

Sliding Electric Fence Reduces Labor for Pastured Poultry

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Michael and Courtney Gutschenritter operate Three Brothers Farm in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, where they specialize in producing pasture-raised eggs, 100% grass-fed Shetland lamb, and wool products. Just a short drive away in Walworth, their friend and fellow farmer, Levi Power, raises pasture-raised pork, chickens, turkeys, and cattle.

The Problem

Every day, as part of their rotational grazing strategy, these farmers move their hens to fresh pasture. Faced with the labor-intensive task of fencing and moving their pastured poultry daily, the Gutschenritters and Power embarked on a mission to find a more efficient solution, leading to the development of their new sliding electric fence system.

The Solution

With support from a \$24,498 NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher grant, they designed and built the HenPen sliding electric fence system. Attached to the poultry coop and mounted on lightweight plastic pipes, the fence slides along with the coop as it moves. Gutschenritter designed the system around the PrairieSchooner chicken coop but noted it can be adapted to fit any large skid-style coop. He uses a 75 hp tractor to move the HenPen, as a lighter 30 hp tractor damaged the pasture.

Benefits of the HenPen System

The Gutschenritters reported a dramatic reduction in the time and labor required for this task with the new sliding fence system. The system allows the fence to move seamlessly with the poultry coop, eliminating the need to manually pick up and reset lengths of fencing. As a result, they can now move 2,800 hens and their fencing every day of the grazing season in under 20 minutes, making the daily management of pastured poultry more sustainable and less labor-intensive.

The ability to move their flock to new pasture each day meant they could increase their flock from 1,800 to 2,800 birds. As a result, egg production rose from 1,400 to 2,400-2,500 eggs per day.

Materials Needed

- lightweight plastic pipes
- electric fencing materials
- mounting hardware for attaching the fence to the poultry coop
- tools for installation and assembly
- 75 hp tractor dedicated for moving coops

Setting up a HenPen

Farmers interested in adopting this sliding fence system can follow these steps:

1. Plan the layout and determine the length of the plastic pipes and the area to be covered.
2. Attach mounting brackets to the sides of the poultry coop to hold the plastic pipes.
3. Cut and attach the pipes to the mounting brackets, ensuring they are level and aligned.
4. Attach the electric fencing to the plastic pipes and test the system.
5. Move the coop to ensure smooth operation and regularly check for wear and tear.

“We have overcome the obstacle of excessive labor demands on our farm with laying hens,” said Michael Gutschenritter. “We have saved nearly 8 hours of physical work per week. The egg enterprise has become way less demanding,



Michael Gutschenritter of Three Brothers Farm developed the HenPen, a sliding fence system, to move his 3,000-sq. ft. hen unit. The added efficiency allowed him to expand by 1,000 birds, increasing daily egg production to over 2,400. Photo by Michael Gutschenritter.

encouraging us to grow our business. The time we saved was immediately invested into improving the winter housing for the hens (which led to an automated feeding system).”

Building on the success of this project, the Gutschenritters are currently working on a second SARE-supported project to develop and install automated grain feeders in their mobile pastured poultry coops.

Dig Deeper

You can access a detailed overview of the sliding fence system at <https://northcentral.sare.org/resources/innovative-sliding-electric-fence-system-for-pastured-poultry/>.

NCR-SARE’s Farmer Rancher grant program starts accepting proposals in August. Learn more here: <https://northcentral.sare.org/Grants/>.

NCR-SARE Awarded \$7.6 Million in Grants

NCR-SARE is pleased to share the results of our grant programs for 2024. This past year, NCR-SARE's competitive grant programs awarded 134 projects, totalling more than \$7.6 million. The programs offer grants for producers, researchers, students, educators, organizations, and others exploring sustainable agriculture in the Midwest. Another \$1.8 million supported NCR-SARE's regional state coordinators, who train agriculture professionals in sustainable practices and share SARE resources in the 12 states in our region.

