**Grant Application**

The Fruit and Flower Specialty Crop Block Grant, established by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, provides grant funds to establish or enhance fruit or flower production systems for North Carolina Agricultural Education programs. The maximum amount of each grant is **$1,000** and may be used for eligible plant expenses.

**Applications are due Tuesday, January 14, 2025, by 5:00 pm EDT. Please submit completed applications to ncagedgrant@gmail.com. Recipients will be notified by February 3, 2025.**

**Application Information (5 points):**

**FFA Chapter Name:**

**FFA Chapter Advisor:**

**FFA Advisor Email:**

**FFA Chapter Mailing Address:**

**FFA Advisor Mobile Phone:**

**FFA Chapter Social Media Account(s):**

**Public School Unit:**

**Current Status (5 points):** Describe any current fruit or flower production systems in the agricultural education program. If nothing is currently being done, please indicate that accordingly. *(100 words or less)*

**Project Description (30 points):** In addition to increasing student knowledge and experiential learning opportunities, the grant specifically should focus on one or both of the following objectives:

(1) Provide food through fruit production to local schools and communities.

(2) Provide plant material for floral production used in schools and communities.

Please provide a concise and informative summary of the proposed project. It should support the grant objectives and include the details of the project. *(500 words or less)*

**Project Budget (30 points):** Please list how the grant funds will be spent. Estimates are acceptable.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Description of expenses paid from grant funds ($1,000 max)** | **Name of Vendor** | **Amount** |
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|  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | | **$** |

**Project Benefits (30 points):** Identify the course number(s) and objective(s) that these grant funds will impact and describe the desired learning outcomes for students. Explain how students will benefit and how this project has long-term benefits to the school and/or community. *(500 words or less)*

**Certifications (0 points)**

Applications without original signatures will not be reviewed.

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FFA Advisor Printed Name Signature Date

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Principal Printed Name Signature Date

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CTE Director Printed Name Signature Date

**Grant Guidelines**

**OVERVIEW**

The intent of the Fruit and Flower Specialty Crop Block Grant, established by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, is to provide grant funds to *establish or enhance* fruit or flower production systems for North Carolina Agricultural Education programs.

Grant programs should provide a new opportunity for growing fruit or floriculture crops. The direct purchase of seeds, plugs, or other plant materials for the sole purpose of reselling (i.e. annual plant sale) will not be funded. Sample grant programs include:

* Create a fruit and/or vegetable production system that would be used to help feed the school or community.
* Establish an on-campus arboretum to enhance student learning.
* Establish a Christmas tree production system to provide experiential learning of forest production.
* Install nursery plants on the school campus or within the community for educational and aesthetic purposes.
* Establish a culinary herb garden (annual and perennial plants are acceptable purchases) to be used for farm-to-table enterprises.
* Create a pollinator garden to support native species.
* Establish a perennial wholesale cut flower/foliage production system (peonies, hydrangea, ornamental grasses, etc.)
* Grow cut flowers for production and resale bouquets, body flowers, etc.

**GUIDELINES**

* A total of $150,000 is available to distribute as part of this grant program. The maximum amount of each grant is $1,000. At least 150 grants will be awarded.
* All middle and high school North Carolina Agricultural Education programs are eligible to apply for the grant.
* Grant awards are not limited to a single school within each county/district. Multiple agricultural education programs in a district are encouraged to apply for grant funds.
* Grant applications should enhance student learning through one or both of the following objectives:
  + Provide food through fruit production to local schools and communities.
  + Provide plant material for floral production used in schools and communities.
* Grant funds may only be used to purchase fruit and flower plants as defined by the USDA Specialty Crop List. The list of acceptable plant purchases is available online at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop>. This website also lists ineligible commodities that are not acceptable to include as part of this grant.
* Grant funds may only be used to purchase plant material included on the website linked above. Grant funds may not be used to purchase soil, equipment, or other materials to support plant production.
* Applications should be typed. **Original** signatures are required. The completed application document should be scanned and emailed to [ncagedgrant@gmail.com](mailto:ncagedgrant@gmail.com) by **5:00 pm EDT on January 14, 2025.**

**GRANT REPORTING**

Each grant recipient is required to submit a final report upon completion of the grant. The final report will include the following components:

* Description of what the students learned and how the project benefited the school and community.
* Receipts of all grant fund purchases.
* A minimum of 3 pictures that showcase the project.
* Total amount of money earned from the project, pounds of product produced/donated, value of product used, and other relevant measures.
* Number of students impacted.
* Number of community members impacted, if applicable.
* The grant summary will be completed using an online form and will be due June 1, 2025. Additional reporting information will be provided to those receiving the grant.

**For questions, contact:**   
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