



2026 Call for Proposals Graduate Student Grant Program

Grant Highlights	
Deadline	Thursday, April 16, 2026 at NOON Central Time
Who's eligible	Must be written by a student enrolled at accredited colleges and universities exploring some aspect of sustainable agriculture, with input from their advisor
Funding amounts	\$20,000 maximum per proposal with a maximum duration of 36 months, 10% indirect cost maximum
Grant goal	To fund projects related to some aspect of sustainable agriculture, addressing: economic viability of farms, improving environmental conditions related to agriculture, and/or quality of life for farmers
Allowable expenses	Personnel costs, materials and supplies, equipment, travel, 10% indirect institutional costs, etc.
Unallowable expenses	Permanent structures, motorized vehicles, tuition or books for courses, branded attire, promotional items, etc.
Submit	Online at projects.sare.org

Learn more about the [Graduate Student Grant program](#):



Questions?

Betsy Wieland
eliza003@umn.edu
612-626-6556

www.northcentral.sare.org
ncrsare@umn.edu
612-626-3113

See past funded [SARE grants](#):



Copies of this call for proposal can be downloaded from the North Central SARE website at www.northcentralsare.org as a PDF or Word file. If you need a printed application, call 612.626.3113.

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Background

About SARE and NCR-SARE

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

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

North Central Region-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE)
NCR-SARE's mission is to strengthen communities, increase farmer/rancher economic viability, and improve the environment by supporting research and education.

The NCR-SARE program is hosted by the University of Minnesota and operates under a cooperative agreement between the University of Minnesota (host institution) and the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Statement from USDA-NIFA

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to the extent permitted by law, will no longer make grants or otherwise fund programs or activities that improperly discriminate on the basis of race or sex, including discrimination in the name of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies. Instead, USDA will prioritize merit and efficiency. USDA recognizes programs and initiatives will have the greatest impact when these programs and initiatives put American farmers, ranchers, and foresters first by:

- solving the most pressing challenges they face;
- protecting America's food, fuel, and fiber supply to enhance national security;
- supporting production of healthy and safe food for consumers;
- expanding and developing domestic markets;
- training the next generation of agriculturalists; and
- fueling innovation to keep American farmers at the forefront of productivity.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is committed to advancing these principles and encourages applicants to actively engage farmers, ranchers, and foresters when applying for funding opportunities to ensure relevancy and adherence to them. NIFA also encourages agricultural leaders to engage in the peer review panel process to ensure American producers are better served through research, education, and extension activities.

About the Program

In 2026, \$400,000 will be available to fund about 20 grant projects. Individual grants are for up to \$20,000 total and can fund projects lasting up to 36 months. In 2025, we received 132 applications and funded 22, with durations ranging from 12- 36 months.

Proposals need to address sustainable agriculture issues of importance to the North Central region. SARE funds applied projects that engage farmers/ranchers. NCR-SARE strongly encourages having farmers, ranchers, local organizations, or others who will use or benefit from the project involved in its planning, design, and implementation. This participation enhances

the relevance and impact of a sustainable agriculture research or education project.

Successful projects should contribute to all three of the following NCR-SARE broad-based outcomes:

- Improving the economic viability of farmers/ranchers and associated agricultural businesses.
- Sustaining and improving the environmental quality and natural resource base on which agriculture depends.
- Enhancing the quality of life for farmers/ranchers, rural and urban communities, and society as a whole. (See the resource [Understanding and Measuring Social Sustainability on the SARE website.](#))

Proposals should clearly explain:

- Expected outcomes for the project and how they will assist NCR-SARE in working toward the broad-based outcomes listed above.
- How progress toward project outcomes will be evaluated.
- Expected impact on farmers/ranchers, communities, and society as a whole.
- How projects related to climate and/or bioenergy work provide direct or indirect benefits to farmers, ranchers, and private foresters.

Applicant Eligibility

The applicant must be officially registered as a graduate student or resident (according to their institution's requirements) at the time the project begins.