The Farmer Rancher Grant Program is a grant program for farmers and ranchers who want to explore sustainable solutions to problems through on-farm research, demonstration, and education projects. In 2024, 43 projects were selected to receive more than \$780,970.

For the 2024 Youth Educator Grant Program, NCR-SARE awarded more than \$105,370 to 17 projects. These grants support educators who want to teach youth about sustainable agriculture practices and careers.

The Graduate Student Grant Program funds graduate student projects addressing sustainable agriculture issues. NCR-SARE awarded more than \$414,490 to 22 projects through this program.

For the 2024 Partnership Grant Program, NCR-SARE awarded more than \$966,900 to 22 projects. This program aims to foster cooperation between agriculture professionals and farmers and ranchers to catalyze on-farm research, demonstration, and education activities.

The Research and Education Program is a grant program for researchers and educators involved in projects exploring and promoting environmentally sound, profitable, and socially responsible food and/or fiber systems. NCR-SARE awarded more than \$4 million to 17 projects in 2024.

For the 2024 Professional Development Program, NCR-SARE awarded almost \$1.3 million to 12 projects. NCR-SARE Professional Development Program grants

emphasize training agricultural educators in Extension, government sector, private and not-for-profit sectors, using farmers and ranchers as educators, and addressing emerging issues.

Impacts

How do NCR-SARE projects impact producers?

Between 2014–2024, NCR-SARE funded 1,270 projects. 8,329 farmers reported experiencing meaningful changes, such as adopting new practices or reducing inputs. More than 157,000 producers were reached through events such as field days and workshops.

That means for each project funded, 7 farmers made meaningful changes, and 124 were reached, building new farmer-to-farmer connections.

Apply for an NCR-SARE Grant

Visit the NCR-SARE website to apply and for more information about funded projects and timelines at <https://northcentral.sare.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/> or contact us.

To learn about the SARE grants in your state, visit the NCR-SARE website: <https://sare.org/grants/funded-grants-in-your-state/>, where you can view a portfolio summary and list of grants funded for every state and island protectorate. The focus for each of the NCR-SARE grant programs is on research and education.

Funding considerations are based on how well the applicant presents the problem being addressed, the project's relevance to sustainable agriculture in the region, and how well it aligns with NCR-SARE's goals, among other factors specific to each grant program. NCR-SARE's Administrative Council (AC) members decide which projects to fund. AC members hail from regional farms, ranches, the Cooperative Extension Service, universities, governmental agencies, and nonprofits. NCR-SARE has funded projects and conducted outreach to improve agricultural systems since 1988 as part of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Grant Writing Assistance

If you are interested in writing a proposal for an NCR-SARE grant, we have resources for you. We can provide grant reports from other projects, lists of funded projects, or other information on sustainable agriculture. Visit <https://northcentral.sare.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/> for more details, or contact the NCR-SARE office at ncrsare@umn.edu.

Video Guides

NCR-SARE's "Grant How-To Video Series" aims to help more people feel equipped to apply for a SARE grant. Watch the videos here: <https://northcentral.sare.org/ncr-sares-grant-how-to-video-series/>.



Local Assistance

SARE has a robust network of state coordinators that you can contact directly. Your SARE state coordinator can offer guidance and feedback as you develop your grant proposal. Find your SARE state coordinator and view documents about funded grants in your state by visiting NCR-SARE online at <https://northcentral.sare.org/state-programs/state-coordinators/>.



