

Lincoln Hills Quarterly News

SPRING
2010



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Indiana Announces Availability of Specialty Crop Grants

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture today announced nearly \$400,000 is now available for Hoosiers involved in specialty crops. This is part of \$55 million in federal money being spread out nationwide for specialty crops such as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture).

State departments of agriculture nationwide are eligible to apply and are encouraged to involve industry groups, academia and community-based organizations in the development of applications. Therefore, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is looking for project proposals from the specialty crop industry of Indiana. The proposals must solely enhance specialty crops throughout the state of Indiana. ISDA will award grants ranging from \$2,000-\$30,000 to qualifying projects.

"Specialty crops have a total production value of more than \$9 million to Indiana," said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. "These grant funds are an opportunity for our State and our specialty crop producers to continue and enhance the marketing, research and consumer awareness efforts of these crops. I encourage all groups associated with this industry to apply."

The funds announced under the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) are authorized by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

Types of Grants and Eligible Activities

Grants for solely enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops through the following issues affecting the specialty crop industry:

- Increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops
- Improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems
- Assisting all entities in the specialty

crop distribution chain in developing "Good Agricultural Practices" including "Good Handling Practices" and "Good Manufacturing Practices"

- Investing in specialty crop research, including organic research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes
- Enhancing food safety
- Developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops
- Pest and disease control
- Sustainability

Marketing Grants:

- Market promotion; domestic or international promotion of qualified Indiana food and agricultural products
- Distribution to mitigate trade barriers that prevent or slow entry of qualified Indiana food and agricultural products into foreign markets

Please note that funds cannot be used for any capital expenditures such as buildings, land, equipment (tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost which equals or exceeds \$5000), grant administration, indirect costs or staffing.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, development and printing of marketing materials, promotional campaigns and events, actual transporting of product, market research, trade shows and outbound missions. The funds cannot be used for any grant administration costs.

Application Information

Complete eligibility requirements and applications are available on the ISDA Web site www.in.gov/isda under our *Grants page*. Applications must be emailed to Annie Schmelzer, Program Manager for Entrepreneurship and Diversified Agriculture, at aschmelzer@isda.in.gov by 4 p.m. (Eastern) by Friday June 25, 2010. Applications received after that time will not be considered.

Upcoming Lincoln Hills RC&D Events



Master Gardener Program Scheduled

The Master Naturalist program helps nature lovers grow by providing individuals with intensive training in natural resource principles. Participants, in turn, share their knowledge by providing volunteer leadership and service to their communities. Classes will be held for eight consecutive Monday nights from April 5th to May 24th, 2010. The sessions will be held from 6 to 9 pm Central Time at various locations in Spencer and Perry Counties. Sponsors for the program include Purdue Extension and Lincoln Hills Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D).

Each participant must attend eight sessions, complete an open book final exam, and complete 24 hours of natural resource related community service in order to complete the

entire Master Naturalist Certification to receive a pin and certificate. Fees are \$65 per person. The fee will cover the cost of the course, classroom materials, and program maintenance. Class size is limited to 30 individuals and will be on a first-come basis by date of payment received. Advanced registration is required by Wednesday, March 31st. To register, contact the Purdue Extension-Perry County office at 812-547-7084 or e-mail Margie Zoglman at mzoglman@purdue.edu for a registration brochure.

Topics to be covered in the class include: humans and the natural world, weather, tree identification, invasive species, herpetology, wildlife, wilderness survival, caves, water quality and bees & beekeeping.

Adventures with Nature

Plan to attend the Adventures with Nature program on Saturday, June 26th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Tipsaw Lake in the Hoosier National Forest.

A variety of exhibitors and programs will be highlighting our area's natural resources, with many demonstrations and exhibits for the entire family.

This year's event will include a variety of presentations to help us enjoy our outdoor environment as well as food items for sale by the Perry Central Music Boosters. Many informative booths with hands-on activities will be available as well.

A raptor program with eagles from the Patoka Nature Center is one of the highlights of this year's program. "Children can enjoy soap carving, constructing blue bird houses and other hands-on activities", stated Betsy Wilkinson, Program Assistant for Lincoln Hills RC&D.

The event also includes many wonderful attendance prizes on the half-hour and a grand prize drawing. A visit from Smokey Bear with photo opportunities will also be available. Bring your lawn chairs, your family and your friends to enjoy a beautiful summer's day and have an "Adventure With Nature" at Tipsaw Lake.

Tipsaw Lake is located in Perry County on Hwy. 37, seven miles south of I-64, exit 79. The Adventures With Nature program is free, however there will be a reduced gate fee at Tipsaw Lake for attendees. For your safety as well as other's, we ask you not to bring your pets to this field day.

