

### Local Projects Receive Specialty Crop Grants

(KNZA)--Seven statewide organizations, including three locally based, that promote education related to consuming fruits and vegetables are awarded grants by the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

That comes as the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides over 258-thousand-dollars to the Kansas agency, allocated through the Specialty Crop Block Grant program. It's designed to improve the Kansas specialty crop industry.

Local grant recipients for 2012 and 2013 include the Brown County Healthy Food Coalition. It's provided with 53-thousand-814-dollars for a "Postage Stamp Production Project." That project will assist local producers with growing, marketing and educating the public about their products.

Also chosen is the Wamego Campus of Highland Community College, which receives 42-thousand-504-dollars. Those funds go to the "Viticulture and Enology Extension Project," which will provide assistance to prospective, beginning and existing grape growers and winemakers across Kansas.

The third local grant recipient is Glacial Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Inc, which receives 13-thousand-356-dollars. The funds will go to the "Growing Healthy Communities and Economies through Northeast Kansas Specialty Crops" project, which will provide marketing and education of specialty crops in the northeast Kansas region.

Sixteen organizations submitted a total of 23 proposals for the annual grant cycle, requesting more than 1.18-million-dollars in funding.

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