



# Graduate Student Grant Webinar

March 2026



Welcome to this webinar about 2025 NCR-SARE Graduate Student Grant Program and how to apply for it.

I'm Betsy Wieland, Associate Director at NCR-SARE. I manage this program and our Partnership Program.



# Agenda

- **SARE and NCR-SARE overview**
- **Program details**
- **Tips for writing your proposals**
- **How to apply**
- **Questions**



# Program Fast Facts

## Requirements

- \$20,000 maximum
- 36 month maximum
- 10% indirect cost maximum
- Enrolled in a graduate program by start of project
- **EARLIEST** Project Start date **October 1, 2026**

## Goal

To fund projects related to some aspect of sustainable agriculture, addressing:

- economic viability of farms
- improving environmental conditions related to agriculture
- and quality of life for farmers



Let's make sure you're in the right place:

# About SARE, NCR-SARE, and Our Grants



I'll give you some background and context to understand SARE's mission and goals, so you can make sure your project aligns with them. This can help increase your chances for receiving funds.

## What is SARE?

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



SARE is part of USDA and is funded through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture or NIFA program.

SARE's purpose is to provide grants and outreach to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

## A Different Kind of Grant Program

Started in 1988, SARE strives to be

- Decentralized
- Science-based
- Grassroots – farmer/rancher focused
- Problem solving
- Practical
- Inclusive



# Stakeholder Involvement

Exploring problems identified by farmers and ranchers

Farmers and ranchers are involved in research, education and outreach



SARE is Farmer/Rancher driven. As in all successful SARE projects, farmers and ranchers should be considered major stakeholders in the project's design and implementation.

## The SARE Model

Successful SARE projects are guided  
by the 3 legs of sustainability



*Photo credit Scarlet Salamone, SARE Project FNC22-1350*

We look for projects that will help advance agriculture in these areas.

Your project may focus on one aspect more than the others, but successful proposals address how their project will impact all 3 areas.

## The SARE portfolio

- Sustainable pest and weed management
- Marketing and local food systems
- Water quality and nutrient management
- Systems research
- High tunnels and season extension
- Crop rotation
- Cover crops and soil health
- Small ruminants/poultry/cattle
- Pastured livestock/grazing systems
- Pollinators and their habitat
- Urban Agriculture
- Indigenous Food Sovereignty
- ... and much more



Here is a sampling of the aspects of agriculture that SARE works with.

I'm happy to talk to you if you are unsure if your project idea fits in the portfolio.

## SARE Outreach

- A library of practical, how-to books  
(in print or download for free)
  - Media outreach
  - A portfolio of in-depth reports on current topics
  - Topic rooms for multimedia information
  - Countless online resources, including project reports
- 
- You can use these in your projects



We also have materials available for free as pdfs online, or for small fees, based largely on SARE grant results.

You are welcome to use them in your projects.

## NCR-SARE

- Hosted by University of Minnesota
- Region covers geography shared by 12 states in **GOLD**
- 8 staff across region
- 1 or more state coordinators in every state



Visit [northcentral.sare.org](http://northcentral.sare.org) for more information.

## NCR- SARE Grant Programs

Programs	Funding Max
Youth Education	\$6,000
Farmer Rancher	\$15,000 or \$30,000
Graduate Student	\$20,000
Partnership	\$50,000
Professional Development	\$120,000
Research and Education	\$250,000



*Photo credit Scarlet Salamone, SARE Project FNC22-1350*

Here is a list of our grant programs, organized by maximum funding amounts.



# About Our Graduate Student Grant Program



## Highlights

- Due **Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026 by 12:00 PM, noon CT**
- Up to **\$20,000**
- Up to **36 months**
- Projects led by graduate student
- Majority of the work happens in our 12 states
- Online application
- In 2025, 22 out of 132 proposals were funded
- Can be a portion of your graduate work



## Who can apply?

- Enrolled in accredited college or university
  - Graduate student degree program
  - Veterinary medicine residency
- Graduate student is really the PI
  - Proposal written by graduate student
  - Faculty Advisor supports, is PI on paperwork
- First timers encouraged!
- College/Univ can be outside region if majority of work happens in our region



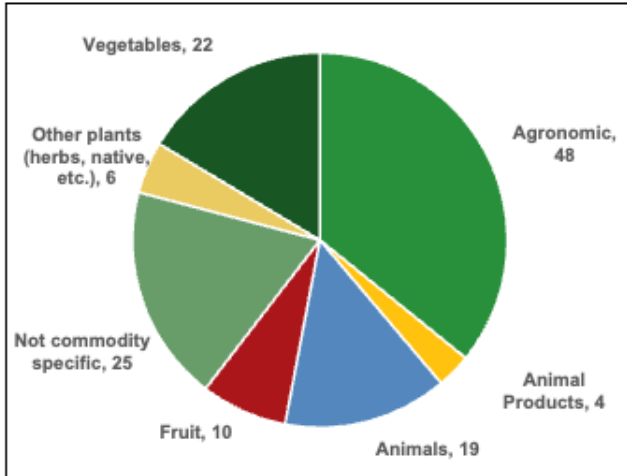
## Why apply?

