NCR-SARE offices:

University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
Lincoln University in Missouri

Find this PowerPoint presentation at:
https://northcentral.sare.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/farmer-rancher-grant/
What is SARE?

Grants and outreach to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.
Something New and Different

SARE was started in 1988, conceived as a decentralized, science-based, grassroots, practical, problem-solving, and inclusive competitive grant-making and outreach program.
The SARE Model

- Four regional councils set priorities and make grants
- SARE Outreach produces practical information
- USDA-NIFA supports SARE
- Other USDA agencies and land-grant universities are partners
The SARE Model

Successful SARE grantees are engaged in projects that are guided by the 3 principals of sustainability...

- **Stewardship** of our nation’s land and water
- **Profit** over the long term
- **Quality of Life** for farmers, ranchers, and their communities
Stakeholder Involvement

Problem identified by farmer/rancher and researcher

Farmers/ranchers involved in research and outreach

Photo by Beth Nelson

[Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education logo]
The SARE Portfolio

- Sustainable pest/weed management
- Clean energy
- Marketing
- Stewardship of land and water
- Systems research
- Community development
- Crop diversification
- Soil quality
- Nutrient management
- Rotational grazing

...and much more

Photo by Troy Bishopp
Farmer Rancher Grant Program

- Grants directly fund farmers and ranchers to explore new production methods or marketing approaches for their farms or ranches
- Up to $15,000 for an Individual farmer or rancher and up to $30,000 for Teams (two or more farmers or ranchers)
- Encouraged to link with university or non-profit partners
- 40 projects funded per year
- Coordinated by Joan Benjamin

Photo credit: Joan Benjamin
Grant Writing Basics: top ten tips

• Determine if this is the right grant for you. Make sure your idea fits program priorities.

• Read the Call for Proposals carefully. Highlight important points & deadlines.

• Plan ahead on how to accomplish your project. Think about the details before you fill out the proposal.

• Keep the writing simple and explain terms. A grant proposal is not a mystery novel - get to the point quickly, concisely, logically.
Grant Writing Basics: top ten tips

• **Measure your results.** Be sure that what you are measuring will give you the information you need to tell if you have accomplished your objectives.

• **Timing is everything.** Let reviewers know **WHEN** you will be doing the things you plan to do.

• **Involve other groups and people who can complement your skills.** Pick cooperators carefully, and make sure each one has the skills you need, whether that’s research, marketing, outreach or another skill.
Grant Writing Basics: top ten tips

• Develop a clear outreach plan to share what you learn from your project.

• Develop a realistic budget. Include a strong justification for each budget item.

• Follow directions. Proposals can be disqualified if the applicant does not answer all questions or follow general format directions regarding word counts, etc.
Grant Writing Help: Each NCR-SARE State has one or more State SARE Coordinators. Find your state coordinator here.
More Grant Writing Help: Grants Advising for Farmers and Agricultural Entrepreneurs in the Midwest

**MFAI’s Grant Advisory & Resources** program can help you apply to grants and cost-share programs of state or federal sources that could help you achieve your farming or ag-related business goals. Michael Fields Grants Advising is a **free** service available to farmers, farmer organizations and institutions in the Upper Midwest region of the United States: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

Contact MFAI Grants Advisor: Martin Bailkey at 608-698-9478 or martinbailkey@gmail.com.

For more information see: [http://www.michaelfields.org/grant-advising-resources/](http://www.michaelfields.org/grant-advising-resources/).
Our Open Grant Programs

Research & Education Grant Program
Due October 7, 2021
LEARN MORE

Partnership Grant Program
Due October 21, 2021
LEARN MORE

Youth Educator Grant Program
Due November 11, 2021
LEARN MORE

Farmer Rancher Grant Program
Due December 2, 2021
LEARN MORE

What is Sustainable Agriculture?
How do we produce and distribute food, fuel, and fiber sustainably? While every strategy varies, SARE embraces three broad goals: profit over the long term; stewardship of our nation’s land, air, and water; and quality of life for farmers, ranchers, and their communities.

