Urban Agriculture

The integration of agriculture into urban settings is not a new concept, but it is gaining support among all over the country. Throughout the North Central region, residents and organizations in urban settings are stepping up to integrate sustainable food systems into their immediate environment while teaching youth and communities the value of sustainable growing methods. NCR-SARE has shown support for innovative projects that work to combine the benefits of urban living with the concepts of sustainable agriculture.

NCR-SARE Project Sampler

To view SARE’s entire urban agriculture portfolio, or just the North Central Region’s, visit www.sare.org/projects. For selected NCR urban agriculture grants, see the reverse side.

Researchers at the University at Minnesota used participatory research to evaluate the ecosystem services provided by urban agriculture in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. This on-farm approach involved the evaluation of soil quality, water quality and quantity, biological diversity, and crop yields at multiple scales for urban agricultural best management practices. See www.sare.org/projects and search for project number LNC17-392.

Through various methods of soil remediation and amendment, this project aimed to find a sustainable practice for cleaning and binding the hazardous toxins found in contaminated urban soils. See www.sare.org/projects and search for project number FNC18-1141.

A project demonstrated the value of cavity nesting bees for urban crop pollination, and examined how to manage urban habitats to support productive bee communities. See www.sare.org/projects and search for project number GNC16-233.

High school student staff at New City Farm are sharing their knowledge of farming and farm-to-table cooking with middle and elementary school students through a gardening and cooking club. New City Farm is a social enterprise that is a part of New City Neighbors, a non-profit dedicated to empowering neighborhood youth to reach their full potential. See www.sare.org/projects and search for project number YENC17-111.

SARE’s four regional programs and outreach office work to advance – to the whole of American agriculture – innovations that improve profitability, stewardship and quality of life by investing in ground-breaking research and education.
NCR-SARE’s Urban Agriculture Portfolio

Selected Grants

**Farmer Rancher Grants**

Investigating the Economic Sustainability of Distribution Channels for the Urban Farmers and Consumer in Food Insecure Neighborhoods
Jameson Hubbard, Dirt Beast Farm, MI, FNC18-1127, $7,498

Soil Remediation Techniques in Urban Agriculture
Case Sabatka, Dirty Boots Flowers, IL, FNC18-1141 $14,795

Creating a Resource on How to Build an Urban Farm in Chicago with a Modest Budget
Catherine Williams, Chicago Patchwork Farms, IL, FNC17-1106, $7,500

Growing Produce Vertically Instead of Horizontally to get a High Production on a Small Urban Farm
Christine Williams, Pepper Berries Urban Farm, MO, FNC16-1065, $6,577

Water Capture from High Tunnel Diversion into Irrigation System Using Renewable Energy
Cherry Flowers, Page & Flowers, MN, FNC13-909, $7,499

**Professional Development Grants**

Building Capacity of Agricultural Educators to Grow Sustainable Food Systems in Iowa
Lynn Huess, Iowa State University, IA, ENC16-153, $74,742

Soil Health and Nutrient Management Training for Immigrant and Minority Farming Communities
Anne Pfeiffer, University of Minnesota, MN, ENC15-145,

**Graduate Student Grants**

Next Generation Bees: Determining the Floral Resources that Support Wild Bee Reproduction and Pollination Services in Urban Agriculture
Mary Gardiner, Ohio State University, OH, GNC16-233, $11,930

Farming in the City: How Does the Altered Urban Environment Influence Cropping System Productivity, Ecology, and Profitability?
Jack Juvik, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, IL, GNC14-198, $9,994

Evaluating Interaction of Urban Farmers and Extension Educators in Metropolitan Kansas City
Rhonda Janke, Kansas State University, KS, GNC12-163, $10,000

**Research and Education Grants**

Collaborative Evaluation of Ecosystem Services Provided by Urban Agricultural Best Management Practices in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
Nicolas Jelinski, University of Minnesota, MN, LNC17-392, $198,529

System Approach to Food Waste Composting for Urban Agriculture
Greg Lawless, University of Wisconsin, WI, LNC16-38

**Youth Educator Grants**

Urban Farming as a Sustainable Business
Tommy McDaniel, Asbury Community Development Corporation, MI, YENC18-127, $2,000

New City Farm Youth Gardening & Cooking Club Education Project
Alaina Dobkowski, New City Neighbors, MI, YENC17-111, $2,000

Big Muddy Urban Farm and Gifford Park Youth Garden Program
Brent Lubbert, Big Muddy Urban Farm, NE, YENC16-101, $2,000

For information on more SARE-funded urban agriculture grants, search the SARE project database: www.sare.org/projects.

This product was developed with support from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture — National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA). Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed within do not necessarily reflect the view of the SARE program or the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.