



North Central Region  
Sustainable Agriculture  
Research and Education

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# 2008 Call for: Farmer Rancher Proposals

**Deadline for Receipt of Proposals:  
NCR-SARE Office in Lincoln, NE  
4:30 pm, Monday – December 1, 2008**

## ATTENTION

**The proposal content has changed from last year.  
Be sure to follow the guidelines in this Call for Proposals.**

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North Central Region SARE  
13A Activities Bldg.  
1734 N. 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
PO Box 830840  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0840

402 – 472 - 0809  
402 – 472 – 0280 (FAX)  
[jbenjamin2@unl.edu](mailto:jbenjamin2@unl.edu)  
[www.sare.org/ncrsare](http://www.sare.org/ncrsare)

## **The SARE Program**

### **The National SARE Program and the Farm Bill**

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) is funded through the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES). SARE was created in the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (1990 Farm Bill, Title 16, Subtitle B). The purpose of the SARE program is to generate and disseminate sound and practical information about alternative farming systems believed to have the potential to increase sustainability of agriculture. Sustainable Agriculture is good for the environment, profitable, and good for communities.

The SARE program works primarily through competitive grant programs administered by four regions: North Central, Northeast, South, and West.

### **North Central Region - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE)**

The mission of NCR-SARE is to strengthen rural communities, increase farmer/rancher profitability, and improve the environment by supporting research and education.

#### **NCR-SARE Goals**

- Foster site-specific, integrated farming systems;
- Satisfy human food and fiber needs;
- Enhance environmental quality, natural resource conservation and the integration of on-farm and biological resources;
- Enhance the quality of rural life and support owner-operated farms;
- Protect human health and safety; and
- Promote crop, livestock and enterprise diversity and the well-being of animals.

## **Checklist of Items Needed to Submit a 2008 Grant Proposal**

- **Signed proposal**
- **Signed budget**
- **Letter of reference**
- **Letter from your financial institution (only if your project requires a loan)**
- **Application (one copy) received by the NCR-SARE office in Lincoln, NE by 4:30 p.m. (CST) on December 1, 2008. Applications sent by mail or e-mail will be accepted. Applications sent by Fax will NOT be accepted.**

## NCR Farmer/Rancher Grant Program

### • *WHAT*

The North Central Region (NCR) SARE program of the USDA has allocated about \$400,000 for the 2008 Farmer/Rancher Grant Program. Competitive grants of up to \$6,000 are available for individual farmers and ranchers, and grants up to \$18,000 are available for groups of three or more farmers from separate operations who are interested in exploring sustainable agriculture.

By law, the SARE program is a research and education/demonstration program, so proposals must be intended to test a sustainable agriculture technique that is new to the farm or ranch or to educate/ demonstrate to others a sustainable agriculture technique that could be used more widely in the area. Farmers/Ranchers are invited to submit proposals that test, evaluate, and adapt sustainable agriculture practices for their operations; conduct learning circles, educational events, field days or demonstrations to further disseminate information to farmers/ranchers; develop new technologies; or create or modify equipment.

- These grants are for sustainable agriculture research and education projects; they are NOT for everyday farming expenses.
- Applicants must identify specific problems and potential solutions to those problems.
- Maximum duration for grant projects is 21 months.
- Projects that involve whole farm systems and/or a youth component are encouraged.
- Livestock projects need to comply with reasonable animal care requirements to insure that animals are properly cared for.

During the past 16 years of the Farmer/Rancher Grant Program, 686 grants were awarded to farmers and ranchers studying topics, such as rotational grazing, livestock and crop production systems, waste management, weed control, alternative uses for CRP land, biological weed and pest control, organic farming, marketing, quality of life, water quality, and soil conservation.

### • *WHO*

Any farmer/rancher or group of farmers/ranchers who farms in the North Central Region may apply. Beginning farmers and/or youth may apply. Applicants may be just beginning the transition to a more sustainable operation or may already be using sustainable practices and want to implement additional changes. (Grants to applicants under 21 will need to be signed by a parent or guardian over 21. Youth may also apply to the NCR-SARE Youth Grant Program. Contact NCR-SARE for more information at 1-800-529-1342 or [ncrsare@umn.edu](mailto:ncrsare@umn.edu).)

