Scores were compiled and ranked based on the average score among all received. The SCBGP advisory committee met on May 8, 2017 to discuss the proposal scores and ranking. From the advisory committee’s recommendations and the ODA’s priorities, 14 of the 36 applicants were recommended to advance into the state plan

On May 15, 2017, the ODA technical advisory members met with Director Taylor for final selection of projects into the State Plan.

Invite and decline letters were emailed to applicants along with feedback regarding the proposal’s strengths and weaknesses in order to aid them with future proposals. Review committee members were assigned numbers instead of using their names in order to ensure confidentiality. In addition all members of the committee are asked to declare conflict of interest in advance of reviewing proposals.

## **GRANT PROPOSALS RECEIVED**

**Number of Grant Proposals Received:** 36 received - 14 advanced into State Plan

## **APPLICATION REVIEW PANEL**

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program advisory committee is made up of 14 industry experts with diverse backgrounds and skill sets. The committee is selected by Oregon's Director of Agriculture to represent a range of the state's significant specialty crop interests and scales. In addition four members from the technical experts from the Oregon Department of Agriculture are appointed to the Advisory Committee on behalf of the Director.

Annually the advisory committee reviews the Oregon SCBGP process, priorities and scoring criteria. The committee meets as follows:

- Fall: to review feedback from statewide workshops and refine program priorities (2-3 hours);
- Early-May: to review project proposal scoring (6 hours) & make recommendations to the Director of the Department of Ag;
- Mid-May: to discuss final projects to be submitted in state plan to USDA (2-3 hours).

## **REPRESENTED FIELDS OF EXPERTISE**

The committee includes individuals with direct experience growing specialty crops - nursery, fruit trees, specialty seed, small farms, wine grapes, value added products, etc.

Those who represent other more general agricultural organizations - Board of Agriculture, transportation, food marketing professionals, food/beverage processing, certification programs (organic), non-profits, culinary arts, international export, etc.

Representatives with technical expertise for Oregon Department of Agriculture – have specific knowledge in general agriculture practices, domestic/international marketing, fruits and vegetable industry needs and pest/disease issues and concerns related to specialty crop industries.

## **PREVENTING REAL OR PERCEIVED CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Each advisory committee member signs a Conflict of Interest form, where he/she lists food or agricultural related businesses or associations in which he/she has a direct or controlling interest and/or those he/she has advised. The form also asks the advisory committee to declare a conflict of interest at the beginning of each advisory committee meeting regarding any projects that he/she has an interest in, and to hold comments regarding those projects.

## **SHARING THE RESULTS OF COMPETITIVE PROCESS WITH APPLICANTS**

Oregon offers feedback through scorecards, which are given after the selection process is complete, in addition all applicants are given an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the SCBGP manager to discuss ways to improve on the proposal as well as enhance the project through partnerships known throughout the state. Review committee members are assigned numbers instead of using their names in order to ensure confidentiality. Oregon offers all applicants equal opportunity and all applicants are provided the same trainings.

## OVERALL STATE PLAN BUDGET SUMMARY

ID#	Project title	Direct	In-Direct	Total
ODA S01	Adopt A Farmer - Career Awareness	\$70,693.00		\$70,693.00
ODA S02	Cultural Specific - Community Chefs	\$59,940.00		\$59,940.00
ODA S03	Linking berry producers to recovery networks -- outlets for surplus production	\$37,878.00		\$37,878.00
ODA S04	The NWFPA Sanitary Design Guidance, Supplier Collaboration, and Education Initiative	\$146,521.00		\$146,521.00
ODA S05	Agriculture Career Exploration (ACE) Project for Oregon High School Students	\$37,800.00		\$37,800.00
ODA S06	Promoting Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables in schools	\$111,940.00		\$111,940.00
ODA S07	Supporting Oregon Fresh Market Strawberry Growers Through Communication Campaigns	\$53,525.00		\$53,525.00
ODA S08	Cost Studies to Increase Profitability of Sustainable Mixed Vegetable Farms	\$135,829.00		\$135,829.00
ODA S09	Oregon Wine U.S. Target Market Growth Project	\$174,540.00		\$174,540.00
ODA S10	Sources and control of Listeria in the Pacific Northwest Produce	\$174,974.00		\$174,974.00
ODA S11	Sustainable management of GRBD in OR vineyards	\$174,936.00		\$174,936.00
ODA S12	Mobile Solution for Food Safety Recall for Small Processors	\$174,878.00		\$174,878.00
ODA S13	Developing bilingual food safety resources to support Oregon's berry industry.	\$81,092.00		\$81,092.00
ODA S14	Competitive edible coatings for enhancing shelf-life and marketability of pears	\$163,337.00		\$163,337.00