Learn More
Farmer Rancher Grant

About the Farmer Rancher Grant Program

Farmers and ranchers have a critical insight when it comes to improving their systems. Whether they need to limit off-farm inputs, reduce erosion, create more time for family or community activities, learn marketing skills, or find other ways to enhance their livelihoods, farmers and ranchers can turn to the North Central Region SARE (NCR-SARE) Program for grant opportunities and information. In 1992, NCR-SARE began a competitive Farmer Rancher Grant Program exclusively to fund farmers and ranchers striving for agricultural sustainability.

NCR-SARE’s Farmer Rancher Grant Program is a competitive grants program for farmers and ranchers who want to explore sustainable solutions to problems through on-farm research, demonstration, and education projects.

Check out these [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) about the Farmer Rancher Grant program for more information.

- Farmer Rancher grants are for ideas initiated by farmers and ranchers and are offered as individual grants ($15,000 maximum) or team grants for two or more farmers/ranchers who are working together ($30,000 maximum).
NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Sustainable Agriculture Grants  
2022 Call for Proposals

Purpose: Farmer Rancher Grants provide opportunities for farmers/ranchers to use Sustainable Agriculture practices to solve problems on the farm or ranch, and to share their ideas, innovations, and results with others. Approximately $720,000 is available for this program. Grant recipients have 23 months to complete their projects. There are two types of competitive grants:
1. Individual grants ($15,000 maximum)
2. Team grants for two or more farmers/ranchers from separate and distinct operations who are working together ($30,000 maximum).

TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL: go to https://projects.sare.org/. The online submission system will open in August 2021. Proposals must be received online or in the NCR-SARE office by mail or e-mail by 4:00 p.m. CST on December 2, 2021. Faxed proposals will NOT be reviewed. If you are unable to use the online system e-mail: ncrsare@umn.edu or mail proposals to:

NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program
120 Biosystems & Ag Eng Bldg, University of Minnesota
1390 Eckles Ave, St Paul MN 55108

This call for proposals is available on the North Central SARE web site at https://northcentral.sare.org/. If you need a printed application, call 612-626-3113.

Checklist of Items Needed to Submit a 2022 Grant Proposal

☐ Proposal  ☐ Budget  ☐ Letter of support
☐ Confirmation of Commitment from Teams
☐ Letter from your financial institution (only if your project requires a loan)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) - USDA Non-discrimination Statement
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), including NIFA, prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply.)
SARE Grant Management System

This site is where the results and activities from SARE funded projects are reported and applications for grants are submitted.

- Search projects to find information from all SARE funded projects.
- Log in to submit a grant proposal or a report for a SARE funded grant project.
- Reset your password if you forgot your password.
- Create an account if you would like to submit a grant proposal and do not have an account.

SARE's mission is to advance - to the whole of American agriculture - innovations that improve profitability, stewardship and quality of life by investing in groundbreaking research and education. SARE's vision is...
Applicant Registration

SARE grants are only available to people and organizations or institutions in the US, its territories and protectorates.

Email*

Username*

Name prefix

First name*

Last name*

Name Suffix e.g. DVM or Jr.

Job Title*

Institution, organization or business name*

Institution, organization or business type*

Address Line 1*

Address Line 2

City*

State/Protectorate*

Zip*

Office/Day Phone*

Cell Phone

Website https://
SARE Grant Management System

Proposal Applicant Links

- Manage my grant proposals
- Start a new grant proposal
Make sure you choose the North Central Region and the correct grant program. Then click on Begin a new proposal.
Click on “Edit title”

Then enter your title in the space provided.

Click on “Save”
Click on “Edit Description” to fill in the Missing Proposal Description* and enter a brief description of your project.

Note that for answers with character or word limits, the system tracks your character or word count.

Click on “Save”
Click on “General Information” to answer the questions in that section.

2022 North Central Farmer/Rancher Grant

Call for proposals

Adding Native Trees, Shrubs, and Perennials to a Farm to Support Pollinators and other Beneficial Insects – 796618

We will install 3 plantings to increase habitat for beneficial insects. We will monitor beneficial and pest insects and compare them to pre-planting numbers.