- We strive to foster the next generation of agricultural researchers and educators
- Great introduction to writing grant proposals
- Build your network of peers regionally
- Introduces you to sustainable agricultural principles
- Great practice framing your work to be meaningful to farmers and ranchers
- Helps build your portfolio of published work

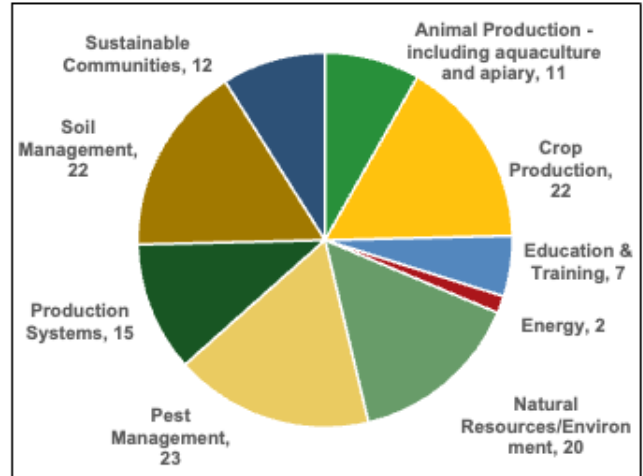


# Funded Graduate Student Projects, past 5 years

**Commodity**



**System**



## Successful proposals

- Demonstrate relevance to sustainable agriculture across region
- Address SARE's intended outcomes with the 3 legs of sustainability
- Reference related SARE funded projects
- Involve farmers/ranchers
- Have appropriate budgets
- Clearly define
  - Outcomes
  - Outputs
  - Outreach
  - Evaluation



## Writing tips

- Read Call for Proposals carefully
- Make it **VERY** clear
  - How project helps SARE meet our goals
  - How project aligns with USDA priorities
  - What you plan to do, how you'll do, it and why
  - You have the right team and tools to do the work well
- Start early
- Set realistic budget
  - Explain how every item is calculated
- Keep reviewers in mind
- Seek help as needed



# Impact on agriculture in North Central Region

What do you want to happen because of your project?

Will it help farmers and ranchers, their associated businesses, and their communities with...

- Improving economic viability?
- Sustaining and improving environmental quality?
- Enhancing quality of life as a whole?



Another common question is clarifying what we mean by outcomes and impacts.

As a public institution, we must be mindful of documenting the impact of our funds.

A critical aspect of the proposal is to indicate how your project outcomes align with NCR-SARE broad-based outcomes the 3 legs of sustainability.

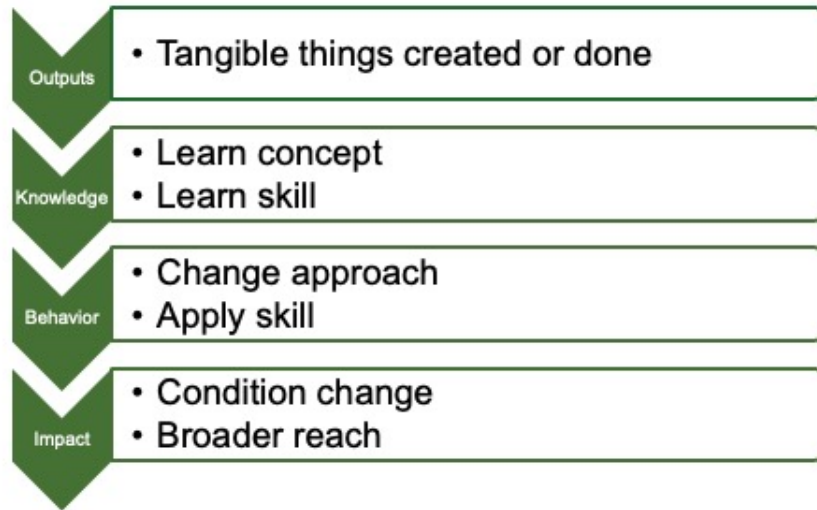
- Improving the economic viability of farmers and associated agricultural businesses.
- Sustaining and improving the environmental quality and natural resource base on which agriculture depends.
- Enhancing the quality of life for farmers/ranchers, communities, and society as a whole.

What long term impact are you trying to achieve with your project?

Even if your project focuses on one of these outcomes, you should indicate how the outcomes might impact all three.

These are long term condition change impacts. They take time, but show the connection between your project and them.

# Outputs to Outcomes to Impact



To define your project outcomes—think about what you want to happen as a result of you completing this project. Learning outcomes can happen fairly quickly, and are things like changes in awareness, skills, knowledge or attitude; action outcomes are changes in behavior, practice or decision-making, and those are the outcomes that might achieve at the end of your project.

Think about how you might know you achieved

- Knowledge gains
- Behavior change
- Condition change/Impact
  
- How many people do you expect to attend events?
- How many do you expect to have a gain in learning?
- How will you measure if you are meeting those expectations?

# Outputs to Outcomes to Impact



Here's one example. Perhaps you are an Extension Educator and there are a group of growers that are interested in learning strategies and techniques for selling to institutions, a they have seen other models out east. You might put together a project to bring out a speaker or curriculum, and get the group together on someone's operation to learn from the speaker, or do site visits for each operation.

- Notice that these are measurable things. As you develop your plan think of how you will measure your results. How will you know if you achieved your goals.

# Prepare to Apply



So you've got an idea you think would make a good proposal. Now what?  
Let's get you ready to apply.

## STEP#1: Visit 2 websites

- [northcentral.sare.org](http://northcentral.sare.org)
- [projects.sare.org](http://projects.sare.org)



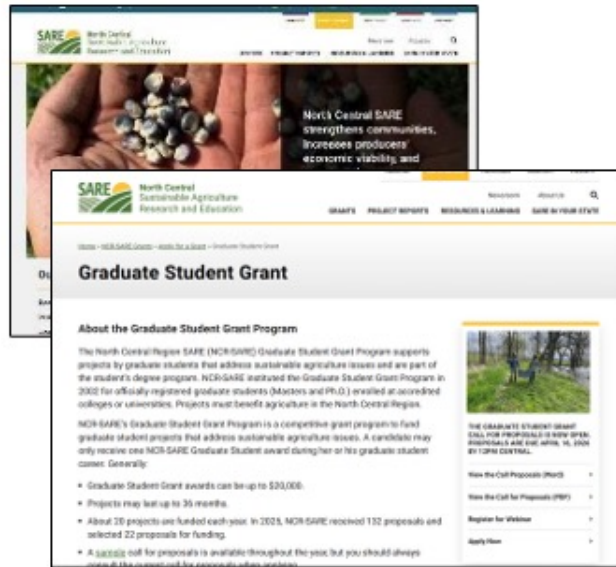
First let's talk about your project idea.

