

Western SARE Graduate Student Grants In Sustainable Agriculture 2009 Request for Applications

Western SARE Goals

1. Promote good stewardship of the nation's natural resources by providing site-specific, regional and profitable sustainable farming and ranching methods that strengthen agricultural competitiveness; satisfy human food and fiber needs; maintain and enhance the quality and productivity of soil; conserve soil, water, energy, natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat; and maintain and improve the quality of surface and ground water.
2. Enhance the quality of life of farmers and ranchers and ensure the viability of rural communities, for example, by increasing income and employment, especially profitable self-employment and innovative marketing opportunities in agricultural and rural communities.
3. Protect the health and safety of those involved in food and farm systems by reducing, where feasible and practical, the use of toxic materials in agricultural production, and by optimizing on-farm resources and integrating, where appropriate, biological cycles and controls.
4. Promote crop, livestock and enterprise diversification.
5. Examine the regional, economic, social and environmental implications of adopting sustainable agriculture practices and systems.



WSARE Graduate Student Grants
2008 Request for Applications

Western SARE
Room 305
Ag Science Building
Utah State University
4865 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-4865
(435) 797-2257
(435) 797-3344 fax
wsare@ext.usu.edu
<http://wsare.usu.edu>

Host Institution:
Utah State University

SARE is a USDA competitive grants program that supports agricultural systems that are economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible.

Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Micronesia, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

The Administrative Council of the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program announces the request for Graduate Student Grants in Sustainable Agriculture for 2008-09. The council will evaluate applications against the criteria outlined in this request and in comparison with other applications. The Council – a group of agricultural producers, scientists, educators and business leaders – will contact successful applicants after the completion of a competitive review.

Important note: Congress mandates that the SARE program depart from “business as usual.” To that end, the Administrative Council encourages research projects that have direct application to farmers and ranchers. Applications that address practical applications in agriculture in context with Western SARE goals (in column to the right) will receive priority consideration.

As you develop your application, keep in mind that Western SARE requires that all funded projects, including those conducted by graduate students:

- demonstrate outcomes that can increase producers' knowledge base
- show relevance to all 5 Western SARE goals
- detail outreach plans for disseminating knowledge to producers.

Consulting with farmers and ranchers to help develop a project application from germination through completion can help ensure these results.

Timetable for 2008-09 Western SARE Graduate Student Grants in Sustainable Agriculture

- **Applications due in Western SARE office by 4:00 p.m., MDT, May 30, 2008**
- **Technical review completed by July 17, 2008**
- **Administrative Council selection by mid-August 2008**
- **Award notification by September 2008**

Western SARE Graduate Student Grants in Sustainable Agriculture

The Western SARE Graduate Student Grants in Sustainable Agriculture must address issues in sustainable agriculture of current and potential importance to the Western Region. These grants provide a maximum of \$25,000 and may last for up to two years. Applicants may receive only one Graduate Student Grant in Sustainable Agriculture during his or her graduate program. Western SARE will consider applications from graduate students (masters and Ph.D.) enrolled at accredited colleges or universities in the Western region. The student must be considered full time, according to his or her institution's requirements, at the time the application is submitted.

Western SARE Graduate Student Fellow Grants in Sustainable Agriculture are awarded to the applicant's university, with the funds to be dedicated to the graduate student's project. An initial 80% of the award will be paid by reimbursement of allowable project expenses. The final 20% will be reimbursed after Western SARE has received and approved a final project report.

An important and practical element of the granting process is that the applicants follow directions. Each year, Western SARE disqualifies applications before review because applicants failed to follow directions. If you have questions, please contact:

Western SARE
Utah State University
4865 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-4865
(435) 797-2257

Other important matters to remember in the granting process:

- Your application and all deliberations by the Technical Review Committee regarding its merits will remain confidential.
- While your application and its review will remain confidential, the Western SARE program considers all funded applications and subsequent reports and related information to be in the public domain. (See details of this stipulation in the special notes in Appendix C of this request for applications.)

Remember: Applications that fail to conform to the format outlined in Appendix A will not be considered for review or funding.