How to Conduct Research on Your Farm or Ranch

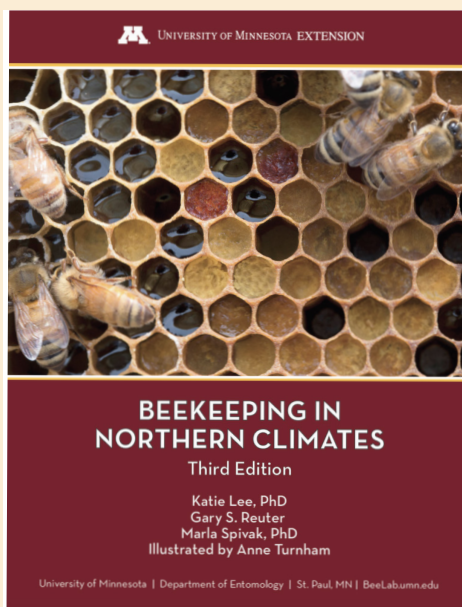
"How to Conduct Research on Your Farm or Ranch" highlights

how to conduct research at the farm level using practical strategies and peer-reviewed research findings. Download or order your free print copy at <https://www.sare.org/resources/how-to-conduct-research-on-your-farm-or-ranch/>.

New Resources for Beekeepers in Northern Climates

Beekeepers in colder climates now have two valuable resources to help guide their work. Developed by the University of Minnesota Bee Lab, the “Beekeeping in Northern Climates” manual and workbook provide practical, research-based guidance for managing bees in northern climates. Download both resources here: <https://northcentral.sare.org/resources/beekeeping-workbook/>.

Beekeeping in Northern Climates Manual



The third edition of the “Beekeeping in Northern Climates Manual” is a guide from the University of Minnesota Bee Lab for both new and experienced beekeepers managing hives in the Upper Midwest. This manual is grounded in honey bee biology and their natural life cycles,

offering region-specific best practices to assist beekeepers during their first two years and beyond.

What’s Inside?

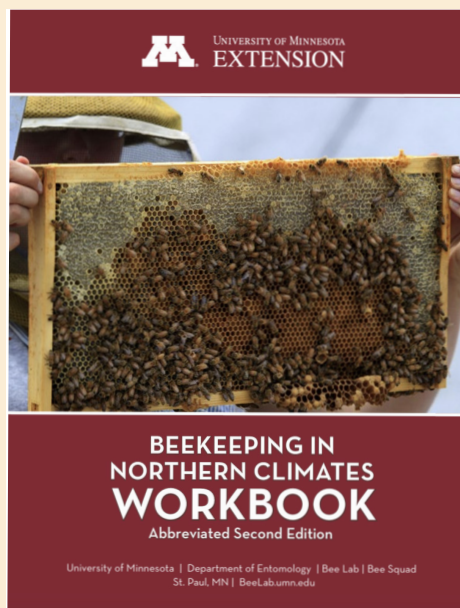
- step-by-step guidance for seasonal beekeeping, from acquiring bees in early spring to winter preparation
- insights into two common hive configurations—two-deep and three-deep systems—with pros and cons for each
- “Biology Boxes” explaining the science behind management practices
- “Words of Wisdom” tips from experienced beekeepers
- appendices covering alternative management systems, advanced queen practices, and hive reorganization
- illustrations by Anne Turnham and photos from the University of Minnesota Bee Lab

A Northern Go-To Beekeeping Resource

Designed as a reference you’ll return to season after season, this manual helps beekeepers build a strong foundation in honey bee biology and informed hive management. Whether you’re preparing for your first hive or refining your techniques, this guide supports your journey in the ever-evolving world of beekeeping.

Pair it with the “Beekeeping in Northern Climates Workbook” (right) for a hands-on approach to tracking colony health and inspections.

Beekeeping in Northern Climates Workbook



Successful beekeeping begins with consistent record-keeping. The “Beekeeping in Northern Climates Workbook” serves as a practical companion to the “Beekeeping in Northern Climates Manual, Third Edition.” It is designed to help beekeepers monitor colony health, document inspections, and review past reports for effective problem-solving.

The purpose of this workbook is to assist beekeepers with guided note-taking and training on how to inspect a colony.

What’s Inside?