Admin.	Administration - In-Direct		\$138,948.26	
Project Total		\$1,597,883.00	\$138,948.26	\$1,736,831.26

**STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OVERSIGHT**

**Start Date:** 9/30/2017

**End Date:** 9/29/2020

**GRANT ADMINISTRATION BUDGET NARRATIVE**

Budget Summary	
Expense Category	Funds Requested
Personnel	0
Fringe Benefits	0
Travel	0
Equipment	0
Supplies	0
Contractual	0
Other	0
<b>Direct Costs Subtotal</b>	0
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	\$138,948.26

<b>Total Budget</b>	\$138,948.26
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Budget Breakdown by Year			
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
\$46,316.08	\$46,316.08	\$46,316.10	\$138,948.26

**Personnel**

N/A

**Fringe Benefits**

N/A

**Travel**

N/A

Conforming with Your Travel Policy

By checking the box, I confirm that my organization’s established travel policies will be adhered to when completing the above-mentioned trips in accordance with [2 CFR 200.474](#) or [48 CFR subpart 31.2](#) as applicable

**Equipment**

N/A

**Supplies**

N/A

**Contractual/Consultant**

N/A

Conforming with Your Procurement Standards

By checking the box, I confirm that my organization followed the same policies and procedures used for procurements from non-federal sources, which reflect applicable State and local laws and regulations and conform to the Federal laws and standards identified in [2 CFR Part 200.317 through.326](#), as applicable. If the contractor(s)/consultant(s) are not already selected, my organization will follow the same requirement.

**Other**

N/A

**Indirect Costs**

The total indirect costs will be used for activities and services which are common or joint objectives and are not readily identified with an individual project, program, or organizational activity, however necessary for successful implementation of the programs activities such as accounting, information services/technology, maintenance and facility operation and other associated expenses.

Indirect Cost Rate	Funds Requested
Total allowable at 8%	\$138,948.26

<b>Indirect Subtotal</b>	\$138,948.26
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## **PROJECT TITLE**

**ODA S01 Adopt a Farmer – Career Awareness**

## **PROJECT DURATION**

Start date: September 2017

End date: June 2020

## **ORGANIZATION**

Oregon Aglink

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Oregon Aglink, a 501(c)6 non-profit, represents Oregon's agricultural community via outreach programs to Oregon's urban citizens.

The Adopt a Farmer program connects a middle-school science program with a local farm operation for an entire academic year through field trips and multiple classroom appearances/activities. Participation in the program helps to foster a better understanding of how Oregon's specialty crops are produced and the important role that science has in accomplishing that goal in terms of food production and environmental practices.

Farm to school educational activities seek to embed food and agricultural education within the school day in all subject matters, and especially STEM programs. Very few target middle school aged students specifically, and none have systematic and sustained farmer and specialty crop specialists interacting both in the classroom and on the farm. This project fills these gaps. Adopt a Farmer showcases career opportunities within agriculture that supports the specialty crop farmer. This includes, but is not limited to, food processors, agronomists, engineers and bankers.

Through the Adopt a Farmer program students experience Oregon's specialty crop industry, as it really is, a constantly changing industry where farmers work with a support system to provide the world's food while preserving natural resources.