Western SARE Graduate Student Application Format

I. Title/Cover Page	Page 1
II. Project Description (4-page limit)	Pages 2-5
a. Statement of problem	
b. Relevance to <u>each</u> Western SARE Goal	
c. Objectives that address the stated problem	
d. Methodology to accomplish objectives	
e. Detailed outreach plan to increase produces knowledge	
f. Timeline for all project activities	
g. Original study and database review	
h. Scholarly and educational products	
III. Budget form (Form CSREES-2004)	Page 6
IV. Budget Narrative/Justification	Page 7
V. Animal Welfare Assurance Statement	Pages 8
VI. Vita for Major Professor and Graduate Student	Page 10-11

Section I: Title/Cover Page (Limited to 1 page – front side only.) This must follow the format as shown in Appendix A. Required signatures on this page are: the Graduate Student, Major Professor and Sponsored Program Office.

Section II: Project Description (Limited to 4 pages – front side only.) The project description must address each item a through f. Following this outline is required.

(a) Statement of Problem

Write a brief concise statement of the problem being addressed in this application. Include the context in which the problem exists and the impact it is having.

(b) Relevance to each Western SARE Goal

Indicate how the project and its potential outcomes are relevant to each of the 5 Western SARE goals.

(c) Objectives

Provide a numbered list of concise, specific measurable objectives. (Do not confuse objectives with project goals.) The sequence of objectives should logically lead to the solution of the identified problem.

(d) Methodology

Describe how each objective will be addressed. Include appropriate experimental design and experimental units, reference methods to be used and appropriate statistical analyses.

(e) Detailed Outreach Plan

All applications must include a plan to disseminate the results to a broad audience (**agricultural producers are a required audience**). Describe how the results of this graduate student project will be delivered to producers, state extension professionals and other audiences. Describe who will be responsible for the outreach activities, such as a communication specialist, extension educator, etc.

(f) Timeline

Include a timetable for the start and completion of each phase of the project. Indicate who is responsible and when each objective, method and outreach activity will occur.

(g) Original Study/Literature (Database) Search & Review

Provide evidence for the originality of this study and its future contribution to the body of knowledge related to sustainable agriculture, its practices and its adoption. **Document your search findings** through at least the following:

National SARE database (<http://www.sare.org/projects>)

National Agricultural Library (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic>)

USDA-CSREES-CRIS Research (http://cuaes.cornell.edu/CUAESWeb/cris_search.htm)

Other pertinent databases

(h) Specific Scholarly and Educational products to be produced

List the specific journals being targeted for publication, along with specific Extension publications and other educational products that will be produced and distributed. Examples are: fact sheets, books, videos, CDs, DVDs, binders, websites, etc.

Section III. Budget

Please use the budget form in this request for applications for your budget.

Section IV. Budget Narrative/Justification

In developing the budget narrative please refer to the required budgetary details located at <http://wsare.usu.edu/grants/docs/BudgetDetail.pdf>. **Western SARE prohibits reimbursement for overhead costs (1 page – front and back if needed).**

Funds may be used for:

1. Supplies, including software.
2. Small tools and equipment (this becomes property of the graduate student's university) not to exceed \$5,000 per piece of equipment. Provide type of equipment, cost and a brief narrative on the intended use of the equipment for project objectives. (Rent/lease is preferred)
3. Hourly labor for documented work on the Western SARE project. Show % of fringe benefits.
4. Special texts not readily available.
5. Farm equipment rental or operating charges.
6. Out-of-town travel and per diem necessary for the project (as prescribed by your university rules). This can also include travel costs to one professional meeting for an oral or poster presentation. State purpose, destination, if known, number of travelers and estimated cost per trip. (i.e., St. Louis, Mo. to attend the National Conference; 2 persons - \$1,000 ea.)
7. Local travel (where personal auto is used and reimbursed) needed for project. State purpose and total dollar amount of reimbursement for vehicle use. If any overnight stays are anticipated, include the number of nights and the amount for meals and lodging (i.e., local travel for site visits to farmers in neighboring counties - \$500 for mileage and \$500 for meals and lodging, 5 days @ \$100/day = \$1,000).
8. Publication costs (not to exceed \$1,000).

Funds may not be used for:

1. Overhead or indirect costs.

2. Preparation of thesis copy.
3. Purchase of classroom books or payment of tuition.
4. Permanent capital improvements, such as land, buildings, etc. (fencing should be temporary and pertain to the project only and will not be part of an ongoing ranch or farm operation).
5. Graduate student stipends. (see permissible hourly wages in section above)
6. Any single piece of equipment costing more than \$5000. This limit **cannot** be used toward the purchase of a piece of equipment costing more than \$5000 or to purchase parts for tractors, equipment, irrigation systems, etc.