To qualify for a group project, there must be at least **three farmers/ranchers involved who come from separate, independent operations**. Groups submitting proposals must designate one individual **farmer/rancher** as group leader. The group leader will submit and sign the application, be responsible for reporting, and assume any tax liability associated with the grant.

Grant recipients are limited to one grant annually. Previous farmer/rancher grant recipients are eligible to apply if reports from previous grant projects are up to date. Applications from previous grant recipients will be evaluated on a competitive basis along with all other applications. Proposals based at educational or research institutions are not eligible for this program, but can be submitted to the SARE Research and Education Grant Program. Contact the NCR-SARE office in Minnesota at 612-626-3113 or [ncrsare@umn.edu](mailto:ncrsare@umn.edu) for more information.

- **WHERE**

The North Central Region (NCR) consists of 12 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Farmers and ranchers from these states are eligible to apply for grants from the NCR-SARE program. Farmers and ranchers from other states are eligible to apply if their proposed projects benefit the NCR at least as much as they benefit other regions.

- **WHEN**

**The 2008 Grant Cycle** – In spring 2009, grant recipients can request an initial payment of 50% of their grant funds to start their projects. Grant recipients will receive a payment of 35% of grant funds after submitting a satisfactory progress report, and a final 15% payment when their project is completed and their final report is submitted and approved.

<i>August 20, 2008</i>	Farmer/Rancher grant applications available
<b><i>December 1, 2008</i></b>	Farmer/Rancher grant applications due
<i>Spring, 2009</i>	Administrative Council recommends Farmer/Rancher grant recipients
<i>Spring, 2009</i>	Budgets are reviewed by University accountants for compliance with USDA guidelines and grant contracts are sent out
<i>Early summer 2009</i>	Approximate date of first payment of grant funds (50%)
<i>March 1, 2010</i>	Progress report due. Grant recipients are eligible for a 2nd grant payment (35%) once their progress reports are approved.
<i>December 31, 2010</i>	Project end date
<i>March 1, 2011</i>	Deadline for submitting final report. Grant recipients are eligible for a final payment (15%) once their final reports are approved.

- **CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS**

Successful applications **clearly define a problem** that can be addressed and evaluated within the boundaries of the project. (Don't take on too much – these are small grants.) Most successful proposals **involve cooperators** who can assist with project planning, evaluation, or outreach. Cooperators may include Extension educators; staff of non-profit groups, local conservation districts, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); network coordinators; and soil consultants. Many successful applicants **belong to local or state groups**, through which they share project results, and extend the educational benefits of their grants. All successful applicants include **outreach components** in their projects (usually more than one) such as field days, demonstrations, workshops, videos, websites, and publications.

- **HOW TO SUBMIT A GRANT PROPOSAL**

Applications must be received **by mail or e-mail** in the NCR-SARE office by 4:30 pm (CST) on December 1, 2008. We cannot make allowances for delivery service delays. **Faxed applications will NOT be reviewed.** E-mail applications to [jbenjamin2@unl.edu](mailto:jbenjamin2@unl.edu) or mail applications to:

*NCR-SARE Farmer/Rancher Grant Program*  
*13A Activities Bldg, 1734 N 34th St*  
*PO Box 830840*  
*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*  
*Lincoln, NE 68583-0840*

*E-mail: [jbenjamin2@unl.edu](mailto:jbenjamin2@unl.edu)*

## Application Evaluation

### • *REVIEW CRITERIA AND EVALUATION PROCESS*

All applications are reviewed by a committee that includes farmer/rancher members of the North Central Region SARE Administrative Council, as well as farmer/rancher representatives, educators, and researchers from throughout the north central region. Funding recommendations are based on how well proposals meet the following five criteria.

Well-identified problem and specific innovative plan to test possible solutions to that problem (Reviewers are looking for new ideas or an idea that is new to your location.)

Best use of existing knowledge on the identified problem (Be sure to research what work has already been done on this problem, particularly through previous SARE grants.)

Effective plan for sharing project information (Reviewers like to see cooperation with other farmers/ranchers and with organizations through which information can be shared via workshops, field days, publications, written materials, etc.)

