



NCR-SARE Minnesota Office
University of Minnesota | 1390 Eckles Ave | Ste 120 | St Paul, MN 55108 | ph: 612-626-3113
www.sare.org | ncrsare@umn.edu

NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant and Youth Educator Grant Office
Lincoln University | 900 Leslie Blvd, Rm 101 | Jefferson City, MO 65101 | ph: 573-681-5545

NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grants to experiment with or demonstrate Sustainable Agriculture Practices 2023 Call for Proposals

PURPOSE: Farmer Rancher Grants provide opportunities for farmers and ranchers to solve problems on the farm or ranch using innovative sustainable agriculture practices. Projects can focus on research or education and demonstration. Approximately \$720,000 is available for this program. Grant recipients have 23 months to complete their projects. There are two types of competitive grants:

1. Individual grants (\$15,000 maximum)
2. Team grants for two or more farmers or ranchers from separate and distinct operations who are working together (\$30,000 maximum).

TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL: go to <https://projects.sare.org/>. The online submission system will open in August 2022. **Proposals must be received online or in the NCR-SARE office by mail or e-mail by 4:00 p.m. CST on December 1, 2022.** Faxed proposals will NOT be reviewed. If you are unable to use the online system e-mail: ncrsare@umn.edu or mail proposals to:

**NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program
120 Biosystems & Ag Eng Bldg, University of Minnesota
1390 Eckles Ave, St Paul MN 55108**

This call for proposals is available on the North Central SARE web site at <https://northcentral.sare.org/>. If you need a printed application, call 612-626-3113.

Checklist of Items Needed to Submit a 2023 Grant Proposal

- Proposal Budget Letter of support
- Confirmation of Commitment from Teams
- Letter from your financial institution (only if your project requires a loan)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) - USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), including NIFA, prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. For more information on civil rights and equal opportunity policies and programs, visit the [NIFA Equal Opportunity Office](https://nifa.usda.gov/civil-rights-equal-employment-opportunity) website at: <https://nifa.usda.gov/civil-rights-equal-employment-opportunity>

The SARE Program

SARE's Mission is to advance – to the whole of American agriculture – innovations that improve profitability, stewardship and quality of life by investing in groundbreaking research and education.

Origin & Funding: SARE was created in the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (1990 Farm Bill, Title 16, Subtitle B). It is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The SARE program works primarily through competitive grant programs administered by four regions: North Central, Northeast, South, and West.

North Central Region-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE)

NCR-SARE's mission is to strengthen communities, increase farmer/rancher profitability, and improve the environment by supporting research and education.

The 12 states of North Central Region-SARE include: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

NCR-SARE Farmer/Rancher Grant Program

WHAT: Farmer Rancher Grants provide opportunities for farmers and ranchers to use Sustainable Agriculture practices to solve problems on the farm or ranch, and share what they learn with others. The program values learning by doing and reporting on what worked, what didn't, and what you would recommend for other farmers and ranchers. Funds are NOT for everyday farming expenses, other than those directly related to the grant project (see Budget instructions and examples on pages 6-7).

- Projects involving drones must have an operator with an FFA approved operating license in place before the project starts. The timeline of the grant doesn't allow time to apply for a license.
- Projects involving industrial hemp must comply with applicable state and USDA regulations. See: <https://nifa.usda.gov/industrial-hemp>.
- Livestock projects need to comply with reasonable animal care requirements to ensure that animals are properly cared for. See the Livestock Care form on pages 16 - 18.

Sustainable Agriculture is farming and ranching that is ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially responsible. Since the start of the program in 1992, over 1,300 grants have been awarded to explore topics including (but not limited to):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agroecology • Agroforestry • Alternative Grains as Animal Feed • Beneficial Insects, Pollinator Habitat • Cover Crops • Crop/Landscape Diversity • Educating/Mentoring New Farmers/Ranchers • Farmland Access • Food Sovereignty • Holistic Farming & Ranching • Integrated Pest Management (IPM) • Labor Needs and Issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Agriculture • Permaculture • Poultry, Small-Scale Livestock • Proactive Weed Management • Quality of Life Issues for Family/Community • Regenerative Agriculture • Renewable Energy • Managed Grazing • Soil Health • Value-Added & Direct Marketing • Water Quality Improvement/Wetlands |
|---|---|

WHO & WHERE: Any farmer or rancher or team of farmers or ranchers who farm or operate a ranch in the North Central region may apply.