Section V. Animal Welfare Assurance Statement

If your project includes warm-blooded vertebrate animals in the study, you must have the statement signed by you and an IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) representative or attending veterinarian. If your project does not include warm-blooded vertebrate animals please include the form but write “not applicable” in the signature area.

Section VI. Major Professor Vita

A current vita for the Major Professor must be submitted (one page front only).

Application Review and Project Performance

APPLICATION REVIEW

Reviewers will evaluate applications for technical merit and the relevance of the project to the stated Western SARE goals (found in the right-hand column on page 1 of this request for applications). The reviewers will make recommendations to the Western SARE Administrative Council, which will select projects for funding in August 2008. Western SARE will notify applicants of the status of their applications by the beginning of September 2008.

Applications will be judged using the following criteria:

1. Statement of problem.
2. Relevance toward achieving the goals of the Western SARE program.
3. The soundness of objectives to solve the stated problem.
4. Methodology to achieve the project objectives.
5. A well designed outreach plan to disseminate project results to producers.
6. Appropriate timeline to accomplish the objectives, methods, and outreach.
7. Originality/literature review.
8. Scholarly and educational products (journal articles, extension publications, etc.).

PUBLICATIONS AND FINAL REPORT

Western SARE requires brief annual progress reports, a final report and one copy each of all theses, dissertations and other publications that are developed through the funded project. In addition, the Western SARE program must be credited as the funding source in any publication generated from the SARE-funded research.

RESOURCES

Information on sustainable agriculture can be found at the National SARE website, www.sare.org (the database of SARE projects can be searched under “Project Reports”) and at the Western SARE website, <http://wsare.usu.edu>. A list of tips for writing applications can also be found on the Western SARE website home page.

Another source of information on sustainable agriculture is the Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC), funded in part by SARE. AFSIC specializes in locating, collecting and providing information about alternative systems, crops and production systems. Information specialists can answer questions, provide access to materials, provide references to individuals or organizations, identify researchers and research projects within USDA and furnish free bibliographies and reference briefs. Contact AFSIC at (301) 504-6559 or afsic@nal.usda.edu. Additional copies of this request for applications can be printed from the Western SARE website, <http://wsare.usu.edu>, or by contacting the Western SARE office (435) 797-2257 or email wsare@ext.usu.edu.

Special Note: With all Western SARE-funded projects it is required that proper citation of Western SARE be used on all printed or electronic materials produced in conjunction with any project or when referencing a funded project. Logos and word mark materials are available from Western SARE by contacting the office at (435-797-2257) or wsare@ext.usu.edu.

TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Go to <http://wsare.usu.edu/grants> and upload your Adobe Acrobat PDF document and mail one hard copy original of the completed application with all signatures and 10 paper copies to the Western SARE office. Both the PDF and original copy + 10 paper copies must be received in the WSARE office no later than 5 p.m., MST, May 30, 2008. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

The completed electronic and paper copies of your application are both to be received in the Western SARE office by 5 p.m. MST May 30, 2008. Applications that do not meet this deadline will be disqualified.

Western SARE Program
Utah State University
4865 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-4865

Your application must include:

- A title/cover page (printed on 1 side only), with signatures.
- Project description (printed on 1 side only).
- A budget page (printed on the enclosed form, 1 side only).
- Budget narrative/justification.
- Major Professor's vita (printed on 1 side only).

Total limit of 11 pages maximum – no application will be accepted over that limit

Applications that fail to follow the prescribed format will be rejected out of hand. You are required to prepare your application using:

- letter-quality 12-point type font
- Single-spaced
- 1-inch margins

We will not accept faxed copies. (Western SARE encourages use of recycled paper.)

Project Subject Matter Areas: Choose only one from the following:

Western SARE Subject Matter Areas Table 1		
1) Agricultural Marketing	2) Agricultural Systems	3) Agricultural Economics
4) Agricultural Modeling	5) Agroforestry	6) Agronomy
7) Animal Science	8) Education	9) Entomology
10) Horticulture	11) Sustainable Pest Mgt.	12) Natural Resources
13) Quality of Life	14) Range Science	15) Soil Science
16) Tropical Agriculture	17) Water Quality	18) Renewable Energy
19) Food Nutrition	20) Organic Farming	21) Ecological Weed Control
22) Other (specify)		

Section I: Title and Cover Page

Project Title: _____

Project Subject Matter Area: _____

Graduate Student (Name): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Major Professor (Name and Title): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Contract and Grants Office (or Equivalent)

(Name and Title): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Funding Request: _____

