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### **Grants available for use of Alaska specialty crops in healthcare, universities**

(Palmer, AK) – The Division of Agriculture is seeking applicants for grants intended to increase Alaska health care and university facilities' use of Alaska specialty crops during the summer and promote consumer knowledge of these crops. The grants are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant program and will be administered by the division.

The division will award multiple grants with a maximum funding amount of \$5,000 each. Applications must be submitted to the division by 4:30 p.m. on August 5. Awards will be determined on or before August 19 and distributed the week of August 22. Eligibility requirements, project expectations, and applications can be found at [http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/Grants/2016FHCU\\_application.pdf](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/Grants/2016FHCU_application.pdf).

Only projects related to specialty crops are permitted under this funding source. Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops. A list of USDA-eligible specialty crops can be found at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop>.

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