



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901



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Contact Anne Fitzgerald
800.282.8685 (DE only)
302.698.4520
302.242.4092 (Cell)

DDA announces Specialty Crop Grant recipients

On Thursday, October 19, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, Ed Kee announced the Delaware recipients of Specialty Crop Grant funds that are awarded for projects designed to enhance the competitiveness of Delaware specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as “fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture). USDA provided grant funding to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island.

In announcing the grants, Kee said, “The the University of Delaware’s funding will assist Delaware growers with market expansion, the development of new products, and the improvement of existing products. The Department’s funding will help us with the on-going implementation of Delaware’s Farm to School Program that will improve our student’s access to locally grown, healthy foods as well as help sustain the profitability of our agricultural industry. The competitiveness of Delaware’s specialty crops will be increased through continuing education, applied research, improved technology, and genomic research. I am very grateful to the USDA for continuing the Specialty Crops Grant Program that will benefit not just Delaware, but all of U. S. agriculture.”

Eight Delaware projects received a total of \$ 242,281.33 from the USDA AMS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program that was authorized under the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004, and amended under the 2008 Farm Bill. The eight projects are:

- Delaware Department of Agriculture - Delaware Farm-to-School Implementation Plan for 2012-2014 - \$32,000.00
- University of Delaware - Determining the Ideal Irrigation Strategy to Maximize Lima Bean Yield and Quality - **\$30,292.33**
- University of Delaware – Improving Yields from Early-Planted Super Sweet Processing Sweet Corn - **\$19,989.00**
- University of Delaware - Grafting to Improve Watermelon Production and Yield - **\$33,500.00**
- University of Delaware - Variety Testing in Advance of Release of New Lima Bean Cultivars and Continued Lima Bean Breeding and Selection - \$35,000.00
- University of Delaware - Enhancing Processing Vegetable Production for Growers in Delaware and Processors in the Region - \$29,000.00
- University of Delaware – Department of Plant and Soil Sciences -Herbicide Programs for Sweet Corn Without Limiting Vegetable Crop Rotation - \$27,500.00
- University of Delaware -Development of Molecular Markers for Downy Mildew Resistance race F in Lima Beans - \$35,000.00.

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