The Partnership Grant program is intended to foster cooperation between agriculture professionals and small groups of farmers and ranchers to catalyze on-farm research, demonstration, and educational activities related to sustainable agriculture.

Examples of appropriate projects include:
- Developing a curriculum about food storage for farmers and processors, on-farm testing of cropping system strategies or grazing systems, cooperative efforts to develop new marketing approaches, or investigations into new approaches to processing and/or adding value to sustainably produced farm products.
- Partnership Grants are for on-farm research, demonstration, and/or educational projects and are funded for up to 24 months.
- Up to $30,000 total funding request per application is allowed.
- An Agricultural Professional is the grant applicant and the principal investigator.
- Typically three or more farmers or ranchers are expected to be substantially involved in the project.
- Each farm/ranch must be an independent and separate/distinct operation.

Any agriculture/natural resource professional in the North Central region may apply. These professionals are:

- University educators including extension agents and specialists.
- NRCS field staff.
- Agricultural consultants (individuals who actively consult with farmers and ranchers as certified crop advisors, soils consultants, ranching consultants, etc).
- Nonprofit or agency staff assisting farmer and ranchers at the local level.

A unique aspect of NCR-SARE is our personal contact with grantees involved in the program. Beth Nelson and Rob Myers work together to coordinate the Partnership Grant Program. Feel free to contact either Beth or Rob.

**Beth Nelson, Ph.D.**
Phone: 612-626-4436
Email: bethnelson@umn.edu

**Rob Myers, Ph.D.**
Phone: 573-882-1547
Email: myersrob@missouri.edu
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 $40 million worth of competitive grants to help advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities.

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NCR-SARE offers awards for several competitive grant programs, including:
- Farmer Rancher
- Youth Educator (as part of the Farmer Rancher Grant Program)
- Graduate Student
- Professional Development
- Research and Education
- Partnership

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

612-626-3113
ncrsare@umn.edu
www.northcentralsare.org

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120 BAE
University of Minnesota
1390 Eckles Ave
St Paul, MN 55108
The North Central Region SARE (NCR-SARE) Graduate Student Grant Program supports projects by graduate students that address sustainable agriculture issues and are part of the student’s degree program. NCR-SARE instituted the Graduate Student Grant Program in 2002 for officially registered graduate students (Masters and Ph.D.) enrolled at accredited colleges or universities. Projects must benefit agriculture in the North Central Region.

NCR-SARE's Graduate Student Grant Program is a competitive grant program to fund graduate student projects that address sustainable agriculture issues. A candidate may only receive one NCR-SARE Graduate Student award during her or his graduate student career. Generally:

- Graduate Student Grant awards can be up to $10,000.
- Projects may last up to 36 months.
- At least 15 projects are funded each year.

Funded proposals have contributed to farmer or rancher profitability, environmental quality, and the enhancement of the quality of life of farmers or ranchers, communities, and society as a whole. NCR-SARE strongly encourages students to involve farmers and ranchers in their Graduate Student Grant Program projects.

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 Graduate Student Grant Program proposal process and timeline, contact the NCR-SARE office. Follow the application process carefully. Visit the NCR-SARE website at: www.northcentralsare.org or call 612-626-3113 for resources to help you write your proposal.
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The North Central Region SARE (NCR-SARE) Professional Development Grant Program supports state professional development programs and competitive grants for training agricultural professionals.

Professional Development Program (PDP) competitive grants emphasize training agricultural educators in extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, private, and not-for-profit sectors, using farmers as educators and addressing emerging issues in the farm community. Generally:

- Professional Development Program awards range from $30,000 to $75,000
- Projects may last up to 36 months.
- About 5-10 projects are funded each year.

Applicants are educators who often represent, but are not limited to, Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and non-profit groups.

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.

To receive more information about the NCR-SARE Professional Development Grant Program preproposal/proposal process and timeline, contact the NCR-SARE office. Follow the application process carefully. Visit the NCR-SARE website at: www.northcentralsare.org or call 612-626-3113 for resources to help you write your proposal.

**PDP State Professional Development Programs**

SARE also provides funds to land grant universities to assist extension educators, farmers and other stakeholders in developing education activities in sustainable concepts and systems. These state programs provide travel scholarships, mini-grants, and workshops to support professional development.

Each state in NCR-SARE has a sustainable agriculture coordinator who directs sustainable agriculture education activities and engages agricultural stakeholders. Because each state coordinator works to meet state-specific challenges, educational programs are designed to fit local needs of agricultural educators, farmers, agency personnel, and others.
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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 and Rancher Grant awards can be individual ($7,500 maximum), partner ($15,000 maximum), or group ($22,500 maximum) grants.
- Projects may last up to 25 months.
- About 40-50 projects are funded each year.

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, 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.northcentralsare.org or call 612-626-3113 for resources to help you write your proposal.
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The North Central Region SARE (NCR-SARE) recognizes that youth programs are a way to introduce new and exciting farming and ranching options to youth, parents, and community members. The Youth Educator program supports opportunities for youth educators to research, demonstrate, and learn more about sustainable agriculture.

**Youth Educator Grants** are competitive grants for educators to provide programming on sustainable agriculture for youth. $2,000 maximum.

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

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.

To receive more information about the NCR-SARE Youth Educator Grant Programs' proposal processes and timelines, contact the NCR-SARE office. Follow the application process carefully. Visit the NCR-SARE website at: www.northcentral sare.org or call 612-626-3113 for resources to help you write your proposal.

In addition to the Youth Educator Program, NCR-SARE offers awards for several other competitive grant programs, including:

- Farmer Rancher
- Graduate Student
- Professional Development
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For example, a sustainable agriculture dairy might use some of the following practices:

- Management-intensive Grazing (MiG) to improve pastures, increase herd health, and use the animals to distribute manure rather than machinery. MiG involves dividing pastures into smaller paddocks and moving animals to fresh grass every day or so.
- Glass bottles to increase profits and reduce packaging waste. Milk in glass bottles commands a better price, allowing farmers to make a better living. Glass is reusable and recyclable.
- Sell locally and use direct marketing. Selling the milk in local stores and directly to consumers at farmers’ markets provides the community with a very fresh product and allows farmers to receive more for milk than if sold as a bulk product.

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Research and Education Grant Program

The North Central Region SARE (NCR-SARE) Research and Education Grant Program is a competitive grant program for researchers and educators involved in projects that explore and promote environmentally sound, profitable, and socially responsible food and/or fiber systems.

Research and Education projects include a strong outreach component and significant farmer/rancher or other end user involvement from inception of the idea through implementation of the project. Generally:

- Research and Education grant awards range from $10,000 to $200,000.
- Projects may last up to 36 months.
- NCR-SARE funds about 10 to 12 Research and Education projects per year.

Many projects are interdisciplinary and/or multi-institutional, involving a broad range of agricultural interests. Project coordinators in the past have explored sustainable agriculture under the following topics: biocontrol, crop production, education/extension, networking, livestock production, marketing, quality of life, soil quality, value-added marketing, waste management, water quality, and weed control.

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 Research and Education Program preproposal/proposal process and timeline, contact the NCR-SARE office.

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