Edit description

Project Coordinator

Joan Benjamin

Change

View Draft

Closes:
December 2nd, 2021 at 4:00pm CST

* General Information

* Grant Proposal

* Livestock Care Plan

Farmer Rancher Grants

The Farmer Rancher Grant call for proposals (CFP) is available on the North Central SARE web site at: https://northcentral.sare.org/. Please read it before starting your proposal. It contains details that will help you be successful. You can see some of the instructions from the Call for Proposals below.

If you need a printed application, call 612-626-3113.

Purpose: Farmer Rancher Grants provide opportunities for farmers/ranchers to use Sustainable Agriculture practices to solve
General Information

* State
List the state where project work is taking place.

* County

* Are you a Farmer or Rancher?
You must be a farmer or rancher to apply. A farmer/rancher is someone who raises crops or livestock, especially as a business. Beginning farmers/ranchers are eligible to apply. Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) should apply for Partnership Grants for projects working with farmers and ranchers. For details see: https://northcentral.sare.org/Grants/Apply-for-a-Grant/Partnership-Grant/

* State
List the state where project work is taking place.

* Type of Grant Proposal
Is this an Individual or Team Project?
When a question is completed and saved, a green check mark appears.

You can change your answer by clicking on Edit answer and resaving.

✅ State
List the state where project work is taking place.

Answer:
MO

Edit Answer

✅ County

Answer:
Boone

Edit Answer

✅ Are you a Farmer or Rancher?
You must be a farmer or rancher to apply. A farmer/rancher is someone who raises crops or livestock, especially as a business. Beginning farmers/ranchers are eligible to apply. Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) should apply for Partnership Grants for projects working with farmers and ranchers. For details see: https://northcentral.sare.org/Grants/Apply-for-a-Grant/Partnership-Grant/

Answer:
Yes

Edit Answer
For a “Team Grant”, you must complete contact information for each of your team members by clicking on “Edit Answer,” then “Add a cooperator.” Let your team members know that they will be sent an email to confirm their participation.
Fill in the contact information for your team members. Be sure to fill in the email. If they do not have an email address, they will need to provide a brief (1 paragraph) statement explaining their role in the project. You can attach this statement to your proposal.
When you have completed this section, scroll to the bottom or top of the webpage and click on “Next Section” or “Proposal Overview.”
If you return to Proposal Overview, the green check mark by “General Information” confirms that you have completed all required information for that section. Click on “Grant Proposal” to complete the next section.
Complete the information for each question and “Save”. For text sections with word limits, the system tracks the words used.
A table works well in the Activities and Timeline section.

You have several options for including a table. You can copy and paste a Word or Excel table into the answer box, or you can create a table in the application. To create the table seen here, click on “Edit Answer,” then click on the table icon, choose table, and choose the 3 x 4 grid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PROJECT ACTIVITY</th>
<th>WHO PARTICIPATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2022</td>
<td>Pre-project planning meeting to choose vegetable crop varieties and cover crops, plan trial layout and outreach efforts.</td>
<td>Project coordinates: Jan Wiggins, Eliza F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Edgar Holtzburger. Extension educator, Neighboring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>farmers with cover crop experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-April – Mid-May 2022</td>
<td>Order seeds. Plant vegetables in test plots: snap beans, tomatoes, watermelon.</td>
<td>Project coordinates: Jan Wiggins, Eliza F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Edgar Holtzburger. Extension educator, Neighboring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>farmers with cover crop experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May – August 2022</td>
<td>Plant 5 cover crops in trial plots to evaluate usefulness in vegetable plantings: Annual Ryegrass, Hairy Vetch, Buckwheat, Red Clover, Winter Rye. Evaluate weekly.</td>
<td>Edgar Holtzburger and daughter, Pauline F.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You can complete each section of the table. The icons below allow you to add or delete columns or rows.

