

Research and Education Grant Program

The North Central Region SARE (NCR-SARE) Research and Education Grant Program is a competitive grant program for researchers and educators involved in projects that explore and promote environmentally sound, profitable, and socially responsible food and/or fiber systems.

Research and Education projects include a strong outreach component and significant farmer/rancher or other end user involvement from inception of the idea through implementation of the project. Generally:

- Research and Education grant awards range from \$10,000 to \$250,000.
- Projects may last up to 36 months, or may choose to propose a long-term project.
- NCR-SARE funds about 15 to 16 Research and Education projects per year.

Many projects are interdisciplinary and/or multi-institutional, involving a broad range of agricultural interests. Project coordinators in the past have explored sustainable agriculture under the following topics: biocontrol, crop production, education/extension, networking, livestock production, marketing, quality of life, soil quality, value-added marketing, waste management, water quality, and weed control.

PHOTO BY ROB WINTERS



University of Missouri researcher Hank Stelzer received SARE support to install this instrumentation and flume to evaluate the effect that woody energy crops could have on soil and water quality.

NCR-SARE recognizes that some research/extension systems work is complex and requires a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that takes many years to complete. To be effective, these projects are likely to exceed the time limits of North Central SARE's normal one-to-three year funding cycle. Projects can now apply indicating the long-term (more than 3 years) option in the preproposal and will be asked to justify the length of the project and provide an estimated project duration. Funded long-term projects will receive funding in three-year increments (contingent on NCR-SARE receiving funding.)

NCR-SARE can provide grant applications, reports from other projects, lists of funded projects, or other sustainable agriculture information.

To receive more information about the NCR-SARE Research and Education Program preproposal/proposal process and timeline, contact the NCR-SARE office. Follow the application process carefully. Visit the NCR-SARE website at: www.northcentralsare.org or call 612-626-3113 for resources to help you write your proposal.



A Milwaukee-based composting project received SARE support to scale up food waste composting and increase the supply of affordable and appropriate compost for food production in food insecure neighborhoods.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG LAWLESS

**NORTH CENTRAL
SARE**
Sustainable Agriculture
Research & Education

www.northcentral.sare.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 \$100 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



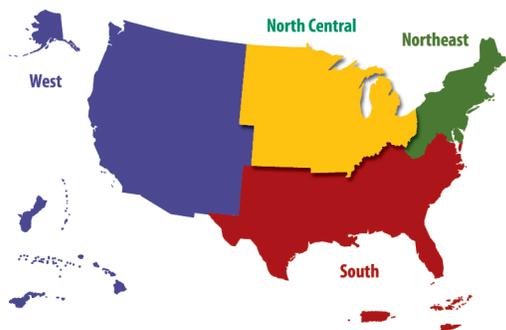
Julie Dawson and Kitt Healy received SARE support to conduct research around tomato varieties at the University of Wisconsin.

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

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

- Farmer Rancher
- Youth Educator (as part of the Farmer Rancher Grant Program)
- Graduate Student
- Professional Development
- Research and Education
- Partnership



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

612-626-3113
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