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NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant and Youth Educator Grant Office
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ph: 573-681-5545 or 800-529-1342 | fax: 573-681-5534

NCR-SARE 2015 Call for Proposals Youth Educator Sustainable Agriculture Grants

Purpose: Youth Educator Grant projects provide opportunities for youth in the North Central Region to learn about Sustainable Agriculture (farming and ranching that is ecologically sound, profitable, and socially responsible). Educators use the grants to encourage young people and their parents to try sustainable practices and see sustainable agriculture as a viable career option.

We are using an online submission system this year. The online system will be open for applications on August 1, 2014.

To submit a proposal, go to <http://www.ciids.org/ncsare/ye>

Online Submission Deadline is 4:00 p.m. CDT, Thursday, November 13, 2014.

If you are unable to use the online system you may submit a proposal by mail or e-mail. Proposals sent by Fax will NOT be accepted. Mail and e-mail submissions must be received by 4 p.m. CDT on Thursday, November 13, 2014.

The online application has strict word limits, and we strongly suggest you prepare your proposal using a word processing program, edit each response to comply with the word limits, and then copy and paste your proposal section by section into the online template, saving as you go.

This call for proposals is available on the North Central SARE web site at www.northcentralsare.org. If you need a printed application, call 612-626-3113.

The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program is funded through the USDA National Institute of Agriculture (NIFA). The SARE program works primarily through competitive grant programs administered by four regions: North Central, Northeast, South, and West. The 12 states of North Central Region–SARE (NCR-SARE) include: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

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For more information on civil rights and equal opportunity policies and programs, visit the [NIFA Equal Opportunity Office](#) website at: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/offices/equalop.html>

The SARE Program

The National Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program

SARE's Vision is an enduring American agriculture of the highest quality. This agriculture is profitable, protects the nation's land and water and is a force for a rewarding way of life for farmers and ranchers whose quality products and operations sustain their communities and society. **SARE's Mission** is to advance – to the whole of American agriculture – innovations that improve profitability, stewardship and quality of life by investing in groundbreaking research and education.

Origin & Funding: SARE was created in the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (1990 Farm Bill, Title 16, Subtitle B). It is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The SARE program works primarily through competitive grant programs administered by four regions: North Central, Northeast, South, and West.

The 12 states of North Central Region-SARE include: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

North Central Region-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE)

NCR-SARE's mission is to strengthen communities, increase farmer/rancher profitability, and improve the environment by supporting research and education.

YOUTH EDUCATOR GRANT DETAILS

Eligibility: A **Youth Educator** is someone who teaches youth about sustainable agriculture; this may include professional educators (4-H, FFA, Extension, grade school, high school, community college, college, university), farmers/ranchers, home-schoolers, other youth, educators from non-profit organizations, etc.

Review Process: A committee of farmers, ranchers, educators, researchers, and others with an interest in youth education will review the proposals and make funding recommendations to the NCR-SARE Administrative Council. The Council members make the final funding decisions. Awards will be announced by the end of March 2015.

Funding: These are competitive grants. NCR-SARE allocated \$20,000 for the 2015 Youth Educator Grant Program. Educators can request up to \$2,000 for youth education projects. Funds will be disbursed as follows: Grant recipients receive 75% of the grant to start their project. They receive the remaining 25% upon completion of the project and receipt and approval of the final report. Funding will be available in early summer 2015.

Project Length and Reporting: If funded, you have up to 22 months to complete your project. A progress report is due December 30, 2015, and a final report is due December 30, 2016. If your project is completed after one year, you can submit the final report at that time.

QUESTIONS? For questions about how to submit your proposal, contact Jean Andreasen, Executive Administrative Specialist at: 612-626-3113 or ncrsare.umn.edu. For questions about the Youth Educator Grant Program, the selection process, or project ideas, call or e-mail Joan Benjamin, Associate Regional Coordinator at ph: 573-681-5545 or 800-529-1342 or e-mail: BenjaminJ@lincolnu.edu

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PROPOSALS - Successful proposals:

1. Clearly explain how youth will learn about sustainable agriculture practices and careers.

Proposals are specific and let reviewers know which sustainable agriculture practices and career options will be taught and how.