A student is allowed to receive only one NCR-SARE Graduate Student grant during their student career.

Members of the NCR-SARE Administrative Council or Graduate Student Review Committee may not be included in these proposals directly, or by letters of support.

Budget

Allowable Expenses

NCR-SARE funds **MAY** be used for the following purposes:

- Supplies, including software, field supplies and lab supplies
- Labor (this includes wages or salary and benefits, other than tuition, for the student or other individuals working on the project)
- Special reference books not readily available
- Farm equipment rental or operating charges
- Travel and per diem necessary for the project (use your university rules for travel expenses)
- Payments for project participants (especially farmers and ranchers) who aren't drawing salaries or wages from an employer while they're working on your project
- Journal article publication fees

Note

SARE **limits indirect costs to 10 percent** of the total direct costs provided under each award. When preparing budgets, you should limit your request of the recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of your institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 10 percent of total direct costs awarded.

Unallowable Expenses

NCR-SARE funds **MAY NOT** be used for the following purposes:

- Payment of tuition
- Purchase of books used in the student's courses
- Printing or copying of a thesis or final project paper
- Permanent capital improvements (e.g., land, buildings, etc.)
- Purchase of motorized vehicles
- Equipment costing over \$5,000 (see note in budget section)
- Travel outside of North America
- Branded attire and promotional materials (giveaways)

2026 Timeline

- February - Call for Proposals released
- April - Proposals due
- July - Funding decisions made
- Late July/ Early August - Applicants informed of decision
- October 1 - Funds available to recipients

Review and Selection Process

Reviewers

The NCR-SARE Graduate Student Review Committee will evaluate proposals for technical merit and relevancy of the project to sustainable agriculture and NCR-SARE criteria. It is made up of Advisory Council members, advisors of past Graduate Student grant recipients, and NCR-SARE state coordinators. This committee will make recommendations to the NCR-SARE Administrative Council (AC), which will select projects for funding at their July 2026 meeting. The AC is responsible for ensuring that the selected projects reflect not only scientific merit, but include projects from as many priority areas as possible, from across states, institutions, stakeholder groups and NGOs.

Applicants will be notified about the status of their proposal in July/August 2026. Projects selected for funding will have their budgets reviewed for compliance with federal and host institution guidelines prior to subcontracts being executed.

Selection Criteria

Reviewers and the Administrative Council will consider the following five factors in evaluating proposals:

1. Statement of Problem, Background, Justification

Does the proposal address a clearly identified and compelling problem or need? Is substantiating data provided (references and statistics included where appropriate)? Do they explain how this project builds on past projects and research, or how it is new and different from what's been done? Does the project propose a solution that is likely to yield outcomes that will positively impact the sustainability of agriculture in the North Central Region? Specifically, does it address NCR-SARE's broad-based outcomes?

2. Approach and Methods

Are objectives/outcomes clearly defined, with methods and experimental design suited to achieving the research objectives and project outcomes? Is the budget appropriate for what is to be done?

3. Outreach

Is the outreach approach developed for the project clearly described and well thought out? Are learning experiences and activities planned so as to engage the intended audience?

4. Project Team

Does the proposal describe the key people in the project and their relevant experience, including their commitment, expertise, and ability to see the work through to its conclusion? Are farmers functional participants? Were farmers involved in the development of the initial idea, or through implementation of the project, and into any outreach plans? Is there a plan for working together? Does the plan fit the project?

5. Evaluation

Is the evaluation plan for the project outcomes clearly described and well thought out? Is the plan measurable and realistic?

Funds Distribution

Grants are awarded to the student applicant's university or other organization specified on the Cover Page (Primary Grantee), with the funds to be dedicated to the student's project.

Funds are transferred from the host institution, University of Minnesota, for the NCR-SARE program to the Primary Grantee on a **reimbursement basis**. The Primary Grantee sends invoices to the host institution after the project has incurred expenses.

