

Program Name	Specialty Crop Block Grant (USDA)	Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education <u>Farmer-Rancher</u> Grants (USDA)	Value-Added Producer Grants USDA Rural Development
Staff Contact	Andrew Bernhardt (608) 572-0512 andrew.bernhardt@wi.gov	Diane Mayerfeld (608) 262-8188 dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu	Judy Clendenning 715-345-7642 judy.clendenning@usda.gov
Webpage	https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/SpecialtyCropBlockGrants.aspx	http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants Key word: VAPG
Application Deadline	Request for Funding released in February. Typically due late March.	Deadline December 5, 2024, 4pm	Notice anticipated to be released late fall/winter 2024. Anticipating an application window of 90 days.
Purpose	To enhance the competitiveness of Wisconsin Specialty Crops.	To advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities through research and education	To help independent agriculture producers enter into value added activities. Activities can be for planning grants or working capital.
Eligible Applicants	Non-profit organizations, producer organizations, government agencies, universities, and other groups involved in Wisconsin agriculture. Individual producers, for-profit businesses, or commercial entities may only apply if their project can demonstrate a benefit to the specialty crop industry sector.	Individual farmers or groups of farms. (SARE has other grant programs for researchers, educators, and others.)	Independent Producers, Agriculture Producer Groups, Farmer or Ranch Cooperative, or Majority Controlled Producer- Based Business Venture.
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental sustainability, pest and disease control, & varietal improvement • Development of food safety practices, outreach, and education that assist with compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) certification. • Increasing the demand for and supply of Wisconsin specialty crops • Industry innovation in production, processing, packaging, and distribution • Education for producers, processors, and the general public to improve production practices, or increase sales of Wisconsin specialty crops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production practices that benefit the environment, farm profitability, and communities • Marketing strategies that support farm profitability and environmentally and socially sustainable agriculture 	Anticipate a 10% set-aside for Mid-Tier Value Chain and a 10% set-aside for Beginning Farmers or Ranchers and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers.
Available Funds	Estimated \$1,250,000	Around \$700,000 for the 12-state region	Estimated \$18 million dollars nationwide
Grant Amount	Maximum \$100,000	Maximum of \$15,000 for one farm or \$30,000 for groups of two or more farms	Maximum planning grant \$75,000 Maximum working capital grant \$250,000
Match	No match required	No match required	Dollar for dollar (1:1) match with eligible project cost
Other Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects led or advocated by a specialty crop industry organizations will have priority over other projects. • Eligible specialty crops include: fruits, vegetables, culinary herbs and spices, medicinal plants, tree nuts, flowers, and nursery plants. For a complete updated list of acceptable crops, see www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23-month project period • Projects must include an outreach component. • Successful grants often involve partnerships. • Project description and results posted on SARE database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning grant can be used to pay for business plan, feasibility study, marketing plan. • Working capital grant can be used for operating of the ag venture, (non-owner salaries, inventory, utilities, supplies, shipping, marketing, etc.) • Business plan and feasibility study required for working capital grants
Grant expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant recipients are expected to provide annual reports and a comprehensive final report with findings and analysis of project work. • Grants must have measurable outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant recipients must provide a progress report after one year and a final report. • Recipients must send in a final budget at the end of the project detailing how funds were used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning grant must report estimated increase in revenue, customer base and jobs created. • Working capital must report increase in customer base, revenue number and number of jobs created.

Program Name	DATCP Dairy Processor Grant	DATCP Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant	DATCP Buy Local Buy Wisconsin Grants
Staff Contact	Brian Williams (608) 590-7239 brianp.williams@wisconsin.gov	Dani Heisler (606) 640-7270 Dani.Heisler@Wisconsin.gov	Andrew Bernhardt (608) 572-0512 andrew.bernhardt@wi.gov
Webpage	https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/DairyDevelopment.aspx	https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ProducerLedProjects.aspx	https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/BuyLocalBuyWisconsinGrants.aspx
Application Deadline	October 7 th 2024, 11:59 pm	Applications were due September 13, 2024	September 9 th 2024 11:59pm
Purpose	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.	Increase locally-led conservation efforts and improve water quality through the development of producer-led watershed improvement groups throughout the state.	To strengthen Wisconsin's agricultural and food industries by reducing marketing, distribution, and processing hurdles that impede sales of Wisconsin's food products to local purchasers.
Eligible Applicants	Eligible applicants must operate a licensed dairy processing plant engaged in pasteurizing, processing or manufacturing milk or dairy products that is located in WI	At least 5 producers that meet the eligible farm definition who operate a farm within the same watershed project area: An "eligible farm" means a farm that produced at least \$6,000 in gross farm revenues during the taxable year or a total of at least \$18,000 in gross farm revenues during the preceding three years.	Individuals, groups, businesses and organizations involved in Wisconsin agriculture, food processing, food distribution, food warehousing, retail food establishments, or agricultural tourism. Proposals may involve collaborations or partnerships between producers, food businesses, industry, academia or organizations.
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dairy plant modernization and expansion efforts Food safety New technology, including new processes, wastewater treatment or handling, new uses for whey, or other innovations Efforts to improve/enhance staff retention, training, supervisory skills, and knowledge Other dairy processing projects may be considered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand cost-share programming to promote innovative practices and management such as precision conservation management, rotational grazing, agroforestry, no-till, cover crops, alternative forage systems etc. Education efforts to learn about conservation practice benefits for specific watershed areas through on-farm demonstrations, trials and research Targeted outreach that promotes the financial and environmental benefits of conservation to farmers and other industry professionals Other projects that demonstrate innovation in conservation agriculture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing WI local food sales Local food market development Enhancement of production, processing, marketing and distribution of Wisconsin food products Development of supply chain infrastructure.
Available Funds	\$500,000 per fiscal year	\$1,000,000 per fiscal year	\$200,000 per fiscal year
Grant Amount	maximum \$50,000	Maximum of \$40,000 per group	\$5,000 to \$50,000
Match	20% of the grant request	1:1	1:1
Other Notes		Projects must complete a final report using the DATCP approved template including tracking spreadsheet. There is a 25% budget limit for administrative costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects must be driven by or supported by local food producers
Grant expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects must be completed within two years of the start date Projects must complete a semi-annual and final reports highlighting project results and benefits to the WI dairy industry 	All project expectations are outlined in grant contract.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning grant must report estimated increase in revenue, customer base and jobs created. Working capital must report increase in customer base, revenue, and number of jobs created.

