



Farmer Grants

Not-so-secret tips to securing funding!

By Violet Stone

NY SARE / Cornell Small Farms Program

Farmer Grants: Not-so-secret tips to Success!

\$\$\$ Everyone is looking for it \$\$\$




Grants tend to fall into 3 categories: 1) farm viability 2) on-farm research 3) conservation/energy



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Funding Resources are Abundant!


Support for New and Diversifying Farmers

**NORTHEAST
Beginning
Farmers
PROJECT**

Updated & Revised
for 2012!

Guide to Farming in NYS

What Every Ag Entrepreneur
Needs to Know




10/12/october-monthly-update/

Cornell University

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CORNELL small FARMS PROGRAM



OCTOBER MONTHLY UPDATE

The Small Farms Update includes small farm announcements, events, job and intern grant and loan opportunities, other small farm resources. It is intended for farmers at service providers in New York and the Northeast. If have an item to be included in the contact Violet Stone at vws7@cornell.edu.

Related Posts:

- 2012 Monthly Updates
- March Small Farms Update
- Small Farms Update
- Small Farms Update
- Small Farms Update
- Small Farms Update

Announcements

- Farm Energy Field Day! Wind, Water & Pasture: Managing for Sustainability
- Upcoming Online Courses Cover Marketing, Profits and Berry Production

Upcoming Events

- Sponsored Events
- Beginning Farmer Events
- Grazing Events
- Other Featured events

Career etc. Opportunities

- Organic Farm Manager Wanted: Hudson Valley
- NOFA-NY Farmer-to-Farmer Mentorship Program – Apply by October 26, 2012
- Farmland Advisors Program (Land for Good & Farmland Trust) – Due October 31,
- Food Processing Certification Specialist (OEFFA) – Apply Now

Funding etc. Opportunities

- SARE Funding: Partnership Grants – Due November 1, 2012
- SARE Funding: Sustainable Community Grants – Due November 15, 2012
- SARE Funding: Farmer Grants – Due November 27, 2012
- Organic Farming Education & Outreach Grant – Due November 27, 2012
- Organic Farming Research Grant – Due November 27, 2012

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Today's Focus: SARE Grants



Grant Type	2012 Amount Awarded	# of Projects Funded
Farmer Grants	\$395,648	33
Partnership Grants	\$300,480	22
Sustainable Community Grants	\$147,224	10
Research and Education Grants	1.5 million	9
Professional Development	\$476,143	5



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Goal of the Farmer Grant Program



To develop, refine, and demonstrate new sustainable techniques and to explore innovative ideas developed by farmers across the region.

Farmer grant projects should seek new knowledge that other farmers can use and should address questions that are directly linked to

- improved profits
- better stewardship
- stronger rural communities

The maximum award is \$15,000.

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Who can apply?



To apply, you must be a farmer in the Northeast SARE region. You need not be farming full time, but your operation should have an established crop or animal product that you sell on a regular basis.

Institutional and incorporated farms may apply, but the primary activity of that farm must be to produce and sell food under the kinds of economic constraints that affect commercial growers.

Many community-supported farms qualify, but farms where the primary mission is educational normally do not.

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Types of Funded Projects



Farmer Grant funds can be used to:

- Explore new marketing and production techniques
- Pest management
- Cover crops
- Composting
- Agroforestry
- New crop trials
- Bee health and alternative pollinators
- New tool development.....

And a very broad range of other topics that improve profitability, stewardship, and the rural community.

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Types of Funded Projects



Basically.....

ANYTHING!

Projects must test a genuinely new idea, offer a new twist on an old one, and show evidence of careful planning. SARE doesn't fund projects where a farmer merely wants to adopt a proven sustainable technique

Innovation is KEY!

Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

What are allowable expenses?



What funds can be used for:

- Pay farmers for their time (be generous!)
- Project-related materials
- Project costs like consulting fees or soil tests
- Communications or outreach expenses associated with telling others about project results.