If you submit your grant proposal to another funder and are funded for the same work as in your Graduate Student proposal, **you must notify NCR-SARE**.

Reporting Expectations

Based on the logic model for the Graduate Student Grant Program, NCR-SARE gathers specific information about all projects at different points in the project. See **Table 1** for details. This should be reflected in your Evaluation Plan.

All projects will be required to submit a final report within 60 days of the end of the project. In addition, projects lasting longer than 18 months will be required to submit a progress report. In the case of No-cost Extensions, additional reporting requirements may be added.

Table 1. Grantee Reporting Expectations Matrix

Performance indicator	Collection time	Reporter
Number of farmers/ranchers participating in research	During and at end of project	Student
Number of farmers/ranchers reached through presentations or educational events	During and at end of project (optional)	Student

Number and type of outreach activities conducted to share project results	During and at end of project	Student
Research results of the project	During and at end of project	Student
Number of journal articles, in press or published	During and at end of project, Post project	Student and Advisor
Number and types of other, non-refereed outreach publications	During and at end of project, Post project	Student and Advisor
New collaborations as a result of project (by graduate student and/or advisor)	During and at end of project, Post project	Student and Advisor
SARE grant leveraged another grant (by graduate student and/or advisor)	During and at end of project, Post project	Student and Advisor
Number of citations of project results	Post project	Student and Advisor
Sustainable agriculture career choices made as a result of the project?	Post project	Student

Final Report and Publications Requirements

The host institution is authorized to withhold payment of invoices for your project until you have submitted all reports and other required documents. Instructions for completing annual and final reports will be sent to the student listed on the proposal cover page.

Grant Writing Instructions and Suggestions

Application Signoff Sheet

You **must upload a copy of the application signoff page with required institutional signatures** to complete your application. It will have to be signed by:

- Graduate student applicant
- Faculty advisor
- Institutional approver

To obtain institutional approver signatures, submit the application completed (except for the signoff sheet) and the signoff sheet to your grants office for review. Consult with them early to determine how much time they need for this. It may be a week or more. Then upload the signed page as the final attachment and submit electronically, prior to the deadline.

Involve Farmers/Ranchers or End-users

Farmers/ranchers and/or other end-users of information should be involved in ways that are appropriate for the project. For some types of projects, farmers/ranchers might be involved in all phases of development of the idea through planning, conducting, and/or evaluating the project. For other types of projects, farmers/ranchers might be heavily involved in identification of the problem and possible solutions, but they might be only minimally involved in conducting

the project. Farmers/ranchers and/or other end-users should be appropriately compensated for their involvement in the project. We recommend paying farmers and ranchers a minimum of \$25/hour.

Follow Budget Guidelines

Make sure that you and/or your university accounting personnel follow NCR-SARE budget guidelines. NCR-SARE funds cannot be used for tuition and using funding for equipment that lasts beyond the project requires special approval.

Proposal Sections

On the following pages are the questions you will be asked on the online submission website at projects.sare.org. It is strongly encouraged that you understand the information on our webpage about preparing a Graduate Student proposal, <https://northcentral.sare.org/Grants/Apply-for-a-Grant/Graduate-Student-Grant/>. That includes viewing the slideshow, watching the recorded informational webinar, and/or attending this year's informational webinar.

Cover

Complete general information. Your project **cannot start before October 1, 2026 and cannot be longer than 36 months.**

