

Virus Free Seed Potato Testing and Marketing

FY2007 Request: \$250,000
Reference No: 41936

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Planning
Category: Development
Location: Mat-Su Areawide **Contact:** Nico Bus
House District: Matsu Areawide (HD 13-16) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2406
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2006 - 06/30/2007

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Under the World Trade Organization rules, agricultural producers can only be exported after negotiation and signing of export protocols by trading countries. The export protocols can be revoked at anytime if the importing countries find evidence that exporting companies have violated conditions stipulated in the agreements, such as diseases and pest problems. Therefore, maintenance of phytosanitary clearance conditions of agricultural products is of the greatest importance in international agricultural trade.

Funding:	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	Total
Gen Fund	\$250,000						\$250,000
Total:	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

Prior funding has been through the operating budget to Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development, Department of Natural Resources, and the Office of the Governor, Contingency Fund.

Project Description/Justification:

Through efforts made largely by the capital plant pathology and biotechnology lab, Alaska has gained many privileges.

- ? Alaska has become the only State that can export seed potatoes to Taiwan
- ? The only US State that can export carrots to Taiwan
- ? One of the two US states that can export asparagus to Taiwan
- ? One of the five US States that can export table stock potatoes to Taiwan
- ? The only US State that can export seed potatoes to China.

The objectives of this project are to continue to maintain the export capability of seed and table stock potato to Taiwan and China. This funding will be used to purchase reagents for the lab tests to be performed in the growing season. It will also be used to hire and train lab assistants to perform diagnostics and lab tests. Lab staffs will be trained on the symptoms and signs of potato diseases and nematodes. They will also be trained on the correct techniques in sample collections, nematode extraction and various diagnostic techniques and lab tests. Target diseases and pests for the coming growing season are: 1) viruses X, Y, A, M, S, leaf roll and tobacco rattle, 2) bacterial ring rot, 3) phytoplasma (aster yellow and witches broom), and nematodes (root knot, stubby root). Results of the lab tests and field surveys are needed to form the scientific bases for the declaration that Alaska seed and table stock potatoes and other crops are free from the diseases and pests quarantined by Taiwan and China.

This project will advance the Alaska seed and table stock potato exporting to China and Taiwan. Negotiation for phytosanitary clearance of Alaska table stock potatoes is currently underway between USDA and the government of China. This project will provide requisite scientific data and support for Alaska's claims. This project will also evaluate the performance of Alaska premium seed potatoes grown abroad. More importantly, PI of this project will be on hand to answer questions regarding Alaska seed potatoes and potato diseases raised by USDA officials and local growers, researchers and government officials in Taiwan and China.

Documentation of the quality of seed potatoes is essential for export marketing. Continued industry support and use of state funds requires documented results that provide measurable performance levels. Developing long term markets for Alaska Grown seed potatoes in China is a challenge we expect this project to accomplish. Good documentation and cooperation with the National Plant Quarantine authorities of both countries is expected.

Why is this Project Needed Now:

To assist the Alaska Agriculture industry through the marketing sales and export of disease free potatoes.

Specific Spending Detail:Line Item Expenditures:

Personal Services \$0.0

Travel \$0.0

Services \$250,000 - RSA to transfer funding to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks to perform work described above.

Commodities \$0.0

Capital Outlay \$0.0