



Sustainable Agriculture
Research & Education

Graduate Student Research Grants



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.

About Northeast SARE's Graduate Student Grants

This program supports graduate student research on topics specific to sustainable agriculture: www.northeastsare.org/graduatestudentgrant. Projects should address issues of current or potential importance to Northeast farmers, agricultural researchers, and farm support professionals like NRCS personnel, Extension educators, and nonprofit staff. Projects must explore one or more of the sustainable agriculture themes of good stewardship, profitability, and quality of life for farmers and the farm community.

Who can apply?

The grant is open to any graduate student enrolled at an accredited college, university, or veterinary school located in the Northeast region who is proposing to conduct research relevant to farmers in our region. Applications are limited to one per graduate student per year. An applicant may receive only one Northeast SARE Graduate Student Grant during the student's graduate program.

Applications should be written by the graduate student applicant and must support the research effort of one graduate student and not a group project or team of researchers. While collaboration is encouraged, the graduate student applicant is the project manager and is expected to lead the project.

Faculty advisor role

Because universities typically do not allow students to manage institutional grant awards, the graduate student's faculty advisor will be named the principal investigator of the awarded grant.

What is the size of a Graduate Student Grant?

The cap on any single Graduate Student Grant is \$15,000. Each year, Northeast SARE makes around 20 Graduate Student awards totaling about \$300,000.





Graduate Student grants address a range of topics including cropping systems, pest management, livestock health, social sustainability on the farm, soil quality, farm energy production, farm labor, urban agriculture, and the marketing of local food.

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, supplies, copies, outreach materials, farm equipment rental or operating charges, travel and per diem necessary for the project, journal publication fees, and indirect costs up to 10 percent of total grant request.

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

Grant funds cannot be used to pay for costs associated with preparing a thesis, classroom texts, 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 do I apply?

Northeast SARE accepts applications once per year. Proposals are typically due in early May and projects usually start in early August. Interested students 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. Proposals are reviewed by panels of farmers, researchers, Extension educators, nonprofit staff, and other agricultural professionals. Since reviewers have broad agricultural expertise but may not have a deep understanding of particular subject areas addressed, it is strongly recommended that applications use clear and straightforward language, avoiding jargon and acronyms.

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. Customize your search by region, project type, and other parameters of interest.

Where can I get more information about applying?

There are detailed application instructions on the Northeast SARE website. Follow the "Get a Grant" link to "Graduate Student Grants."

www.northeastsare.org