- A farmer/rancher is someone who raises crops or livestock, especially as a business.
- Applicants may be just beginning the transition to a more sustainable operation or may already be using sustainable practices and want to try more.
- Grants to applicants under 21 need to be signed by a parent or guardian.
- Applicants can submit one grant application per year and can participate in one grant per year.
- Previous grant recipients are eligible to apply if reports from previous grants are up to date.
- Team projects must have at least two farmer/rancher participants from separate and distinct operations. If your situation is unique, contact NCR-SARE to discuss your options. Teams must designate a farmer/rancher project coordinator who will submit and sign the proposal, be responsible for reporting, and assume tax liability associated with the grant, if there is any.
- **We have a strong commitment to diversity.** Proposals that involve farmers, ranchers, or youth from historically-underserved* populations are encouraged. **USDA defines historically-underserved audiences to include socially-disadvantaged producers, limited-resource producers, beginning farmers/ranchers, and veterans. They further define socially-disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as belonging to the following groups: American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.*
- Most Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) should apply for Partnership Grants for projects working with farmers and ranchers. See: <https://northcentral.sare.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/partnership-grant/>. NGOs that are actively farming can apply for Farmer Rancher Grants.

WHEN: 2023 GRANT CYCLE AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

August, 2022:	Farmer/Rancher grant call for proposals released
December 1, 2022:	Farmer/Rancher grant proposals due
Spring, 2023:	Grant recipients announced, project contract signed, first payment (50%) awarded. <i>Typically, this is between April 1 and May 1 (depends in part on how quickly grantees return a signed contract).</i>
January 31, 2024:	Progress report due. Second grant payment (35%) released once progress report and budget are approved.
January 31, 2025:	Project end date and Deadline for submitting final report. <i>All funds should be spent, and grant project completed by this date.</i> Final payment (15%) released once final report is approved. <i>Final payment is a reimbursement.</i>

Characteristics of Successful Proposals

- 1. Clearly define a problem and propose a solution** that will work for other farmers and ranchers, and that fits the amount of funding and time frame available for the grant project.
- 2. Involve cooperators** who assist with project planning and measuring and sharing project results. Cooperators may include Extension educators; staff of local, state, or regional non-profit groups, local conservation districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); or others.
- 3. Have a plan to measure** and document project results throughout the project.
- 4. Emphasize outreach** such as field days, workshops, publications, social media, videos, websites.
- 5. Demonstrate a good fit with SARE's mission** by explaining how your project will benefit other farmers and ranchers economically, ecologically, and socially.
- 6. Address reviewer concerns** and explain revisions for proposals that are being resubmitted.

Proposal Requirements

1. **Project Proposal**
2. **Budget with Description and Justification of items requested**
3. **Letter of Support** (1 is required but you may submit up to 2)
4. **Confirmation of Commitment** (required for Team grants only)
5. **Livestock Care Plan** (required for projects involving livestock, see pages 16 - 18)

1. Project Proposal – Fill in general information and answer all questions within word count limits.

- **Do NOT list personal websites/social media profiles or include web-links.** To make the process fair to all applicants, reviewers will base evaluations only on information contained in the proposal. Focus on explaining your ideas and how they advance sustainable agriculture.
- Proposals that are typed should use a font no smaller than 12-point, similar to the text in this call for proposals. Handwritten proposals in dark ink are acceptable if they are legible.
- Mailed proposals should be printed single-sided.

2. Budget - Along with the requested amount of each item, briefly describe how each item will be used in your project, and show how you came up with the budget amount by showing your math (this is the budget justification). Review the Budget Instructions and Example Budget on pgs. 6 - 7.

3. Letter of Support - Applicants must submit one letter of support from someone who can:

- speak to your experience and ability to carry out the project and
- explain why the project is needed and how it will benefit the community

You can submit an optional second letter. Do not submit more than two letters. Contact supporters early and make sure they are familiar with your project so they can write a strong letter. The letter should include information that will support the proposal. (For example, if the supporter will help you with outreach, ask them to include that in the letter and provide specifics about their help.)

Support letters must include the contact information of the supporter. People who might write a support letter include: Extension educator, banker, co-op or grocery manager, implement dealer, or staff from: farm organizations, Farm Service Agency (FSA), local soil and water conservation district offices, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or non-profit organizations.

4. Team Confirmation of Commitment – For Team online proposals, the team members will be sent an email asking them to confirm their participation and role. For hard copy applications, include a brief statement from each Team member confirming their role in the project.

5. Livestock Care Plan – Complete this form only if your project involves livestock (vertebrate animals such as cows, fish, pigs, sheep). Bees and other insects and shrimp are not considered livestock.

