



Sustainable Agriculture
Research & Education



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

Sustainable
Agriculture
Research &
Education

a competitive
USDA grants
program

Partnership Grants

Partnership Grants allow agricultural service providers to explore topics in sustainable production and marketing in cooperation with client farmers. The goal is to build knowledge farmers can use, encourage the understanding and widespread use of sustainable techniques, and strengthen working partnerships between farmers and farm service providers. Projects must take place on farms or directly involve farm businesses. Reviewers look for well-designed inquiries into how agriculture can enhance the environment, improve the quality of life, or be made more profitable through good stewardship.

Who can apply for a Partnership Grant?

You must be engaged in agricultural research or outreach in an organization like Cooperative Extension, NRCS, a state department of agriculture, a college or university, an agricultural nonprofit, or a commercial agricultural consulting business.

What is the size of a Partnership Grant?

The cap on any single award is \$15,000.

What can Partnership Grant funds be used for?

Funds can be used to pay for your time and time that your partnering farmers spend on the project, materials specific to the project, project-related services like soil testing and lab fees, project-related travel, outreach expenses, equipment rental, and other direct costs.



www.nesare.org



Reviewers look for new ideas to improve farm productivity, profits, stewardship, and the vibrancy of the farm community.

Projects should result in knowledge farmers can use to make their farms more sustainable.

Are there things Partnership Grant funds can't be used for?

Funds cannot be used to pay indirect or general overhead costs that would be there in the absence of the project. They also cannot be used for capital expenses such as the cost of buying land, tractors, livestock, machinery, or long-term farm improvements like barns, high tunnels, or greenhouses.

What else should I know about Partnership Grants?

- * This grant program is competitive. Each year we fund between 15 and 20 projects and allocate about \$250,000 for the overall program.
- * Proposals are reviewed by a team that includes extension and NRCS staff, researchers, consultants, people from the agricultural nonprofit sector, and at least one farmer.
- * Successful proposals explore new paths to sustainable agriculture; reviewers will not approve projects that seek to verify that an established practice really works.
- * Reviewers prefer projects that involve more than one farm, but replication on a research farm is acceptable.

Can I see examples of past projects?

Brief descriptions of past projects in the Northeast are on our web site at www.nesare.org. You can also search a national database of projects from around the country at www.sare.org; select the “project reports” link.

Where can I learn more about how to apply?

A complete outline of the application requirements, content, and what to expect if your project is funded is on the Northeast SARE web site—follow the “Get a Grant” link to “Partnership Grants.”

Each state also has a Northeast SARE coordinator who can tell you more about SARE programs and SARE priorities. You can find contact information for your state coordinator on our web site under “State Programs.”