What funds cannot be used for:

- Capital costs associated with building a barn, greenhouse, or other major farm fixture
- Purchase land
- Purchase durable equipment like tractors or computers
- Utility, telephone, or other overhead costs that would be there in the absence of the project.

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Let's look at some Examples!



Improving growing practices for processing tomatoes using the Rodale roller crimper
Princeton NJ

Farmer-built spelt dehuller
Avella PA

Evaluation of 12 yellow-flesh peach cultivars for organic production in the Northeast
Fairfield PA

Improving quality of queen honeybees in the Northeast by modifying the standard boxes
Somerset NJ

Winter Grazing in the Northeast
Hardwick MA

Raising figs in high tunnels in the Northeast
Fairton NJ

Hops trellis systems comparison: High vs Low
Exeter RI

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Let's brainstorm ideas



Time to Play!

- Turn to your neighbor and brainstorm a research question about your farm.
- The question might relate to production (soil health, livestock health, pasture management, etc), your marketing/sales plan, or new tool or recipe development.
- If you're an educator or community member, think of a question that could help farmers in your community

Sheep/Goat Funded examples:

- Grazing Sheep in a Pumpkin Field
- Educating Consumers and Chefs About Lesser Cuts of Meat Through a Grass-fed Meats Day
- Raising Lambs on Fresh Goats Milk
- Nutrition & Management of Dairy Sheep & Goats on Pasture

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How do I apply?



Farmer Grants: Due November 27, 2012

Funds and project length

Funds are released as soon as all the required contracts and other documents are returned to the Northeast SARE office. Most projects run one growing season, but others run longer if the plan of work requires it. The maximum time span for a single project is four years.

Reporting

If your project will run longer than a year, we will request an interim report, usually in late winter, and all grantees need to send in a final report within 60 days of project completion. We will send a description of our reporting instructions to you, usually in November or early December.

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What is expected of grantees?



What is expected of grantees?

- Project data and reporting
- Collect and manage reliable data about their project
- Keep records of their project costs and save receipts

Technical advisors

Grant recipients also need to talk with their technical advisor periodically about how the project is going and are responsible for contacting Northeast SARE promptly if a major problem arises.

Continuing interest in project results

Even after the project is over, grant recipients should be prepared to respond to inquiries about it. A summary of the project results will be posted to the web, and there is often ongoing interest in projects that get interesting results or that other farmers want to explore.

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More information!



Farmer Grants

Farmer Grants let commercial producers explore new ideas in production or marketing; reviewers look for innovation, potential for improved sustainability and results that will be useful to other farmers. Projects should be technically sound and explore ways to boost profits, improve farm stewardship, or have a positive impact on the environment or the farm community.

Who can apply for a Farmer Grant?

You must be a farm business owner or manager in the Northeast SARE region. It is not necessary that you farm full time, but the primary activity of your farm must be to produce and sell agricultural products.

There is a limit of one application per farm per year.

What is the size of a Farmer Grant?

The cap on any single Farmer Grant is \$15,000. Each year, SARE awards about \$250,000 for up to 30 Farmer Grants. Awards range from \$2,500 to the \$15,000 maximum.

What can Farmer Grant funds be used for?

Grant funds can be used to pay for your time and time that your employees work directly on the project, materials specific to the project, project-related services like testing and consulting, project-related travel, outreach expenses, equipment rental, and other direct costs.

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

Grant funds can't be used to pay for normal operating expenses—costs that would be there in the absence of the project—or for capital expenses like the cost of buying land, tractors, livestock, machinery, or long-term improvements like barns, high tunnels, or greenhouses.



www.nesare.org

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More information!

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You'll find these great resources available online for further information and assistance:

- 2012 Farmer Grant Application Instructions
- How to Write a Farmer Grant
- One-page summary, Farmer Grants
- Tip sheet for Technical Advisors

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Contact me with any questions!



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