

Scaling Up Your Farm Operation & Writing a Successful Specialty Crops Application

10 am to 2 pm

Thursday, February 16, 2017

At Central United Methodist Church, 5 South Pennsylvania, Webb City, MO 64870

Cost - \$10, includes lunch

Reservations required no later than Tuesday, February 14

To register, call Eileen Nichols at 417 483-8139

Planning to scale up your farm operation requires much more than just ordering more from the seed catalog. This workshop will cover what you should consider from crop selection through labor and management to risk assessment and marketing.

Scaling up may lead you to innovative projects that could be shared. If so, you will want to be ready to write a successful Specialty Crops Grant application. This workshop will provide you with skills for grant writing in general as well as for the specialty crop grant which is awarded by the Missouri Department of Agriculture for individual farmers and organizations seeking to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in the state. Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, nuts, herbs, spices, honey, flowers and nursery plants. Winning applications will focus on education and research of benefit to the entire specialty crops industry.

An example of a successful specialty crops application awarded in 2016 is: Happy Hollow Farm which will coordinate research efforts to develop specialty cut flower production methods using covered structures and minimal heat sources for small-scale farmers in three separate Missouri locations received funding in the amount of \$49,934.

Presenters are Debi Kelly, horticulture and local foods specialist, and Robert Balek, horticulturist. Both are with University of Missouri Extension. The workshop is sponsored by MU Extension and the Webb City Farmers Market.

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