Northeast SARE Farmer Grant Opportunities

2009 Great Lakes’ Dairy Sheep Symposium
Albany, New York

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What is SARE?

- SARE = Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program
- USDA competitive grants and outreach program
- “Advancing sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture”
### Other SARE regions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Central Region (NCR)</th>
<th>Southern Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>U of Minnesota</strong></td>
<td><strong>U of Georgia/Fort Valley State</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Farmer Rancher grants due Thursday, December 3, 2009</strong></td>
<td><strong>Producer Grants due Sunday, November 15, 2009 (online)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NCR-SARE goals:</strong> Foster site-specific, integrated farming systems; satisfy human food and fiber needs; enhance environmental quality, natural resource conservation and the integration of on-farm and biological resources; enhance the quality of rural life and support owner-operated farms; protect human health and safety; and promote crop, livestock and enterprise diversity and the well-being of animals.</td>
<td><strong>Funding Strategy:</strong> Diversity (including diverse voices), Connection and Innovation.</td>
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</tbody>
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## SARE Regions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western SARE</th>
<th>Northeast SARE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Utah State University</td>
<td>University of Vermont</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Western SARE**
  - Farmer/Rancher applications due December 4, 2009
  - **Promote good stewardship** of the nation's natural resources ... that strengthen agricultural competitiveness; **Enhance the quality of life** for farmers ... and ensure the **viability of rural communities**; **Protect the health and safety** of those involved; **Promote**... enterprise **diversification**; Examine the regional, economic, social and environmental **implications**...

- **Northeast SARE**
  - Farmer grants due December 8, 2009 postmarked
  - Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.
Northeast-SARE Outcome Statement

“Agriculture in the Northeast will be diversified and profitable, providing healthful products to its customers; it will be conducted by farmers who manage resources wisely, who are satisfied with their lifestyles, and have a positive influence on their communities and the environment.”
## NE-SARE Programs

### Competitive Grants
- Research & Education
- Professional Development
- Agroecosystems
- Farmer
- Partnership
- Sustainable Community

### ...and
- Publications
  - Bulletins
  - On-line books, factsheets
  - Innovations
- Sustainable Farmer Educators
- Speakers Fund
- State Program
### 2009 NE-SARE Grants Portfolio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>Total # Submitted</th>
<th>Total # Funded</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
<th>Total Amount Funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Education</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>$1,611,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>$403,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>$180,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Community</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,554,818</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Plus, 1 Agro-ecosystems grant at $400,000 from 2 applications*
What is a grant?

- **Gift**
  - Receive $ • don’t pay back • no strings attached

- **Loan**
  - Receive $ • pay back • strings?

- **Grant**
  - Receive $ • don’t pay back • strings attached
About NE-SARE Farmer Grant

WHAT?
A grant to:

- Explore innovative ideas.
- Develop, refine, and/or demonstrate new sustainable techniques.
- Seek new knowledge that other farmers can use.
- Address questions that are directly linked to improved profits, better stewardship of resources, and stronger rural communities.
About NE-SARE Farmer Grant

HOW?

- Field or Marketing trials
- On-farm demonstration
- Other – inventions

- Project must have an outreach component
Who can apply?

WHO

- Must be a farmer in the Northeast
- Can be full-time or part-time
- For-profit operations that are currently selling farm products

- A technical advisor--often an extension agent, veterinarian, crop consultant, or other service professional--is required as a project participant.
SARE Funds Can Be Used For:

- Your time and time your employees work on project
- Project materials
- Project-related services (soil testing, consulting, etc.)
- Project-related travel
- Postage, printing, phone, and other outreach expenses
- Compensating technical advisors, collaborators, etc.
- Rental equipment specifically needed for project
SARE Does NOT Fund:

- Projects requesting more than $15,000
- General overhead costs – normal operating
- Capital expenses – structures and machinery
- Projects with only youth education or urban gardens
- Projects with little/unclear benefit to other farmers
- Proposals that replicate techniques already known to be effective
- Past recipients who are behind in their reporting
Types of Projects Funded

- New production techniques / strategies
- Adoption in Northeast, etc.
- Marketing of new products
- Value-added
- Invention of equipment, etc.
- Education, outreach & demonstration
SARE has supported projects in:

- Aquaculture
- Bees
- Composting
- Cover cropping systems
- Education
- Erosion control
- Grazing and pasture management
- Greenhouse production
- Hay and silage