Contribution to the growth of sustainable agriculture. (Your project should add to existing sustainable agriculture knowledge, and help farmers and ranchers in the North Central region produce positive environmental, economic, and social impacts.)

Appropriateness of the budget (Only expenses that help carry out the project should be included. Grants are not intended to fund everyday farming expenses.)

### • *WHAT TO EXPECT*

If you accept your grant, you agree to the following requirements:

- Return signed contract to the NCR-SARE office.
- During the project, you may receive an on-site visit by the Farmer Rancher Grant Program Coordinator or other representatives of the NCR-SARE program.
- For projects that continue more than one year, grant recipients must submit a progress report by March 1, 2010.
- At the end of the project, the grant recipient **must** submit: 1) a final report summarizing the project; 2) a final budget that shows how funds were spent; and 3) photos, when possible, of project activities or outreach events.
- Concerning the budget, grant recipients: 1) will only be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred after the initial funding date; 2) must submit a final report and a final budget documenting the project expenditures before SARE will release final payment; 3) must return unspent funds to the NCR-SARE office; 4) will have a 1099 form automatically filed with the IRS with each payment for tax reporting purposes; and 5) must retain receipts for all project expenditures for a period of three years.
- Funds will be disbursed in the following manner: Grant recipients may request and receive 50% of the grant to start their project. They may request an additional 35% after submitting a satisfactory progress report at the end of the first year of their project, and they may request the remaining 15% upon completion of the project.

## Application Requirements

### • *CONTENT*

You must submit all three parts of the grant application to be considered for funding:

- A) **Project Proposal**
- B) **Budget with budget explanation**
- C) **Reference Letter**

#### A) **Project Proposal**

This consists of general information and questions for you to answer.

- Proposals are limited to five pages, single-sided, excluding the Budget and Reference Letter. Do not change the formatting of the pages. Use the space provided to answer questions and do not expand answers to the title page or additional pages. Proposals exceeding page limits will not be reviewed. Do not include attachments or photos – they will not be considered.
- Applications should be typed using a font no smaller than 12-point, similar to the text in this invitation for proposals. Handwritten applications in dark ink are also acceptable if they are legible.
- Do not staple or paper clip your application. This makes it easier to make copies.

#### B) **Budget**

Complete the budget form included with this document. Along with the amount of each item, briefly explain how each item in your budget will be used in your project. Be sure to review the BUDGET TIPS AND EXAMPLE BUDGET on pages 7 - 9.

#### C) **Reference Letter**

Applicants **must** submit a letter or letters (no more than two) of reference from a community member who can explain why the project is needed and how it will benefit the community. The letter should also include any other information that will support the application. (For example, if the reference will help you with outreach, that information should be included in the letter.)

Contact references early in the process of preparing your grant application and make sure they are familiar with the details of your project. The more your reference knows about your project, the stronger reference letter they can write.

Reference letters should include the name, address, phone number, and e-mail (if available) of the reference. Examples of people who might write a reference letter include: Extension educator or agent; banker; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), local soil and water conservation district, or Farm Service Agency (FSA) personnel; network coordinator; implement dealer or co-op manager; farm organization or other non-profit organization staff.

- **BUDGET TIPS**

Grant reviewers pay close attention to the budget. Be sure to use accurate figures and include a brief explanation of how each item listed in your budget relates to your project.

