



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

NCR-SARE offices:
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
Lincoln University in Missouri

Kansas PDP at K-State



Photo credit: Adam Knapton

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.




Photo credit: Josh Benjamin



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

The SARE Model

SARE has educational partnerships with agencies, universities, Extension, NGOs and other ag professionals in each of the four regions.





Photo credit: Dan Nichols, USDA NRCS

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 credit: Troy Bishop

30 Years of Impact

- 79 percent of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project
- 64 percent of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales
- 75 percent of educators surveyed led at least one program to share innovations




Photo credit: Karl Kugler

Stakeholder Involvement

- Problem identified by farmer/rancher and researcher
- Farmers/ranchers involved in research and outreach




Photo credit: Beth Nelson

NCR-SARE Grant Types

North Central SARE grant programs are:

- Research & Education
- Professional Development
- Graduate Student
- Farmer/Rancher
- Youth Educator
- Partnership



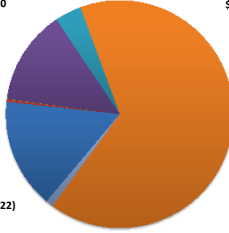
Visit www.sare.org or www.northcentralsare.org

Photo credit: Carol Flaherty

NCR-SARE Grants Funded 1988-2016

\$61,486,278 awarded from 1988-2016

Category	Count	Amount
R&E	469	\$40,395,139
Farmer/Rancher	1081	\$8,306,768
Partnership	22	\$633,616
PDP	163	\$9,605,860
Youth Ed.	106	\$201,279
Youth*	73	\$27,006
Grad Student	234	\$2,316,610



* Discontinued in 2012

Research & Education Grant Program

- Grants for researchers or educators to explore sustainable ag
- Up to \$200,000 per project
- Grants go primarily to organizations
- 8 to 10 projects funded per year
- Coordinated by Beth Nelson



Photo credit: Clark Lemley

Professional Development Program

- State activities organized by State Coordinators
 - Face of SARE—communicating about SARE programs
 - Workshops, webinars, mini-grants, travel scholarships funded by \$50,000 in annual support from the SARE program
- Competitive grants
 - Grants for ag professionals to train other ag professionals using Farmers/ranchers as educators
 - Up to \$75,000 per project
 - 5-10 projects funded per year
- Coordinated by Rob Myers



Photo credit: Teresa Webb

Graduate Student Grant Program

- Grants for graduate students to explore sustainable ag as part of their degree program
- Up to \$12,000 per project
- Grad student must write proposal and lead work on project
- 12 to 16 projects funded per year
- Coordinated by Beth Nelson



photo credit: Erika L. F. Kempena



Farmer Rancher Grant Program

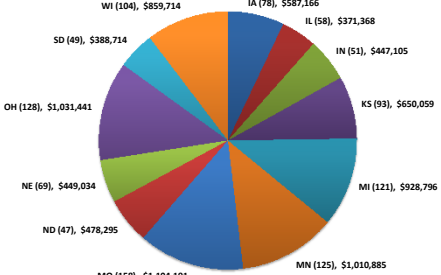
- Grants directly fund farmers and ranchers to explore new production methods or marketing approaches for their farm
- Up to \$7,500 for individual farm, \$15,000 for teams of two, and \$22,500 for groups of 3 or more
- Encouraged to link with university or non-profit partners
- 40 projects funded per year
- Coordinated by Joan Benjamin



photo credit: Joan Benjamin




Farmer Rancher Grants Funded 1988-2016



State	Number of Grants	Total Amount
WI	104	\$859,714
IA	78	\$587,166
IL	58	\$371,368
IN	51	\$447,105
KS	93	\$650,059
MI	121	\$928,796
MN	125	\$1,010,885
MO	158	\$1,104,191
ND	47	\$478,295
NE	69	\$449,034
OH	128	\$1,031,441
SD	49	\$388,714

photo credit: Nathan Papendorf



Youth Educator Grants

- Grants for young people and educators to understand sustainable practices and see sustainable agriculture as a viable career option
- Up to \$2,000 per project
- Appropriate for vocational agriculture teachers or other youth educators
- 10 projects funded per year
- Coordinated by Joan Benjamin



photo credit: Nathan Papendorf



NCR-SARE Partnership Grant Program

- Grants for on-farm research, demonstration, and/or educational projects
- Up to \$30,000 per project
- An Agricultural Professional is the grant applicant and principal investigator
- Typically three or more farmers or ranchers involved in the project
- 8 to 9 projects funded per year
- Co-coordinated by Beth Nelson and Rob Myers



photo credit: Joan Benjamin



SARE Grant Writing Tips

- Develop an idea for a sustainable ag project.
- Determine which grant program is right for your idea.
- Search the national SARE database for previously-funded projects similar to yours.
- Watch online tutorials about applying for an NCR-SARE grant.
- Document sustainability. How does your project address SARE's 3 pillars of sustainability.
- Get help writing the proposal if necessary AND get help from an objective reviewer.
- Read the Call for Proposals CAREFULLY.
- Follow the guidelines in the Call for Proposals.

SARE Grant Writing Tips

- Develop clear goals. Let reviewers know WHAT is your goal and HOW you plan to achieve it.
- Measure your results.
 - Are you going to grow bigger tomatoes, increase milk protein content, increase soil organic matter? Explain how you will measure success.
- Include a detailed timeline.
- Choose cooperators who will compliment your skills.
- Develop a realistic budget with a detailed budget justification
- Ask for assistance
- Submit proposal following all guidelines before the deadline.

SARE Database

www.sare.org

Project Reports

➤ Search project reports

Search Projects

Search the database of SARE funded grant projects. [\(Search Tips\)](#)

Project Title: transplanter
4 projects found.
[New Search](#)

FNE16-849 - (2016) Propagating grapevines in cell plug trays and using a water-wheel transplanter in establishing a vineyard

FNE12-756 - (2012) An investigation into the suitability of the Japanese paper pot transplanter to small-scale vegetable farms

FNE05-545 - (2005) Personal planter: A self propelled transplanter for setting 100 to 1,000 plants at a time

FNE99-269 - (1999) Evaluating a No-till Transplanter for Organic Vegetable Production

SARE Outreach

- A library of practical, how-to books and bulletins (in print or free download)
- Media outreach
- A portfolio of in-depth reports on current topics
- Conference sponsorships
- Countless online resources, including project reports



Available at sare.org

Other USDA-Supported Information Programs

 **Alternative Farming Systems Information Center**
Collects and distributes information. Provides searching from National Ag Library's collection and databases.
www.nal.usda.gov/afsic

 **ATTRA National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service**
Provides information and other technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, educators and others.
www.attra.org

 Grants advising to help apply to grants and cost-share programs of state or federal sources.
<http://michaelfields.org>



For more information about NCR-SARE:

by phone: (612) 626-3113
by email: ncrsare@umn.edu
www.northcentralsare.org

Follow us on:







photo credit: Agri Edge.com





Photo by Jill Gieringer

For more information about Kansas SARE:

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