NCR-SARE staff and state coordinators would love to talk with you about your ideas, to see what would work best, and how we may assist you.

## NCR-SARE website

<https://northcentral.sare.org/>

- Learn about each of our programs
- Download calls for proposals
- Find state coordinators
- Find help



- In applying for NCR-SARE grants, there are 2 websites you will work with: NCR-SARE's website, and National SARE's Project Website, [projects.sare.org](https://projects.sare.org).
- NCR-SARE's main website has many resources including the calls for proposals, slide sets like this, and news articles about current and recent projects.
- If you have any problems downloading the call for proposals, please contact the NCR-SARE office and we can email you a copy or send a print copy.

## State Coordinators can help

Home » State Programs

### State Programs

SARE state coordinators in every state and island protectorate are charged with training agriculture professionals in sustainable practices and sharing SARE project results with them.

State coordinator responsibilities include professional development—promotion, networking and coordination, especially of SARE-related activities—and communication and evaluation. Activities generally include the following:

- Coordinating annual sustainable agriculture training and educational program opportunities for all new appropriate field office personnel.
- Coordinating updated sustainable agriculture training and education opportunities for current staff.
- Promoting the availability of SARE funding opportunities, program activities and opportunities.
- Raising awareness of SARE Outreach educational materials and services, as well as



#### Find your State Coordinator

SARE state coordinators in every state and island protectorate are charged with training agriculture professionals in sustainable practices and sharing SARE project results with them.

[State Coordinators](#)

Contact your SARE state coordinator

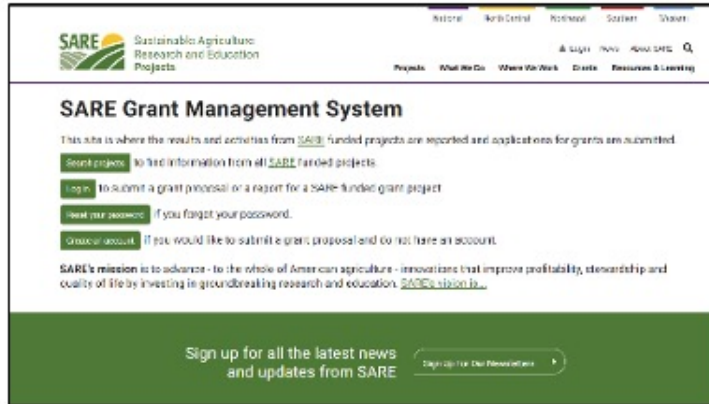


An important resource for you is your state NCR SARE coordinator. If you click on the link indicated in this slide, you will pull up the contact information for your state coordinator. They can discuss your idea with you, offer suggestions, and may be able to link you to collaborators. They can be especially helpful in connecting you to farmers who might be interested in your work and willing to collaborate.

## National SARE Projects Website

<https://projects.sare.org/>

- Search for SARE funded projects
- Set up your account
- Apply for grants
- Manage grants



As I said, it's going to help you to research projects previously funded by SARE related to your project.

This is where all SARE funded projects are managed. Applications are submitted here. It also houses reports and materials created for those projects.

## Search projects

SARE funded sustainable agriculture research and education projects

[search tips](#)

Sort by  Year  Title  Project Number

Project Number

Project Title

Project Reports  search the content of all project reports

Region  All regions

State  All States

Project Type  All Project Types

Look up past SARE projects to see how your work differs or builds on them.

Type in key words under 'Project Reports.'

Choose the region, state, or grant type of interest.



- You should look at past grant projects to see how your work builds on past projects and use that information in your preproposal.
- You do not need to create an account to search projects.

## Search projects

### SARE Grant Management System

Project Reports: cover crops  
 Region: North Central  
 Project type: On Farm Research/Partnership  
 From: 2017

52 projects found

Projects per page: 10 25 50 All

1 2 ... 5 6 Next >

Print

#### **ONC22-098 - Exploration of Fiber Hemp Production and Quality**

Exploration of Fiber Hemp Production and Quality will study fiber hemp production practices and how variety, nitrogen rates, and seeding rate affect fiber hemp dry matter production and fiber quality. Fiber research and business partnerships will be established to continue growing this industry.

#### **ONC22-104 - Using perennial groundcovers for improved soil and nutrient retention in corn/soy production**

This project will determine whether planting corn-soy rotations into Kentucky Bluegrass or Kura Clover perennial groundcovers, also known as perennial cover crops, is an economically viable strategy to limit soil and nutrient loss through on-farm demonstration trials.

#### **ONC22-101 - Use of a Cover Crop to Reduce Soil Crusting and Improve Soybean Emergence**

Heavy rainfall after planting can cause a hard, compact, and brittle surface soil. Farmers face seedling death and loss of productivity due to this soil crust. Our goal is to promote the successful adoption of a cover crop prior to soybean planting to reduce the effect of soil crusting.

#### **ONC21-082 - Midwestern Hemp Database: Utilizing Grower-Cooperator Networks to Assess Variety Performance of Industrial Hemp Across the North Central Region**

Applied research and outreach across the North Central region assessing production practices, variety performance, and laboratory analysis methods of industrial hemp through university research trials and on farm data collection via grower-cooperator networks and private laboratory partnerships.

