



## Request for Proposal (RFP)

### CA GROWN Request for Proposal – Written Content

#### Background

CA GROWN (also legally known as the Buy California Marketing Agreement) is a membership-based, consumer-focused marketing association with the expressed purpose of building awareness and sales of California Grown agricultural products and appreciation for the people that produce them.

Current California agricultural organization membership representing tens of thousands of California producers (not including 100+ individual company members) are as follows:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| American Pistachio Growers               | California Olive Oil Council            |
| California Apple Commission              | California Poultry Industry Federation  |
| California Artichoke Advisory Board      | California Prune Board                  |
| California Avocado Commission            | California State Beekeepers Association |
| California Blueberry Commission          | California Sweetpotato Council          |
| California Cantaloupe Advisory Board     | California Table Grape Commission       |
| California Certified Organic Farmers     | California Walnut Commission            |
| California Farm Bureau Federation        | California Wild Rice Advisory Board     |
| California Fig Advisory Board            | Olive Oil Commission of California      |
| California Fresh Fig Growers Association | Raisin Administrative Committee         |
| California Milk Advisory Board           | Wine Institute                          |
| California Olive Committee               |   |

#### CA GROWN Partnerships

In addition to the above signatory members, CA GROWN has strong partnerships with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Visit CA, retailers and other marketing organizations. The content created will ideally have application as shared-content on these partners' media channels or through promotional events where it is mutually beneficial and fits the creative/promotional objectives of relevant partners.

#### Purpose of this RFP

CA GROWN seeks to develop a list of contractors to develop written content on assignment. The selected contractors will create relevant recipe, culinary & "Do it Yourself" content and/or agriculture or agritourism features to be distributed on CA GROWN's website, social channels and in CA GROWN's weekly consumer newsletter or by our partners.

The source of program funds predominantly comes from the Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) Program administered by the California Department of Food and



Agriculture (CDFA). Content writers will be selected to create content pieces for the 2026-2028 social-digital media program as outlined in the most recent Specialty Crop Block Grant.

#### Strategic Objectives

The objective is to create a community of California agriculture fans through the creation of compelling content that promotes California specialty crops (all featured ingredients/supplies will include 50% or more California specialty crops).

The selected contractors will create content for target audiences including: Californians, travel and experience enthusiasts, food and “locally grown” food fans, avid gardeners and “Do it yourselfers”, and “Joyful Cooks” upon assignment. The content will call these audiences to action to select and experience their favorite California agricultural products while supporting the well-being of California agriculture. The contractors understand this content may be credit to them (byline) or to CA GROWN, or may run white-label (no credit).

#### Timelines, Budget and Proposal Submission Details

Written proposals are due by August 15, 2025. Proposal review and contractor selections will take place by August 31, 2025.

#### Scope of Work:

- Partner with the CA GROWN Social + Digital Director and content management team to create recipes, DIY projects, scripts or articles featuring agriculture, agritourism or culinary content featuring California specialty crops and related personalities or regions upon assignment.
- Conduct SEO research and/or review existing catalog prior to content production and confirm direction with CA GROWN Social + Digital Director.
- Submit all created assets to CA GROWN database (Platform: Canto) in format directed.
- Collaborate with CA GROWN digital team to incorporate promotions or features into content
- May be asked to participate in brand direction and campaign conceptualization/ideation to include storyboarding, marketing concepts, asset and platform planning, campaign strategy, performance, refinement as directed by the Executive and Marketing and Communication Committee and strategic plan.

#### Requirements:

The selected contractor will have:

- Experience in creating written content in the culinary and/or agriculture space with a distinct compelling and fun “voice” and/or professional recipe development.



- Experience optimizing digital content, including title and keyword selection, photography labeling, writing optimized blogposts or articles and Google algorithm/page ranking.
- Knowledge of social/digital media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, WordPress, Pinterest, Instagram, TikTok, etc.
- Record and/or willingness to assist in execution of dedicated promotions with one or a collective of stakeholders highlighting their crops and farmers
- Interact with and update CA GROWN Executive Director, Social + Digital Media Director and Blog Manager as needed
- Knowledge of California agricultural products, their seasonality, and availability
- Basic understanding of farming and agriculture a plus
- Experience working with specialty crop grant a plus
- Ability to work well in a team environment

NOTE: Please contact KC Cornwell, Social + Digital Director of California Grown – ([kc@calpom.com](mailto:kc@calpom.com)) if interested in an informational meeting prior to proposal submission.

#### Selection Term

Contractors selected will remain on the list for written content production for three years, beginning January, 2026.

#### Budget

The per project budget is \$250-\$500 per original recipe, \$500-\$1500 per article with original recipe, and \$500-\$2750 per full article or script, with rates dependent upon workload, requirements and related parameters, which must include all program expenses and retainers (inclusive of travel, ingredients or related production costs). The rates should include at least two rounds of edits. It's important to note the source of program funds predominantly comes from the Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) Program administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

SCBG funds are awarded on an annual basis and come with a required list of accounting and administrative expectations as well as creative and program mandates that will involve support from the agency chosen for this business. Please see the links below for more information on the SCBG program.

[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty\\_Crop\\_Competitiveness\\_Grants/pdfs/2024\\_scbgp\\_grant\\_management\\_procedures\\_manual.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/pdfs/2024_scbgp_grant_management_procedures_manual.pdf)

[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty\\_Crop\\_Competitiveness\\_Grants/pdfs/AdditionalGuidanceSolelyEnhancingCompetitivenessSpecialtyCrops.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/pdfs/AdditionalGuidanceSolelyEnhancingCompetitivenessSpecialtyCrops.pdf)

Please direct questions to KC Cornwell, Social + Digital Director, California Grown – [kc@calpom.com](mailto:kc@calpom.com).

Please e-mail your proposals, including examples of writing, photography, and video production, to Cherie Watte, [cher@californiagrown.org](mailto:cher@californiagrown.org).

Date Posted: August 1, 2025