## **PROJECT TITLE**

**ODA S02 Culturally Specific – Community Chefs Sharing Food Traditions and Nourishing Community**

## **PROJECT DURATION**

Start date: October 15, 2017

End date: October 14, 2018

## **ORGANIZATION**

Name of Applicant Organization: Friends of Zenger Farm

## **PROJECT ORGANIZATION and SUMMARY**

In *Culturally Specific - Community Chefs Sharing Food Traditions and Nourishing Community*, project lead Zenger Farm will increase public awareness of Oregon specialty crops in an array of recipes developed and produced by eight SE Portland community members trained to teach community cooking education. Oaxacan, El Salvadorian, Mexican, Bhutanese, and Chinese community members receive stipends to teach cooking workshops, and demonstrations at the Lents International Farmers Market, community partner locations, and Zenger Farm while sharing their knowledge of Oregon specialty crops. Recipes will reach statewide audiences via a digital outreach campaign lead by KUNP and supported by Partners for Hungry Free Oregon, Oregon Food System Network, and Bob's Red Mill. Through this programming Zenger Farm will help all participants understand Oregon specialty crops and how to use them.

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## **PROJECT TITLE**

**ODAS03 Linking berry producers to recovery networks -- outlets for surplus production**

## **PROJECT DURATION**

**Start date:** October 2017

**End date:** September 2018

## **ORGANIZATION**

Name of Applicant Organization: Northwest Berry Foundation

## **PROJECT ORGANIZATION and SUMMARY**

The Northwest Berry Foundation (NBF) will develop resources enabling Oregon berry producers to recover economic value from surplus product through linkages to food recovery and distribution networks supporting berry producers by: 1) Gaining maximum economic benefit from the product; 2) Creating positive market benefits through increased community interactions and media coverage; 3) Reducing the amount of surplus shelf-stable product going into long term storage. 4) Increasing local consumption of berries and berry products.

## **PROJECT TITLE**

**ODA S04 The NWFPA Sanitary Design Guidance, Supplier Collaboration, and Education Initiative**

## **PROJECT DURATION**

Start date: January 1, 2018

End date: March 31, 2019

## **ORGANIZATION**

Name of Applicant Organization: Northwest Food Processors Association

## **PROJECT ORGANIZATION and SUMMARY**

The Northwest Food Processors Association is home to an extensive specialty crop processor (fruit, nut, vegetable, potato) and equipment and facilities infrastructure supplier member base, which comes together annually at the NWFPA Food and Beverage World, North America's largest regional gathering of food processors. Many of the equipment and facility infrastructure suppliers are integral partners to the food safety interests of specialty crop processors through the products and services that impact the effectiveness and efficiency of sanitation in the food plant. The sanitary design of equipment and facilities is the underpinning to food processing sanitation programs. Without good sanitary design, processors find it difficult to impossible to clean their facilities and equipment sufficiently for protection of the food supply and compliance with the Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA).

Through this and other gatherings, NWFPA is uniquely situated to facilitate close-knit collaborative relationships that seek to solve sanitary design challenges in Oregon's specialty crop processing companies and, in turn, improve sanitation in Oregon food companies and overall food safety of Oregon food products.

The Northwest Food Processors Association will assist specialty crop processors in Oregon to enhance food safety systems by improving sanitation efficiency and effectiveness through improved sanitary design of facilities and equipment. With assistance from the Oregon Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Block Grant Program, NWFPA will seed, in years 2017-2019, development of these long-term cooperative efforts through:

- Development of sanitary design guidance and tools,
- Facilitating collaboration on sanitary design between Oregon specialty crop food processors and their allied industries on their equipment and facility infrastructure products and services, and
- Holding educational and networking events to promote adoption of sanitary design principles by specialty crop food processors and their equipment and facility infrastructure suppliers.

