This is a presentation about applying for a Partnership grant in the North Central SARE program. This presentation goes over material that is in the Call for Proposals, so it would be useful to have that in front of you as you’re going through this presentation.

It begins with a quick overview of SARE and North Central SARE, emphasizing some of the SARE philosophy that will aid you in developing your proposals, then goes over the sections of the Partnership grant proposal, and ends with screenshots from the online proposal submission website.

We are the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, commonly referred to by our acronym, SARE. We are a part of the United States Department of Agriculture, funded through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture or NIFA program.
This program is intended to foster cooperation between agriculture professionals and small groups of farmers and ranchers to catalyze on-farm research, demonstration, and education activities related to sustainable agriculture. We anticipate that projects will be very similar to projects proposed through our Farmer-Rancher grants, but these projects will include an ag professional who is coordinating the collaboration, research and reporting.
What is SARE?

Grants and outreach to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

We provide grants and outreach to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.
This slide highlights some of the main characteristics of the SARE program—

We are decentralized, in that each of the four regions make their own funding decisions, including which grant programs to offer.

We are science-based, meaning that we expect research proposed to be planned with sufficient scientific rigor so that findings are replicable, and we invite you to look at our bulletin on “How to Conduct Scientific Research” for more information. We are also a grassroots grants program. Our proposal review teams and our administrative council include people with knowledge and expertise that comes from farming and working with farmers. Our proposal review teams include farmers and ranchers, extension educators, researchers and personnel from state and federal agencies. That’s an important point to remember when you’re writing your preproposal—don’t assume that everyone reviewing your proposal is an expert in your field—avoid using jargon.

In all of our grant programs, we look for projects with strong farmer/rancher or end-user involvement, and most projects are applied research projects.
Successful SARE grantees have projects that simultaneously address the 3 principals of sustainability—Quality of Life for farmers, ranchers and their communities, economic viability over the long term and Stewardship of our resources.

In your proposal, you should address how your project addresses each of these considerations, even if your project is focused more specifically on one of the aspects.
We are often asked about measures of social sustainability—SARE Outreach has a brief overview “Understanding and measuring social sustainability”: https://www.sare.org/resources/understanding-and-measuring-social-sustainability/
We fund projects addressing a wide range of topics.

The SARE Portfolio

- Sustainable pest and weed mgmt.
- Marketing and local food systems
- Water quality and nutrient mgmt.
- Systems research
- High tunnels and season extension
- Crop diversification
- Cover crops and soil health
- Small ruminants/poultry/cattle
- Pastured livestock/grazing systems
- Pollinators and biodiversity
- Urban agriculture

...and much more
We are decentralized in that each of the four regional administrative councils set priorities and make grant decisions. The North Central region includes 12 Midwestern states—a highly productive, critical agricultural region. We offer the six grant programs listed above. Information on our grant programs can be found on our website www.northcentral.sare.org and you should look at all our grant programs to determine the one that might be the best fit for your project. The Partnership Grant program a newer program in the North Central region.
We are a grants and education program, and SARE Outreach produces practical information like you see here, and you can find a wealth of information online, including informative bulletins on topics from Social Sustainability in Agriculture to How to Conduct Research on Your Farm or Ranch. These are available to view online or download as pdfs.
These are the program basics for the NCR SARE Partnership grant program. Partnership grants are for up to $50,000, for up to 2 years. Grants can be for research, OR education, or demonstration projects, but all have must have an outreach component.

They should involve 3 or more farmers or ranchers, although as noted in the Call for Proposals, we recognize that there may be situations with specialty crops or livestock, or another developing area where you don’t yet have three farmers established, so feel free to contact us to discuss that type of situation.

These projects will be led by an ag professional, and we anticipate funding 20 projects this year.