#### **ONC21-092 - Harvesting Our Potential: Growing Skills, Confidence and Sustainability**

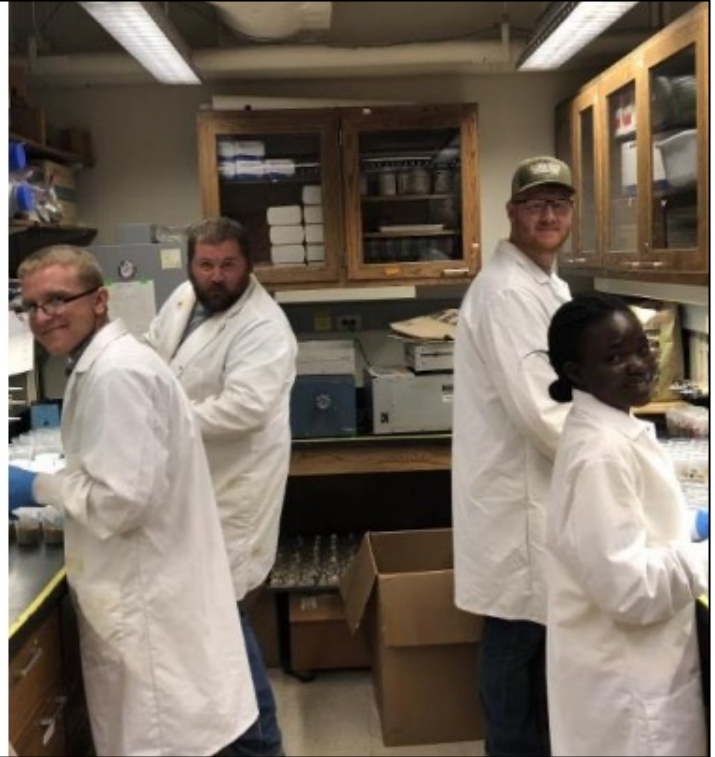
Women farmers and landowners will network and learn skills necessary for increased confidence in their ability to be economically self-sufficient through sustainable agriculture careers, while also building connections with other women at all stages of their own careers.



This is what the search results look like.

## STEP #2: DECIDE: Is your idea a good fit?

- Read the Call For Proposals BEFORE you start your online application.  
[northcentral.sare.org](http://northcentral.sare.org)
- Look at what's been funded recently that relate to your idea.  
[projects.sare.org](http://projects.sare.org)
- Note how your ideas is similar or different. How do they complement each other?



First let's talk about your project idea.

NCR-SARE staff and state coordinators would love to talk with you about your ideas, to see what would work best, and how we may assist you.

# Budget Item Examples

## **CAN** pay for project expenses

- Partial salary
- Farmer time
- Supplies
- Equipment (Max \$5000)
- Travel
- Meeting expenses
  - Food allowed if part of meeting continuity
- 10% indirect costs

## **CANNOT** pay for

- Permanent structures
- Branded attire, promotional items
- Tuition
- Travel outside North America

SEE CALL FOR PROPOSAL FOR MORE



These are examples, see the call for a full list.

# Reporting

## Plan to gather this data

- # of participating farmers/ranchers
- # activities, presentations, etc
- Research results
- # articles published, academic and popular
- # resulting citations
- # farmers/ranchers with behavior change
- New collaborations
- Additional grants leveraged by project
- Long term impacts on 3 legs of sustainability

*See Grantee Reporting Expectations Matrix in Call for Proposals*



Part of the obligation of receiving funds is to report your activities and outcomes of the project.

# Sharing results

## Reports

- Progress
  - due annually, unless shorter than an 18-month project
- Final (60 days after project completion)
- Submit in [projects.sare.org](https://projects.sare.org)

Possible SARE visit and/or storytelling



## STEP #3: CALL A FRIEND

- Betsy Wieland
  - 612-626-6556
  - Eliza003@umn.edu
- SARE State Coordinator
- Extension Educators, NRCS or SWCD staff, etc.





# STEP #4: DEVELOP YOUR SARE GRANT PROPOSAL

- **Cover**
- **Summary**
- **Brief Description**
- **Outcomes**
- **Proposal body**
- **Statement of problem, background, and justification**
- **Approach and methods**
- **Outputs**
- **Evaluation**
- **Team experience and roles**
- **Budget justification**
- **Attachments**



- I will skip over some of these and highlight the ones where people have more questions.

# SECTIONS OF YOUR SARE GRANT PROPOSAL

- **Body of the Proposal**

Describe the details of your project: Who, What, When, Where, etc.

- **Budget**

What do you need to carry out the project: People's time? Supplies? Travel funds?

- **Attachments**

Provide supporting documents





# Body of the Proposal Sections

- **Cover**
- **Summary**
- **Brief Description**
- **Outcomes**
- **Proposal body**
- **Statement of problem, background, and justification**
- **Approach and methods**
- **Outputs**
- **Evaluation**
- **Team experience and roles**
- **Budget justification**
- **Attachments**



- I will skip over some of these and highlight the ones where people have more questions.

# Body of the Proposal

## 1) Summary

Provide a summary of your project (400 words)

## 2) Impact on sustainable agriculture in the North Central Region

Discuss the broader impact of the project on each of the 3 legs of sustainability: economics, environment, farmer/rancher, community and societal quality of life. (75 words each)

## 3) Outcomes

What farmer/rancher knowledge gains or behavior change do you anticipate from the project? (250 words)

## 4) Statement of the Problem, Background, Justification

Explain the need for the project How does it add to the larger body of knowledge? What problem does it address? (1,000 words)



# Body of the Proposal

## 5) Approach and methods

Think Materials and Methods. What are you going to do? How will you get it done? Rough timelines encouraged. (1,000 words)

## 6) Outputs

What are the tangible things that will happen? Number of farmers reached, field days held, handouts/presentations produced, etc (250 words)

## 7) Outreach

How will you share your results with your intended audience and beyond? Press release, poster presentation, podcast, etc. (250 words)



# Body of the Proposal

## 8) Evaluation

How will measure the impact of your project? How many farmers/ranchers did change their knowledge or behavior based on your project? Surveys? Interviews? Downloads? Etc (250 words)

## 9) Experience and roles

Who will be involved in the project? How can reviewers be confident they have the skills and knowledge to successfully complete the project? (1,000 words)

## 10) Response to reviewer comments

If this is a resubmission, indicate how you addressed comments previously provided by reviewers (400 words)



# SECTIONS OF YOUR SARE GRANT PROPOSAL

- **Project Proposal**  
Describe your project: Who, What, When, Where, etc.
- **Budget**  
What do you need to carry out the project: People's time? Supplies? Travel funds?
- **Attachments**  
Provide supporting documents