Proposal Evaluation

REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA: All proposals are reviewed by a committee that includes farmer and rancher members of the NCR-SARE Administrative Council, as well as farmers and ranchers from throughout the North Central region. Funding recommendations are based on how well proposals meet the following six criteria. The weight of each criteria is shown in parentheses.

1. Project Leader or Team (10%)

- Does the project leader or team have the experience and skills to successfully carry out the project?

2. Project Design (30%)

- Is there a well-thought-out, detailed plan to solve a problem on the farm or ranch using sustainable agriculture practices?
- For education and demonstration projects, is there a well-thought-out, detailed plan to provide potential solutions for other farmers or ranchers through information sharing?
- Does the project have the potential to help farmers and ranchers in the North Central region produce positive environmental, economic, and social benefits?

3. Contribution to the growth of sustainable agriculture (15%)

- Does the project build on and add to existing sustainable agriculture knowledge?

4. Outreach (20%). All projects must share their results with others.

- Are there specific plans to share project information and results with other farmers or ranchers? Some options for information sharing include: workshops, field days, publications, written materials, social media, a web page, radio, television, videos, presenting a poster or giving a talk at a conference or other event.

5. Results (15%) Your project may not produce the results you expect, but if you learn something from the project and share the information, we consider it a success.

- Is there an effective plan to measure the results of the project?
- What will be measured and how will it be measured to determine if there are environmental, economic, and/or social (family/community) benefits from the project?

6. Appropriate budget (10%).

- Are grant funds used for project expenses only?
- Do budget descriptions explain how items will be used in the project?

WHAT TO EXPECT (contract, payments, reports, taxes) - If your proposal is funded and you accept the grant, you agree to the following:

- Return signed contract to the NCR-SARE office.
- During the project, you may receive an on-site visit from NCR-SARE representatives.
- Grant recipients must submit a progress report and progress report budget by January 31, 2024.
- At the end of the project, on or before January 31, 2025, grant recipients **must** submit a final report and final budget showing how funds were spent.
- Concerning the budget, grant recipients: 1) will only be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred after the initial funding date; 2) must submit a final report and a final budget documenting the project expenditures before SARE will release final payment; 3) will have a 1099 form automatically filed with the IRS with each payment for tax reporting purposes; and 4) must retain receipts for project expenditures for a period of three years.
- Funds will be disbursed as follows: Grant recipients receive 50% of the grant to start their project. They receive an additional 35% after submitting a satisfactory progress report, and they receive the remaining 15% upon completion of the project. *The final payment is a reimbursement.*

Budget Instructions

Grant funds are for research, demonstration, and education project expenses, not day-to-day farming expenses or business startup costs. For your budget, show the amount of grant funds you intend to spend on each item. Use accurate figures, rounded to the nearest dollar, and include a brief explanation of how each item listed in your budget relates to your project. For example: Weighing produce for yield comparison – 6 hrs x \$20/hr = \$120.

Matching funds are not required. Do not show a match. If outside funds are necessary to carry out your project, note that you have outside resources so reviewers can evaluate your work plan, but do not list the amount.

Personnel Costs. List any farmer/rancher labor and hired labor for project participants except service providers who should be listed under *Other Direct Costs*. Include a realistic estimate of the amount of labor and the cost for each participant being paid with grant funds. If participants are not being paid with grant funds, include them but enter \$0 for the grant funds request.

Materials and Supplies. Use for items you plan to purchase to carry out the project. Explain how they will be used to support the project.

Travel. Use a mileage rate of \$0.625 which covers ownership and operating costs.

Other Direct Costs. Use for consultants and service providers. Also use this category for communications, photocopying, conferences-meetings-workshops, speaker/trainer fees, fee for service/stipends, equipment rental, land-use charges, fabrication of equipment, and food and drink expenses. **Note:** Refreshments at field days or group meals for events are allowable if they maintain the continuity of the meeting (there must be programming before and after the meal). Breakfast meals are generally not allowed because no continuity of the meeting exists.

50% Rule for Equipment, Permanent fencing, Perennial seeds and plants, and Livestock: Grant funds can only be used for up to 50% of the cost of these items. Include the total cost in the Details/Justification column but enter 50% or less of the total cost in the Amount column. **Equipment** is defined as items that cost \$5000 or more and have a useful life of more than 1 year. If a project includes making or adapting equipment, all parts as well as labor for equipment construction are considered part of the equipment expenses.

Calculating Costs. Labor, land, equipment, and supplies should be calculated on an annual cost-equivalent basis. (For example, operator labor per year at \$20 per hour; \$75/acre cash rent equivalent; \$10/acre rental of tillage equipment, etc.). Costs vary widely across the North Central region. Use costs that are accurate for your area. If costs are high in your area, provide an explanation.

UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES. Grant funds **cannot** be used for planning, construction, repair, or remodeling of buildings, or to buy motorized vehicles. These items may be leased or rented with grant funds, if they are needed for the project. Grant funds **cannot** be used for insurance or permanent installations (e.g., wells or buried irrigation lines).

Investigate Cost-Sharing. Many of the practices used in sustainable agriculture may be eligible for cost-sharing from other federal or state government agencies or local soil and water conservation districts, local businesses, private non-profit groups, etc. Additionally, the online resource for federal programs, [Grassroots Guide to Federal Farm and Food Programs](#), has information about requirements for a variety of programs and grants.

Example Budget

The budget that follows shows examples of line items from different projects. Choose the budget categories that apply to your project, add item descriptions, and list the amounts you are requesting.

Use the **Details/Justification** column to show how you came up with the cost of each item (show your math). This is usually expressed as some per-unit cost multiplied by the number of units. Use rounded numbers. For example: 23 hrs. @ \$20/hr. = \$460, or 89 miles @ \$.625/mile = \$55.62, rounded up to \$56.00. Reviewers look for accurate budgets that match the activities in your proposal.

If you are not asking for the full amount of an item, include a note in the justification explaining that you are only asking for part of the cost.

EXAMPLE

Category	Description	Amount	Details/Justification
Personnel	Estelle Koski, Farmer and project coordinator. Set up blueberry trials, keep records, organize field day workshops	1380	69 hrs @ \$20/hr = \$1380
Personnel	Ruby Farmer, college student. Conduct surveys to determine public interest in new direct marketing techniques. Compile results.	1095	73 hrs x \$15/hr = \$1095
Materials and Supplies	Flexible water pipe for portable solar-powered pasture watering system	196	200 feet of 1.25 inch flexible water pipe x .98 per foot = 196
Materials and Supplies	Cover crop soil builder seed mix (15 species) to prepare area for alternative grain crop planting	956	10 acres x 65 lbs/acre x 1.47/lb = \$955.50 rounded to \$956
Travel	Abe Lee, cooperating farmer. Travel to 3 farms in different parts of the region to learn holistic planning techniques	459	734 miles x .625/mile = \$458.75 rounded to \$459
Travel	David Hay, farmer. Pick up Teff grass seed for pasture planting,	98	157 miles x .625/mile = \$98.12 rounded to \$98
Other Direct Costs	Lease 2 acres of land from neighbor to provide buffer for organic amaranth planting.	294	2 acres x \$147 per acre = \$294
Other Direct Costs	Lunch for day-long farmer training with financial expert speakers before and after lunch.	495	20 participants x \$15/ meal = \$495
Equipment, Permanent fencing, Perennial seeds and plants, or Livestock	Woven wire fence to contain orchard hogs; permanent boundary fence needed since orchard is by highway	746	3 330-foot-rolls woven wire fence @ \$209.99 each = \$629.97 + 123 t-posts @ \$5.79 each = \$712.17 + 1 gate @ \$150 = \$1492.14 total cost x 50% = \$746.07 rounded to \$746
Equipment, Permanent fencing, Perennial seeds and plants, or Livestock	24 native shrubs and perennial wildflowers (8 each): American plum, Rose mallow, False wild indigo for border to attract beneficial insects	380	24 shrubs x \$25 per gallon pot = \$600 + \$159.48 shipping/handling = \$759.48. Total Cost = \$759.48 x 50% = \$379.74 rounded to \$380
Equipment, Permanent fencing, Perennial seeds and plants, or Livestock	50 chicks, Buff Orphington breed, females	117	50 chicks @ \$3.87 ea = \$193.50 + \$40 shipping = \$233.50 Total Cost of Item = \$233.50 x 50% = \$116.75 rounded to \$117.
Total		6216	

Help with Grant Writing and Information Sources

For assistance in preparing your proposal, contact your NCR-SARE State Coordinator. See the list on pg 9 or see: <https://northcentral.sare.org/state-programs/state-coordinators/>.