You can also upload a table as an attachment. It must be in pdf format (see next slide for uploading attachments.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PROJECT ACTIVITY</th>
<th>WHO PARTICIPATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some sections have an “Add Media” button. You can upload attachments including pictures or diagrams to those sections by clicking the “Add Media” button.
You’ll be taken to your “media page.”
To upload from your computer, click on “Select Files, then “open” the file from your computer.

You’ll see the uploaded file listed in your media library. Add a caption to explain what the attachment is, then click on “Insert into post” in the lower right hand corner to add to your application section.
Your uploaded file should be listed on the right side. Click on “OK” in the lower right hand corner to upload.
Materials and methods

300 words or less. Outline the steps or process involved in carrying out the project and the logic behind the choices you made. For example, for research projects, describe the types of field, livestock, or other trials involved and the locations. For projects involving test plots, list the size of the plots, how they are laid out, what you are planting, and why you made those choices. For demonstration/education projects, explain the teaching methods you will use (e.g. hands-on planting and harvest days, workshops or seminars and what the content will be). Also describe the teaching materials you will use (e.g. specific books, curricula, films, social media etc.). Please be specific and consider what other farmers and ranchers might learn from your experience.

Optional drawing or image. You may upload or attach one optional drawing or image to help illustrate your plot layout or another aspect of your project. (Limited to one page, single sided.)

Label the upload or attachment so reviewers know what it is. Attachments can be in these formats: PDF, JPEG, GIF and PNG.

Note: once you upload the optional attachment, you must save it to add it to your application.

The strawberry towers will be set up in rows as shown with landscape fabric covering the soil.
Once you’ve completed the required information in the Grant Proposal section, click on Project Overview to return to the proposal main page.

At any time, you can click on “View Draft” to view your proposal, or to share a draft with a collaborator.
2022 North Central Farmer/Rancher Grant

Call for proposals

Adding Native Trees, Shrubs, and perennials to a Farm to Support Pollinators and other Beneficial Insects – 800384

To support beneficial insects and benefit from their pollination and insect management services, we will plant a border of 250 native trees, shrubs and perennials. We will monitor the numbers of insects (beneficial and pest) and compare them to numbers before the border was planted.

Project Coordinator

Joan Benjamin

Closes:
December 2nd, 2021 at 4:00pm CST

General Information

Grant Proposal

Livestock Care Plan

Farmer Rancher Grants

The Farmer Rancher Grant call for proposals (CFP) is available on the North Central SARE web site at: https://northcentral.sare.org/. Please read it before starting your proposal. It contains details that will help you be successful. You can see some of the instructions from the Call for Proposals below.

If you need a printed application, call 612-626-3113.

Purpose: Farmer Rancher Grants provide opportunities for farmers and ranchers to use sustainable practices to solve problems on the farm or ranch, and to share their ideas, innovations, and results with others. Approximately $720,000 is available for this program. Grant
Budget and justification

Read the BUDGET TIPS and EXAMPLE BUDGET on pages 7-9 of the Call for Proposals before you complete your budget. Choose the budget categories that apply to your project from the dropdown menu. Choose from the following categories:

- **Personnel:** Use for farmer/rancher labor and hired labor. List everyone who is participating in your project except consultants and service providers who should be listed under *Other Direct Costs*. Include a realistic estimate of the amount of labor and the cost for each participant being paid with grant funds. If participants are not being paid with grant funds, include them but enter $0 for the grant request.

- **Materials and Supplies:** Use for items you plan to purchase to carry out the project. Explain how they will be used to support the project.

- **Travel:** For travel costs, use a mileage rate of $0.56

- **Other Direct Costs:** Use for consultants and service providers, communications, photocopying, conferences/meetings/workshops, speaker/trainer fees, fees for service/stipends, equipment rental, land-use charges

- **Equipment, Permanent fencing, Perennial seeds and plants, or Livestock:** Grant funds can only be used for up to 50% of the cost of these items. Include the total cost of the item in the Details/Justification column but enter 50% or less of the total cost in the Amount column.

Equipment definition: an item that costs $5000 or more with a useful life of more than 1 year. If a project includes making or adapting equipment, all parts plus the labor for equipment construction are considered part of the equipment expenses.