- **Faculty Adviser Information.** A faculty member (often the student's major professor) should be available to advise the student on research, education, and project budget issues. Also, since many universities only allow faculty members to submit external grant proposals, we require the signature and contact information for the student's adviser on the project.
- **Work Location.** Provide an address for the principal location where the work proposed will take place. Include city, state, and 5+ postal code. (Please enter one location, even if work will take place at multiple locations.)
- **Resubmission?** Did you submit this project as a proposal in a previous year? If so you will be asked to indicate how you addressed concerns of reviewers in this proposal.
- **Systems Category.** Select the **ONE** Systems category that best represents the project from the following: Animal Production—including aquaculture and apiary; Crop Production; Education & Training; Energy; Farm Business Management; Natural Resources/Environment; Pest Management; Production Systems; Soil Management; Sustainable Communities
- **Commodity Category.** Indicate the **ONE** commodity category that best represents the project from the following: Agronomic; Fruits; Nuts; Vegetables; Other plants (herbs, natives, etc.); Animals; Animal Products; Misc. (mushrooms, syrup, other), This project is not commodity specific or doesn't apply to commodities.
- **Past, current or pending SARE projects.** For each project, list the principal investigators, titles, project dates, amount, and project number (for past and current SARE projects) for any grants that the student and/or faculty adviser have received from SARE and other agencies for similar work. (Remember that a student is only allowed to receive one Graduate Student Grant in their student career.) Also, please list any SARE proposals that are pending (submitted, but you have not been notified about funding), including other proposals that are being submitted in response to this year's NCR-SARE Calls for Proposals. The purpose of this requirement is to let reviewers know what

experience the student and/or faculty adviser have with SARE and whether they have time to commit to this project. If the student and/or faculty adviser has a current and pending support form that has been used with other proposals and includes non-SARE projects, then you may include that information as well.

Body of Proposal

Word limits are meant to be generous, knowing that different proposals will require more detail in different areas. Be concise. There is no writing style requirement for applications.

Summary (400-word limit)

The Summary should concisely convey information about your project. The Summary should include the project title, an abbreviated version of the project outcomes, and very brief summaries of the context, approach/methods, and evaluation plan. State how the outcomes are expected to have relevance to farmers/ranchers.

Impact on sustainable agriculture in the North Central Region

Even if your project focuses mostly on one aspect of sustainability, consider and explain how it contributes to the other two aspects of sustainability. In other words, how will the work affect the whole system, economically, environmentally and socially? If your project does not address the specific aspect, note that in the space provided.

- Explain how your project will improve the economic viability of farms and/or associated agricultural businesses. (75-word limit)
- Explain how your project will sustain and improve the environmental quality and natural resource base on which agriculture depends. (75-word limit)
- Explain how your project will enhance the quality of life for farmers/ranchers, communities, and society as a whole. (75-word limit) (See the resource Understanding and Measuring Social Sustainability on the SARE website.)

Outcomes (250-word limit)

Think about how your project results will impact farmers or ranchers or your intended audience. How will farmers use your results? Provide a brief narrative that lists learning and action outcomes expected from your project activities. Learning outcomes include changes in the knowledge, awareness, skills, and attitudes of the audience that you are trying to reach. A learning outcome from a project about how various prairie plantings affect pollinator populations might be simply that farmers will learn how those plantings increase the number and type of pollinators. Action outcomes include changes in the behavior or practices of this audience. The action outcome from the study might be that farmers will change their planting strategy of their field borders to increase the pollinator population. Discussion of expected outcomes should specify the audience that is likely to experience change as a result of the project. Outcomes should be specific, clear, and measurable. What will you measure to see if your audience learned something or intends to act on what they learned? Include your expected outcomes in the Summary Table of Outcomes, Inputs and Activities, Outputs and Evaluation.

For more information about defining outcomes for your proposal, see the presentation on preparing a graduate student grant on the North Central SARE website.

Statement of Problem, Background, Justification (1000-word limit)

Explain the issue being addressed. Provide background information justifying the need for the proposed project. Address how this project builds on past work and research, or how it is new and different from what's been done. If farmers have provided input or identified the problem, please describe how. Indicate why your project outcomes will be important and timely. Do not expect reviewers to look up information on websites—include critical supporting information in your proposal. NCR-SARE project proposals are evaluated on their relevance to sustainable agriculture in the North Central region, the potential for impact in our region and the suitability of the approach to the problem. If your project will use genetically engineered varieties or organisms, state how their use will contribute to your project and make agriculture more sustainable. Incorporate in this section a brief review of pertinent literature and of relevant SARE projects. Search the SARE database of project reports for projects that are relevant to your proposal (see projects.sare.org). You may list literature cited at the end. Literature cited is included in the word limit, so use simple, consistent formatting.