## Budget tips

- Need for each budget item must be explained for the project.
- Calculations for amount requested are required – show your math.
- Budgets are reviewed before grant is awarded to ensure it is a reimbursable expense.
- Meals can be included if part of the continuity of an event. They require an attendee list and agenda to be reimbursed.
- Call with questions while writing proposal if needed.
- 10% indirect expense maximum

### Example

- Total direct = \$18,187 +
- Total indirect = \$ 1,817
- Total request = \$19,995



## BUDGET AND “JUSTIFICATION”

What do you need to carry out the project? Examples:

Category	Description	Amount	Justification
Materials and Supplies	Wine Cap Mushrooms	\$60	\$30 each x 2 packages = \$60
Materials and Supplies	Tomato starts	\$80	\$4 each x 20 plants = \$80
Personnel		\$1168	73 hrs x \$16/hr = \$1168
Travel	Dav Hay travel to present results at farming conference	\$55	82 miles round trip x \$0.67/mile = \$55

Here are some example budget “line items.”

# SECTIONS OF YOUR SARE GRANT PROPOSAL

- **Project Proposal**  
Describe your project: Who, What, When, Where, etc.
- **Budget**  
What do you need to carry out the project: People's time? Supplies? Travel funds?
- **Attachments**  
Provide supporting documents:



## Attachments

### Required

- Summary table outcomes, outputs, activities, inputs, evaluation
- Past, present, pending SARE funding
- Application Signoff Sheet

### As needed

- Farmer letters - recommended
- Support letters
- Animal Care/ IRB forms



**Example**  
**Summary table of**  
**outcomes, outputs,**  
**activities, inputs and**  
**evaluation**

**Note**  
 Logic models are one  
 approach to the table.

Expected Outcomes	Outputs	Activities & Inputs	Evaluation
Action: Farmers will use post harvest techniques and increase sales to institutions	10 farmers adopt new packing protocols and sell to institutions	Videotape on farm post harvest process  Five ½ day workshops on postharvest techniques with materials  Student time to do follow up survey, interview farmers about increased sales	Follow up survey (six months) and interviews with farmers
Learning: Farmers will learn post harvest handling and packing techniques for sales to institutions.	Workshop curriculum  40 farmers increase awareness about techniques	Compensation to farmers for interview time  Student time to develop curriculum  \$ to develop video clips  \$printing	Pre and post-workshop surveys

# Application Signoff Sheet

## Warning!

- **MUST** be attached at time of application
- Contact your grants office early to know their deadline for submitting to them
- **May take 1 week + to get signed**
- Complete entire application, submit it and the unsigned form to your grants office **WELL** ahead of the deadline.
- Attach completed form as last step before submitting



## Then what happens?

- Review teams score, discuss, and recommend projects for funding
  - using scoring criteria found in the Call for Proposals
- NCR-SARE Administrative Council approves slate
- USDA-NIFA gives final approval
  - New, looking for compliance with federal administration priorities

*Tip: Try scoring your own application (or ask someone else to), and improve it based on that assessment.*



See the Call for Proposals to see the scoring criteria that the Peer Review Panel uses to evaluate all proposals.

The review committee is a mix of faculty advisors, farmers/ranchers, non-profit and government personnel. They may or may not specialize in your area of study. So make sure to limit or explain jargon, and explain your project clearly.

# Federal Administration Priorities

## New Regulatory Mandate

**Secretarial Memo 1078-021:** All USDA financial awards – including SARE - must now align with "America First" policies and national security interests.

**Tribal Exemption:** Per [Memo 1078-010](#), federally recognized Tribal Nations and Native communities remain exempt from these specific requirements.

## The Procedural Change

**Final NIFA Review:** Post-January 1, 2026, all proposals recommended for funding will be reviewed by USDA NIFA staff to ensure proposal language is in alignment with federal priorities before they are approved for funding. NCR SARE staff will work with applicants to adjust their proposals before this review. Proposals out of alignment will not be approved.

See the Call for Proposals to see the scoring criteria that the Peer Review Panel uses to evaluate all proposals.

The review committee is a mix of faculty advisors, farmers/ranchers, non-profit and government personnel. They may or may not specialize in your area of study. So make sure to limit or explain jargon, and explain your project clearly.

# Federal Administration Priorities



All applicants are encouraged to review the following:

- [USDA Directive on Departmental Research & Development Priorities](#)
- [White House Executive Order on DEI: January 20, 2025](#)
- [White House Executive Order on Gender: January 20, 2025](#)
- [White House Executive Order on Energy: January 20, 2025](#)
- [White House Executive Order on Discrimination: January 21, 2025](#)
- [White House Executive Order on Federal Grantmaking: August 7, 2025](#)

If applicants have questions about federal priorities and how they may or may not apply to their proposal, they are encouraged to contact NCR-SARE staff to set up a phone call to answer questions.

See the Call for Proposals to see the scoring criteria that the Peer Review Panel uses to evaluate all proposals.

The review committee is a mix of faculty advisors, farmers/ranchers, non-profit and government personnel. They may or may not specialize in your area of study. So make sure to limit or explain jargon, and explain your project clearly.

# Timeline

Date	Item
April 16, 2026	Proposals due online by <b>noon</b>
Late July/early Aug. 2026	Applicants notified
October 1, 2026	Funds available to applicants
March 1, 2028	Annual report due*
Project end date	Final report due 60 days later

\* If project end date is close to March 1, may only need to do the final report.



## Questions?

Betsy Wieland  
[eliza003@umn.edu](mailto:eliza003@umn.edu)  
612-626-6556

[ncrsare@umn.edu](mailto:ncrsare@umn.edu)  
612-626-3113

[northcentral.sare.org](http://northcentral.sare.org)



Before we go to the step-by-step directions for using the SARE online system, I'd like to pause for questions.

If you are not interested in the application part, you are free to go at this time, feel free to contact me later, if you'd like.

