A farm is to a beginning farmer what a blank canvas is to an aspiring artist, which makes it no wonder that beginning farmers and ranchers are some of agriculture's greatest innovators and experimenters. In fact, studies have found that most innovation takes place within the first five years of a farmer's operation. SARE has made fostering the next generation and its ingenuity a priority.

NCR-SARE Project Sampler

To view SARE's entire beginning farmer portfolio, or just the North Central region's, visit https://projects.sare.org. For selected NCR beginning farmer grants, see the reverse side.

Through interviews with beginning farmers and young people who recently quit farming, this comparative ethnographic project explored the range of factors that contribute to a beginning farmer's decision to leave agriculture. See https://projects.sare.org and search for project number GNC15-208.

The Hoosier Young Farmer Coalition worked to provide an organized social structure so young and beginning farmers could find and spend time with each other, sharing tricks of the trade, celebrating successes, and commiserating challenges. See https://projects.sare.org and search for project number FNC17-1089.

A project at the University of Missouri worked with new and beginning Latino producers on sustainable production methods. Their main goal was to enhance the awareness, skills, and knowledge needed to protect natural resources such as soil and water while improving profitability. See https://projects.sare.org and search for project number LNC15-368.

Educators with the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship received SARE support to enhance the learning experience of aspiring dairy farmers by training their trainers. See https://projects.sare.org and search for project number ENC17-162.

SARE's four regional programs and outreach office work to advance – to the whole of American agriculture – innovations that improve profitability, stewardship, and quality of life by investing in ground-breaking research and education.
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Transitioning Farm and Ranch Land From One Family to another: Evaluating New Strategies for Profitable Transfers and Sustainable Agriculture Partnerships
James Farmer, Indiana University, Indiana, LNC16-377, $199,566

On-Farm and Ranch Education of New and Beginning Latino Producers in Missouri
Eleazar Gonzalez, University of Missouri, Missouri, LNC15-368, $163,227

Reweaving the Economic Fabric to Support Sustainable Farms and Ag-based Business
Jan Joannides, Renewing the Countryside, Minnesota, LNC14-360, $199,634

Growing Farmers Training Program
Ingrid Kirst, Community CROPS, Lincoln, Nebraska, LNC11-333, $164,676

South Dakota Beginning Farmer Training and Link Project
Frank James, Dakota Rural Action, South Dakota, LNC09-311, $25,000

Farmer and Rancher Grants

Building the Local Food Economy in Ozark County, Missouri
Amelia LaMair, Flotsam Farm, Missouri, FNC17-1082, $7,436

Hoosier Young Farmer Coalition
Genesis McKiernan-Allen, Hoosier Young Farmer Coalition, Indiana, FNC17-1089, $6,244

Enhancing Economic Stability by Building Financial Resilience: A Model for Collaborative Learning Among Beginning Farmers in Southwest Wisconsin
Marie Raboin, Brix Cider Company, Wisconsin, FNC16-1052, $18,410

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Enhancing Quality of Work-Based Beginning Farmer Training Programs Through Trainer Professional Development
Laura Paine, Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship, Wisconsin, ENC17-162, $74,107

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS

Why Do They Quit? Identifying Key Determinants of Beginning Farmers’ Decisions
Andrea Rissing, Emory College, Georgia, GNC15-208, $9,855 (work was conducted on Iowa farms)

Best Hispanic Farmer’s Management and Marketing Strategies in Michigan
Lourdes Martinez, Michigan State University, Michigan, GNC08-096, $9950

YOUTH EDUCATOR GRANTS

Urban Farming as a Sustainable Business
Tommy McDoniel, Asbury Community Development Corporation, Michigan, YENC18-127, $2,000

Engaging Youth in Sustainable Farming and Benefits of Direct Marketing
Skylar Falter, Nebraska Cooperative Development Center, Nebraska, YENC17-116, $2,000

Prairie Farm Corps Youth Development Program
Shannon McBride, Liberty Prairie Foundation, Illinois, YENC17-109, $2,000

Building Community and Growing Food with the Next Generation
Tod Satterthwaite, Sola Gratia Farm, Illinois, YENC15-091, $2,000

Youth Intern Program at Growing Hope
Danielle Gartner, Growing Hope, Ypsilanti, Michigan, YENC12-046, $2,000

For information on more SARE-funded beginning farmer projects search the SARE projects database: https://projects.sare.org.

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