Approach and Methods (1000-word limit)

List the general approach, activities, methods, and inputs you will use to achieve the proposed outcomes. If you are submitting a primarily research-focused proposal, state your hypothesis or research questions. Describe your research objectives, what you will measure, and how. General timelines for key activities are encouraged.

If your proposed work is part of a larger project, be clear about what parts of the project have already been completed, (e.g. have treatments already been established?) before the proposed work begins. Briefly, include some preliminary results if available.

Explain how the methods used will address the problem and meet your objectives. It is important that you describe how you will involve farmers/ranchers or other end-users, any multidisciplinary or multi-institutional partnerships, and your systems approach. NCR-SARE strongly encourages having farmers, ranchers, local organizations, or others who will use or benefit from the project involved in its planning, design, and implementation.

You may briefly cite critical references at the end of this section. Literature cited is included in the word count.

Outputs (250-word limit)

Describe the products (e.g. refereed papers, extension publications or other educational materials, completed workshops or field days with expected number of participants, etc.) of your project that will help achieve the expected outcomes. Include phrases describing the outputs in the Summary Table. If involving partners such as farmers/ranchers or Extension, explain how you will connect and collaborate with them.

Outreach (250-word limit)

Explain how you plan to inform others about the results of your project. Make the case for your project's outreach and publications, describing who will benefit from your project results and why. If involving partners such as farmers/ranchers or Extension, explain how you will connect and collaborate with them.

Evaluation Plan (250-word limit)

Provide your plans for evaluating the project or progress toward expected outcomes.

Note

This is not referring to evaluating research objectives, but to evaluating the impact of your outreach efforts. How will you know if you reach the intended knowledge gain or behavior change?

For example, will your intended audience increase their knowledge, awareness, skills or attitudes, or will they change what they do as a result of your outreach? How do you know? Include a brief summary of evaluation plans in the Summary Table. See **Table 2** in the Example section below.

Evaluation and Reporting Requirements

Table 1. Grantee Reporting Expectations Matrix shows what results you report on during the project and what SARE may assess two to four years after the project's completion.

Experience and roles (1000-word limit)

Briefly describe the role of your advising professor in the project, their background and expertise, and then describe your experience relative to the project, your role in the project, and how the project relates to your thesis or dissertation. If the work proposed here is part of a larger project, be clear about what aspects of the project this funding will support. Describe your access to the required resources such as labs, equipment, greenhouses, field plots, etc., to carry out this work. List other individuals or organizations involved in your project, and describe their roles.

*Response to Reviewer Comments - **Previously submitted proposals only** (400-word limit)*

Indicate whether this idea has been submitted to NCR-SARE before and if so, when. Respond to reviewer comments from previous pre-proposal or proposal reviews. Indicate how you changed, or decided not to change, your project in response to reviewer suggestions.

Budget and Budget Justification (no word limit)

Provide a concise budget with proper justification that is appropriate to the proposed project. Note that you can enter multiple items for each budget category. Your budget line items should be for the total project period, rather than broken down by year. Only include funds requested from SARE in this budget.

- **Show your math.** For each item in your budget, provide justification and show how you computed the expense by giving a unit cost times some quantity. The budget justification entries must add up to be the budget line request. For example, if under materials, you are proposing to buy landscape cloth, your justification budget line should specify how much and cost per unit (“Landscape cloth, 3’ X 250’ @ \$92 each, four rolls, \$368”).
 - **Show personnel costs.** your time, or the time of any collaborators—either as an hourly rate times anticipated time needed to complete the project or as a percentage of FTE times the relevant salary (please include the annual salary for each person). Provide narrative explanations for labor needed and for purchases.
 - **Specify the purpose of a trip.** Include reasons for the trip as well as explain the projected expenses. Foreign travel is generally not allowed in this grant program.
- **Limit indirect to 10%.** SARE limits indirect costs to 10 percent of the total direct costs funds provided under each award. When preparing budgets, you should limit your

request of the recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of your institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 10 percent of total direct costs funds awarded.