# Application process



## STEP #5: USE ONLINE SYSTEM TO APPLY.

<http://projects.sare.org>

### 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...**

Create an  
account  
or  
Log in



- Now we'll show a few of the screen shots from the online submission system so that you know what to expect. When you go to [projects.sare.org](http://projects.sare.org), this is what you'll see.
- If you've never had a SARE grant before you will need to first create an account and complete your profile. Click on create account.
- If you've had a SARE grant previously and filed reports in this system, your profile will already be in the system and you can log in with the username and password you used for reporting.

## Create your account

### 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. PhD or Jr)

Job Title\*

Institution, organization or business name\*

Institution, organization or business type\*

Address Line 1\*

Address Line 2

City\*

State/Province\*

Zip\*

Office/Day Phone\*

Cell Phone

Website

**Demographic Information:** The SARE program is committed to an ethic of openness, inclusiveness, and diversity in all of its programs, policies, and procedures. To monitor our performance in these areas, we ask you to provide your demographic information. Demographic information is only disclosed or used if appropriate.

Ethnicity\*

Race\*


Sex\*

Year of Birth (optional)

I'm a student

Demographic data is not tied to your application.

It is used for our improvement



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

**Application**

**SARE** Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Projects

Betsy Wieland News About SARE

Projects Home Search Projects Search Project Coordinators

## SARE Grant Management System

### Proposal Applicant Links

- [Manage my grant proposals](#)
- [Start a new grant proposal](#)

**Get started**

Betsy Wieland  
[View/Edit your profile](#)  
[Log out](#)

Associate Director  
NCR-SARE  
[eliza003@umn.edu](mailto:eliza003@umn.edu)  
1390 Eckles Ave  
Suite 120  
St Paul, MN 55108  
(w) (612) 626-6556

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

- Once you log in, you'll see this screen. Under projects, you'll see a list of all projects you've been associated with. Under the proposal Applicant Links, you'll see a link to manage applications. This is for you to edit proposals you've started but not submitted.
- Click on "Start a new grant proposal".

The image shows a screenshot of a web application titled "Apply For A Grant". The interface is divided into two main sections. The top section, titled "Apply For A Grant", features a "My proposals" button and three expandable region lists: "North Central" (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI), "Southern" (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, PR, VI), and "Western" (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY, AS, FM, GU). A callout box on the left points to the "North Central" region with the text "Choose North Central Region". The bottom section, also titled "Apply For A Grant", shows "Regions currently accepting applications" with a "My proposals" button. It lists two grants: "2026 North Central Professional Development Grant" (Call for proposals, Closes: April 2, 2026 at 1:00 pm EDT) and "2026 North Central Graduate Student Grant" (Closes: April 16, 2026 at 1:00 pm EDT). Each grant has a "Begin a new proposal" button. A callout box on the left points to the "2026 North Central Graduate Student Grant" with the text "Chose the correct program". Another callout box on the left points to the "Begin a new proposal" button with the text "Begin your proposal". In the top right corner of the application area, the word "Application" is written in green. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for "NORTH CENTRAL SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education".

- You will see a list of all open grant applications, for all regions.
- Make sure you choose the correct grant program and the North Central Region. You will be completing the 2025 Graduate Student Grant Proposal Application

# Application

Start here

The screenshot shows the SARE application portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the SARE logo and text: 'Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Projects'. Below this, there are regional links: 'National', 'North Central', 'Northeast', 'Southern', and 'West'. A user profile dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'Beta Profile', 'View/Edit Profile', and 'Logout'. The main content area is titled 'Missing title' and contains a 'Proposal Overview' for a '2026 North Central Graduate Student Grant'. It includes buttons for 'My proposals', 'View Draft', and 'Go to submit proposal'. The status is 'Not submitted' and the title is 'Missing title'. Below the title, there is an 'Edit title' button and a note: 'The project title lets reviewers know what your project is about. Use words that are useful for finding your project in a website search. The maximum length is 150 characters which is about 35 words or less. Please use title case.' The 'Project Description' section is partially visible at the bottom.

Update your information here



## Application

The project title lets reviewers know what your project is about. Use words that are useful for finding your project in a website search. The maximum length is 150 characters which is about 35 words or less. Please use title case.

**Project Description:**  
Really great project  
[Edit description](#)

Description to be used for search results if funded. Limit of 300 characters

**Applicant:** [Betsy Wieland](#)

**Graduate Student:** [Betsy Wieland](#) [Change](#) [Remove](#)

**Faculty Advisor:** [Betsy Wieland](#) [Change](#) [Remove](#)

Betsy Wieland can submit this proposal on my behalf

Missing contact information.  
[Betsy Wieland must update their profile including responding to demographic questions.](#)

**Additional Editor:** [Add additional editor](#)

**Proposal Requirements:**  
Provide the information requested in the sections below to submit your proposal.

- \* [Cover](#)
- \* [Impact on sustainable agriculture in the North](#)

[Learn More](#)  
More information on successful proposal submission can be found in the Call For Proposals document, which is kept on <https://northcentral.sare.org/Grants/Apply-for-a-Grant/Graduate-Student-Grant/>

**About SARE and NCR-SARE**  
SARE's Mission is to advance - to the whole of American agriculture - innovations that improve profitability, environmental stewardship, and quality of life by investing in groundbreaking research and education.  
The North Central Region-SARE includes the geography shared with the 12 states of:

Your advisor needs an up to date account



Application

Return to main page as needed

View a draft any time

Asterisks are Removed when required sections are complete.

Description to be used for search results if funded. Limit of 300 characters

**Applicant:** [Betsy Wieland](#)

**Graduate Student:** [Betsy Wieland](#) Change Remove

**Faculty Advisor:** [Betsy Wieland](#) Change Remove

Betsy Wieland can submit this proposal on my behalf

**Additional Editor:** [Add additional editor](#)

**Proposal Requirements:** Learn More

Provide the information requested in the sections below to submit your proposal.

