



Sustainable Agriculture
Research & Education

Partnership Grants

About Northeast SARE's Partnership Grants

The Partnership Grant program funds projects conducted by agricultural service providers working in partnership with farmers to encourage the understanding and widespread use of sustainable techniques, add to our collective understanding of sustainable agriculture, and strengthen working partnerships between farmers and farm service providers.

Reviewers look for well-designed proposals that enhance the environment, improve quality of life for farmers and their communities, and lead to profitable farm economies. Projects must take place on farms or directly involve farm businesses. Proposals should be relevant to farming and sustainability issues in the Northeast, and should offer both research and outreach components so that results will be available to the wider farm community.

Who can apply for a Partnership Grant?

Partnership Grants are open to anyone who works for an organization such as a college or university, extension, agricultural and community nonprofit, etc.; a municipality and state department of agriculture or federal agency like NRCS; or a for-profit business entity that provides agricultural consulting, veterinary services, etc.

Applications are limited to one per individual per year. While only one proposal may be submitted from an individual applicant, more than one individual from an organization may apply.

What is the size of a Partnership Grant?

Some projects require just a few thousand dollars while others need more funding to complete their work. The cap on any single Partnership Grant is \$30,000. While smaller, one-year projects are encouraged, Partnership Grant proposals that justify the need for a more robust budget will be considered, particularly if projects 1) enlist multi-institution or multi-disciplinary collaboration, 2) explore more complex subject matter, or 3) take longer to document results or changes.



The Northeast
SARE region
includes:

Connecticut,
Delaware,
Massachusetts,
Maryland,
Maine,
New Hampshire,
New Jersey,
New York,
Pennsylvania,
Rhode Island,
Vermont,
West Virginia,
and
Washington, D.C.



Photo credit: Sid Bosworth, University of Vermont

Photo credit: Gladis Zinati, Rodale Institute



Examples of funded project topics include production and marketing, farm succession, soil and pest management, season extension, diversification, tools and prototypes, and on-farm energy and resource management.

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program is funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Our programs are offered to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.

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What can funds be used for?

Northeast SARE funds may be used for expenses specific to the project including labor for project team members including the farmer partners, project-related services like soil testing and lab fees, supplies, copies, outreach materials, farm equipment rental or operating charges, travel and per diem necessary for the project, and indirect costs up to 10 percent of the total grant request.

Are there things that grant funds can't be used for?

Grant funds cannot be used to pay for incentive offers and promotional items, travel to scholarly meetings unless essential to the project, cell phone charges, purchase of motorized vehicles and equipment, and food expenses unless necessary for the continuity of a training event or project meeting. In addition, funds cannot pay for capital costs, including the purchase of land, buildings, livestock, orchards, greenhouses, and other major farm or laboratory improvements.

How to apply?

Northeast SARE accepts applications once per year. Proposals are typically due in the spring with project start dates in late summer. Interested applicants should read the detailed instructions on the website, prepare applications offline well in advance of the deadline, obtain necessary institutional signatures, and submit applications online. The review is competitive and with limited funds, not all projects can be funded. Proposals are reviewed by panels of farmers, researchers, Extension educators, nonprofit staff, and other agricultural professionals.

May I see examples of past projects?

Descriptions of and results from all past projects can be found on SARE's national database at projects.sare.org/search-projects.

Where can I get more information about applying?

Detailed instructions are posted in advance of the application deadline on the Northeast SARE website at www.northeastsare.org. Follow the "Get a Grant" link to "Partnership Grants."

www.northeastsare.org