2. Involve farmers and ranchers in planning the project and teaching.

3. Emphasize collaboration with others who can assist with outreach as well as project planning, implementation, and evaluation. Cooperators may include other educators, farmers, ranchers, parents, students, Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, staff of local or state non-profit groups, etc.

4. Share project results with other educators through field days, presentations, posters, publications, social media, videos, websites, workshops, and more.

REVIEW CRITERIA AND EVALUATION PROCESS - All proposals are reviewed by a committee with a special interest in youth education. Members include farmers, ranchers, educators, non-profit and business representatives, and researchers from throughout the North Central region. Funding recommendations are based on how well proposals meet the following six criteria.

1. Specific plan to teach youth about sustainable agriculture practices and career options. Reviewers are looking for ideas that will engage young people and help them explore career options and understand the three pillars of sustainable agriculture: profit over the long term; stewardship of our nation's land, air, and water; and quality of life for farmers, ranchers and their communities. Sustainable agriculture aims to meet food and environmental needs of people now, without compromising the ability of people who come after us to meet their own food and environmental needs.

2. Appropriate timeline. Reviewers want to know what steps you will take and when to carry out your grant project.

3. Use of sustainable agriculture resources. Your project should introduce students to people and educational resources that will help them learn about sustainable agriculture.

4. Outreach. Sharing project information with other youth educators and the public is an important part of the project. Reviewers like to see cooperation with farmers and ranchers and with organizations through which information can be shared via workshops, field days, publications, written materials, etc. Projects can also be promoted by using social media such as Facebook or Twitter, creating a web page, radio, television, newspapers, making a video, presenting a poster or giving a talk at an event. Cooperators can help you reach a wider audience when you share the results of your project.

5. Impact. These grants are small and don't provide funds for extensive evaluation but reviewers look for any simple efforts you can make to measure what students have learned. For example, you could conduct pre- and post-test surveys and count the number of people reached through your project.

6. Appropriateness of the budget. Only expenses that help carry out the project should be included.

INSTRUCTIONS & PROPOSAL FORM FOR YOUTH EDUCATOR GRANTS

HOW TO SUBMIT A GRANT PROPOSAL

Explain how you will design and carry out a project to educate youth about Sustainable Agriculture practices and career options by answering the questions in the online proposal form. If you are unable to submit an online form, turn in a proposal by mail or e-mail. You may submit one proposal per year.

Proposals must be received online at: <http://www.ciids.org/ncsare/ye> or in the NCR-SARE office by mail or e-mail by 4:00 p.m. CDT on November 13, 2014. Faxed proposals will NOT be reviewed. If you are unable to use the online system, e-mail or mail your proposal to:

Farmer Rancher Grant Program

NCR-SARE

120 BioAgEng Bldg

University of Minnesota

1390 Eckles Ave

St Paul MN 55108

E-mail: ncsare@umn.edu

Getting Started. To be considered for funding, your proposal for a NCR-SARE Youth Educator Grant **MUST** include the following items:

1. Completed proposal. Answer all questions and do not exceed the word limits. Do not include attachments or photos or list your website in your proposal. To make the process fair to everyone, reviewers will base evaluations only on information contained in the proposal.
2. Completed budget that shows the expenses for your project with budget narrative and justification.
3. Completed Animal Care Form (see pgs 16-18), if your project involves livestock – vertebrate animals such as cows, sheep, poultry, fish, etc.

Developing a Project Idea. Projects should help youth discover that sustainable farming and ranching is profitable; good for families, communities, and their quality of life; and good for the environment long term. Review the following sustainable agriculture practices and project ideas. Use them to think up your own project ideas. **NCR-SARE encourages you to be creative and innovative, and to work directly with local farmers and ranchers who practice Sustainable Agriculture.** Please note: 21st Century Farming involves growing food and fiber and can include market gardens and urban agriculture.