Item/description: For each category list the items you want to purchase with grant funds along with a brief description of each item that explains why it is needed for the project. Be sure to add the cost of the item at a per-unit cost times the number of units needed. Example: For 2 permanent fences, the total cost of the item is $1,000. Use the Details/Justification column to show how the total cost is expressed as a per-unit cost times the number of items. If you are not asking for the full amount of any item, show the number of items you are asking for.

**UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES:** Grant funds cannot be used for planning, construction, repair, or remodeling of buildings, or to buy motorized vehicles. These items may be leased or rented with grant funds, if they are needed for the project. Grant funds cannot be used for permanent installations (e.g. wells or buried irrigation lines).

* Budget and Justification

Add a Budget Item
Follow the guidelines to enter each item of your budget.
After you select the “Budget Category,” fill in the “Item Description.” Then, under “Details/Justification,” show how you came up with the amount for that item (show your math), and fill in the “Amount” you want the grant to cover for that item. When you click on “Save” the item appears as shown above.
### Budget and Justification

#### Answer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>Beth Nelson plants cover crops, takes growth and yield measurements, takes soil tests</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Beth Nelson and Joan Benjamin travel to Sustainable Ag conference in Fairfield, Iowa to present results of grant project.</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials and supplies</td>
<td>Annual ryegrass cover crop seed</td>
<td>$560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials and supplies</td>
<td>Buckwheat cover crop seed</td>
<td>$256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials and supplies</td>
<td>Soil tests</td>
<td>$989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$6,105</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Description & Details / Justification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details / Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beth Nelson plants cover crops, takes growth and yield measurements, takes soil tests</td>
<td>100 hours x $25/hour = $2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Nelson and Joan Benjamin travel to Sustainable Ag conference in Fairfield, Iowa to present results of grant project.</td>
<td>$250 registration + $200 for 1 night at conference hotel + $450 airfare = $900 x 2 = $1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual ryegrass cover crop seed</td>
<td>50 lbs/acre x 10 acres = 500 lbs seed. 500 lbs of seed divided by 50 lbs per bag = 10 bags of seed. 10 bags of seed @ $56 per bag = $560.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* Letter of Support

**Letter of Support** - Applicants **must** submit one letter of support from someone who can:

- speak to your experience and ability to carry out the project and
- explain why the project is needed and how it will benefit the community

You can submit an optional second letter. Do not submit more than two letters. Contact supporters early and make sure they are familiar with your project so they can write a strong letter. The letter should include information that will support the proposal. (For example, if the supporter will help you with outreach, ask them to include that in the letter and provide specifics.) Reach out to your SARE state coordinator for advice on crafting strong letters of support. Support letters must include the contact information of the supporter. Examples of people who might write a support letter include: Extension educator, banker, co-op or grocery manager, implement dealer, or staff from: farm organizations, Farm Service Agency (FSA), local soil and water conservation district offices, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or non-profit organizations.

**Note:** once you upload the PDF file of your letter, **you must save it** to add it to your application.
Uploading a letter of support to your application.

“Open” file from your browser.
You’ll see your uploaded attachment listed here. You must click on “Save” to make it part of your application.
Farmer Rancher Grants

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1. Individual grants ($15,000 maximum)
2. Team grants for two or more farmers/ranchers from separate and distinct operations who are working together ($30,000 maximum).
You will land on this web page, confirming your submission. Note that you can “Unsubmit” and make corrections and then “Submit” again, but you must resubmit prior to the grant close date.

You will also receive an email confirming your submission.

To “Unsubmit,” click on PROPOSAL OVERVIEW. To review your proposal, click on VIEW PROPOSAL.
If you need to make changes to your proposal after you submit it, click on “Unsubmit Proposal.” After you make changes, be sure to “Submit” your proposal again before the grant deadline.
Good luck with your proposal!

If you have questions contact Joan Benjamin at:

573-681-5545
or
benjaminj@lincolnu.edu

https://northcentral.sare.org/
Follow us on:
Our Facebook Page
Our Twitter Page
Our YouTube Channel

photo credit: Joan Benjamin