Your proposal must be submitted online by 4:00 p.m. CDT, on Thursday, the 19th of October.
We define an ag professional fairly broadly—it could be an extension educator, or an educator from a university or college, or a nonprofit or federal agency or state agency, or a crop advisor directly working with farmers.
If you haven’t yet, here is how to download the 2024 Call for Proposals. If you have any problems downloading the Call for proposals, please contact the NCR-SARE office and we can email you a copy or send a print copy.

The Call lists all the sections you’ll be required to address in the online grant proposal, and the word limits.
You can get additional help for writing grants on the NCR-SARE website.
An important resource for you is your state NCR SARE coordinator. If you click on the link indicated in this slide, you will pull up the contact information for your state coordinator. They can discuss your idea with you, offer suggestions, and may be able to link you to collaborators. They can be especially helpful in connecting you to farmers who might be interested in your work and willing to collaborate.
You should also look at past grant projects to see how your work builds on past projects and use that information in your preproposal.
For example, here is a partial list of the NCR Partnership projects that have dealt with cover crops. You can click on the title and be taken to the Project overview or click on the annual or final reports.
Here are some of the main points to keep in mind as you begin to write your proposal.

**Application Guidelines**

- **Proposals** due October 19th by 4:00 p.m. CDT
- Involve 3 or more farmers, with each farmer representing an independent and separate or distinct operation
- Online application
- Funding can cover partial salary and benefits of ag professional, on-farm research expenses, education programming, travel, etc.
These are the specific sections of the proposal that you’ll be expected to complete in the online grant proposal application. If you input directly into the online system, be sure to save often.
Now we'll show a few of the screen shots from the online submission system so that you know what to expect. When you go to projects.sare.org, this is what you'll see.

If you've never had a SARE grant before you will need to first create an account and complete your profile. Click on create account.

If you've had a SARE grant previously and filed reports in this system, your profile will already be in the system and you can log in with the username and password you used for reporting.
To register as a new applicant, complete the requested information—note that we ask for demographic information the first time you use the system. Your demographic information is only aggregated with other proposal demographic information. The people reviewing proposals or determining the proposals funded will not have access to your demographic information. When you’ve finished, click on register.
Once you log in, you’ll see this screen. Under projects, you’ll see a list of all projects you’ve been associated with. Under the proposal Applicant Links, you’ll see a link to manage applications. This is for you to edit proposals you’ve started but not submitted.

Click on “Start a new grant proposal”.
You will see a list of all open grant applications, for all regions.

Make sure you choose the correct grant program and the North Central Region. You will be completing the 2024 North Central Partnership Grant Proposal Application.
Enter the title and brief project description (less than 150 characters). Then click on “cover”
Click on “Edit Answer” to complete the requested information—this fills in a “cover page” for your proposal. You will save the answer to each question as it is completed. **The system does not store information until you hit “Save.”**
**Proposal Overview**

**2024 North Central Partnership Grant**

**Closes:** October 19, 2023 at 5:00 pm EDT

**Status:** Not submitted

**Title:** Comparing Tree Fruit Plant Growth Response to Compost Tea Extracts

**Project Description:**
Testing the Partnership grant application system.

**Proposal Requirements:**
- Provide the information requested in the sections below to submit your proposal.

**Cover**

*Institution Information*

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**Required completed questions are no longer have asterisk next to them.**

Answer each question by clicking on “edit answer” and saving your answer. Once you’ve completed the cover page information, or at any time, you can click on “Proposal Overview” to go back to the main page.
Once all required questions in a section are complete, they will no longer have an asterisk.

Then, click on another section, for example, “Institution Information” to complete the next section.
In this section, you will enter the Unique Entity I.D. (formerly DUNS number) and include the contact information of an authorized representation that can sign off on your proposal.
You can view a draft of your proposal at any time.

Proposal Overview
2024 North Central Partnership Grant

* My proposals

**Closes:** October 19, 2023 at 5:00 pm EDT

**Title:** Comparing Tree Fruit Plant Growth Response to Compost Tea Extracts

**Description:**
The project title lets reviewers know what your project is about. Use words that are useful for finding your project in a website search. The maximum length is 150 characters which is about 35 words or less. Please use Title Close.