- Contact NCR-SARE for information on Farmer Rancher Grants and the SARE program:
 Joan Benjamin
 NCR-SARE Associate Regional Coordinator
 Lincoln University
 900 Leslie Blvd, Room 101
 Jefferson City, MO 65101
 573-681-5545
benjaminj@lincolnu.edu
<https://northcentral.sare.org/>
- Contact the national Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Outreach office for information on SARE publications and resources:
 Sean McGovern, Outreach Manager
 SARE Outreach
 614-306-6422
outreach@sare.org
www.sare.org
- The National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service (ATTRA) was developed and is managed by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). ATTRA has online and print information on many sustainable agricultural topics. If you contact ATTRA via e-mail, please describe your role in sustainable agriculture. By mail or fax, please include "ATTRA Information Request" near the top of the correspondence. (Preferred method of contact is telephone.)
 ATTRA- National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service
 P.O. Box 3838
 Butte, MT 59702
 800-346-9140 (English)
 800-411-3222 (Español)
<https://attra.ncat.org/>
- Michael Fields Agricultural Institute provides free Grants Advising services to beginning farmers, limited resource farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (minority farmers or women farmers), and military veterans, as well as young organizations working with these farmers in the Midwest, and to all rural producers and agriculture-related businesses throughout Wisconsin. Contact MFAI Grants Advisor, Martin Bailkey, at:
grants@michaelfields.org. For more information see: <https://www.michaelfields.org/grants-advising-resources>

2022 NCR-SARE State Coordinator List

ILLINOIS

Doug Gucker

University of Illinois Ext
3351 N. Pres Howard Brown
Blvd.
Decatur IL 62521
217.877.6042
dgucker@illinois.edu

INDIANA

Lais McCartney

Purdue Ext-Hancock Cty
972 E Park Ave
Greenfield, IN 46140
317.462.1113
lmccartn@purdue.edu

IOWA

Christa Hartsook

ISU Small Farms Coord
2625 Loop Dr Ste 2430
Ames, IA 50010
515.294.4430
hartc@iastate.edu

KANSAS

Kerri Ebert

KSU Olathe Research Center
35230 W 135th Street
Olathe, KS 66061
785.456.4629
kebert@ksu.edu

MICHIGAN

Sarah Fronczak

MSU Extension
20 Care Drive Ste B
Hillsdale, MI 49242
517.439.9301
froncza3@msu.edu

MINNESOTA

Kate Seager

MISA
411 Borlaug Hall
1991 Upper Buford Circle
Saint Paul, MN 55108
612.625.8235
kseager@umn.edu

MINNESOTA (con't)

Katie Lee

University of MN Bee Lab
1980 Folwell Ave. Ste 219
Saint Paul MN 55108
651.497.1305
katielee@umn.edu

MISSOURI

Dan Downing

University of Missouri
205 Ag Engineering Bldg
Columbia, MO 65211
573.882.0085
downingd@missouri.edu

Touria Eaton

Lincoln University
213 Allen Hall
Jefferson City MO 65101
573.681.5174
Mobile: 413.687.1044
EatonT@LincolnU.edu

NEBRASKA

Gary Lesoing

Nemaha County Extension
1824 North St Ste 102
Auburn, Nebraska 68305
402.274.4755
glesoing2@unl.edu

NORTH DAKOTA

Karl Hoppe

NDSU Carrington Research
663 Hwy. 281 NE
PO Box 219
Carrington, ND 58421
701.652.2951
Karl.Hoppe@ndsu.edu

OHIO

Mike Hogan

Ohio State University Ext
2548 Carmack Rd
Columbus, Ohio 43210
614.292.7670
Mobile: 330.324.6341
hogan.1@osu.edu

OHIO (con't)

Suzanne Mills-Wasniak

Ohio State University Ext
580 Calumet Lane
Dayton, OH 45417
937.224.9654 x123
mills-wasniak.1@osu.edu

Michelle Wallace

Central State University Ext
1400 Bush Row Rd
Wilberforce OH 45384
567.377.1962
mwallace@centralstate.edu

SOUTH DAKOTA

David Karki

SDSU Extension
1910 W Kemp Ave
Watertown, SD 57201
605.882.5140
david.karki@sdsstate.edu

Amanda Bachmann

SDSU Extension
412 W Missouri Ave
Pierre, SD 57501 605.773.8120
amanda.bachmann@
sdsstate.edu

WISCONSIN

Diane Mayerfeld

University of WI-Madison
CIAS
1535 Observatory Dr
Madison, WI 53706
608.262.8188
dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu

NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Sustainable Agriculture Grants 2023 Proposal Form

Project Coordinator Information. On the following pages you will see the questions you will be asked on the Online Application website. Read through this call for proposals first. To apply, go to the online system using the link: <https://projects.sare.org/>. For additional information about preparing a proposal, you can view a presentation at: <https://northcentral.sare.org/Grants/Apply-for-a-Grant/Farmer-Rancher-Grant/>. If you are unable to use the online system, complete your proposal using a computer or typewriter, or print legibly in dark ink and mail to NCR-SARE. Do not exceed word limits. Extra words will be removed.