See **Table 3** in the Example section below.

NCR-SARE does NOT require matching funds. Equipment that will outlast the project is generally not allowed in this grant program. Equipment rental is allowed.

Attachments

Attachments should be PDF's if possible.

Application Sign Off Sheet -Required

Once you have completed all required information and uploaded all necessary attachments, submit a copy of your proposal and the Application Signoff Sheet (download from link in the instructions for that question in the Body section of the application.) You and your faculty advisor must sign the Application signoff sheet and submit it to your grants office 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 as the final step prior to submitting your proposal.

Note

Consult with your grant office early in the writing process to determine how much time they need to complete the form. This may take a week or more.

Once your submission is complete, you will be directed to a web page that states your proposal was submitted to NCR SARE and specifies the date and time of submission. If you do not receive a confirmation email shortly after submission, contact Betsy Wieland at eliza003@umn.edu or 612-626-6556.

You may "unsubmit" your proposal to make changes, but you **MUST** resubmit prior to the deadline!

Summary Table of Outcomes, Outputs, Activities, Inputs and Evaluation - Required

Summarize key information from your project in a table with the following column headings: Expected Outcomes, Outputs, Activities, Inputs and Evaluation/Monitoring Plan. This helps reviewers follow your planning process visually. A logic model is one way to do this. Please limit the table to one page (the front side of one sheet of paper). Excel spreadsheets (.xls, or .xlsx) are acceptable if necessary. See **Table 2**. Example Summary Table for a sample.

Letters Verifying Participation -As needed

Include letters or emails from collaborating organizations and from to document their participation in the project, the nature of their participation, and their agreement to participate.

Letters of support from parties not directly involved in the project are not required. Letters that are not provided as attachments here and are received separately will not be seen by reviewers. You can attach multiple letters to this section.

Animal Care and/or Human Subjects Documentation -As needed

If your project involves animals or human subjects and if you need to have your proposal reviewed by an institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) or institutional review

board (IRB) before you submitted the proposal to NCR-SARE, please attach copies (pdf, image file). Most projects that will need these documents before starting will wait to obtain them until they are awarded the grant.

NCR-SARE needs to document to NIFA that all projects that we fund meet USDA animal care and human subject standards, and copies of your institution’s approval forms will help us do that. If your proposal is selected for funding and your project would involve animals or human subjects, but your institution doesn’t have some type of approval committee, the University of Minnesota’s committee may examine your proposed protocol before the University of Minnesota issues a subcontract. Final approval by an IRB or IACUC is needed before a subcontract can be issued.

Examples

Summary Table of Outcomes, Outputs, Activities, Inputs, and Evaluation

Table 2. Example Summary Table

Expected outcomes	Inputs and Activities (What you’re investing)	Outputs (What’s produced - information, products, etc)	Evaluation/Monitor Plan; Measurement methods (How will you know you are impacting agriculture?)
<p>Learning outcomes: Farmers will learn...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -IPM principle for managing an insect - Cover crop seeding technique - business solution <p>Action outcomes: Farmers will ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -incorporate IPM practice into their operation -adopt a solution -share their success with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Personnel time -Other funds -Land or livestock for experiments -Data analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops - experiment data - booklet - website - field day - survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -survey farmers -secondary data from NASS -behavior change indicators

Budget and Budget Justification

The justification is how the costs add up, it does not explain the need for the item.