Program Name	DATCP Meat Processor Infrastructure Grant	WEDC International Market Access Grant (IMAG)	USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)
Staff Contact	Jeff Swenson (608) 224-5082 jeffrey.swenson@wisconsin.gov	Katie Ujdak (608) 210-6773 katie.ujdak@wedc.org	Kristin Peterson (715) 345-7640 kristin.peterson@usda.gov
Webpage	https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/MeatProcessorInfrastructureGrants.aspx	https://ruralwi.com/resources/wedc-international-market-access-grant-imag-program/	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans/wi
Application Deadline	Opens in February. Due in March	Opens July, closes when funding runs out or reaches October 31	Rolling application period and review
Purpose	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.	IMAG supports a business' specific export development and deployment strategy with WEDC staff providing technical assistance. The program is designed to be flexible and meet the business where they are in their export growth. IMAG allows applicants to identify their own target market(s) and design their own export development project based on their businesses' identified needs, allowing businesses of various industries and sizes to benefit from the program.	REAP provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing.
Eligible Applicants	Eligible applicants must operate or intend to operate a DATCP or USDA licensed meat-processing establishment in Wisconsin and be engaged in livestock harvest or processing. Open to new or existing processors to facilitate changes and expansion to grow harvest capacity and/or increase product throughput.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established business operating more than one year that manufactures, processes, assembles and/or distributes a product or performs a service that can be exported. At least 35% of the value of the product or of the service is composed of Wisconsin cost inputs. Must be new to international exporting or participating in market expansion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural small business owners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural: populations of 50,000 residents or less Must meet the Small Business Administration size standards in accordance with 13 CFR 121. Agricultural producers from either rural or non-rural areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 50% of gross income from agricultural operations.
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priorities will be set based on future stakeholder meetings with industry partners and input gathered from the industry. Projects must increase harvest capacity or production. Demonstrates industry-wide benefit. 	IMAG assistance categories are generally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade Shows/Venture Marketing & Promotion Export Education Consulting Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable energy: biomass, geothermal, wind, solar. Energy efficiency: HVAC, insulation, lighting, cooling, refrigeration, doors/windows, pumps for sprinkler pivots, switching from diesel to electric irrigation motor, other energy efficient ag production and processing equipment.
Available Funds	\$200,000/year	\$1,225,000	Loan guarantees on loans up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs. Grants for up to 50 percent of total eligible project costs.
Grant Amount	\$50,000	Starting awards up to \$10,000. ExporTech graduates may receive up to \$30,000	Renewable Energy System Grants: \$2,500 to \$1 million max Energy Efficiency Grants: \$1,500 to \$500,000 max
Match	1:1	30% of total grant award	Loans 25% Grants 50%
Other Notes		Export ready business and new or unique products/activities may increase funding potential.	Energy Efficiency Improvement must contain an Energy Audit, or Energy Assessment
Grant expectations	Progress report due every 6 months		

Program Name	Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP)	Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education <u>Partnership Grants (USDA)</u>
Staff Contact	Susan Mockert 608-224-4648 susan.mockert@wisconsin.gov	Diane Mayerfeld (608) 262-8188 dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu
Webpage	https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/CommercialNitrogenOptimizationPilotGrantProgram.aspx	http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/
Application Deadline	Expected to open mid-October 2024 and close mid-January 2025	Deadline October 17, 2024, 4pm
Purpose	NOPP is designed to encourage agricultural producers to develop innovative approaches to optimize the application of commercial nitrogen for an on-farm trial duration of at least two growing seasons.	The Partnership Grant program is intended to foster cooperation between agriculture professionals and small groups of farmers and ranchers to catalyze on-farm research, demonstration, and educational activities related to sustainable agriculture.
Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant recipients are agriculture producers that operate a farm that has produced at least \$6,000 per year in gross farm revenues. Eligible applicants can be an agricultural producer, an independent crop consultant, a researcher, a nonprofit, or another individual or entity. The applicant can be one of the agricultural producers involved in the project but does not have to be. 	Any agriculture/natural resource professional in the North Central region in partnership with three or more farmers/ranchers owning/operating separate operations. Examples include: University educators, NRCS field staff, Ag Consultants, Nonprofit or agency staff.
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects located in different parts of the state to incorporate data from differing soils and geological characteristics. Innovative projects not currently funded by other state or federal programs. Multi-year projects, with a minimum of two years required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm research, demonstration, and/or educational projects Farmers or ranchers are expected to be substantially involved in the project.
Available Funds	\$1,000,000	
Grant Amount	Up to \$40,000 per producer, per program cycle	Maximum of \$50,000
Match	No match required, but encouraged	No match required
Other Notes	Proposed research studies must be pre-approved prior to the final application submission by the NOPP Project Research Director at UW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24-month project period Project description and results posted on SARE database
Grant expectations	The Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) provides funding to agricultural producers to perform on-farm research pertaining to commercial nitrogen application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant recipients must provide a progress report after one year and a final report. Recipients must send in a final budget at the end of the project detailing how funds were used.