**2021 Northeast SARE Research for Novel Approaches in Sustainable Agriculture Grant Program Full Proposal Worksheet**

*This Word document is provided as a courtesy to help you develop your proposal content offline, ensuring it is accurate and complies with the word limits before copying and pasting into the online grant management system.* ***It is NOT intended as a substitute for the application itself*** *as you are required to provide more information in the proposal than what is provided here. Be sure to refer to the Call for Proposals—posted at* [*www.northeastsare.org/NovelApproaches*](http://www.northeastsare.org/NovelApproaches)*—for complete descriptions of proposal sections and review criteria.*

**Abstract (450-word limit).** This is a standalone summary of the project; the abstract should not refer to subsequent parts of the proposal by using language like, “This will be described later.”

The abstract should describe the novel approach and summarize why it is needed and how it will be beneficial to farmers in the Northeast. State the hypothesis or research question to be tested or evaluated, and summarize the methods proposed to execute the research plan. Briefly describe the evidence of farmer interest to adopt the novel approach and how farmers will be meaningfully involved in the project.

**Project Objective (100-word limit).** Summarize the purpose of this project by explaining why the proposed research is needed to allow the novel approach to be adopted by farmers and the potential impact of the novel approach on Northeast farms.

**Statement of Need:**

**Problem, Novel Approach and Justification (500-word limit).** Describe the problem or missed opportunity for farmers that the novel approach aims to address. Explain why the problem or opportunity is important to sustainable agriculture in the Northeast and will contribute to Northeast SARE’s outcome statement. Describe the number, type, typical size, and location of farms with potential to adopt the novel approach. Explain the novel approach and provide evidence (data from your pilot studies, or the research of others) that it is likely to address the problem or opportunity if adopted by farmers.

**Knowledge Gap, New Knowledge Needed (400-word limit).** Explain the gap in research results that prevents promoting adoption of the novel approach – what information is missing that, if obtained, would allow promotion of the approach to farmers? Describe the knowledge expected to be generated by the project that will build on previous research results, providing the missing information needed to allow farmers to adopt the novel approach.

**Farmer Engagement:**

**Interest of Farmers (300-word limit).** Describe the data that provides evidence of the interest of farmers to adopt the novel approach. These data can come from surveys, documentation of personal contacts, participation in pilot studies, etc. Data must be presented numerically, not as percentages of an unknown quantity, or as unquantified statements such as “multiple” or “many.”

**Involvement of Farmers in the Project (300-word limit)**. Describe the ways in which farmers will be engaged with the project, beyond serving on the advisory committee. This may be through hosting on-farm trials or demonstrations, providing feedback on preliminary research findings, testing elements of the new approach, providing data to support economic analysis of the novel approach, etc.

**Steps to Adoption of Novel the Approach (300-word limit).** Describe the key steps that will be necessary for farmers to adopt the novel approach, should the project generate the needed information to make adoption a realistic goal. For example, how will farmers obtain the design, equipment, plant or animal stock, supplies, tools, technical knowledge or other essential components required to implement the approach? If financial or technical support would be needed for adoption, where do you expect it would come from?

Describe the primary obstacles to adoption that you anticipate, and how they can be overcome.

**Outreach to Farmers (300-word limit)**. Describe how you will conduct outreach to share preliminary and final research findings with the farmers most likely to benefit from the new information. Include a listing of specific outreach publications, events, partners or other resources you will utilize in your outreach efforts. Communication of both positive and negative research results to the agricultural community is required because farmers benefit from knowing about both what does and does not work.

**Research Description:**

**Research Hypothesis or Question (100-word limit).** State the hypothesis(es) or research question(s) to be tested or evaluated that will address the knowledge gap(s) described.

**Research Description (1,200-word limit)**. Describe the research materials and methods proposed to test the hypothesis or evaluate the research question(s). For field and laboratory research, the description must include the elements listed below. Include the subheadings in the text you enter to identify each element.

1. Treatments: Proposed treatments with rationale for selection.
2. Methods: Experimental design, experimental unit size, and treatment application.
3. Data Collection: Data to be collected and collection protocols
4. Data Analysis and Presentation of Results: Statistical methods to be used and the forms in which results will be presented.

For social science research, the description must include the elements listed below. Include the subheadings in the text you enter to identify each element.

1. Study Population(s) with rationale for selection.
2. Methods: Experimental design, methods and instruments to be used.
3. Data Collection: Data to be collected and collection protocols.
4. Data Analysis and Presentation of Results: Statistical methods to be used and the forms in which results will be presented. Describe plans for peer-reviewed publication during or after the project.

**Project Team:**

**Key Individuals (400-word limit)**. Briefly describe yourself as the project leader (principal investigator) and other key individuals (cooperators) who will devote significant time to the project. Descriptions include name, title, business or organization, skills, relevant experience, and primary responsibilities on the project. You should demonstrate your team’s ability to manage the project and conduct its activities. If some key individuals have not yet been identified, provide a description of the type/qualifications of the persons who would be recruited to fill those positions. Also name any other individuals and their organizations, outside of your own, that will be receiving funds requested from SARE to carry out the project, as well as those organizations who will be contributing significant money, personnel time, facilities or equipment to the project.

**Project Advisory Committee (350-word limit)**. An advisory committee consisting of at least two farmers and one agricultural service provider (eg., Extension, NRCS or other federal or state agency, private or non-profit organizations, veterinarian, or other farm advisor) is required. Additional people representing other affiliations, such as researchers, may also be included on the committee. The committee does not include Key Individuals, but may include others involved in the project. Provide the names and affiliations of those who will serve on the advisory committee. Describe the extent to which advisory committee members have provided input during proposal development, and how they will be engaged during the project, for example in assessment of farmer interest, providing feedback on preliminary findings, and sharing project activities and findings. Describe how and when advisory committee meetings will occur.

**Preview Work:**

**Literature Review (1,200-word limit)**. Outline the scientific foundation and origins of your project and identify and explain the references used to understand the problems, challenges, and opportunities your project will address, as well as current knowledge associated with the proposed solution. Include only those sources most relevant to your project. This section is the place to convince reviewers that there is a body of knowledge that provides a compelling rationale for the project. Clearly describe what others have done and how your project will complement or build upon the results of previous efforts. Show that you are informed about previous relevant research or initiatives including grants from SARE if they are relevant to your project. The national SARE database of projects (projects.sare.org/search-projects) contains projects from all four SARE regions and is searchable by state, type of grant, author and keyword.

**Citation List.** Provide a list of publications referenced in the literature review and elsewhere in your proposal. Include only those citations directly related to the proposed project.