Sustainable Agriculture is farming and ranching that is ecologically sound, profitable, and socially responsible. Sustainable Agriculture practices may include but are not limited to:

- • Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Rotational Grazing (including Management-intensive & Mob Grazing)
- Soil Erosion Control
- Soil Quality Improvement
- Water Quality Improvement/Wetlands
- Cover Crops
- Crop/Landscape Diversity
- Nutrient Management
- Agroforestry

- Value-Added and Direct Marketing Holistic/Systems Approaches to Farming and Ranching
- Wildlife Preservation
- Beneficial Insects
- Poultry and Small-Scale Livestock Production
- Organic Agriculture
- Proactive Weed Control (For example: Interseeded cover crops, use of crop rotation, planting row crops in warm soil)

Sampler of Project Ideas

1. Organize a tour of sustainable farms or ranches where youth can interact with farmers and see, smell, feel, and taste what Sustainable Agriculture is like. Include beginning farmers and ranchers and ask how they got started.
2. Work with youth to organize a local foods meal where they help plan the menu, source the food, meet the farmers and ranchers who produce the food and the cooks or chefs who prepare it, write descriptions of the food and where it comes from.
3. Start a school or community farm that uses sustainable farming practices and provides local food for the school cafeteria. Have students give tours of the site and explain sustainable practices they use such as making and using compost and encouraging beneficial insects.
4. Invite farmers/ranchers to school or a community event for a presentation on Sustainable Agriculture practices such as management-intensive grazing, crop rotations, cover crops, organic farming, and direct marketing. Find out why they use sustainable techniques.
5. Have students prepare questions for a Sustainable Agriculture panel discussion with farmers/ranchers. Ask students to explore profitability, environmental stewardship, and quality of life on the farm or ranch and write an article for the school website or paper.
6. Organize a visit to a farmers market where students can purchase local foods and talk to local farmers about the farming practices and marketing techniques they use. Have the students compare the practices and techniques.
7. Plan a sustainable farm or ranch day where youth work on a sustainable farm, in a community garden, or on a ranch, and share a local-foods meal with the people who raised the food.
8. Review *Sustainable Agriculture Resources and Programs for K-12 Youth* (see: <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Courses-and-Curricula>) and choose a program or series of programs or lessons to present to students.
9. Hold a Sustainable Agriculture Film Festival featuring films such as *King Corn*, *Fridays at the Farm*, or *Symphony of the Soil* and have students write film reviews. Have discussions about the topics the films raise and invite sustainable farmers and ranchers and agriculture journalists to serve as facilitators.
10. Organize a Youth Program for a Sustainable Agriculture conference, festival, or other event.
11. Work with an organization that supports Sustainable Agriculture such as Slow Food USA or the American Livestock Breed Conservancy to expand youth involvement.

Explore resources. The project you choose is up to you and it should show your own interests in Sustainable Agriculture. You can find more information about sustainability at <http://www.sare.org/> or take a free National Continuing Education Program online course about the basic concepts at <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Courses-and-Curricula>. You are also encouraged to talk over your project ideas with your NCR-SARE state coordinator. For a list of state coordinators see: page 7 or <http://www.northcentralsare.org/State-Programs>, or call: 1-800-529-1342.

HELP WITH GRANT WRITING AND RESOURCES

For assistance in preparing your proposal, contact your NCR-SARE State Coordinator (see the list on pg 7 or see: <http://www.northcentralsare.org/State-Programs>). You may also want to contact the NCR-SARE office, the national SARE office, two sister organizations of SARE: AFSIC and ATTRA, your Extension agent, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), local soil and water conservation district, or local sustainable agriculture group.