Table 3. Example Budget Justification Items

Category	Item	Units	Cost per unit	Total
Personnel - Salary/wages and Fringe	Project coordinator	25% time for 6 months	\$20/hr	\$5,000
	Undergraduate	full time for 8 weeks	\$15/hr	\$4,800
	Advisor	2.5% time	\$100,000 annual salary	<u>\$2,500</u> \$12,300
Materials and supplies	Field day equipment/ supply rental	1 Portable restroom	\$100	\$280
	Lab supplies	1 Tent	\$100	
		1 Carton 16oz bottles alcohol	\$45 with tax	
		1 box 3ml transfer pipettes 500 count	\$35 with tax	
Travel	travel to study plot	3 round trips of 100 miles	\$0.655	\$197
Printing and publications	Building soils for Better crops	10	\$23/book plus \$20 for shipping	\$250
Fee for service	Hire web designer	Build database and user interface	\$50/hr for 98 hours	\$4900
Other direct costs	farmer participation	8 hours	\$25/hr	\$200
Subtotal				\$18,127
Indirect costs		10% of subtotal		\$1,812.7
Total				\$19,939.7

Who Can Help

NCR-SARE Office

Feel free to contact Betsy Wieland with any questions at eliza003@umn.edu or 612-626-6556.

The **NCR-SARE office** can share information and resources from SARE Outreach, plus contact information for state SARE Coordinators. Contact: North Central Region SARE, 120 BioAgEng, UMN, 1390 Eckles Ave, Saint Paul MN 55108, phone: 612-626-3113, e-mail: ncrsare@umn.edu, web: www.northcentral.sare.org.

State coordinators

They can help you develop your idea, connect you with farmers/ranchers, and read your draft proposal. Contact information for State Coordinators can be found on the NCR-SARE website at: <https://northcentral.sare.org/state-programs/state-coordinators/>

Publications

- **SARE** has many publications available for use in your project, some at no cost. The full list can be found at <https://www.sare.org/resources/>. Or contact the NCR-SARE office for assistance.
- **Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA)** will provide information packets on various agricultural issues. If you are contacting ATTRA via e-mail, please provide 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.) Contact: ATTRA, P.O. Box 3657, Fayetteville AR 72702, phone: 800-346-9140 (7 am to 7 pm, Central Time), fax: 501-442-9842, web: <http://www.attra.ncat.org>.

Proposal Submission

Graduate Student grant program **proposals must be submitted online** at projects.sare.org. Setting up an account here is a good way to get started. You and your advisor will both need accounts for your application.

We suggest you complete a draft proposal in a word processing program and edit it to meet word limits, then copy and paste content into the online system. Tables and images can be embedded in certain sections but you should limit them to crucial information. Attachments should be PDF's if possible.

SARE does not follow a standard writing style such as APA or MLA. As you copy and paste into projects.sare.org, the system will format it for you.

Submission process recap

1. Create an account at **projects.sare.org**. Your advisor will also need an account.
2. Copy and paste information from a word processing application.
3. Upload all attachments, except Application Signoff Sheet.
4. Obtain required signatures.
5. Upload signed Application Signoff Sheet.
6. Submit proposal **before deadline**.

Attachments

Required

- Application sign off sheet - signed
- Summary Table of Outcomes, Outputs, Activities, Inputs, and Evaluation

As needed

- Letters of participation or support
- Animal care or IRB documentation

Checklist

STOP! Before you submit your proposal, make sure you have all necessary information and attachments.

- Summary
- Impact on sustainable agriculture in the North Central Region
- Outcomes
- Statement of problem, background and justification
- Approach and methods
- Outputs
- Outreach
- Evaluation plan
- Experience and roles
- Budget and budget justification
- Attachments (see above)

Deadline

Thursday, April 16th, 2026 NOON. Central Time

Post Submission Survey

After the application is submitted, registrants will be directed to a survey seeking feedback about the application process. We are very appreciative of your time to let us know what works and what needs to be improved. Your comments are compiled separately from your proposal and not connected to your contact information.

Thank you for your interest in applying for an NCR-SARE Graduate Student Grant. We look forward to reading your application and working with you.

Sincerely,
NCR-SARE staff