

**2024 NCR-SARE Research & Education Projects Recommended for Funding**

Project #	Title	Project Focus	PI Name	Primary Grantee	State	\$\$ Amt Requested	Cumulative	Brief Description	Systems Category	Commodity Category
LNC24-495	Empowering Adoption of Innovative Land Access Models	E/O	Rachel Armstrong	Farm Commons	MN	\$ 249,608	\$ 249,608	This project develops robust educational resources on four emerging land access models – each with the potential to resolve the disproportionate challenges faced by underserved farmers as they pursue stable, resilient access to land on which to farm.	Farm Business Management	Not commodity specific or doesn't apply
LNC24-496	The Feasibility of Winter Hardy Legumes in the North Central Region	R	Shalamar Armstrong	Purdue University	IN	\$ 250,000	\$ 499,608	This research project will investigate the feasibility and performance of multiple winter hardy clover varieties across a range of hardiness zones of NC region (from southern IN to northern IA) using planting date and cropping systems as critical treatment variables.	Crop Production	Agronomic
LNC24-497	Comparing Tree Nursery Techniques on Urban Farms	R	Naim Edwards	Michigan State University Extension	MI	\$ 220,348	\$ 719,956	This project will compare two different ways to propagate trees from seed to enhance local supply. The techniques include air-prune beds and in-ground production. Research species are white oak and hackberry, chosen based on their ecosystem services, economic benefit, and edible properties.	Production Systems	Nuts
LNC24-498	Indigenous Seed Sovereignty: Collaboratively Building Seed Systems With Midwestern Native Communities	E/O	Christina Gish Hill	Iowa State University	NE	\$ 244,559	\$ 964,515	This project supports Native communities in shaping food and seed sovereignty through participatory processes that enable Indigenous ways of knowing to be incorporated into outreach programming for decentralized seed production, conservation, and the rebuilding of Indigenous seed exchange networks.	Sustainable Communities	Agronomic
LNC24-499	To Dig or Not to Dig? Exploring the No Dig Method for Urban Farmers	R	Taylor Green	Urban Farm Church	OH	\$ 239,680	\$ 1,204,195	This project will quantify the pros and cons of using No Dig techniques in an urban setting on a non-profit, community-run farm, noting in particular the costs, required labor, development, production, pest/weed management, and community impact.	Production Systems	Vegetables
LNC24-500	Developing a Water Quality Monitoring Protocol for Cranberry Growers to Optimize Best Management Practices for Nutrient Retention	R	Steven Hall	University of Wisconsin-Madison	WI	\$ 249,848	\$ 1,454,043	We will test impacts of cranberry production and best management practices on surface water quality, develop a robust and feasible water monitoring protocol with grower collaboration, and communicate opportunities and potential for improving water quality to stakeholders.	Natural Resources/Environment	Fruits
LNC24-501	Beginner Apple School for North Central Region Growers	E/O	Leslie Holland	UW-Madison	WI	\$ 224,051	\$ 1,678,094	Develop an online curriculum for introductory and continuing education on sustainable apple production best practices in collaboration with experienced growers.	Education & Training	Fruits
LNC24-502	Insect upcycling on urban farms to increase resource-use efficiency	E/O	Laura Ingwell	Purdue University	IN	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,928,094	This project aims to increase organic waste recapture in local food systems through insect-derived composting, resulting in two new economically viable products.	Production Systems	Not commodity specific or doesn't apply
LNC24-503	Sustainable postharvest solutions for small-scale, urban produce growers	R	Tricia Jenkins	Kansas State University	KS	\$ 249,601	\$ 2,177,695	Research and education on plastic alternatives for retail packaging of locally marketed produce and the sustainability of a solar-powered mobile cooler for urban growers.	Production Systems	Vegetables
LNC24-504	Assessing the impact of crop rotation on the persistence and efficacy of insect-parasitic nematodes as biocontrol agents for soil-insect pests	R	Elizabeth Long	Purdue University	IN	\$ 243,303	\$ 2,420,998	We will evaluate persistence of insect-parasitic nematodes (IPNs) and their efficacy against a suite of soil-insect pests in a corn, soybean, mint crop rotation. These IPN strains show promise in corn, and this project will assess inoculative biocontrol potential against key pests of this rotation.	Pest Management	Other plants (herbs, natives, etc.)

LNC24-505	Using Land-Based Learning to Engage Michigan Youth in On-Farm Sustainability in Diverse Communities	E/O	Aaron McKim	Michigan State University	MI	\$ 249,652	\$ 2,670,650	Partnering with local farmers and community members, youth in diverse communities will collaborate to implement on-farm interventions to increase farm sustainability through land-based learning.	Education & Training	Not commodity specific or doesn't apply
LNC24-506	Call of the Wild: Reducing Predator Interactions With Livestock Farms Using Carcass Composting	R	Eric Mousel	University of Minnesota	MN	\$ 249,600	\$ 2,920,250	This project addresses proper livestock carcass composting within a predator-proof fenced enclosure as a practical option for resource-limited farmers to manage carcasses and deter predator-livestock interactions.	Natural Resources/Environment	Not commodity specific or doesn't apply
LNC24-507	Efficacy of Biostimulants to Improve Soil Health, Nutrient Availability and Crop Yields in Water-limited Environments	R	Augustine Obour	Kansas State University	KS	\$ 249,936	\$ 3,170,186	This project will investigate the efficacy of biostimulants in enhancing soil health, nutrient availability, crop production and the profitability of using biostimulants in dryland cropping systems.	Soil Management	Agronomic
LNC24-508	Sustainable longhorned tick management for pastured livestock in a forage based system	R	Risa Pesapane	The Ohio State University	OH	\$ 247,335	\$ 3,417,521	We will evaluate the survival of longhorned ticks in stored feeds to determine whether harvest and storage of forage is a viable alternative to mowing as part of an integrated pest management strategy to control longhorned ticks on infested farms.	Pest Management	Animals
LNC24-509	Diversifying Perennial Nut Processing to Increase Farm Revenue and Meet Market Demand	E/O	Tom Redfern	Rural Action	OH	\$ 194,304	\$ 3,611,825	While newly planted chestnut orchards grow to maturity over the next decade, the seven farm members of Route 9 Coop's chestnut operation will add acorns and a coffee roaster to their system to help reach their full processing capacity, speed up the drying and roasting process, and increase revenue.	Production Systems	Nuts
LNC24-510	Utilization of grape pomace as a sustainable natural alternative to synthetic antioxidants and antimicrobials in precooked pork	R	Aude Watrelot	Iowa State University	IA	\$ 183,995	\$ 3,795,820	This project aims to reduce environmental pollution and increase economic viability of wineries by using grape pomace as a value-added multifunctional natural preservative for pre-cooked sausage products.	Production Systems	Misc. (mushrooms, syrup, other)
LNC24-511	Improve High Tunnel Sustainability through Biological Control of Root-knot Nematodes	R	Lei Zhang	Purdue University	IN	\$ 249,707	\$ 4,045,527	The project aims to enhance the sustainability of high tunnel vegetable production by employing biological control agents to mitigate damage caused by root-knot nematodes.	Pest Management	Vegetables