- ✓ Contact NCR-SARE for information on Youth Educator Grants and the SARE program:
Joan Benjamin 573-681-5545 or 800-529-1342
NCR-SARE Associate Regional Coordinator 573-681-5534 (fax)
Lincoln University benjaminj@lincolnu.edu
900 Leslie Blvd, Lorenzo J Greene Hall <http://www.northcentralsare.org/>
Jefferson City, MO 65101

- ✓ Contact the national Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Outreach office for information on SARE publications and resources:
Andy Clark, Outreach Coordinator 301-405-2689
SARE Outreach 301-405-7711 (fax)
1122 Patapsco Bldg coordinator@sare.org
University of Maryland www.sare.org
College Park, MD 20742-6715

- ✓ The Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC) at the National Agricultural Library (partially funded by SARE), specializes in locating, organizing, and providing information about sustainable agriculture. Information specialists can answer questions, conduct literature searches, provide access to materials, supply links to experts and organizations, identify pertinent researchers and projects in the USDA, and furnish free bibliographies and reference briefs.
AFSIC 301-504-6559
National Agricultural Library, USDA 301-504-6927 (fax)
10301 Baltimore Ave, Room 132 afsic@nal.usda.gov
Beltsville, MD 20705-235 <http://afsic.nal.usda.gov>

- ✓ The National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service (ATTRA) was developed and is managed by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). ATTRA has information on sustainable agricultural topics. If you contact ATTRA via e-mail, please describe your role in sustainable agriculture. By mail or fax, please include "ATTRA Information Request" near the top of the correspondence. (Preferred method of contact is telephone.)
ATTRA- National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service 800-346-9140 (English)
P.O. Box 3838 800-411-3222 (Español)
Butte, MT 59702 <https://attra.ncat.org/>

- ✓ Michael Fields Agricultural Institute provides free Grants Advising services to beginning farmers, limited resource farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (minority farmers or women farmers, as well as young organizations working with these farmers) in the Midwest, and to all rural producers and agriculture-related businesses throughout Wisconsin. Contact MFAI's Grants Advisor, Deirdre Birmingham, at deirdreb4@gmail.com or (608) 219-4279. Also visit <http://www.michaelfields.org/grant-advising-resources/> for more information.

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***NCR-SARE Youth Educator
Sustainable Agriculture Grants
2015 Proposal Form***

On the following pages you will see all of the questions you will be asked on the Online Submission website at <http://www.ciids.org/ncsare/ye>. Once you have read through this call for proposals, click on the website, follow the directions and begin your proposal.

If you are unable to use the online system, complete your proposal using a computer or typewriter, or print legibly in dark ink. The proposal includes one title page, one category checkoff page, three pages of questions, a budget and budget justification, plus a three-page Livestock Care form for projects that involve livestock. Do not exceed the word limits.

Project Title:
(25 words or less)

Amount of Money Requested (\$2,000 maximum):

Youth Educator Name:

Organization: _____

Mailing Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

By signing this form I agree that SARE funds will only be spent on project expenses, and that I will complete and submit an annual report (if needed) and final report.

*Youth Educator Signature

Date

*If you are submitting your proposal by e-mail include a scanned signature or type your name in.

****Will project involve livestock? Yes ___ No ___. If Yes, fill out the Livestock Care form, pgs. 16-18.**

****What is the age range of the young people you will work with in your project? (25 word max.)**

****How many young people will be involved in your project? (25 word max.)**

****How many farmers/ranchers will be involved in your project? (25 word max.)**

SYSTEMS CATEGORY. Select the category that best represents this project:

Integrated Crop & Livestock System	Soil Management
Education & Training	Natural Resources/Environment
Energy Conservation & Renewable Energy	Economic/Marketing
Crop Production	Community Development
Animal Production (including aquaculture, apiary)	Quality of Life
Pest Management	Other _____

CROP OR ENTERPRISE CATEGORY. Select the category that best represents the crop or animal production enterprise being addressed:

Aquaculture	Grain Crops	Nuts
Beef	Hay & Forage Crops	Ornamentals and turf
Dairy	Silage Crops	Trees (forest and Christmas)
Swine	Vegetable Crops	Other _____
Sheep & Goats	Tree Fruits	
Poultry	Sugar Crops	
Oil Crops	Small Fruits	

Answer the following questions.