- **Personnel Costs.** Include the name and contact information of each project participant and briefly explain how they will contribute to the grant project. Include an estimate of the amount of labor and the cost for each participant being paid with grant funds. Include everyone who will participate even if they will not receive grant funds. If the participants are not being paid with grant funds, include their name, contact information, and role, but leave the grant funds request blank. NCR-SARE does not require or ask for matching funds, but reviewers like to know if you or others are making contributions to the project.
- **Other Costs.** List the items you will need and provide a brief explanation of why each item is necessary for your project.
- **Grant Funds Request.** Use this column to show the amount of grant funds you intend to spend on each item of labor and other costs. Grant recipients are paid for actual project expenses. Any unspent funds must be returned.
- **The 50% Rule.** Grant funds can be used to pay for up to 50% of the cost of equipment, permanent fencing materials, and perennial seeds and plants that are essential for completion of the project.
- **Calculating Costs.** Use realistic cost estimates – not guesses. Make sure all expenses are project expenses. Grant funds are for research and education projects only, not day-to-day farming expenses. Labor, land, equipment, and supplies should be calculated on an annual cost-equivalent basis. (For example, operator labor per year at \$15 per hour; \$75/acre cash rent equivalent; \$10/acre rental of tillage equipment, etc.). For travel in a passenger vehicle that you own, use a mileage rate of \$.585 per mile; this mileage rate is intended to cover ownership and operating costs.
- **Unallowable Expenses.** Grant funds cannot be used for construction and remodeling of buildings, purchase of livestock, or to buy motorized vehicles, but these items may be leased or rented with grant funds, if they are needed for the project.
- **Food Expenses.** Light refreshments at field days, e.g. coffee, cold drinks, fruit, pie, cookies, etc. can be paid for with grant funds, but typically meals cannot.
- **Investigate Cost-Sharing.** Many of the practices used in sustainable agriculture may be eligible for cost-sharing from other federal or state government agencies or local soil and water conservation districts, local businesses, private non-profit groups, etc. Please contact these agencies to check on the availability of funds that may be used to supplement your grant.

## Example Budget, page A

This EXAMPLE BUDGET does not represent a single project. It shows examples of line items from many different projects.

Please read the BUDGET TIPS and EXAMPLE BUDGET on pages 7-9 before you complete this two-page budget. Be sure to include a brief explanation of how each item relates to the project either by listing the role a person plays in the project or how travel, supplies, etc. will be used to support the project.

Under PERSONNEL COSTS, list everyone who is participating or helping you with your project. For each person, list their name, address, phone number, email, and their role in the project. Include a realistic estimate of the amount of labor and the cost for each participant being paid with grant funds. If participants are not being paid with grant funds, include them but leave the grant funds request blank.

<b>PERSONNEL COSTS</b>	<i>Grant Funds Request</i>
Jamie Green, 111 Greenland Way, City, State, 88877, 123-444-5555, <a href="mailto:email@email.com">email@email.com</a> Farmer. Conduct beneficial insect trials. Plant 5 borders with herbs and flowers to attract beneficials. Monitor and document results using photos, daily survey. 30 hrs. @ \$15/hr. = \$450	450
David Hay, 222 Greenland Way, City, State, 88877, 123-444-8888, no email. Neighbor and cooperating farmer. Take crop samples of barley and plant hazelnuts in pasture. 12 hrs. @ \$15/hr. = \$180	180
Ima Sylvan, 1211 Woodland Rd, City, State, 22445, 234-222-1111, <a href="mailto:email@email.com">email@email.com</a> Veterinarian, providing training workshop for 3 farmers on collecting semen from rare hog breeds. Training (6 hours) = \$500	500
John Adams, Green County Extension Service, 44 Peach St, City, State, 88877, 123-444-2222. Extension specialist. Assist with field day and workshop publicity, design of test plots, presentation on grafting pecans. Travel: 43 miles @ \$.585/mile = \$25.16	25.16
Tammy Black, State Sustainable Ag Society, 556 Heath St, City, State 22277, 234-555-111, <a href="mailto:email@email.net">email@email.net</a> . Facilitate 3 meetings for farmers and ranchers interested in starting a year round farmers market. Consulting fee: \$150	150
Philipa Pepito, Farmer. Design and install foot powered watering system for produce farm. 32 hours @ \$20/hr (consultant would charge \$25/hr) = \$640	640
Ken Jones, private crop consultant, 123 Crawler Rd, City, State 12312, <a href="mailto:email@email.net">email@email.net</a> scouting insect pests, identifying beneficial insects 18 hours @ \$18/hr. = \$324	324
Teresa Alias, marketing consultant, 322 Market Dr, City, State 11122: develop market survey, assist with developing marketing plan for amaranth, an alternative grain crop 12 hours @ \$30/hour = \$360	360
Ward and Wanda Green, son and daughter, 111 Greenland Way, City, State, 88877, 123-444-5555, <a href="mailto:email@email.com">email@email.com</a> . Help plant beneficial insect borders, scout for beneficial insects, photograph insects, input data into computer and prepare PowerPoint presentation report, 25 hrs. @ \$10/hr = \$250	250
Jay Brown, high school student, 1212 Leaf Lane, City, State 22211: collect seed from prairie plants. 14 hrs. @ \$9/hr = \$126	126
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,005.16</b>

