OVERVIEW

North Central Region SARE administers four grant programs, each with specific priorities, audiences and timelines. The focus for all four NCR-SARE grant programs is on research and education. Funding considerations are made based on how well the applicant articulates the nature of the research and education components of their sustainable agriculture grant proposals.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Farmer Rancher Grant: supports farmers and ranchers striving for agricultural sustainability.

Research and Education Grant: supports researchers and educators with ideas for environmentally sound, economically viable and socially responsible agricultural systems.

Professional Development Program: supports agricultural educators who learn in cooperation with farmers about sustainable practices and concepts.

Graduate Student Grant: provides funds to students enrolled in graduate programs at accredited colleges or universities who are exploring an aspect of sustainable agriculture for their thesis research or project paper.

FARMER RANCHER

A portfolio of producer grants is reviewed and awarded on an annual timeline. Grants support producers who are protecting natural resources, enhancing communities and boosting profitability.

Farmer Rancher grants range from $2,000 to $6,000 for individuals; up to $18,000 for groups of three or more.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Grant-making decisions are made by the NCR-SARE Administrative Council on an annual grant timeline. Research and Education grants are built by collaborative teams. Producers are key participants in grant activities with project focus on farm and ranch profitability. Coordinators are encouraged to explore social, environmental and economic aspects of whole systems. Marketing sustainable agricultural products is another component to consider and all projects should include a strong outreach component.

Individual grants range from $10,000 to $150,000.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Competitive grants are awarded for state and multi-state PDP projects that emphasize cross-agency training, using farmers as educators and addressing emerging issues in the farm community.

Professional Development Program grants are awarded up to $75,000.

GRADUATE STUDENT

The Graduate Student Review Committee evaluates proposals for their technical merit and relevancy. Funded proposals have contributed to farmer or rancher profitability, environmental quality, and the enhancement of the quality of life of farmers or ranchers, rural communities and society as a whole.

Graduate Student grants are awarded up to $10,000.