Developed with support from a \$250,000 NCR-SARE Research and Education grant, this workbook includes:

- guided note-taking sheets for apiaries, queen history, and individual colony inspections
- training on how to inspect a colony and identify potential issues
- practical tools for tracking seasonal tasks and colony health

How to Use the Workbook with a Mentor

If you’re working with a beekeeping mentor, this workbook helps streamline communication. Beekeepers are encouraged to share:

- photos of brood frames and any unusual signs
- colony inspection reports and varroa mite test results
- Varroa mite management plans

Dig Deeper

Download both of these resources at <https://northcentral.sare.org/resources/beekeeping-workbook/>.

NCR-SARE’s Research and Education grant program typically starts accepting proposals in August. Learn more here: <https://northcentral.sare.org/Grants/>.

New Survey of Farm Advisors Shows Growing Interest in Cover Crops

More than 650 farm advisors from 46 states participated in a national survey on cover crops—the first to focus specifically on advisors. Released by the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC), SARE, and the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), with support from the American Soybean Association, the report explores how advisors influence cover crop adoption and where they turn for information.

The Importance of Farm Advisors

“Advisors play a key role in informing farmers about cover crops and providing technical assistance to help them succeed,” said Rob Myers, director of the University of Missouri Center for Regenerative Agriculture and the regional director of professional development for NCR-SARE. The survey found that advisors who use cover crops on their farms are five times more likely to recommend them to others. These advisors also reported a higher percentage of clients using cover crops.

“This survey opened a window into how cover crops fit into crop consulting businesses and other advisory services,” said Ryan Heiniger, executive director of CTIC. “Seeing is believing—about 70% of advisors who farm themselves use cover crops, and they’re more inclined to recommend them.” ASTA President and CEO Andy LaVigne added, “Better understanding trends and motivations for planting cover crops enables the seed industry to improve varieties and apply new technologies where they matter most.”



Ryan Schmid and Mike Bredeson (above) know that sustainable farming often hinges on practical, affordable tools. That’s why they led a recent project to address the high cost of roller-crimpers. Roller crimpers are used for terminating cover crops without the use of tillage or herbicides, but commercial models can cost over \$30,000, a cost that is too high for many farmers. Schmid and his team set out to change that.

The survey was conducted online in October 2024.

The combination of private and public sector advisors represented 46 states. Of the 654 advisors who participated in the survey, 77% were certified crop advisors (CCAs), a certification conferred by the American Society of Agronomy.

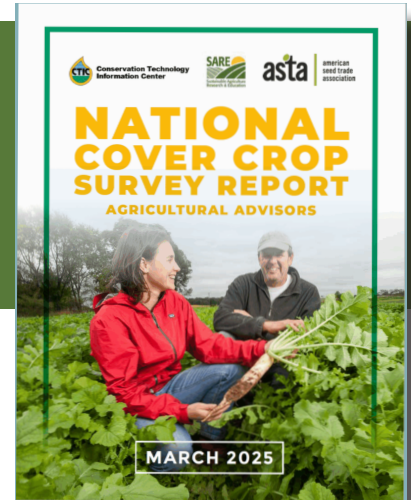
Key Findings

- Advisors who use cover crops themselves are five times more likely to recommend them to others.
- 22.3% of these advisors report that 25–50% of their clients use cover crops, compared to just 9.1% among advisors who don’t use them personally.
- Advisors prefer learning through training sessions (63.9%), webinars (57.4%), one-on-one with farmers (58.3%), and field trials (30.6%), especially when learning on the job.

Looking Ahead

Most advisors expect cover crop acreage to increase, driven by growing interest in cover crop mixes and the integration of soil health practices. The insights from this survey will help shape future outreach, training, and innovation in sustainable agriculture.

For more information on the CTIC/SARE/ASTA National Cover Crop Survey Report 2024-2025, visit CTIC’s website: https://www.ctic.org/data/Cover_Crops_Research_and_Demonstration_Cover_Crop_Survey.



