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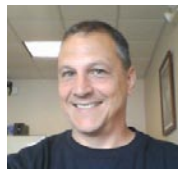
*Wishing you and your family all the joy
and happiness that this season brings.*
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Grants Available to Specialty Crop Growers

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is accepting concept proposals for projects to boost the state's horticultural specialty crops, including fruit, vegetable, nursery, flower and nut products.



Concept proposals are the first step in a two-part competitive process for the federal Specialty Crop Block Grants authorized under the federal Farm Bill. Last year, 14 projects totaling \$1.1 million were funded in the Commonwealth.

Applicants must submit a concept paper for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through market development, technology innovation, food safety, nutrition knowledge, sustainable practices and/or pest management. Concept proposals should be approximately three pages in length and cover project purpose; estimated timeline; goals, objectives and expected measurable outcomes; work plan; and budget. Requests may be made for a minimum of \$20,000

The deadline to apply is by 4:59 p.m. on

Jan. 24, 2020. Successful applicants will be asked to submit a full proposal based on the concept paper by Feb. 21, 2020.

Applications can be submitted to the Department of Community and Economic Development's Electronic Single Application for Assistance at www.esa.dced.state.pa.us.

Slate Folk Art Program

By Karen Brewer

BANGOR - The Slate Belt Heritage Center will hold their monthly historic presentation on Sunday, January 19th at 2:00 PM. Speaker for the afternoon will be Mr. John Reinhart, President of St. David's Welsh Society and former Superintendent of the Bangor and Easton Area School Districts. Mr. Reinhart will conduct a program on "Slate Folk Art of the Area". A founding member of the Heritage Center, and an educator for over forty-eight years, he and his wife Judy have been collecting decorated slate for over fifty years. Both are lifelong residents of the Slate Belt and both have had family members who were engaged in the slate industry.

An important part of their collection of artifacts includes items that were created and given away as gifts and tokens of affection. The Slaters used the skills they acquired while working in the local slate quarries. These items were made by people without formal art training and instruction. Some items reflect ethnic and cultural interests. While much of the slate produced by local quarries was for architectural purposes, the quarries also provided this by-product which was used to produce decorated mantels, game boards, bookends, and household articles, including lamps. Mr. Reinhart's book, *From the Slate: O'r Lechen, The Welsh and the Folk Art of Pennsylvania's Slate Belt*, published through the Heritage Center and funded by Merchant's Bank provided readers with the first documentation of examples of the slate folk art created in the region.



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The Heritage Center has its own extensive collection of slate folk art. The presentation will include both artifacts and photos of the beautiful items the Reinhart's have collected. The event is free and open to the public. The Heritage Center is located at 30 North 1st Street, Bangor, PA. For additional information contact: Karen Brewer @ 484-894-5661.



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