1. Project Abstract. How do you plan to educate youth about Sustainable Agriculture? Briefly describe your project and what you propose to do. (100 word / ¼ page maximum)

2. Detailed Project Plan and Timeline. What is your plan for teaching students about Sustainable Agriculture? Reviewers want to know the specific sustainable agriculture practices young people will learn and how you will teach them. For example, students may learn how to set up a management-intensive grazing system or how to grow and use cover crops from hands-on projects, a specific curriculum, from meeting and working with farmers and ranchers, etc. Include a timeline that gives a step-by-step description of what you will do and when you will do it (750 words / 1 ¼ page maximum).

2. Detailed Project Plan and Timeline continued

3. Resources Used. What resources will you use to plan and carry out your project? Include people and organizations you will work with, books, curricula, films, magazines, etc. you will use. (300 word/ ½ page maximum)

4. Outreach. How will you share what you learned through your project with youth educators and others? Be specific. This could include writing an article, having a field day demonstration, promoting your project using social media (such as Facebook or Twitter), creating a web page, making a video, presenting a poster, giving a talk or otherwise showing other educators and the public what you did, what you learned and why it is important. The more outreach, the better. (300 word / ½ page maximum)

5. Student and Community Impact. How will your project impact students and your community? How will you measure impact? Since these are small grants, simple measurements can be used. For example, learning can be measured through pre- and post-test surveys. Head counts can be taken to measure the number of students, educators, farmers/ranchers, and others you reach through your project by collaborating, teaching, and through outreach efforts. (300 word/ ½ page maximum)

NCR-SARE 2014 Youth Educator Grant Budget Directions

For each category list the items you want to purchase with grant funds along with a brief description of each item. On the Budget Justification page explain how each item relates to the project and show how you arrived at the cost.

Budget Guidelines:

- **Budget Categories.** Choose the budget categories that apply to your project. Choose from the following categories: Personnel, Materials and Supplies, Travel, Other Direct Costs.
- **Grant Funds Request.** Show the amount of grant funds you intend to spend on each item. Use accurate figures. Grant recipients are paid for actual project expenses.
- **Matching funds are not required.** Do not show a match. If outside funds are necessary to carry out your project, mention that you have outside resource so reviewers can evaluate your work plan, but don't list the amount.
- **Personnel Costs.** Include the name and contact information of each project participant and in your justification, explain how they will contribute to the grant project. List everyone who is participating in your project except consultants and service providers who should be listed under Other Direct Costs. Include an estimate of the amount of labor and the cost for each participant being paid with grant funds. Personnel costs can make up most, or all, of the budget but if they do, use the justification to explain why so reviewers understand why personnel costs (and not supplies, outreach, etc.) are essential to carry out your project. Include everyone who will participate even if they will not receive grant funds. If the participants are not being paid with grant funds, include their name, contact information, and role, and list \$0 for the grant funds request.
- **Other Direct Costs.** In addition to consultants and service providers, use this category for communications, photocopying, conferences-meetings-workshops, speaker/trainer fees, honoraria/stipends, office and equipment rental, land-use charges, and fabrication of equipment.
- **Food and Drink Expenses.** Refreshments/meals are allowed for meetings including educational events like field days and tours if they support the continuity of the event or the health, safety, and convenience of the attendees, especially if alternatives are not available in the vicinity. Meals may not be charged as project costs when individuals decide to go to breakfast, lunch, or dinner together when no need exists for continuity of a meeting. Breakfast meals are generally not allowable because no continuity of the meeting exists. Refreshments/meals to support continuity of events should be included in Other Direct Costs.
- **Travel.** For travel costs, use a mileage rate of \$.56.
- **Unallowable Expenses.** Grant funds cannot be used for construction or remodeling of buildings or to buy motorized vehicles, but these items may be leased or rented with grant funds, if they are needed for the project. Indirect costs are not allowed.
- **Budget Narrative and Justification.** Provide a brief description to explain the role each person plays in the project and the purpose of travel and items purchased. The justification also shows how you arrived at the proposed expenses, and is usually expressed as some per-unit cost times some number of units. For example: 30 hrs. @ \$15/hr. = \$450. Reviewers look for real-world budgets that match activities in your proposal.