South Dakota Innovators Build Affordable DIY Roller-Crimper

With support from a \$39,996 NCR-SARE Partnership grant, the team repurposed old tillage equipment to build a fully functional roller-crimper for just under \$6,000. They didn’t stop there. To ensure others could replicate the design, they created a detailed construction guide and a series of how-to videos, making the innovation accessible to farmers and local machine shops across the region. Field testing with six South Dakota farmers over two growing seasons confirmed the tool’s effectiveness and durability, with only minor tweaks needed; 161 acres of cereal rye cover crops were terminated using the manufactured roller-crimper.

“As a result of developing accessible roller-crimper plans, cooperating farmers began to consider crimping as a feasible alternative to tillage and herbicides for cover crop termination,” said Schmid.

Dig Deeper

To access the DIY guide and videos, visit here: <https://northcentral.sare.org/resources/diy-roller-crimper/>.

NCR-SARE’s Partnership grant program starts accepting proposals in August. Learn more here: <https://northcentral.sare.org/Grants/>.

NCR-SARE's 2025 Heroes: Jack Erisman and Edgar Hicks

In 2012, the NCR-SARE Administrative Council created the NCR-SARE Hero Recognition to highlight, recognize, and pay tribute to those who have made contributions to NCR-SARE and/or National SARE. Jack Erisman and Edgar Hicks have been named the 2025 NCR-SARE Heroes.



Photo courtesy of Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Jack Erisman

Jack Erisman has been a visionary Illinois farmer for more than six decades. Farming over 2,000 acres near Pana, Illinois, he began using regenerative practices as early as 1963—reducing tillage, rotating crops with cover

crops, integrating livestock, and eliminating synthetic insecticides and anhydrous ammonia by 1969. In 1988, the year SARE was founded, he began transitioning to certified organic, achieving full certification in the early 1990s.

His innovative approach earned national recognition, including features in *Steel in the Field*, *Managing Cover Crops Profitably*, and other SARE publications. Jack served on the NCR-SARE Administrative Council from 2006–2007, Farmer Rancher Grant Review Committee, and Illinois State Program Advisory Board. He also hosted numerous SARE-funded on-farm research projects focused on nutrient runoff, weed control, and integrating cover crops.

As an educator and advocate, Jack received the 2011 R.J. Vollmer Sustainable Agriculture Farmer of the Year Award and frequently presented at field days and conferences like MOSES and OGrain. His talks on crop-livestock integration drew wide regional interest.

Jack helped launch several key organizations, including the Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Society, Illinois Organic Growers Association, and the Illinois Regenerative Agriculture Initiative. He served as president of the Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Network and helped influence national organic policy through

the Rodale Institute's Organic Farmers Association. Jack's collaborations with the University of Illinois, Western Illinois University, and the Dudley Smith Research Center have furthered research on soil health and cropping systems. In 2017, the University of Illinois named a soft red winter wheat variety after him. That same year, he presented his work on Kernza at the Prairie Festival, underscoring his dedication to climate resilience and crop diversification.

His legacy continues through his son, Ryan Erisman, who applies regenerative methods including pasture-based livestock and rotational cropping on a small Wisconsin farm. Ryan was named a Dane County Climate Champion in 2022.

Now in his 80s, Erisman remains active as a mentor, teacher, and advocate, leaving a lasting mark on sustainable agriculture.



Photo courtesy of family of Edgar Hicks.

Edgar Hicks

Edgar Hicks was a seasoned international grain marketer and commodities expert whose 40-year career in agriculture was marked by visionary leadership,

steadfast advocacy, and a commitment to sustainable farming and rural advancement. Born in Louisiana to a physician father and a teacher mother, Hicks pursued a degree in finance at Pace University in New York City. At Pace, Hicks met his life-long partner of 52 years, Anna Kai (Wong) Hicks. He began his career in 1971 as a floor clerk at the Chicago Board of Trade, immersing himself in the fast-paced world of agricultural markets. In 1985, he relocated to central Nebraska to work as a grain merchant for a cooperative in Merrick County. Eventually settling in Omaha, Nebraska, Hicks spent the remainder of his career championing

equity and innovation in agriculture, with a strong emphasis on supporting Black farmers and revitalizing rural communities.

