**STATE OF MAINE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RFA SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SUMMARY**

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| **RFA NUMBER AND TITLE:** | 202201008 - Specialty Crop Block Grant Program |
| **RFA ISSUED BY:** | Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry,Agricultural Resource Development |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | February 15, 2022, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time. |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | February 18, 2022 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | March 8, 2022, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time. |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | Proposals@maine.gov |

**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department’s answer.**

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| **1** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Page 7 | My organization is working on a project to promote shopping local at Maine garden centers. Would a proposal related to this work potentially be eligible for SCBG funding? |
| **Answer** |
| For the purposes of the Specialty Crop Block Grant program, the USDA defines specialty crops as “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).” Horticultural and floricultural crops grown in Maine are considered Maine specialty crops, so your project is potentially eligible. Please be sure to read the RFA carefully to consider the other requirements as well.  |

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| **2** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| N/A | Can a privately owned company serve as the fiscal agent for a nonprofit organization applying for a SCBG? |
| **Answer** |
| From the DACF perspective, it is permissible for a privately owned business to act as a fiscal agent for a nonprofit organization. However, applicants should be sure to explore ramifications with their accounting professional and/or legal advisor. |

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| **3** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Page 7 | Is farmed macroalgae seaweed an eligible specialty crop? |
| **Answer** |
| For the purposes of the Specialty Crop Block Grant program, the USDA defines specialty crops as “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).” Aquaculture is not eligible. |

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| **4** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Page 7 | Would farmed oysters be an eligible specialty crop? |
| **Answer** |
| For the purposes of the Specialty Crop Block Grant program, the USDA defines specialty crops as “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).” Aquaculture is not eligible. |

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| **5** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part IV, Page 11 | I am interested in submitting a proposal to Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. Where can I find the details, is there a template or guidelines on the proposal format? |
| **Answer** |
| Both the template and the guidelines are available online. The program guidelines are detailed in the Request for Applications document. Find both online: <https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/grants> |