BUDGET EXAMPLE

Materials and Supplies 50 perennial flowers \$355

Budget Justification: 50 perennial flowers (10 each of 5 plants) x \$6.50 per quart pot = \$325 + \$30 shipping/handling = \$355: Cup plant, Goldenrod, Wild Bergamot, Joe-pye weed, Butterfly weed for class to plant a native perennial border to attract pollinators on a local blueberry farm.

2014 Youth Educator Budget

Read the Budget Directions on page 13of the Call for Proposals before filling out the budget.

Budget Category -- Budget item Description	Budget Item Request
Personnel	
Materials and Supplies	
Travel	
Other Direct Costs	
TOTAL The total cannot be more than \$2,000. You can contribute additional funds from other sources, but do not include the amounts in the budget.	

By signing this form I agree that I understand the purpose and costs of this proposed project, that SARE funds will only be spent on this project, and that I will turn in a final report, if the proposal is funded.

*Youth Educator Signature

Date

*If you are submitting your proposal by e-mail, scan your signature or type your name.

Budget Narrative and Justification

Provide a brief narrative description to explain the role each person plays in the project and the purpose of travel and items purchased. The justification also shows how you arrived at the proposed expenses, and is usually expressed as some per-unit cost times some number of units. For example: 30 hrs. @ \$15/hr. = \$450 or 89 miles @ \$.56/mile = \$49.84. Reviewers look for real-world budgets that match the activities in your proposal.

Personnel

Materials and Supplies

Travel (use \$.565/mile for travel reimbursement)

Other Direct Costs (use for communications, photocopying, consultants, services conferences-meetings-workshops, speaker/trainer fees, honoraria/stipends, equipment rental, land-use charges, fabrication of equipment.)

Equipment, Livestock, Permanent fencing, Perennial seeds and Plants

- 6) Describe the housing or shelter available for the animals in normal and inclement weather.

- 7) How is the housing/shelter cleaned? How often?

- 8) Describe how feed and water is provided, how often it is provided, and how often the feed and water containers are checked and cleaned.

- 9) Describe how the nutritional needs of the animals in this project will be met.

- 10) Describe the vaccination program and the routine procedures used to minimize disease and manage parasites. Include what the animals are vaccinated against and provide common names of the products that are used. Include a description of routine worming or parasite management.

- 11) What procedures will the animals undergo during course of this project? Will these procedures induce or potentially induce distress or pain in the animal and if so, how will you manage or minimize the potential for pain and distress?

- 12) Please indicate if other individuals will participate in handling and or caring for the animals in this project. If other individuals will be involved, please describe their expertise with animal care. If individuals need to be trained to perform the procedures described in this project, please indicate how they will be trained to do the procedures properly.

- 13) At the end of the project--what happens to animals? Please indicate if they will remain at the project site, be sold, or be slaughtered.

- 14) If animals are transported off-site, please describe how they will be transported.

- 15) If animals are slaughtered, please indicate if this will occur at a commercial licensed slaughter facility. If it is not done at a commercial licensed slaughter facility, describe where and how slaughter will be conducted.

- 16) Please indicate if the animals or products from these animals will be used as food for humans and if so, confirm that withdrawal times for medications will be followed before allowing the animals or products from the animals to enter the food chain.

- 17) Identify the veterinarian (name, address, and contact information) that will provide routine and emergency care of the animals used in this project.