**Project Description:**
Testing the Partnership grant application system.

**Project Coordinator:**
Erin Schneider, M.ED

NORTHCENTRAL REGION SARE PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Application deadline is 4:00 pm CDT Thursday, October 19th

The Partnership Grant program funded by the North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE) program is intended to foster cooperation between agriculture professionals and small groups of farmers and ranchers to catalyze on-farm research, demonstration, and education activities related to sustainable agriculture. The “partnership” aspect refers to an ag professional partnering with three independent farming enterprises, working together to solve a problem. Examples of appropriate projects include on-farm testing of cropping system strategies or grazing systems, cooperative efforts to develop new marketing approaches, investigations into new approaches to processing and/or adding value to sustainably produced farm products, food sovereignty, and projects that lead to resilient agricultural systems. General guidelines on these grants are below, with more specific details following.

To view or share your draft preproposal, click on “View draft”
Comparing Tree Fruit Plant Growth Response to Compost Tea Extracts

ID: 460589
Link to share: https://projects.staging.sare.org/proposals/460589/6444/
Download PDF
Grant: 2024 North Central Partnership Grant
Status: Not submitted
Amount Requested: $0
Applicant: Erin Schreuder, M.Ed
Project Coordinator:
Erin Schreuder, M.Ed
Farmer, Pest Educator
Institute of Nature and Culture
(Other)
schreuder.hiltsfarm@gmail.com
Description for search results if funded: Testing the Partnership grant application system.
show everyone's info

Cover
Proposed Start Date
April 30, 2024
Proposed End Date
September 10, 2026
Total Funds Requested
$0.00
Resubmission?
• No

You can also share your draft with others before you submit.
Complete the each section of your proposal that has an asterisk next to it.

Return to the proposal overview page and complete the Proposal section, then move on to complete each section that has an asterisk next to it.
For Example, under Other Attachments, Include a resume for each agricultural professional involved in the project. Then include farmer/rancher letters from EACH farmer or rancher listed in the proposal verifying participation.
As part of the Other Attachments section,

You will also be asked to submit an applicant sign-off sheet. Click on “Edit Answer”

And you can download the applicant must Signoff Sheet. You will submit it to your grants office or fiscal organization (if applicable) for an authorized organization representative’s signature. You will need to obtain a pdf of the signed Application signoff sheet to upload with your proposal, prior to submitting your proposal.
Complete the budget section of your proposal. Be sure to include justification of the expense.

Be sure to click save after each category.

Complete the budget section of your proposal, including justification of each expense.

Once you are satisfied with the budget items, click “save.”
When all required information is complete, the submit proposal button appears.

Once you are satisfied with your proposal, click “submit proposal.”

Once you have completed all required sections—the “submit proposal” button appears. If you don’t see that button, you are still missing a required component. Check to make sure you’ve completed the project description and the title, which can often be overlooked.

Once you are satisfied with your proposals, click “submit proposal.”
You’ll land on this page to complete submission. You do have the ability to unsubmit and make changes prior to the closing date for the grant program.
You will see this confirmation page. Note that in this system, you can “unsubmit” and make changes PRIOR to the closing date for the grant program. Make sure you resubmit by the closing date and time.
This is the timeline for the 2024 Partnership grant program. Your proposal, including the signed authorization, must be submitted online by Thursday, October 19th, at 4:00 p.m. CDT. They'll be reviewed and a recommendation made to the NCR-SARE Administrative Council in January, and all applicants will be notified whether or not they are awarded in February. We anticipate that funds will be available for you to begin your project April 1, 2024.
Beth Nelson and Rob Myers are co-coordinating the grant program, so feel free to contact either one of us if you have questions about preparing a proposal for this grant program. You can also contact the main SARE office with questions. We look forward to receiving your proposal.