The first time you register in the SARE projects system you will be asked to provide demographic information. The North Central Region SARE program is committed to an ethic of openness, inclusiveness, and diversity in all of its programs, policies, and procedures. To monitor our performance in these areas, we collect demographic information from grant applicants. Demographic information is not linked to your proposal and is compiled in a separate database. Individual demographic information will not be shared or made public. Providing this information is optional. Choose “Prefer not to answer” if you don’t want to answer any of the questions.

Ethnicity

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino
- Prefer not to answer

Sex

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Unidentified (prefer not to identify)

Race

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other
- Unidentified (prefer not to identify)

Year of Birth (optional) _____

Choose Your Topic. Select items from the **Farming System** list and from the **Crops** list that best represent your project. They should show the primary focus of your project. This is for sorting proposals for review. It is for SARE use only and will not affect your proposal review.

FARMING SYSTEM

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Production (includes aquaculture, grazing) <input type="checkbox"/> Crop Production (includes agroforestry, beekeeping, pollination) <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Training <input type="checkbox"/> Energy <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Business Management (includes marketing) <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources/Environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Management <input type="checkbox"/> Production Systems (includes agroecosystems, aquaponics, holistic management, hydroponics, integrated crop and livestock systems, organic agriculture, permaculture, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Management <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Communities |
|---|---|

CROPS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This project is not crop specific or doesn't apply to crops <input type="checkbox"/> Agronomic <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Plants (herbs, native plants, ornamentals, trees) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Animals (includes bees, fish) <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Products (includes honey) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Fill in the blank. Use for mushrooms, syrup, etc.)
_____ |
|--|---|

Project Title: This lets reviewers know what your project is about. Use words that are useful for finding your project in a website search. Use 25 words or less—about 150 characters including spaces.

1. DESCRIPTION for search results if funded: Provide a summary of your project in 45 words or less—about 300 characters—including spaces. This tells reviewers what your project is about and may be used for publicity if your project is funded.

Farmer/Rancher:

This person serves as Project Coordinator. If funded, the grant contract will be in this person's name.

Farm Business Name:

Address:

City, State Zip Code:

County:

Phone:

E-Mail:

- **Are you a Farmer or Rancher?** Yes_____ No_____ You must be a farmer or rancher to apply. A farmer/rancher is someone who raises crops or livestock, especially as a business. Beginning farmers/ranchers are eligible to apply. Most Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) should apply for Partnership Grants for projects working with farmers and ranchers. See: <https://northcentral.sare.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/partnership-grant/>. NGOs that are actively farming can apply for Farmer Rancher Grants.
- **Is this an Individual _____, or Team (2 or more farmers or ranchers) _____ Project?**
For Team projects, list all members of your team and their contact information.
- **Start Date:** _____ **End Date:** _____ (no later than January 31, 2025)
 - If funded, you have up to 23 months to complete your project. The Start and End Dates help reviewers evaluate if you are allowing enough time to complete your project.
 - Your budget must be approved before you can spend grant funds. This will likely be by March 1, 2023 but may be later. You can start your project before that date but will not be able to use grant funds for expenses incurred before your budget is approved.
- **Have you submitted this, or a similar proposal, to NCR-SARE before?** Yes_____ No_____
- **Have you previously received a SARE Farmer/Rancher Grant?** Yes_____ No_____
 - If you received a SARE grant(s) in the past or have a current grant, list the project number(s) on a separate page along with a summary of your results or progress (for current projects). Use 100 words or less for each grant summary.
 - If the project was not completed, explain why not in the summary.
- **Does this project involve livestock (vertebrate animals only)?** Yes_____ No_____. **If yes, fill out the Livestock Care form on pages 19 - 21.**

2) PEOPLE: Describe the people carrying out the project and their role. (400 words)

- **Individual proposals:** Describe your background and experience so reviewers know what skills and knowledge you bring to the project. Explain your role. Describe your farm or ranch and include the size of your operation, crops grown, etc.
- **Team proposals,** provide names and background of all Team members, a description of their farms or ranches, and their role in the project. At least two members of the team must be farmers or ranchers. (Once the farmer or rancher requirement is met, feel free to add participants who are not farmers or ranchers.)

Team Confirmation of Commitment – For Team proposals, the team members will be sent an email asking them to confirm their participation.

