

Funding Available for Organic Farmers

How to apply for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Farmer/Rancher Grant Program (SARE)






Background Information:

The **SARE Farmer/Rancher Grant Program** supports producers who want to test new ideas, improve sustainability, and share what they learn. Whether you're certified organic or in transition towards certification, this grant can help you solve real challenges on your farm.


Program Highlight: Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Farmer/Rancher Grant Program

The **Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)** Farmer/Rancher Grant Program is a competitive grant program that empowers U.S. farmers and ranchers to conduct on-farm research and outreach on sustainable agriculture solutions. This grant provides funding for organic and transitioning-to-organic operations to test innovative ideas and share the results with their communities. The goal of this program is to address real-world farm challenges and identify solutions related to SARE's three pillars of sustainability: 1) environmental stewardship; 2) farm profitability; or 3) farmer quality of life.




What are you eligible to receive?

-  Trial organic pest or weed management strategies.
-  Compare cover crop mixes or rotations.
-  Test compost or organic fertilizer effects.
-  Study market development opportunities.
-  Host field days and create guides for other farmers.

Who is eligible?

-  Applicants must be farmers or ranchers with a commercially oriented farm business (at least \$1,000 in annual farm income). **Find your SARE region.**
-  In the Western region, applicants must include a Technical Advisor (TA) whose role is to help design and validate the research, and sometimes help with the outreach component. Applicants will need a letter confirming their TA's interest in working with you on the project.

What are you eligible to receive?

-  Up to \$15,000-35,000 dependent on region. These are maximum funding amounts; projects should only judge for what is needed to accomplish the work.
-  The grant covers all approved project costs up to the total award amount.
-  These grants generally operate as a reimbursement-based award, so there will be up-front costs, but there is no cost-sharing requirement for these grants.

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How can you apply for this program?

- 1 Review SARE Materials.**
- ☀️ Check out **your regional SARE's** materials on how to apply.
 - ☀️ Read SARE's Call for Proposal.

- 2 Define Your Project Idea.**
- ☀️ What problem do you want to solve? What does success look like?

- 3 Build Your Team.**
- ☀️ Find a Technical Advisor or team members to work with to support your project.

- 4 Design the Research and Outreach.**
- ☀️ Set clear research goals and outline the steps to achieve them, including how you'll share results through a field day, guide development, or other methods. Ensure you create a budget that covers labor, supplies, and any needed support.

- 5 Submit.**
- ☀️ Complete all required forms and upload them through the SARE portal.

General Timeline for SARE Farmer/Rancher Grant Program

<p>Summer: Call for Proposals (CFP) Released</p> <p>SARE usually releases the CFP, associated materials, and the online portal in the mid- to late-summer.</p>	<p>Fall: 2025 Application Deadlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Western – November 20, 2025, at 12:00 pm MT• North Central – December 4, 2025, at 4:00 pm CT• Southern – December 5, 2025, at 12:00 pm ET
<p>Winter: Proposal Review</p> <p>A Technical Review Panel evaluates the proposals. The panel is made up of a diverse group of farmers, agricultural researchers, extension specialists, and other relevant agricultural professionals from the your SARE region. Applicants typically don't hear anything other than a confirmation of submission, but your proposal is being considered behind the scenes!</p>	<p>Spring: Funding Decisions and Project Starts</p> <p>The SARE Administrative Council then makes the final funding decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Western – Funding decisions are expected in April 2026, with funded projects able to start in May 2026.• Southern and North Central – Funding decisions are expected in February 2026, with funded projects able to start in April 2026.

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