Hello, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I'm reaching out to you because you are closely connected with those who breed, grow, buy and sell plants and edibles. The USDA is looking for more people with experience in horticulture to serve on review panels for projects being considered for funding by the USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiative. NICH needs people like you who can identify horticultural projects with the highest potential to help serve and grow the industry.

Each grant process is different, but does include an orientation and communication about what is being asked of you before you commit. Please see attached for more details and deadlines.

Are you willing to be a volunteer grant reviewer? If so, please email to Tom Bewick [tbewick@nifa.usda.gov](tbewick%40nifa.usda.gov) and let him know. He will contact you when reviewers are needed.

I hope you will consider lending your voice to this opportunity.

Please feel free to pass this on to colleagues who may be interested.

Thank you in advance,

*NICH brings together academia, government, industry and nonprofits to cultivate the growth and development of a healthy world through landscapes, gardens and plants – indoors and out. This unified voice promotes a passion and appreciation for plants to increases the demand for gardening, from horticultural grants at universities to attendance at public gardens to foot traffic in garden centers. To find out more about NICH, visit* [*www.consumerhort.org*](http://www.consumerhort.org)