



Northeast SARE Partnership Grant Program

Candice Huber

Grant Program Administrator

Northeast SARE

northeast-pg@sare.org

Northeast SARE 2026 Partnership Grant Call For Proposals

Found at:

www.northeastsare.org/PartnershipGrant

Applications due:

April 14, 2026 at 5 p.m. ET





Northeast SARE serves:

Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, & Washington, D.C.



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Partnership Grant Basics

- Must be led by a researcher, educator or agricultural service provider
- Collaborate with at least one farmer who meets Northeast SARE's definition of a farm
- Must address opportunities to improve the sustainability of farms.
- Impact both the farmer partner and other farms in the region.
- Maximum amount to request is \$30,000.
- Projects typically run from 1-3 years (contracts begin Aug 1).
- Applicants may only submit one proposal per year.

Northeast SARE Outcome Statement

"Northeast agricultural communities honor the holistic connection among land, water, air, and all living beings. Agriculture in the Northeast is sustainable so that all farmers and farm employees can steward resources to ensure sustainability, resilience, economic viability, and a high quality of life."

Improving poultry farm sustainability through pollinator buffers
Tina Hill, Hill Farms, Inc., Houston, DE (FNE17-873)



SARE's Legislative Priorities

- Maintain and enhance the quality and productivity of the soil
- Conserve soil, water, energy, natural resources, and fish and wildlife habitat
- Maintain and enhance the quality of surface and ground water
- Protect the health and safety of persons involved in the food and farm system
- Promote the well-being of animals
- Increase employment opportunities in agriculture.

Impact

- Projects having a significant impact/impression on farmer's and farming communities.
- Replicability is important - another farmer can utilize the results of the research to benefit their farming practices of behavior.

2020

SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT
FOR FARMERS &
AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCERS

Maryland Farmers
Market Association

This guide was made possible
thanks to a Northeast SARE grant



Maryland Farmers Market Association © 2020



**Relationship Marketing in the Digital Age:
Helping Farmers Grow Their Businesses
Through Online Marketing**

Juliet Glass, Maryland Farmers Market
Association, ONE18-313

Innovation

- **The development or adoption of new concepts or ideas.**
- Examples can include, but are not limited to:
 - Introducing a new behavior/practice which farmers are not yet familiar.
 - The introduction of an improved or better agricultural behavior/practice.
 - The opening of a new market that has not been entered previously.
 - A new source of goods or materials.
 - Improved organizational structure and/or capacity.

Scoring Rubric

Appendix D

<https://www.sare.org/wp-content/uploads/NortheastPartnershipAppendixD.pdf>

Example

PLAN OF WORK					Includes Project Objectives, Project Activities, Timeline, and Optional Other Relevant Research Information	
1 - 3	4 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 9	10	Weight	
Objectives are lacking or unclear. Activities are not described with no timeline. Project design does not align with objectives. Potential challenges and	Objectives are stated, but do not align with intended solution or the issue being addressed. The timeline is not realistic for plan of work. Key activities are	Objectives are stated and align with intended solution or the issue being addressed. The timeline is presented and reasonable. Key activities are	Objectives are clearly stated and align with intended solution or the issue being addressed. The timeline is detailed and appropriate to the plan of work. Key	Clear and appropriate objectives. Exceptional project design with rigorous methodology that is extremely likely to be successful. Potential	25%	

Who can apply?

Any entity that works with farmers:

- Nonprofits
- Extension, colleges, universities
- For-profit businesses, consultants
- Municipalities, county conservation districts
- Departments of Agriculture
- Federal employees

One application per person per year;
organizations can have multiple applicants.



**Evaluating the use of low-input
technology for small-scale, no-till
organic farming systems**

Rodale Institute
(ONE17-308)

Requirement: Farmer Partner

- Commercially operated - Minimum \$1,000 annual sales
 - Definition of a farm
 - <https://www.sare.org/wp-content/uploads/Northeast-SAREs-Definition-of-a-Farm.pdf>
 - May duplicate on research farm
- Experienced in topic area
- Located in the Northeast
- Proposal must include Letter of Commitment



Wide range of topics funded

– farms, products and methods

Some examples:

- **Crop production** – intercropping, season extension, varieties and cultivars
- **Livestock** – pasture management, animal health
- **Aquaculture** – oyster, seaweed production
- **Education** – beginning farmer training manual, milking strategies
- **Nutrient Management** – composting, cover crops
- **Pest Management** – weed, disease and insect control
- **Product testing or development** – electric weed eater
- **Bees** – hive health; pollination
- **Business management** – marketing, online sales
- **Natural Resources** – energy efficiency, water quality

Resource: projects.sare.org/search-projects/



Tips for submitting a strong proposal

- **Consider the match between SARE and you** (refer to outcome statement and legislative priorities).
- **Read the Call for Proposals**
- **Start early**
 - Discuss with Farmer Partner well in advance
- **Prepare your proposal offline**
 - Review proposal before entering into on line system.
- **Write with reviewers in mind**
 - Keep your writing clear and straightforward.
- **Develop a realistic budget**
 - Request funds only for allowable expenses.
- **Remember the attachments** (budget, Grant commitment form and letters of commitment)

Questions?

Candice Huber

Grant Program Administrator

802-656-7587

northeast-pg@sare.org



For more information, visit:
www.northeastsare.org