Hicks served on the NCR-SARE Administrative Council from 2007-2015, participated in the Farmer Rancher Grant Review Committee, and contributed to the Circle of Sustainability initiative from 2008-2011. He also represented NCR-SARE at numerous events, including hosting tours and engaging youth at the MANRRS National Conferences. He remained active with NCR-SARE as a member of its Alumni and Heroes Committees.

A longtime supporter of Black farmers, Hicks was a founding member of the Kansas Black Farmers Association (KBFA) in historic Nicodemus, Kansas, where he served as board chair. He also worked as a marketing consultant for the Nicodemus Flour Cooperative, where his leadership helped introduce teff as a crop and spearheaded the production of Nicodemus Flour and Pancake Mix. His vision extended from field to market, and he brokered deals that brought these products to local outlets like No More Empty Pots Culinary and Coffee Shops.

From 2013, Hicks taught at Kansas State University's College of Agriculture, sharing his expertise in equity, marketing, and rural resilience.

Hicks was a tireless advocate for sustainability and inclusion, serving on USDA and Commodity Futures Trading Commission advisory boards and sparking dialogue across generations. He passed away on June 29, 2024. This recognition was presented posthumously to his wife, Anna, and his son William Edgar Hicks and William's wife Helen.

Leaders in sustainable agriculture offered tributes as Erisman and Hicks were nominated and selected to receive this recognition. Read more about them and all the NCR-SARE Heroes at <https://northcentral.sare.org/heroes>.

Winter High Tunnel Salad Mix Variety Trial Results

VARIETY	TYPE	YIELD	BOLTING SPEED	NOTES
CARLTON	Babyleaf Brassica	High, multiple harvests	Moderate	Staggered harvests, rounded green leaves
KOJI	Babyleaf Brassica	Very high, single harvest	Fast	Grows and bulks up quickly, fast bolting
VIVID CHOI	Babyleaf Brassica	Strong and steady	Slow	Long purplish leaves, good color contrast
GREEN SALAD BOWL	Lettuce	High (especially in March)	did not bolt before end of trial	Surprisingly strong winter yield
WILDFIRE MIX	Lettuce	High (especially in March)	did not bolt before end of trial	Performed better than expected in winter

Franklinton Farms (FF), a nonprofit urban farm in Columbus, Ohio, spans two acres across twelve sites. They received an \$8,781 NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher grant to determine how to maximize the use of winter high tunnel real estate for winter salad mixes.

“Midwestern winter growers, especially as they’re starting out, may struggle to find information that will allow them to optimize their winter salad mix production,” said Michelle Nowak, former farm manager with FF. “Research has confirmed that babyleaf brassicas and lettuce are among the top choices for generating income with winter growing, but with so many choices on the market, it’s hard to know which varieties generate the best returns.”

In November and December 2023, FF direct-seeded eight varieties of babyleaf brassicas, two lettuce varieties, a lettuce mix, and arugula in unheated high tunnels. After harvesting in February and March 2024, the top-yielding varieties were three brassicas (‘Carlton’, ‘Koji’, and ‘Vivid Choi’) and two lettuces (‘Green Salad Bowl’ and ‘Wildfire Lettuce Mix’).

Tip: Staggered planting helps extend harvests and balance yields. December can be a reliable time to plant lettuce mix

for March harvests. Babyleaf brassicas are less reliable from deep winter planting because they can bolt before yielding much.

