

# Farmer Rancher Grant Program

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

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

- Farmer Rancher grants are for ideas initiated by farmers and ranchers and are offered as individual grants (\$15,000 maximum) or team grants for two or more farmers/ranchers who are working together (\$30,000 maximum).
- Projects may last up to 23 months.
- About 40 projects are funded each year.

For more than 30 years, Winona LaDuke has been working to restore Anishinaabeg agricultural practices, and has received SARE support to recover and expand traditional knowledge.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WINONA LADUKE HERITAGE FARM

PHOTO COURTESY OF DARIN EASTBURN



Maggie Wachter and Rachel Coventry worked to develop a method to capture and authenticate single varietal honey on diverse landscapes with NCR-SARE support in Urbana, Illinois.

Farmer Rancher grants have funded a variety of topics including pest/disease management, crop and livestock production, education/outreach, networking, quality of life issues, marketing, soil quality, energy, food sovereignty, and more.

Before writing a grant proposal, determine a clear project goal and explore previous research. It often helps to contact NCR-SARE, local agriculture groups, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and/or Extension educators to share ideas and invite participation.

NCR-SARE can provide grant applications, reports from other projects, lists of funded projects, or other sustainable agriculture information.

To receive more information about the NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program proposal process and timeline, contact the NCR-SARE office. Follow the application process carefully. Visit the NCR-SARE website at: [www.northcentral.sare.org](http://www.northcentral.sare.org) or call 612-626-3113 for resources to help you write your proposal.

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

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

## About NCR-SARE

The North Central Region-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (NCR-SARE) promotes and supports sustainable agriculture, with grants as the primary tool for accomplishing the mission. These grants are offered annually to farmers, researchers, educators, and other people in the agricultural community.

Since 1988, NCR-SARE has awarded more than \$100 million worth of competitive grants to help advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities.

The USDA-funded Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program was authorized by the 1985 Farm Bill and was first funded in 1988. SARE operates through



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE AAMANN

With support from NCR-SARE, Brandon Jaeger planted quinoa trial beds to demonstrate how staple food crops could be grown locally, in Athens, Ohio.

four regional offices as well as a national office. The North Central Region serves Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The term “sustainable agriculture” means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long-term:

- satisfy human food and fiber needs
- enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends
- make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls
- sustain the economic viability of farm operations, and
- enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole

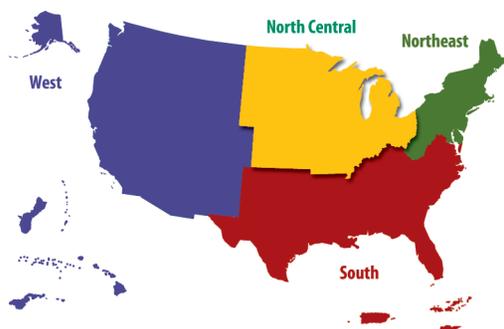
NCR-SARE offers awards for several competitive grant programs, including:

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN BENJAMIN

NCR-SARE has supported Pov Huns' work extending the season for specialty vegetables and herbs on his farm in Kansas City, Kansas.



**For more information on this program,  
or to be added to our contact list, contact:**

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