[Cover](#)

[Impact on sustainable agriculture in the North Central Region](#)

[Body of Proposal](#)

[Budget and Budget Justification](#)

Submit Proposal

Delete Proposal

---

**Great Grad Student Proposal** Proposal Overview Drafts

**Instructions**

Complete general information about the project, including type of project, start date, end date, and institutional support. Your project cannot start before October 1, 2026.

**Start Date**

Your project cannot start before October 1, 2026.

**Answer:** Go


**Project End Date**

**Answer:** Go

**Additional Faculty Advisor Information**

This is an optional section. If another faculty member in addition to your primary faculty advisor will be on the project, you may add their information here.

**Answer:** Not a comment



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

- Answer each question by clicking on “edit answer” and saving your answer. Once you’ve completed the cover page information, or at any time, you can click on “Proposal Overview” to go back to the main page.

## Application

[Edit proposal](#)

**ID:** 1241248

**Link to share:** <https://projects.sare.org/proposals/1241248/10841/>

[Download PDF](#)

**Grant:** 2025 North Central Graduate Student Grant

**Status:** Not submitted

- Applicant:** [Betsy Wieland](#)
- Graduate Student:** [Betsy Wieland](#)
- Faculty Advisor:** None identified

[show everyone's info](#)


**Description for search results if funded:** Great project

**Impact on sustainable agriculture in the North Central Region**

**Economic**  
No answer

**Environmental**  
No answer

Share your draft proposal with others for assistance and review.



You can also share your draft with others before you submit.

## Special notes - Budget

Be sure to explain how each expense is calculated. Show your math.

Click "SAVE" after every category. It does not auto save.

**Budget**

Remember to save after entering each budget item, and provide calculations to show how you justification details.

✔ Answer:

Budget Total: \$6,250

Description	Category	Amount
Farmer Stipends	Fee for services	\$6,250
250 hrs for 3 farmers @ \$25/hr		
<b>Institute of Nature and Culture Total:</b>		<b>\$6,250 \$6,250</b>


\*Category: -- select category --

\*Description:

Details/Justification:

Amount:

[Previous section](#) [Proposal Overview](#)  
[View Draft](#)



Complete the budget section of your proposal, including justification of each expense.

Once you are satisfied with the budget items, click "save."

## Special notes - Institution Information

### Unique Entity I.D.

On **April 4, 2022**, the federal government stopped using the DUNS Number to uniquely identify entities. Now, entities doing business with the federal government use the Unique Entity ID created in SAM.gov. Go to this link to see how to obtain a Unique Entity ID: <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/technology-transformation-services/integrated-award-environment-iae/iae-systems-information-kit/unique-entity-identifier-update>

Answer:

LEAVE TIME!

For example, a University grants office or a non-profit's board

May take a week or more to obtain it.

For information on obtaining a Unique Entity I.D. (Formerly DUNS number), go to [gsa.gov](https://www.gsa.gov).

### Institution Official Information

An authorized representative of the institution must sign the proposal Signoff Sheet (which will be uploaded in the "Other Attachments" section). Include contact information as requested.

\* Answer:



## Special notes - Other attachments

Click here to print your Application Signoff Sheet.

Download it and send it to your grant (sponsored projects) administration office for signatures.

**Signature Page**

When you have completed all required information and uploaded all necessary attachments, print a draft and print the **NCR SARE Partnership Application Signoff sheet**. The applicant must sign the Application and submit it to your grants office or fiscal organization (if applicable) for an authorized organization representative's signature. You will need to obtain a pdf of the signed Application signoff sheet to upload with your proposal, prior to submitting your proposal.

**Answer:** Edit

**APPLICATION SIGNOFF SHEET**  
**NCR SARE Partnership Grant**


Your signature is required below. Your institutional grants office should complete and sign the bottom of this page.

-----

Applicant's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

-----

Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution Address: \_\_\_\_\_



As part of the Other Attachments section,

You will also be asked to submit an applicant sign-off sheet. Remember to contact your institution's grants office to know their timelines for receiving your materials.

To create it, click on "Edit Answer" and you can download the applicant must Signoff Sheet.

You will need to complete all of the application sections before printing the Application Signoff Sheet.

You will submit it to your grants office or fiscal organization (if applicable) for an authorized organization representative's signature. You will need to obtain a pdf of the signed Application signoff sheet to upload with your proposal, prior to submitting your proposal.

Application

Description to be used for search results if funded. Limit of 300 characters

**Applicant:** [Betsy Wieland](#)

**Graduate Student:** [Betsy Wieland](#) Change Remove

**Faculty Advisor:** [Betsy Wieland](#) Change Remove

Betsy Wieland can submit this proposal on my behalf

**Additional Editor:** [Add additional editor](#)

**Proposal Requirements:**  
Provide the information requested in the sections below to submit your proposal.

[Cover](#)

[Impact on sustainable agriculture in the North Central Region](#)

[Body of Proposal](#)

[Budget and Budget Justification](#)

**Submit Proposal**

Delete Proposal

[Learn More](#)

More information on successful proposal submission can be found in the Call For Proposals document, which is kept on <https://northcentral.sare.org/Grants/ApplyforaGrant/Graduate-Student-Grant/>

**About SARE and NCR-SARE**

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

The North Central Region-SARE includes the geography shared with the 12 states of: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.


North Central Region-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE)

NCR-SARE's mission is to strengthen communities, increase farmer/rancher economic viability, and improve the environment by supporting research and education.

The NCR-SARE program is hosted by the University of Minnesota and operates under a cooperative agreement between the University of Minnesota (host institution) and the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

When all required information is complete, the "Submit Proposal" button appears.

When ready, click it to submit.

