



Sustainable Agriculture  
Research & Education

# Farmer Grant Program



The Northeast SARE region includes Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

## About Northeast SARE's Farmer Grants

Northeast SARE offers grants to farmers to explore new concepts in sustainable agriculture conducted through experiments, surveys, prototypes, on-farm demonstrations or other research and education techniques. Farmer Grant projects address issues that affect farming with long-term sustainability in mind. Competitive proposals explore new ideas and techniques or apply known ideas in new ways or with new communities.

## Who can apply for a Farmer Grant?

The grant program is open to all commercial farm business owners and farm employees in the Northeast. Applicants may be farming on a large or small scale, with organic or conventional practices, urban or rural, full- or part-time, etc.—this grant program accepts all types and scales of farms. To be eligible, applicants must meet the U.S. Census of Agriculture definition of a Farm: “Any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.” Applicants who are farm employees are also eligible to apply. Farmers on farms affiliated with an institution or a nonprofit organization are eligible to apply so long as the farm produces and sells agricultural products that meet the farm definition above. We encourage projects submitted from or in collaboration with women, the LGBTQ+ community, and Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC).

There is a limit of one grant application per farm per year.

## What is the size of a Farmer Grant?

The cap on any single Farmer Grant is \$30,000. Individual grant awards are expected to be in the range of \$5,000 to \$30,000 per project.

## What can Farmer Grant funds be used for?

Grant funds are used to pay for project-specific expenses, including your time to work on the project, supplies and materials, project-related services like testing and consulting, project-based travel, outreach expenses and other project costs.

## What expenses are not allowed?

Northeast SARE is looking to fund projects that will lead to new information, so these grants are **not** intended to provide start-up funds, and may not be used to finance farm equipment or expand farm operations. Further, the grant does not fund normal operating expenses—costs that would be there in the absence of the project.





## Northeast SARE's Outcome Statement

Agriculture in the Northeast will be diversified and profitable, providing healthful products to customers. Farmers and the people they work with will steward resources to ensure sustainability and resilience, and foster conditions where farmers have high quality of life and communities can thrive.

### How does the program work?

Farmer Grants are competitive—only ideas that are well-designed to meet proposed objectives and promise the greatest benefit to farming communities will be funded.

There are no restrictions on the topics that may be addressed as long as the proposed project leads to new information that enhances Northeast agriculture. Past projects have focused on production and marketing topics, farm succession, soil and pest management, season extension, farm diversification, creation and testing of tools and prototypes, and on-farm energy, among other topics.

Proposals are submitted online. Northeast SARE releases one call for proposals each year. The deadline to apply is typically in late fall with projects starting the following growing season.

All Farmer Grant projects **must** have a technical advisor. Your technical advisor can be an Extension educator, NRCS or other government staff, university researcher, nonprofit staff, private consultant, veterinarian or other technical expert, including another farmer. They should review your proposal for its feasibility and design and may help you with what you need to create and complete a successful project.

Proposals are evaluated by review teams made up of farmers and agricultural service providers from across the region. Successful proposals explore new paths to sustainable agriculture, contribute to Northeast SARE's Outcome Statement (see left) and directly address the review criteria posted in the Call for Proposals. Based on review team scores, final decisions about projects to be awarded are made by Northeast SARE's Administrative Council, the program's governance committee.

### May I see examples of past projects?

Descriptions of and results from all past projects are found on SARE's national database at [projects.sare.org](http://projects.sare.org) where you can customize a search by region, project type and other parameters of interest.

### Where can I get more information?

Calls for Proposals that include detailed instructions are posted in advance of the application deadline on our website at: [www.northeastsare.org/FarmerGrant](http://www.northeastsare.org/FarmerGrant).

Each state also has a Northeast SARE coordinator who can answer your questions. Find contact information for your state coordinator on our website under "SARE in Your State."

### Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program

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