Top 5 Yielding Varieties

1. ‘Carlton’ (Babyleaf Brassica) – multiple harvests, steady growth
2. ‘Koji’ (Babyleaf Brassica) – fast-growing, single but high-yield harvest before bolting
3. ‘Vivid Choi’ (Babyleaf Brassica) – strong, steady yielder, slow to bolt
4. ‘Green Salad Bowl’ (Lettuce) – surprising winter performance, strong March yields
5. ‘Wildfire’ (Lettuce Mix) – excellent March yields from December planting

Key Takeaways

- timing matters – similar varieties, such as ‘Koji’ and ‘Carlton’, had different growth speeds and bolting times
- lettuce performed better than expected – Strong March yields from December planting
- disease Impact – November-planted lettuce in the high-disease tunnel succumbed to Sclerotinia

Dig Deeper

To access the project data, visit the SARE project reporting website at <https://projects.sare.org/project-reports/fnc23-1365/>.

NCR-SARE’s Farmer Rancher grant program starts accepting proposals in August. Learn more here: <https://northcentral.sare.org/Grants/>.

NCR-SARE Grants At-A-Glance

Learn more about exciting SARE-supported projects! Use the project number listed with these projects to find more information at <https://projects.sare.org>, or follow NCR-SARE on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter to receive regular updates like these:



Levi Geyer at Fancy Twig Farm in Iowa is one of a small handful of producers in the country foraging, crushing,

and extruding oil from hickory nuts as a sustainable, locally sourced cooking oil option. This is SARE grant FNC25-1452.



Robert Brooks has been working to improve urban colony removals with swarm rescue boxes in city parks in

Lawrence, Kansas. His efforts help protect honeybees, crucial for pollination, while reducing conflict. This is SARE grant FNC23-1364.



Ryan Heinen of Gwenyn Hill Farm has been combining habitat restoration practices with conservation-minded agriculture. He cares for 80 organic dairy and 15 beef cows in Wisconsin, and has

worked hard to try something different: planting native prairie for his cows to graze. This is SARE grant FNC23-1376. Photo courtesy of Xerces Society.



Cindy Hale and Jeff Hall are a couple of Minnesotans helping agri-business owners retire more

confidently by helping them understand how to transfer assets and knowledge to the next generation. This is SARE project FNC24-1417.

FARMING MATTERS

YOUTUBE SERIES

SUBSCRIBE

Video Series Shares Grantee Stories

NCR-SARE's storytelling video series, "Farming Matters," features SARE grantees sharing their project results. Join NCR-SARE staff members as they learn more about what inspires and motivates farmers, researchers, and educators. You'll gain insights into how SARE grantees creatively tackle challenges.



Mimi Kokoska

Mimi and Evan Kokosaka are developing Indiana's first large-scale truffle orchard in Zionsville, Indiana. This project focuses on cultivating Burgundy truffles with oak seedlings

to enhance soil health, boost local food systems, and promote agroforestry. Watch the video and learn about this SARE project here: https://projects.sare.org/sare_project/fnc22-1334/.



Abby Johnson

Abby Johnson is working on a project to establish a novel intercropping of English walnut, peaches, and forage for sheep on her farm in northern Michigan. Watch the

video and learn about this SARE project here: https://projects.sare.org/sare_project/fnc22-1329/.



Eric Jellum

Eric Jellum has been using geothermal high tunnels on his Iowa Farm. With support from SARE, he has been working to better control temperature and

humidity throughout the year without relying on fossil fuels. Learn about this SARE project

here: <https://projects.sare.org/project-reports/fnc21-1278/>.



Lea Zeise

Lea Zeise joins us from Northeast Wisconsin, where she has been working with two Tribal farms, Ohe.láku on the Oneida Reservation and Menikanaehkem

on the Menominee Reservation, to understand the optimal applications of cover crops and no-till for two Indigenous corn varieties. Watch the video and learn about this SARE project here: https://projects.sare.org/sare_project/fnc21-1316/.

Watch the Videos

Watch these videos on YouTube at <https://northcentral.sare.org/resources/farming-matters/>.