**PROJECT TITLE****ODAS05 Agriculture Career Exploration (ACE) for Oregon Students****PROJECT DURATION**

Start date: January 2018

End date: January 2020

**ORGANIZATION**

Name of Applicant Organization: Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom

**PROJECT ORGANIZATION and SUMMARY**

Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation will collaborate with producers, processors and agricultural businesses to inspire the next-generation of the specialty crop work force. This project will focus on creating opportunities for Oregon high school students to become more aware of career opportunities in agriculture by hosting a career exposition, development and promotion of classroom curriculum and the creation of promotional resources featuring careers in Oregon's specialty crop industry.



**PROJECT TITLE**

**ODA S06 Promoting Oregon-grown Fruits and Vegetables in Schools in all Regions**

**PROJECT DURATION**

Start date: October 1 2017

End date: March 31, 2020

**ORGANIZATION**

Name of Applicant Organization: Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network

**PROJECT ORGANIZATION and SUMMARY**

The Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network (OFSSGN) will increase purchases of Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables by Oregon schools (PreK-12) and will increase promotion of these crops to students by 1) establishing Regional Farm to School Hubs, which will support stakeholders in their regions, 2) focusing on one or two crops in each region for promotion and to address distribution/access barriers, 3) identifying fruit and vegetable producers in each region to serve as models/support people for their peers in the region, and 4) expanding farm to school efforts to include summer lunch programs.

## **PROJECT TITLE**

**ODA S07 Supporting Oregon Fresh Market Strawberry Growers Through Communication Campaigns**

## **PROJECT DURATION**

Start date: December 1, 2017

End date: December 1, 2018

## **ORGANIZATION**

Name of Applicant Organization: Oregon Strawberry Commission

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The Oregon Strawberry Commission (OSC) will support Oregon fresh market strawberry growers by developing consumer and trade communication campaigns which highlight new fresh market strawberry varieties, the expanded fresh market season and the story of the Oregon growing environment.

These new communication campaigns, executed in April, June, August and October of 2018 will achieve the following outcomes: generate consumer awareness and drive sales of new, fresh market Oregon strawberry varieties, better connect farmers of these new varieties and their Oregon strawberry story to consumers, and provide support materials for growers to market their fresh strawberry crops to their customers. These campaigns will directly support the industry shift to fresh market varieties that has already started in Oregon.

Campaign elements will include social media and web outreach, face to face contact with consumers at local farmer's markets and through the classroom, an evaluation of consumer attitudes and preferences, PR/media outreach, and the development of a communication materials toolbox for growers focused on this new industry news. Reaching new audiences and educating consumers about new fresh market strawberry varieties will directly support the future viability of the Oregon strawberry crop.

**PROJECT TITLE**

**ODA S08 Cost Studies to Increase Profitability of Sustainable Mixed Vegetable Farms**

**PROJECT DURATION**

**Start date:** November 2017

**End date:** April 2020

**ORGANIZATION**

Name of Applicant Organization: Oregon Tilth

**PROJECT ORGANIZATION and SUMMARY**

Oregon Tilth will help Oregon’s next-generation organic and sustainable mixed-vegetable farmers conduct cost studies to determine their production costs and adopt strategies for increased profitability; and we will generate production cost benchmarks to help organic and sustainable mixed-vegetable farmers with financial projections, business planning, and accessing capital.

## **PROJECT TITLE**

**ODA S09 Oregon Wine U.S. Target Market Growth Project**

## **PROJECT DURATION**

Start date: October 2017

End date: June 2019

## **PROJECT ORGANIZATION and SUMMARY**

Name of Applicant Organization: Oregon Wine Board

### **Summary:**

The Oregon Wine Board, which represents all Oregon winegrowers and wine producers, will expand the awareness, penetration and sales of Oregon wine in four high-potential domestic markets. The project will include the development and execution of events in each of these markets. A component of these events will be an educational master-level seminar for influential members of the trade to deepen their knowledge of the most important topics in Oregon wine. The events will also comprise tasting events: a trade and media tasting that is free for wine professionals and members of the press to attend; and a paid consumer tasting to help develop consumer evangelists in these markets. The events will represent the full gamut of winegrowing in Oregon, ensuring diverse representation of varieties and producers around the state. The outcomes will be increased distribution and sales in these markets.