- Herbs & specialty crops
- Livestock
- Market Development
- Mulches
- No-till
- Pest management
- Processing and adding value
- Tools and prototypes
- Weed control
When we take a look at New York state we see that it has received over $10.8 million in funding from 1998-2008 for following 296 grant projects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of grants</th>
<th>Grant Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sustainable Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Professional Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Research and Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2009, New York received 9 Farmer, 4 Partnership, 1 Sustainable Community, 2 Professional Development and 2 Research and Education for total of $392,164:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Farmer           | -Grafting heirloom tomatoes for field production  
|                  | -Preparing the ground for local fair trade: Helping farmers and their buyers improve labor and fair pricing  
|                  | -Goodbye Hobby Garden, Hello Money Garden. Building Commercial Relationships between community supported agriculture farmers and local gardeners for mutual benefit  
|                  | -Better wine grape quality using combined vine training and canopy management  
|                  | -Spore exclusion – a new approach to downy mildew prevention in cucurbits  
|                  | -Using pigs as seed drills: interplanting small grains into a white clover living mulch  
|                  | -Mushroom cultivation utilizing off season vegetable growth chamber  
|                  | -Using chickens and a cover crop barrier for weed control in organic asparagus  
|                  | -Assessments of the benefits of raising calves with their mothers in an intensive grazing system  
|                  | -Evaluation of forage Brassica Establishment and Productivity on Grazing Farms  
|                  | -Live thrips traps: Using inexpensive marigolds to draw thrips away from greenhouse crops  
|                  | -Cultural practices to improve fresh market onion quality and profitability  
|                  | -St. Lawrence County Agricultural Plastics Recycling Project  
| Partnership      | -Local officials training initiative and farm book  
| Sustainable Community | -Filling soil health prescriptions with targeted cover crops  
|                  | -Greater impact of advisor-farmer interactions through improved tools for whole-farm evaluation  
| Professional Development | -Using canopy management to reduce fungicide use and improved fruit composition in white wine grapes  
|                  | -”Extension on Demand” for new livestock producers in Sullivan County  
| Research and Education | - }
Examples of NE-SARE Farmer Projects
Sheep Farmstead Cheesemaking in Connecticut, 1998, Suzanne Sankow, Sankow’s Beaver Brook Farm, Lyme, Connecticut
Low-cost conversion of cow dairy to sheep dairy, 1998, Neil Urie, Bonnieview Farm, Albany, Vermont
Technical Assistance for Sheep Dairy Farms, 2000, Ann Works, Peaked Mountain Farm, Townshend, Vermont
Adaptation of the Cornell Net Carbohydrate and Protein System to Northeast Sheep Dairy Operations, 2002, Tyler Hotaling, Woodcock Farm, Weston, Vermont
Conclusions on dairy sheep nutrition

Estimating ewe intake from pasture was not accurate by the destructive sward technique. It was best done using model provided by Pulina et alia:

\[
DMI = (-.545 + .095 \times \text{Full Body Weight}^{0.75} + .65 \times \text{Fat Corrected Milk} + .0025 \times \text{FBW change gms/day}) \times \text{litter size correction factor}
\]
## Supplementation suggestions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Per day</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>&lt;1.71 kg milk</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt; 5 weeks</td>
<td>6-8 weeks</td>
<td>9-10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole corn kg</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td>.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybean meal kg</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total supplement</td>
<td>.8</td>
<td>.8</td>
<td>.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **>1.71 kg milk** | Per day            |            |            |
|                  | < 5 weeks          | 6-8 weeks  | 9-10 weeks |
| Whole corn kg    | .4                 | .4         | .4         |
| Soybean meal kg  | .75                | .65        | 0          |
| Total supplement | 1.15               | 1.05       | .4         |
Portable Sheep Dairy, 2003, Claire Mikalayunas, Straw’s Farm, Newcastle, Maine
Portable Sheep Dairy: Conclusions

- Start with minimum of 24 productive crossbred ewes bred with > 50% dairy genetics for hardiness and production length and level
- Sufficiently sized holding area on concrete to prevent muddy area pre-milking
- Carrying milk was not efficient but necessary
- Portable parlor lives on in Maine
Portable Sheep Dairy, 2003, Claire Mikalayunas, Straw’s Farm, Newcastle, Maine
Pressing Spent Brewers Grains to improve its use as alternative feed: A Study of its effect on Dairy Sheep and Meat lambs, 2009, Perry Ells, Ells Farm, Union, Maine
Application procedure

FARMER GRANTS

- **September 2009**: obtain the call for proposals online or by mail
- Read the “How to Write a SARE Farmer Grant Application” booklet
- Enlist technical advisor and give guide.