3) PROBLEM: Describe the research or education problem you are trying to solve. (200 words)

4) SOLUTION AND OBJECTIVES: Describe in detail how you plan to solve the problem using sustainable agriculture practices and list your objectives. (600 words total)

Solution (500 words): If this is a research project, describe how the trial will be set up, the materials and methods you will use, and what sustainable agriculture practices you will try. If this is a demonstration and education project, explain the teaching methods and materials you will use and the sustainable practices that you will demonstrate.

Objectives (100 words): Objectives are the major things you plan to accomplish during the project by carrying out research activities or demonstration and education activities. Focus on what you can complete during the 23 months of the grant, even if major objectives will take longer than 23 months. Example objectives:

1. Evaluate the usefulness of 5 cover crops through field testing
2. Identify 3 cover crops for potential use in intensive vegetable production
3. Plant 3 cover crop demonstration plots on 3 separate vegetable farms to use during summer field days.
4. Share findings through field days, website and social media, conference presentation

***Optional drawing or image.** You may include one drawing or image to help explain your project to reviewers. This could be a drawing or photo that shows the plot layout for a crop trial or demonstration, the design for a new piece of equipment you want to build, a sample page of a curriculum you are developing, or another aspect of your project. **(Limited to one page, single sided.)**

Label the upload or attachment so reviewers know what it is. Online attachments can be in these formats: PDF, JPEG, GIF and PNG. Note: once you upload the optional attachment in the online system, you must save it to add it to your application.

5) SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE BENEFITS: How will your solution benefit other farmers or ranchers in your community and the North Central region economically, ecologically, and socially?

From the list that opens when you click on "Edit Answer," choose one or more of the benefits you expect your project will provide, *and that you intend to measure*. Be realistic and do not take on too much. These are small grants. You will be asked to report on these benefits in your project reports.

To see suggestions of items that you can measure to show benefits, go to: <https://projects.sare.org/benefits-and-impacts>.

6) MEASURING RESULTS: How will you measure the results of your project? (300 words) List your answers from the Sustainable Agriculture Benefits question and explain what and how you will measure results for each one. Documenting the results of your project may involve recordkeeping, taking photos, surveys or other methods.

Examples of what you will measure: increased use of more sustainable farming practices, yield changes, increased income, increased access for growers and eaters to traditional foods, increased crop or landscape diversity, improved farmer and farm worker labor conditions, improved farm management decision making.

If your project focuses on one part of sustainability (ecological, economic, or social), that is what you should measure. For example, if you are experimenting with cover crops, your main focus may be ecological (preventing erosion) and you can measure soil loss with a soil erosion measurement stick. If you have an education project, you may measure learning through interviews, by surveying participants, or holding discussion groups.

A table works well for answering this question. You can create a table by clicking on "Edit Answer," then selecting the Table icon. Use your mouse to choose the number of rows and columns you want. Here is an example.

Benefits	What will be measured	How you will measure results
Improved Soil Quality/Health	Soil loss (erosion)	Using a soil erosion measurement stick to compare soil loss before and after using cover crops.
Improved Quality of Life	Increase in knowledge and intention to use cover crops by farmers who attend field day workshops	Surveys and discussion held before and after field day workshops.

7) CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: How will your project add to sustainable agriculture knowledge? (400 words) Explain how your project builds on past research or education efforts – include SARE and non-SARE research. What makes your project innovative and different from what has already been done?

Resources for finding previous work done on your topic:

- Review reports from previous SARE grants at: <https://projects.sare.org/search-projects/>.
- Contact ATTRA, the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, to speak to an Ag Expert about work done on your topic. Call 1-800-346-9140 or see: <https://attra.ncat.org>
- Search the Internet for previous solutions to the problem you are trying to solve.

8) OUTREACH: How will you share information from your project? (400 words) All projects must include outreach. How will you share the results of your project with farmers and ranchers, educators, and others? Outreach can include: articles, conferences, field days, social media, website, etc. List your outreach plans and provide details about when and where you will provide outreach, any educational materials you plan to produce, and the audience and numbers of people you hope to reach. Include Date, Outreach Activity, and Who Participates. See the example below.

DATE	OUTREACH ACTIVITY	WHO PARTICIPATES
Mid-May – August 2023	Document project progress on website & social media. Take photos weekly and post them with descriptions on Freeman Farm website and Facebook page. Develop and post 2 YouTube videos on planting and working with cover crops.	Eliza Freeman and son, Terrance Freeman
Early-August 2023	Develop and distribute field day flier.	Pauline Holtzburger, farmer
Late August 2023	Hold field days at each of the 3 participating farms. Give participants pre- and post-test surveys about using cover crops.	Project coordinators: Jan Wiggins, Eliza Freeman, Edgar Holtzburger. Extension educator, Nadia Terrell. Expect 20 or more farmers at each field day.
December 2023	Give workshop at Your Sustainable Farm/Ranch Conference in Fleming, Kansas	Speakers: Jan Wiggins, farmer with Nadia Terrell of Extension. Expect 35 to 50 farmers and educators at workshop.

