



DATCP Grant Programs Overview

Division of Agricultural Development

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (DATCP)

September 2024

DATCP GRANT PROGRAMS FOR AG PRODUCERS & PROCESSORS

- Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG)
- Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant (PLWPG)
- Commercial Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Grant (NOPP)
- Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin Grant (BLBW)
- Dairy Processor Grant (DPG)
- Meat Processor Infrastructure Grant (MPIG)



SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT (SCBG)

SCBG aims to enhance the competitiveness of Wisconsin's Specialty Crop Industry and increase sales of Wisconsin specialty crops. Projects can focus on research, production, marketing, market development, product development, distribution, storage, food safety, and consumer/producer education.

- ❖ Typically over \$1 million in annual funding. Awards up to \$100,000. No match required.
- ❖ Call for applications typically opens at the end of the year, and due in February.
- ❖ Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, herbs, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, landscaping and nursery plants, including floriculture.
- ❖ Processed foods must consist of greater than 50% ingredients by weight that qualify as specialty crops.
- ❖ Projects need to benefit the entire industry with measurable outcomes, not just the applicant.

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/SpecialtyCropBlockGrants.aspx>



SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT (SCBG)

Projects can vary quite a bit from production to middle of the supply chain to consumer engagement.

Project must select at least one of the available 7 outcomes to focus on.

1. Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops
2. Increasing Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and Distribution
3. Increase Food Safety Knowledge and Processes
4. Improve Pest and Disease Control Processes
5. Develop New Seed Varieties and Specialty Crops
6. Expand Specialty Crop Research and Development
7. Improve Environmental Sustainability of Specialty Crops



PRODUCER-LED WATERSHED PROTECTION GRANT (PLWPG)

PLWPG aims to improve Wisconsin's soil and water quality by supporting and advancing producer-led solutions that increase on-the-ground practices and farmer participation in local watershed efforts. Grants provide support to groups to deliver cost share programs, on-farm demonstration and research projects, and education and outreach efforts on conservation systems and innovative practices that improve water quality to farmers and other community members within their local watersheds.

- ❖ \$1 million available. Awards up to \$40,000. 1:1 match. 25% budget limit for administrative costs.
- ❖ Applications are due in September
- ❖ Must involve at least five farmers within the same watershed and at least one collaborator.
- ❖ Assist farmers in watershed to voluntarily conduct nonpoint source water pollution abatement activities.

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ProducerLedProjects.aspx



NITROGEN OPTIMIZATION PILOT PROGRAM

PROGRAM DETAILS

DATCP offers a maximum grant award of **\$40,000** to agricultural producers to conduct **2-year on-farm** research projects related to **commercial nitrogen fertilizer**

In partnership with UW System for data interpretation, technical support, and outreach

Enhance understanding of and refine methods that optimize commercial nitrogen applications

Trials include 4 N rates and 4 replications

Cycle 3 Request for Proposals (RFP) & application anticipated to be available October 2024



Investigate farmer-driven nitrogen research questions



Improve commercial nitrogen efficiency across WI



Reduce nitrate in surface- and groundwater



Improve producer profitability



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



BUY LOCAL BUY WISCONSIN (BLBW) GRANT

BLBW is an economic development program designed to help Wisconsin agricultural and food industries find ways to reduce marketing, distribution, and processing hurdles that impede the expansion of sales of Wisconsin's food products to local purchasers.

- ❖ \$200,000 available. Awards up to \$50,000. Requires 1:1 match.
- ❖ Call for applications typically opens in the summer and due in September.
- ❖ Must show creativity and benefit the local food system.
- ❖ Does not fund start ups or feasibility projects. Must submit operational budget and 2 years of sales data.
- ❖ Seeks to increase sales and jobs and expand awareness and consumption of locally produced foods.
- ❖ Processed foods must consist of 51% or greater Wisconsin ingredients by weight.

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/BuyLocalBuyWisconsinGrants.aspx>



DAIRY PROCESSOR GRANT (DPG)

The Dairy Processor Grant program aims to improve the long-term viability of Wisconsin's dairy industry through services to dairy processing plants to facilitate operational changes, improve profitability and foster innovation and economic growth.

- ❖ Eligible applicants must operate a licensed dairy processing plant engaged in pasteurizing, processing or manufacturing milk or dairy products that is located in Wisconsin.
- ❖ \$500,000 available with awards up to \$50,000
- ❖ Proposals due October 7th by 11:59pm
- ❖ Match requirement of 20% of grant award.
- ❖ Awarded projects must submit reports every 6 months.

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/RFSI.aspx>



MEAT PROCESSOR INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

The Meat Processor Infrastructure Grant aims to grow Wisconsin's meat industry and improve the long-term viability of the state's livestock industry.

Funding can be used for operating expenses, including engineering, architectural design, construction, food safety consultation, equipment, and equipment installation.

- ❖ Awards up to \$50,000. Requires 1:1 match. Proposals due in March.
- ❖ Projects must increase harvest capacity or production.
- ❖ Competitive proposals will demonstrate industry-wide benefits.
- ❖ Applicants can be new or existing meat processors, but must be DATCP or USDA licensed.

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/MeatProcessorInfrastructureGrants.aspx>





DATCP Economic Development & Innovation Center

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