- **December 8, 2009** postmark deadline. 1 paper copy

- **March 2010** Applicants notified of award or rejection

- **April-May 2010** Contracts created and signed for reimbursement
Application procedure

- Obtain the application.
- Read the “How to Write a SARE Farmer/Grower Grant Application” booklet
- Locate technical advisor
- ask for help (Carol Delaney) (802) 656-0697 – Carol.Delaney@uvm.edu
- Plan grant
- Write grant (40 hours)
- Have Technical Advisor review and sign-off.
Application: Answer 7 questions

1. What is the problem and why is it important?
2. What efforts have been made by others to solve the problem?
3. How will your project fit in with your farm operation?
4. What will your methods be?
5. How will you measure your results?
6. How will the results of your project help farmers in the Northeast?
7. What is the outreach plan for your project results?
Search for Current Sustainable Ag Research

- You should also find out what others have done in your project area. Visit these websites to help you research your project concept:

  - Search the SARE projects data base online at [www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)
  - Organic Farming Research Foundation at [www.ofrf.org](http://www.ofrf.org)
  - contact Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas at [www.attra.org](http://www.attra.org) to get a resource packet in your interest area
Role of Ag Service Providers

- **Technical Advisor**
  - Review grant application – complete and convincing?
  - Help with experimental design – include control
  - Provide background for justification – trends
  - Read comments from possible rejection letter and try again
  - Supply outreach opportunities
  - [see “A Guide for Agricultural Service Providers” on nesare.org]

- **Consultant – paid for work on Farmer grants**
  - Measurements or outreach

- **OR: Technical advisor can apply for Partnership grant**
Welcome to Northeast SARE

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program is a USDA competitive grants program supporting agriculture that is profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities.

There are four SARE regions: Northeast, North Central, South, and West—and a national SARE office in Washington, D.C. The Northeast SARE region is made up of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

The grants programs

Northeast SARE grants are offered to eligible farmers, researchers, educators and others in the agricultural community who are working on innovative and interesting approaches to sustainable agriculture.

Grants are offered on two different levels: large, multi-year projects with budgets typically ranging from $30,000 to $250,000, and smaller, shorter-term projects with budgets of $10,000 or less. The two funding tiers have different application requirements and, in some cases, different eligibility requirements. For examples of projects funded, you can search the national projects database. If you need help deciding which grant is best for you, contact us.

How to manage your grant

If you have been awarded a Northeast SARE grant, you can use this site to learn about reporting, reimbursements, and other aspects of project management. You can also download documents and instructions.

State programs

Learn about state initiatives and get contact information for your state coordinator.

Resources

Bulletins, newsletters, books, a project database, and other useful references are available from both the regional and the national SARE offices. We also maintain a list of other sustainable agriculture web sites.
Get a Grant

Grants are offered as follows:

- **Farmer Grants**
  Farmer Grants are for commercial producers who have an innovative idea they want to test using a hands-on, on-farm demonstration, or other technique. Application deadlines are in December for awards the following March.

- **Partnership Grants**
  Partnership Grants are for agricultural service providers—extension and NRCS staff, consultants, state departments of agriculture, and others who want to conduct on-farm demonstrations, research, marketing, and other projects with farmers as cooperators. Application deadlines are in December for awards the following March.

- **Sustainable Community Grants**
  Sustainable Community Grants make a direct connection between community revitalization and farming. Application deadlines are in December for awards the following March.

- **Professional Development Grants**
  The Professional Development Grants fund outcome-based projects that train Cooperative Extension educators and other agricultural service providers in sustainable techniques and concepts. Proposals are due in the summer with full proposals due in the fall.

- **Research and Education Grants**
  The Research and Education Grants fund outcome-based projects offering research, education, and demonstration projects that engage farmers as cooperators in the exploration of sustainable farm practices. Proposals are due in the summer with full proposals due in the fall.

