

Partnership Grant Program

The Partnership Grant program is intended to foster cooperation between agriculture professionals and small groups of farmers and ranchers to catalyze on-farm research, demonstration, and educational activities related to sustainable agriculture.

Examples of appropriate projects include: developing a curriculum about food storage for farmers and processors, on-farm testing of cropping system strategies or grazing systems, cooperative efforts to develop new marketing approaches, or investigations into new approaches to processing and/or adding value to sustainably produced farm products.

- Partnership Grants are for on-farm research, demonstration, and/or educational projects and are funded for up to 24 months.
- Up to \$40,000 total funding request per application is allowed.
- An Agricultural Professional is the grant applicant and the principal investigator.
- Typically three or more farmers or ranchers are expected to be substantially involved in the project.
- Each farm/ranch must be an independent and separate/distinct operation.

Any agriculture/natural resource professional in the North Central region may apply. These professionals are:

- University educators including extension agents and specialists.
- NRCS field staff.
- Agricultural consultants (individuals who actively consult with farmers and ranchers as certified crop advisors, soils consultants, ranching consultants, etc).
- Nonprofit or agency staff assisting farmer and ranchers at the local level.

A unique aspect of NCR-SARE is our personal contact with grantees involved in the program. Beth Nelson and Rob Myers work together to coordinate the Partnership Grant Program. Feel free to contact either Beth or Rob.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIE FLANAGAN



The Savanna Institute's Keefe Keeley (left) and Kevin Wolz (center) received NCR-SARE support to create a silvopasture system and plant seedling-stage trees on Cathe Capel's (right) farm in Illinois.



Sustainable Agriculture
Research & Education

www.northcentralsare.org

About NCR-SARE

The North Central Region-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (NCR-SARE) promotes and supports sustainable agriculture, with grants as the primary tool for accomplishing the mission. These grants are offered annually to farmers, researchers, educators, and other people in the agricultural community.

Since 1988, NCR-SARE has awarded more than \$50 million worth of competitive grants to help advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities.

The USDA-funded Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program was authorized by the 1985 Farm Bill and was first funded in 1988. SARE operates through four regional offices as well as a national office. The North Central Region serves Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan,

Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The term “sustainable agriculture” means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long-term:

- satisfy human food and fiber needs
- enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends
- make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls
- sustain the economic viability of farm operations
- enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole

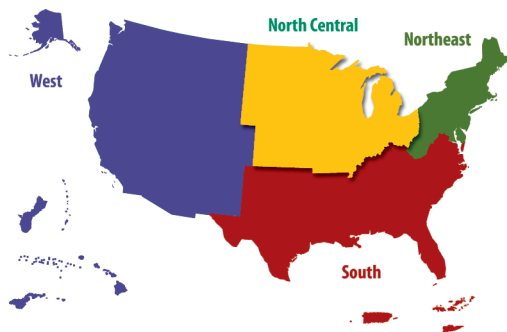


PHOTO BY TIM NISSEN

With support from NCR-SARE, grape grower Tim Nissen was able to partner with Paul Reed with the University of Nebraska Viticulture program to learn and share information about organic grape production in Nebraska.

NCR-SARE offers awards for several competitive grant programs, including:

- Farmer Rancher
- Youth Educator
- Graduate Student
- Professional Development
- Research and Education
- Partnership



**For more information on this program,
or to be added to our contact list, contact:**

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