Duration of Grant (Years) _____

USDA/CSREES Budget Form

ORGANIZATION	SARE FUNDS -Year 1-	SARE FUNDS -Year 2	TOTAL SARE -					
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S) & PROJECT CONTACT								
A. Salaries and Wages								
1. No. of Senior Personnel								
a. ___ (Co-)PI(s)/PD(s).....	\$	\$	\$					
b. ___ Senior Associates								
2. No. of Other Personnel (Non-Faculty)								
a. ___ Research Associates-Post Doctorate.....								
b. ___ Other Professionals.....								
c. ___ Graduate Students.....								
d. ___ Hourly Labor								
e. ___ Secretarial-Clerical								
f. ___ Technical, Shop, and Other								
Total Salaries and Wages								
B. Fringe Benefits (If charged as Direct Costs)								
C. Total Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits (A plus B).								
D. Nonexpendable Equipment								
E. Materials and Supplies								
F. Travel (domestic)								
G. Publication Costs/Page Charges								
H. Computer (ADPE) Costs								
I. All Other Direct Costs								
J. Total Direct Costs (C through I).....								
K. Indirect Costs/Tuition Reimbursement (Not Allowed)								
L. Total Amount of This Request								
	\$							

Appendix C

Special Notes Regarding Western SARE and USDA Policies and Requirements

All SARE grant recipients must read and subscribe to the spirit and letter of the policies, requirements and restrictions listed in the following special notes:

1. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the Western SARE program by phone at (435) 797-2257 or email at wsare@ext.usu.edu.

2. The Western SARE program considers all funded applications and subsequent reports and related information to be in the public domain. A prime directive from Congress in the SARE enabling legislation ensures that results from all studies be provided to producers and other interested parties in a timely and effective manner. Successful applicants (and their institutions) must agree to grant to Utah State University, the host institution, an irrevocable royalty-free, nonexclusive right and license to use, reproduce, make derivative works, display, publish and perform any copyrights or copyrighted materials (including any computer software and its documentation and/or databases) developed under Subcontract for the purpose of education and research or to the extent required to meet USU's obligations under its Prime Award. All reports related to funded projects will be made available to all interested parties in printed, electronic or other means of communication without discrimination. Names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of investigators (from funded projects) may be provided to interested news entities, producers or organizations for subsequent inquiries.

3. The Western SARE Administrative Council will give considerable weight to reporting records (length of time that reports are overdue, etc.) of previous recipients of SARE contracts or grants when evaluating projects for any future Western SARE funding. Grant recipients are encouraged to submit reports in a timely manner, as this will affect Administrative Council decisions.

The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (SARE) is funded through the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) under Chapter 1 of Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and extended by the 1995 Farm Bill reauthorization. The purpose of the subtitle is to encourage research with education and on-farm demonstration projects designed to increase the producer knowledge base and assist in the adoption of sustainable practices on the land. Ideally, projects will integrate research, education and on-farm demonstrations within whole-farm sustainable agricultural systems involving plants and animals, demonstrating tangible outcomes and addressing Western SARE goals.

Animal Welfare Assurance Statement

The subcontractor acknowledges that USU, and thus Western SARE, is a governmental entity and is thus subject to USDA-CSREES IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) guidelines for all warm-blooded vertebrate animal research projects. This includes, but is not limited to: beef, swine, poultry, etc. The subcontractor acknowledges that it is his/her responsibility to ensure that a bona fide research organization, with a USDA-acknowledged IACUC organization and policies, review and oversee the animal welfare issues of the project. Otherwise, the subcontractor guarantees that a **qualified veterinarian** will visit the project and certify that the project complies with the research animal welfare guidelines prepared by the FASS (Federation of Animal Science Societies), which can be found at: http://www.fass.org/care_guide.htm?dept_id=5001&sku=FASS-CUAAA. This will help speed the approval process.

(Signed: Major Professor)

(Signed: IACUC Representative or Qualified Veterinarian)

<p>If this does not apply place NA on both lines and submit as part of the application</p>

**Western SARE Graduate Student Grants
Reviewer Evaluation Form**

Criteria	Possible Points
Statement of problem	10
Relevance to each Western SARE goal	10
Objectives address the stated problem	15
Methodology is appropriate and sufficient to accomplish the stated objectives	15
Producer outreach plan to increase knowledge base	15
Appropriate timetable	5
Originality/literature (database) search & review	10
Scholarly and educational products	20
Total Possible	100

Comments:

Overall recommendation:

- Must fund
- Fundable
- Some Merit
- Low Priority
- Do Not Fund