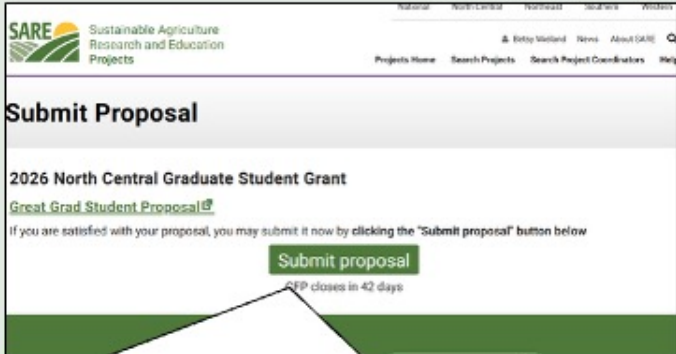


Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

Once you have completed all required sections—the “submit proposal” button appears. If you don’t see that button, you are still missing a required component. Check to make sure you’ve completed the project description and the title, which can often be overlooked.

Once you are satisfied with your proposals, click “submit proposal.”

**Application**



**Submit Proposal**

**2026 North Central Graduate Student Grant**  
[Great Grad Student Proposal](#)

If you are satisfied with your proposal, you may submit it now by clicking the "Submit proposal" button below


**Submit proposal**

RFP closes in 42 days

And click "Submit Proposal" again.

Congratulations, you're done! You and your advisor will receive a confirmation email shortly. If you don't check the system again to make sure your email address is correct.

This is where you will receive notification about the proposal.



You'll land on this page to complete submission.

## Application

The screenshot shows the SARE website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for National, North Central, Northeast, and Western. Below this is the SARE logo and the text 'Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Projects'. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a header for 'Unsubmit Proposal' and a section for the '2026 North Central Graduate Student Grant'. A prominent green button labeled 'Unsubmit proposal' is highlighted with a callout box. Below the button, it says 'GFP closes in 42 days'. At the bottom of the page, there is a green footer with the text 'Sign up for all the latest news and updates from SARE' and a 'Sign up For Our Newsletters' button.

After you submit your proposal, you will be taken to this page.

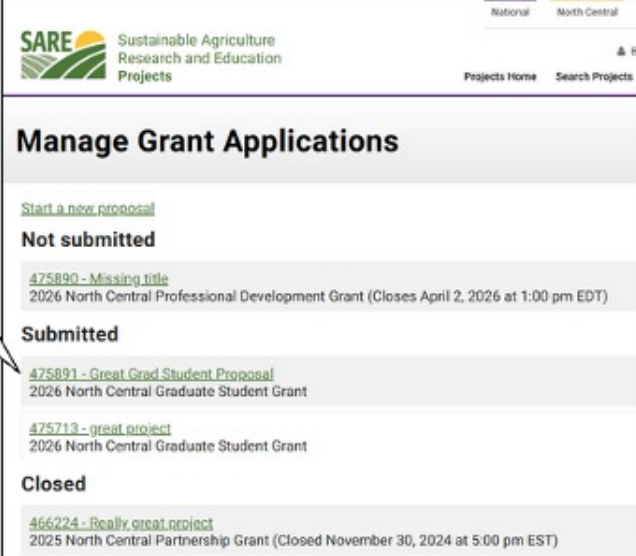
You can “Unsubmit Proposal” to make changes any time before the deadline.

You **MUST** submit the proposal again after making changes.



# Application

To find it again, log into [projects.sare.org](https://projects.sare.org), click on “Manage my grant Proposals.”



**SARE** Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Projects

National North Central

Projects Home Search Projects

## Manage Grant Applications

[Start a new proposal](#)

**Not submitted**

[475890 - Missing title](#)  
2026 North Central Professional Development Grant (Closes April 2, 2026 at 1:00 pm EDT)

**Submitted**

[475891 - Great Grad Student Proposal](#)  
2026 North Central Graduate Student Grant

[475713 - great project](#)  
2026 North Central Graduate Student Grant

**Closed**

[466224 - Really great project](#)  
2025 North Central Partnership Grant (Closed November 30, 2024 at 5:00 pm EST)



That's enough help, right?  
But wait! There's more!

NEW: HOW-TO  
VIDEO TUTORIALS!



**NCRSAREvideo**

@NCRSAREvideo · 7.74K subscribers · 401 videos

North Central Region SARE (NCR-SARE) is one of four regional offices that run the Sustain...more

[northcentral.sare.org](http://northcentral.sare.org) and 1 more link

Subscribe



I'd like to highlight a new resource we've created to help you feel equipped to apply for SARE grants. We have 11 short how-to videos. Each one is about 3 minutes and tackles a specific question we get frequently, like:

- Is my idea a good fit for a SARE grant?
- How does the funding work?
- What do I put in the outreach section?
- Etc!

Go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "NCRSAREvideo" to find this playlist.

May be geared towards Farmer Rancher Grant, so check the Graduate Student Grant Call For Proposals to confirm it's the same.

Reminder:

## Two main websites to help you

### **NCR-SARE Website**

**[Northcentral.sare.org](http://Northcentral.sare.org)**

- Call For Proposals
- Help from a person


### **National SARE Project Database**

**[Projects.sare.org](http://Projects.sare.org)**

- Research previously funded work
- Submit your application
- Manage your grant





I will talk about each of these resources as we go.



## NEXT STEPS

- Read the Call for Proposals
- Search the SARE database for related projects
- Start drafting your proposal
- Try scoring your proposal
- Prepare to get Application Signoff sheet signed ahead of time
- Be in touch with questions!



Good luck writing your proposal. If you have any questions, contact NCR-SARE.

Stay in touch with SARE:

- On the web: <http://www.northcentral.sare.org/>
- On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NCRSARE>
- On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ncrsare>
- On Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ncrsare>
- On YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NCRSAREvideo>

# Thank you!

Betsy Wieland  
[eliza003@umn.edu](mailto:eliza003@umn.edu)  
612-626-6556

[ncrsare@umn.edu](mailto:ncrsare@umn.edu)  
612-626-3113

[northcentral.sare.org](http://northcentral.sare.org)



Thank you for your time and interest in our Graduate Student Grant Program.

We look forward to working with you and reading your proposals!