## Example Budget, page B

Under OTHER COSTS, list all project costs except personnel. Include travel, operating costs, supplies, lease of land and equipment, outreach expenses. Grant funds can be used to pay only 50% of equipment, permanent fencing, and perennials (see page 7, The 50% Rule). List these items at the bottom of the page.

<b>OTHER COSTS</b>	<b>Grant Funds Request</b>	
Visit 3 farms to observe whole farm planning system techniques, 320 miles @ .585/mile	187.20	
Pick up Teff grass seed for pasture planting, 76 miles @ .585/mile	44.46	
Supplies for portable solar-powered multi-species pasture watering system, 200 feet of 1.25 inch flexible water pipe	195	
Cover crop seed to prepare area for alternative grain crop, 2 acres buckwheat @ 70 lbs/acre @ .73/lb	102	
Fecal egg count test to determine worm load in sheep, 4 tests x 20 ewes @ \$12 ea = \$960	960	
Equipment modifications to harvest small native wildflower seed. Adapt leaf vacuum.	50	
Tissue test to determine meat quality of pasture beef 15 tests @ \$20 per test	300	
Land lease, 1 acre @ \$85 per acre to provide organic buffer	85	
Scale rental to measure crop yields for blueberries	50	
Lease of a no-till drill to plant wildflowers \$9 /acre x 5 acres = \$45	45	
Film and developing to document increase of quail	24	
Outreach: Printing field day handouts, workshop poster	42	
Sustainable Ag Society (conduct seed collection workshop)	150	
<b>Equipment, permanent fencing, perennial seeds and plants.</b> These items are subject to the 50% rule on page 7. Grant funds can be used to pay only 50% of these items.	<b>Total Cost of Item</b>	<b>Grant Funds Request</b> (Must be 50% or less of total cost of each item.)
High-tensile wire to contain orchard hogs (\$490 x .50 = \$245)	490	245
150 perennial flowers and 15 native shrubs for border to attract beneficial insects @ \$7 - \$25 per quart pot. (\$2,600 x .50 = 1,300)	2,600	495
	<b>SUBTOTAL from above</b>	\$2,974.66
	<b>SUBTOTAL from pg A</b>	\$3,005.16
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$5,979.82

Ξ \_\_\_\_\_, Signature of Applicant (**must** be a Farmer/Rancher)

## Help with Grant Writing and Information Sources

For assistance in preparing your proposal, contact your NCR-SARE State Coordinator (see: <http://ncr.sare.org/PDP/pdpstco.htm>), the NCR-SARE office, the national SARE office, and two sister agencies of SARE: AFSIC and ATTRA. You may also want to contact your local county Extension agent, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or local soil and water conservation district representative, or a sustainable agriculture group in your area.

Women and minority applicants may also contact Deirdre Birmingham, Midwestern Coordinator of the Grantwriting Assistance Project at Michael Fields Agricultural Institute:

(608) 967-2362, [deirdreb@mindspring.com](mailto:deirdreb@mindspring.com) or see the website:

[http://www.michaelfieldsagainst.org/programs/policy/producer\\_grantwriting\\_assistance.html](http://www.michaelfieldsagainst.org/programs/policy/producer_grantwriting_assistance.html)

# Contact NCR-SARE for information on Farmer Rancher Grants and the SARE program:

Joan Benjamin	402-472-0809 / 800-529-1342
Associate Regional Coordinator	402-472-0280 (fax)
North Central Region SARE Program	<a href="mailto:jbenjamin2@unl.edu">jbenjamin2@unl.edu</a>
13A Activities Bldg., 1734 N 34 <sup>th</sup> St	
PO Box 830840	
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583-0840	

# Contact the national Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Outreach office for information on SARE publications and resources:

Andy Clark, Coordinator	301-504-6425
SARE Outreach	301-504-5207 (fax)
10300 Baltimore Ave	<a href="mailto:san@sare.org">san@sare.org</a>
Bldg 046, BARC West	<a href="http://www.sare.org">www.sare.org</a>
Beltsville, MD 20705	

# The Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC) at the National Agricultural Library (partially funded by SARE), specializes in locating, organizing, and providing information about sustainable agriculture. Information specialists can answer questions, conduct literature searches, provide access to materials, supply links to experts and organizations, identify pertinent researchers and projects in the USDA, and furnish free bibliographies and reference briefs. Contact:

AFSIC	301-504-6559
National Agricultural Library, USDA	301-504-6927 (fax)
10301 Baltimore Ave, Room 132	<a href="mailto:afsic@nal.usda.gov">afsic@nal.usda.gov</a>
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351	<a href="http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/">www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/</a>

# Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) will provide information packets on various agricultural topics. If you are contacting ATTRA via e-mail, please describe your role in sustainable agriculture. By mail or fax, please include "ATTRA Information Request" near the top of the correspondence. (Preferred method of contact is telephone.) Contact:

ATTRA	800-346-9140, 7am to 7 pm, Central Time
P.O. Box 3657	800-411-3222 (Español), 8 am to 5 pm Pacific Time
Fayetteville, AR 72702	501-442-9842 (fax), <a href="http://www.attra.ncat.org">www.attra.ncat.org</a>

## 2008 Farmer/Rancher Grant Application

Please type or print legibly in dark ink. There are five pages to the application (one title page and four pages of questions not including the budget or reference letter). Do not exceed the page limit. If your project requires assistance from a financial institution, please enclose a letter from them indicating their commitment. (This letter is only necessary if you must take out a loan in order to carry out your project.)

**Project Title:** (The title lets reviewers know what your project is about at a glance – be descriptive but not too wordy.)

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**One or Two Sentence Description of Project** (This will be posted on the SARE website if your project is selected for funding.):

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**Project Leader:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Fax:**

**E-Mail:**

**Website:**

**Is the applicant a Farmer/Rancher? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_**

**Is this an Individual\_\_\_\_\_ or Group\_\_\_\_\_ Project?**

**Grant Funds Requested: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

(This must not exceed \$6,000 for an individual grant or \$18,000 for a group grant.)

**Have you previously received a SARE Farmer/Rancher Grant? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_**

**If yes, was the project successfully completed? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_**

**If project was not completed, explain why not. \_\_\_\_\_**

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**1) PROBLEM/SOLUTION. Describe the problem your project will address. Explain why this problem is important to your farm and to other farmers/ranchers in your area and/or the North Central Region. Provide a detailed description of the innovative plan you are proposing to test sustainable agriculture solutions to the problem.**

**2) RESEARCH. Describe how you will add to or build on previous work done on this problem.** (Check for previous SARE grant projects on your topic at [www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org) or call 1-800-529-1342. See page 10 for other resources to help you research work done on your topic.)

**3) OUTREACH. How will you share information from your project with other farmers and ranchers? Who else will you share information with?** (Each project must include outreach.)

**4) EVALUATION. How will you evaluate the results of your grant project and the contribution your project makes to sustainable agriculture on your farm and in your community?** (Explain how you plan to assess the results of your project. You can evaluate your project and its contribution to sustainable agriculture by looking at the environmental, economic, and social impacts of your work. For example impacts can be evaluated by recording changes in water quality, soil erosion, wildlife, cash flow, community involvement, and quality of life. This may involve record keeping, taking photos, measuring results with simple surveys, etc. Call the NCR-SARE office if you have any questions since this is an important part of this application.)

**5) DESCRIPTION. Describe your farm or ranch operation and include the size of your operation, crops grown, etc. Briefly explain your background so reviewers know what qualifications you bring to the project. If you are submitting a group proposal, also provide names and a brief description of the farms/ranches of the other members of the group. (For group projects, at least three members of the group must be farmers or ranchers.)**

\_\_\_\_\_, Signature of Applicant (**must** be a Farmer/Rancher)