9) BUDGET: Read the Budget Instructions and Example on pages 6 & 7 before you complete your budget.

Here is an example of a budget entry.

Category	Description	Amount	Details/Justification
Materials and supplies	Cover crop seed for test plots that will be used for grazing	\$1980	Custom mix at \$3.30/pound spread at 30 lbs/acre over 20 acres = \$1980

1. Category. Choose the budget categories that apply to your project. Choose from the following categories:

- **Personnel:** Use for farmer/rancher labor and hired labor. List everyone who is participating in your project except consultants and service providers who should be listed under *Other Direct Costs*. Include a realistic estimate of the amount of labor and the cost for each participant being paid with grant funds. If participants are not being paid with grant funds, include them but enter \$0 for the grant request.

- **Materials and Supplies:** Use for items you plan to purchase to carry out the project.
- **Travel:** For travel costs, use a mileage rate of \$0.625
- **Other Direct Costs:** Use for consultants and service providers, communications, photocopying, conferences/meetings/workshops, speaker/trainer fees, fees for service/stipends, equipment rental, land-use charges
- **Equipment, Permanent fencing, Perennial seeds and plants, or Livestock:** Grant funds can be used for 50% or less of the cost of these items. Include the total cost of the item in the Details/Justification column but enter 50% or less of the total cost in the Amount column.
 - **Equipment definition:** an item that costs \$5000 or more with a useful life of more than one year. If a project includes making or adapting equipment, all parts plus the labor for equipment construction are considered part of the equipment expenses.

2. Description: Provide a brief description of each item you want to purchase that explains why it is needed for the project. For *Personnel*, briefly list the role each person plays in the project.

3. Amount: Enter the amount you are requesting for each item. **Unallowable Expenses:** Grant funds **cannot** be used for planning, construction, repair, or remodeling of buildings, or to buy motorized vehicles. These items may be leased or rented with grant funds, if they are needed for the project. Grant funds **cannot** be used for insurance or permanent installations (e.g. wells or buried irrigation lines).

4. Details/Justification: show how you came up with the cost for each item (show your math). This is usually a per-unit cost multiplied by the number of units. Use rounded numbers. For example: 23 hrs. @ \$20/hr. = \$460, or 89 miles @ \$.625/mile = \$55.63, rounded to \$56.00. Reviewers look for accurate budgets that match the activities in your proposal.

If you are not asking for the full amount of an item, include a note in the justification explaining that you are only asking for part of the cost.

ATTACHMENTS

- **Letter of Support** - Applicants **must** submit one letter of support. You can submit an optional second letter. Do not submit more than two letters. Contact supporters early and make sure they are familiar with your project so they can write a strong letter. People who might write a support letter include: Extension educator, banker, co-op or grocery manager, implement dealer, or staff from: farm organizations, Farm Service Agency (FSA), local soil and water conservation district offices, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or non-profit organizations. Letters of support should include:
 - Contact information of the supporter
 - Description of your experience and ability to carry out the project
 - Explanation of why the project is needed and how it will benefit the community
 - Information that will support the proposal. For example, if the supporter will help you with outreach, ask them to include that information in the letter and provide specifics about how they will help.
- **Livestock Care Plan** – Complete this form only if your project involves livestock. For this program, only vertebrate animals (those with a backbone or spinal column) are considered livestock. These include cows, fish, pigs, sheep, etc. Bees, other insects, and shrimp are not considered livestock.

- 12) Please indicate if other individuals will participate in handling and or caring for the animals in this project. If other individuals will be involved, please describe their expertise with animal care. If individuals need to be trained to perform the procedures described in this project, please indicate how they will be trained to do the procedures properly.

- 13) At the end of the project--what happens to animals? Please indicate if they will remain at the project site, be sold, or be slaughtered.

- 14) If animals are transported off-site, please describe how they will be transported.

- 15) If animals are slaughtered, please indicate if this will occur at a commercial licensed slaughter facility. If it is not done at a commercial licensed slaughter facility, describe where and how slaughter will be conducted.

- 16) Please indicate if the animals or products from these animals will be used as food for humans and if so, confirm that withdrawal times for medications will be followed before allowing the animals or products from the animals to enter the food chain.

- 17) Identify the veterinarian (name, address, and contact information) who will provide routine and emergency care of the animals used in this project.