## **PROJECT TITLE**

**ODAS10 Sources and control of *Listeria* in the Pacific Northwest Produce**

## **PROJECT DURATION**

**Start date:** December 1, 2017

**End date:** November 29, 2019

## **ORGANIZATION**

Name of Applicant Organization: Oregon State University

## **PROJECT ORGANIZATION and SUMMARY**

The foodborne pathogen *Listeria monocytogenes* (Lm) continues to be a recurring and complex issue in the production of various foods despite a decade of intervention and research. A large body of data on Lm prevalence in ready-to-eat (RTE) food processing facilities exists; however, less is known about Lm in produce packinghouses, holding/distribution, and fresh-cut facilities. As soil is a natural habitat for Lm, the presence of these microorganisms in environments where produce is grown and handled is common. Understanding where contamination comes from, and effective ways to reduce cross-contamination between the environment and food is critical to public health. Such knowledge is required to establish effective monitoring and verification programs to support produce industry compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Oregon State University proposes a project that will address three current knowledge gaps: (i) *Listeria* spp. prevalence and sources in produce packinghouses, distribution, and processing facilities in the Pacific Northwest (PNW); (ii) the Lm harborage sites in produce handling environments and practices that may lead to cross-contamination; and (iii) design of an effective environmental monitoring program to implement a seek-and-destroy approach for *Listeria* spp. Study findings will include recommendations for growers and processors to identify contamination sources, conduct environmental monitoring, and establish preventive controls for cross-contamination risk reduction for Lm control in produce production. An outreach component will include engagement with key industry and regulatory stakeholders and sharing best practices through hands-on trainings, presentations, and report to partners.

## PROJECT TITLE

ODA S11 Sustainable management of grapevine red blotch disease in Oregon vineyards

## PROJECT DURATION

**Start date:** October 2017

**End date:** March 2020

## ORGANIZATION

Name of Applicant Organization: Oregon State University

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Mitigating the negative effects and spread of grapevine red blotch disease (GRBD).

Winegrapes are the most valuable specialty crop in Oregon, and are produced throughout the state. Grapevine red blotch disease (GRBD), caused by *Grapevine red blotch-associated virus* (GRBaV), is an emerging problem for all winegrape producing regions in Oregon. Its effect on fruit and wine quality has been reported to reduce profit margins for both growers and wineries, and thus affects whole-industry sustainability. The three-cornered alfalfa treehopper (*Spissistilus festinus*) is a known vector of this virus. Other treehoppers found in Oregon vineyards are potential vectors. This two-year project proposal aims to bridge knowledge gaps and develop new tools required to manage GRBaV in Oregon vineyards. Project objectives include: (1) determine GRBaV distribution and incidence, (2) determine presence and significance of *S. festinus* and other treehoppers, (3) develop cultural practices to mitigate the negative effects of GRBaV on fruit and wine quality, (4) develop sustainable management strategies for the virus and its vectors, and (5) disseminate information developed in this project to stakeholders (growers, nurseries, wineries, and state regulatory agencies) through a collaborative extension program that will be advised by a stakeholder panel drawn from throughout the state. The research and extension activities will be conducted by a multidisciplinary team of 10 investigators across all major wine producing regions of Oregon that include pathologists, entomologists, horticulturists, enologists, analytical chemists, and extension specialists.