Welcoming New Faces and Celebrating Transitions

NCR-SARE's Administrative Council (AC) sets program priorities and makes grant decisions for NCR-SARE. NCR-SARE is pleased to welcome the following new representatives:

- **Keith Berns** has been elected to serve as an agribusiness representative on the Administrative Council. Berns is the co-owner of Green Cover Seed in Bladen, Nebraska.
- **Kaya DeerInWater** has been elected to serve as a representative of a nonprofit organization on the Administrative Council. DeerInWater is a Biocultural Restoration Specialist and Plant Ecologist with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium in Wasétenak (Grand Rapids, Michigan).
- **Aaron French** has been elected to serve as a representative of a nonprofit organization on the Administrative Council. French is the manager of Urban Farm Initiatives at City Sprouts in Omaha, Nebraska.
- **Egypt Krohn** has been elected to serve as a Farmer Rancher representative on the Administrative Council. Krohn operates Dragonfly Downs Farm, an integrated family homestead and permaculture farm in Grand Ledge, Michigan.
- **Bill Miller** has been elected to serve as a Farmer Rancher representative on the Administrative Council. Bill Miller and Sibyl Harris Miller operate the Harris-Miller Farm in Oxford, Ohio.
- **Kelsey Myhre** has been elected to serve as a 1994 Land Grant University Representative on the Administrative Council. Myhre is the Environmental Institute Sustainability Coordinator for the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet, Minnesota.
- **Denise Natoli Brooks** joins the Administrative Council as the incoming chair of NCR-SARE's Technical Committee. Brooks is an Extension Educator with Central State University in Southeast Ohio.
- **Homero Salinas-Gonzalez** has been elected to serve as an 1890 Land Grant University Representative on in the Administrative Council. Salinas-Gonzalez is Assistant Professor and Extension Research Specialist on Small Ruminants at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri.

NCR-SARE would like to thank **Jennifer Filipiak, Sherman Reed, Stephanie Singer, Dave Welsch, and Steve Yanni**, whose terms on the Administrative Council have come to an end. NCR-SARE would also like to thank **Erin Schneider**, who will be moving on from her staff position with NCR-SARE in summer 2025. We're grateful for everyone's contributions and wish them all the best in their next chapter.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Did you know NCR-SARE is on Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn? Keep track of our grant opportunities, projects, events, and more. Follow, like, or friend us!



NOTE: We are currently holding the release of new Calls for Proposals, pending notification from our funding source USDA-NIFA. NIFA Requests for Applications are under review. You can check back for updates or subscribe to our mailing list to be notified when the Calls are released: <https://northcentral.sare.org/about/join-our-mailing-list/>.

ABOUT NCR-SARE

NCR-SARE funds cutting-edge projects every year through competitive grant programs and has awarded more than \$110 million worth of grants to farmers and ranchers, researchers, students, educators, public and private institutions, nonprofit groups, and others exploring sustainable agriculture within the geography shared by the 12 states of the North Central region.

Are you interested in submitting a proposal for an NCR-SARE grant? Before you write the grant proposal, determine a clear project goal and look for sustainable agriculture research on your topic.

Need help determining which program is best suited for your project? Go to <https://northcentral.sare.org/grants> for more information, or contact the NCR-SARE office at ncrsare@umn.edu.

NCR-SARE GRANT TIMELINES*

Farmer Rancher*
August - Call for Proposals Released
December - Proposals Due
February - Funding Decisions
April/May - Funds Available to Recipients

Graduate Student*
February - Call for Proposals Released
April - Proposals Due
July - Funding Decisions
October - Funds Available to Recipients

Research and Education*
August - Call for Preproposals Released
October - Preproposals Due
January - Full Proposals Invited
March - Full Proposals Due
July - Funding Decisions
December - Funds Available to Recipients

Professional Development Program*
February - Call for Proposals Released
April - Proposals Due
July - Funding Decisions
November - Funds Available to Recipients

Youth Educator*
August - Call for Proposals Released
November - Proposals Due
February - Funding Decisions
April/May - Funds Available to Recipients

Partnership*
August - Call for Proposals Released
October - Proposals Due
January - Funding Decisions
March - Funds Available to Recipients
*Timelines are subject to change.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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