

**2025 NCR-SARE Research & Education Grant Proposals Recommended for Funding**

| Project # | Project Focus | Title  | First Name | Last Name | Primary Grantee                         | Primary State | \$\$ Amt Funded | Cumulative   | Systems Category     | Commodity Category |
|-----------|---------------|--|------------|-----------|---|---------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| LNC22-475 | R             | The Soil Organic Carbon Network (SOCnet): Farmers building soil health to boost productivity and profitability while increasing resilience to extreme weather in the North Central U.S | Gregg      | Sanford   | University of Wisconsin, Madison        | WI            | \$ 250,000      | \$ 250,000   | Soil Management      | Agronomic          |
| LNC25-512 | R             | State of the Grain: Defining, evaluating, and showcasing the regional grainshed in the Upper Midwest U.S.  | Lauren     | Asprooth  | University of Wisconsin, Madison        | WI            | \$ 249,806      | \$ 499,806   | Crop Production      | Agronomic          |
| LNC25-513 | R             | Leveraging propolis across the landscape to improve sustainable beekeeping   | Adam       | Dolezal   | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | IL            | \$ 249,997      | \$ 749,803   | Animal Production    | Animals            |
| LNC25-514 | R             | The Numbers Just Don't Add Up: Making Virtual Fencing a Financial Reality to Goat Producers  | Sarah      | Easdon    | Grace Heritage Farms                    | KS            | \$ 249,899      | \$ 999,702   | Animal Production    | Animals            |
| LNC25-515 | R             | Usefulness of agricultural drones for affordable early seeding of multi-species cover crop   | Sarah      | Eichler   | Kent State University                   | OH            | \$ 249,990      | \$ 1,249,692 | Production Systems   | Agronomic          |
| LNC25-516 | E/O           | Farmer education and hands-on training to enhance sustainability of small-flock poultry meat production  | Tatijana   | Fisher    | Lincoln University of Missouri          | MO            | \$ 249,988      | \$ 1,499,680 | Animal Production    | Animals            |
| LNC25-517 | R             | Building biodiversity back into North Central Region vineyard systems to meet grape pest management and wine quality targets   | Rufus      | Isaacs    | Michigan State University               | MI            | \$ 249,122      | \$ 1,748,802 | Pest Management      | Fruits             |
| LNC25-518 | R             | Optimizing Water and Nitrogen Requirements with Cover Crops for Sustainable and Profitable Irrigated Cropping Systems  | Abia       | Katimbo   | University of Nebraska-Lincoln          | NE            | \$ 250,000      | \$ 1,998,802 | Crop Production      | Agronomic          |
| LNC25-519 | R             | Trapping more with less: Scaling up Trap Cropping in Midwest cucurbit production   | Ashley     | Leach     | Ohio State University                   | OH            | \$ 246,030      | \$ 2,244,832 | Pest Management      | Vegetables         |
| LNC25-520 | E/O           | Advancing Soil Health and Resilience for Specialty Crop Farmers Through Regional Collaboration   | Dena       | Lewerke   | Lutheran Services In Iowa               | IA            | \$ 250,000      | \$ 2,494,832 | Education & Training | Vegetables         |

|           |     |   |         |           |   |    |            |              |                      |   |
|-----------|-----|---|---------|-----------|---|----|------------|--------------|----------------------|---|
| LNC25-521 | R   | Functionalizing earthworms for soil health monitoring by North Central farmers  | Andrew  | Margenot  | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign                                 | IL | \$ 249,531 | \$ 2,744,363 | Soil Management      | Not commodity specific or doesn't apply |
| LNC25-522 | E/O | Regenerative farmland transition: a new approach to teaching and empowering retiring farmers, landowners and beginning farmers        | Martha  | McFarland | Practical Farmers of Iowa   | IA | \$ 244,737 | \$ 2,989,100 | Education & Training | Not commodity specific or doesn't apply |
| LNC25-523 | R   | Assembling and Screening Off-Patent Elite Sorghum Germplasm for Northern Plains Adaptation with Farmer-Led Participatory Selection    | Ravi    | Mural     | Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science, South Dakota State University | SD | \$ 249,995 | \$ 3,239,095 | Crop Production      | Agronomic                               |
| LNC25-524 | R   | Understanding the effects of seeding rate and row spacing on weed pressure, yield, and economic outcomes in organic corn production   | Osler   | Ortez     | Ohio State University   | OH | \$ 249,932 | \$ 3,489,027 | Crop Production      | Agronomic                               |
| LNC25-525 | R   | Transforming Wool into Sustainable Soil Amendments for Berry Production: A Market and Field Study for Midwest Sheep and Berry Farmers | Suzanne | Slack     | Iowa State University   | IA | \$ 249,994 | \$ 3,739,021 | Production Systems   | Not commodity specific or doesn't apply |
| LNC25-526 | R   | Identifying Optimal Cattle Genetics for Grass-Finished Beef Production Systems  | Jordan  | Thomas    | University of Missouri  | MO | \$ 249,999 | \$ 3,989,020 | Animal Production    | Animals                                 |