## **PROJECT TITLE**

**ODA S12 Mobile Solution APP and Food Recall Information System for Small Specialty Crops Food Processors**

## **PROJECT DURATION**

**Start date:** October 01, 2017

**End date:** March 31, 2020

## **ORGANIZATION**

**Name of Applicant Organization:** Oregon State University

## **PROJECT ORGANIZATION and SUMMARY**

Oregon State University Food Innovation Center research team will develop a smartphone/mobile device based mobile solution APP and a cloud based food recall information system to facilitate effective food recall for small NW specialty crop food processors by collaborating with OSU Department of Computer and Electrical Engineering, Northwest Food Processors Association (NWFPA) and the NW small specialty crops food processors.

## **PROJECT TITLE**

**ODA S13 Developing bilingual food safety resources to support Oregon's berry and fresh produce industry.**

## **PROJECT DURATION**

**Start date:** November 1, 2017

**End date:** May 31, 2020

## **ORGANIZATION**

Name of organization: Oregon State University

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Oregon State University will take the lead in developing educational material for food safety practices targeting the agricultural workforce of Oregon's berry industry. With the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (which include standards for the growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of produce for human consumption), training in good agricultural practices and food safety awareness is going to be a continuous demand. Considering that approximately 81% (U.S. Department of Labor, National Agricultural workers survey, 2010) of the agricultural workforce primarily speaks Spanish, there is a need to develop resources to help this diverse audience, especially with material that is relevant to Oregon's production.

This project will provide resources to growers, farm owners, and managers to provide continuous education in food safety practices and to increase understanding of the standards for growing, harvest and handling of fresh produce included in the Produce Safety Rule. In order to develop the most effective material, we plan to offer a total of eight Produce Safety Alliance Grower trainings at different production areas in and around the Willamette Valley during the time of the project. Each workshop day will feature a full day of English only, followed by a full day of Spanish only instruction.

Post-event evaluations will inform development of mobile friendly tools to keep growers engaged with FSMA rules and updated as any adjustments are made. Resources and tools will be tested, evaluated, and added to a food safety library that will be easily available from the EESC catalog at Oregon State University.



## **PROJECT TITLE**

**ODA S14 Competitive edible coatings for enhancing shelf-life and marketability of pears**

## **PROJECT DURATION**

Start date: November 1, 2017

End date: October 31, 2019

## **ORGANIZATION**

Name of Applicant Organization: Oregon State University

## **PROJECT ORGANIZATION and SUMMARY**

The Oregon State University will develop and validate effective and competitive edible coatings as a part of postharvest handling and storage strategies to enhance shelf-life and marketability of fresh pears. Specifically, the developed coatings will effectively control peel browning of pears as the result of scuffing and scalding, and reduce water loss to prevent shriveling and decay of fruit during long-term cold storage and short-term ambient storage. It is anticipated that the developed coatings will provide additional benefit for lubricating the fruit on line. Columbia Gorge Fruit Grower Commission and Oregon and Washington pear producers and packers will be actively engaging in this project by serving as advisory committee members, helping validate the coatings in their packing facility and storage warehouse, and participating in trainings for adoption of developed coating technique.

This project will help increase sale of Oregon and Washington fresh pears by enhancing quality and extending shelf-life (i.e., extended marketing time), improve transportation and storage efficiency, and reduce loss of fresh pears. The developed coating technique is not limited to pears, and can be applied on other tree and stone fruit, such as apples and cherries.

Specific objectives of this project are to 1) develop functional edible coatings for effectively controlling scuffing, scalding, shriveling, decay, and other important quality losses of Bartlett, Anjon, and Comice pears during their long-term cold warehouse and short-term ambient retail storages; and 2) validate the developed coatings in commercial packing facility and storage warehouses, and 3) provide trainings to the pear producers and packers in Oregon and Washington for transferring the developed techniques for commercial implementation.

*The overall impact* of this project is to increase sale of Oregon and Washington pears by enhancing quality and extending shelf-life (i.e., extended marketing time) of fruit. It will also help improve storage efficiency and reduce loss of fresh pears. In addition, it will help promote human health by providing easier access to a wide range of fresh fruit in extended season. The developed edible coating technique is not limited to pears, but can be applied on other tree and stone fruit, such as apples and cherries.

