

Alternatives

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Thanks for checking out this latest edition of **Alternatives**, the Center for Economic Options' (CEO's) newsletter. This edition focuses on local food, and includes information on a couple grants that are currently available. There is also a brief update from the November West Virginia Local Food Summit.



URGENT DEADLINE for submitting USDA Grant for High-Tunnel/Hoop House

- Friday January 29, 2010

If you know folks who are or are interested in becoming market gardeners please tell them about this opportunity to get paid to do a pilot High Tunnel / Hoop house (a cold greenhouse for extending the growing season). People have to apply **NOW** deadline Friday 1/29/2010 at their USDA NRCS office. The grants cover material and labor costs for constructing one High Tunnel greenhouse per farm. Farms must have produced \$ 1,000 worth of products last year (not sold, just *produced*).

Grant recipients are required to keep records on production, pest, and environmental issues. For more information, [click here](#).

Specialty Crop Block Grant Available.



For calendar year 2010, one round of funding under the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) will be available. This is a competitive grant program with approximately \$175,000.00 awarded to West Virginia for projects and programs promoting the production, consumption and education of agriculturally produced specialty crops in the state. This includes fruits, vegetables, plant materials, nursery and horticultural products, nuts, wine grapes, honey and maple syrup. Application materials and two educational webinars will be available for interested applicants and the deadline for project submission is **March 15, 2010**. Read more about the available materials and programs to assist you in preparing your application today.

Application materials and program guidelines for the 2010 West Virginia Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) are now available online at [WV Dept of Agriculture's website](#) The manual is available in Microsoft Word and .pdf formats.

Survey Coming Soon!



At November's West Virginia Local Food Summit, we found that one of the greatest issues we face is lacking connections. To start building the foundation for a healthy local food system, CEO agreed to take the lead in gathering information on growers, distributors, facilities, public agencies, nonprofits, markets, etc so we can start to find one another and work together.

Be looking for this survey in the very near future!

The **Center for Economic Options (CEO)** is an independent non profit organization in West Virginia. CEO works with entrepreneurs and innovators who share a commitment to development that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.