- **Agroecosystems Research Grants**
  The Agroecosystems Research Grants fund long-term research that explores the ecological interactions that are the basis
Farmer Grants

Farmer grants are for commercial producers who have an innovative idea they want to test using a field trial, on farm demonstration, or other technique. A technical advisor—often an extension agent, crop consultant, or other service professional—is required as a project participant.

Projects should seek results other farmers can use, and all projects must have the potential to add to our knowledge about effective sustainable practices.

Proposal deadlines are in December with awards announced in March. Feel free to read the 2009 application materials, but do not use outdated materials to apply for funds. A new application for 2010 will be released in the summer of 2009.

Let us help you:

Get an overview of the Farmer Grants

In the overview section you can get a description of the grant, who can apply, what type of projects can be funded, what is expected of grantee, and a timeline for submitting a proposal.

Learn how to apply

Interested in applying for a Farmer Grant? Look at the application form, checklists, timelines, and review criteria, and learn how to help if you need it. You can also read or download How to Write a SARE Farmer Grant.

Find out what happens when a project is funded

Preview SARE reporting, required treatment, and policy requirements so you can find out ahead of time what we expect of successful grantees.

Look at past Farmer Grant projects

Read brief descriptions of projects funded in the most recent grant cycle to get a feel for the variety of projects and approaches SARE is receptive to.
Search SARE Projects:

Use the form below to search for SARE projects containing specific words, combinations of words, or general conditions. The full-text search engine will display a list of matching projects and any individual reports the search terms appear in.

Please Note: In order to activate the search, you must use the search button (rather than pressing the Enter key).

Region
-- select region --

State
Pennsylvania

Project Type
Farmer/Rancher Project

Search Terms
FHE99

You may enter one or more search terms, or leave the box blank to list all projects. If you want to refine a search with more than one search term, you may separate the terms with the keywords 'OR', 'AND', 'AND NOT', or 'NOT'.

Search Type
-- select type --

If you already know the SARE-assigned ID of the project you're looking for, the Project Number search is the quickest way to find it. Otherwise, the Title and Full Text searches are your best way to reach a document, based on keywords contained either in the title or the entire project collection, respectively.

Search
An Economic Comparison of Grafted Tomato Transplant Production and Utilization in Multi-bay High Tunnels

Current issue

Recently, larger growers have begun using multi-bay high tunnels as a way to cover large production areas for half the cost of traditional high tunnels. One of the primary challenges of high tunnel production is that reduced crop rotation intervals can lead to build-up of soil borne pathogen inoculums in the field, resulting in severe annual disease epidemics. Verticillium wilt (race 2) is problematic for organic and sustainable growers, as the only current effective management strategy is soil fumigation. I was the recipient of a 2008 Farmer SARE grant, Grafting tomatoes in multi-bay high tunnels as a way to overcome soil borne diseases - FN208-836. We learned valuable information from this study and desire to apply for a follow-up grant that would allow us to pursue some unanswered questions. In addition we’d like to measure tomato fruit quality within the treatments and determine the economics of grafted transplant production as this is a question many growers are now asking.

Proposed plan of study

This project has three primary objectives.

1. To evaluate tomato rootstock for its ability to manage verticillium wilt (race 2) and other soil borne diseases in multi-bay high tunnels. Disease incidence and yield will be observed with and without chemical fumigation.

2. To determine the actual costs associated with commercial, large-scale grafted transplant production as this is a question many growers are now asking due to the success grafting has achieved.

3. An aggressive outreach program has been developed to convey the findings and importance of this study to farmers in the Northeast region.

A field day is planned during the growing season and a half-day grafting workshop and speaking session will be held during the 2010 Mid-Atlantic Vegetable Conference.

Coordinator
Steve Groff
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Holwood, PA 17532
Phone: 717-575-6778
Email: sgraff@cedarmeadowfarm.com

SARE Grant
$0,976

Project Name: - FN208836
Type: Farmer/Rancher Project
Region: Northeast
Report Year: 2000
Review of Proposals

Does project...
...reduce costs or improve productivity and/or increase net farm income?

...protect soil and water?
...reduce environmental and health risks?
...prevent agricultural pollution?

...enhance employment in rural areas?
...improve quality of life for farmers, employees, and the farm community?
Review of Proposals

Does...
...applicant have the experience to conduct & complete project?
...applicant have the basic equipment to conduct & complete project?
...the project make sense?

Is the project technically feasible?
Are the objectives clear?
For More Information

www.nesare.org

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