



Western SARE

Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education



Western Region

Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education



Are you a Little Afraid??

- Writing a SARE grant can be new and challenging
- Read the Call For Proposals
- Follow Directions
- Start Early, Finish Early
- Nothing to be Afraid of.....

A small grey mouse wearing a red helmet is positioned on a wooden floor, looking towards a mousetrap. The trap is set with a yellow cheese bait. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Is writing a Western SARE grant a trap?
What am I getting into??

For Information on all SARE Grants

- Go to the Western SARE website;
<https://westernsare.org>
- Information about all grants as well as a great library on sustainable agriculture
- About \$8 million budget in Western Region in 2020

Types of SARE Grants

- Chapter 1 – Emphasize research; at Montana State University, Dr. Fabian Menalled Regional Coordinator at MSU
- Chapter 3 (PDP); Emphasize training, led by Jim Freeburn and Jill West at Wyoming and Al Kurki at NCAT in Montana
- All oversight and decisions by the Western SARE Administrative Council

The PDP Grants

Openly Competitive

PDP – Professional Development. Our flagship “train the trainer” grants

Research to Grass Roots (R2GR), to apply SARE research results to production ag.

PDP Competitive Grants

- Any entity eligible to receive for federal funds is eligible to apply; same for all SARE grants
- Funds for PDP are targeted at training agricultural professionals
- Must be “train the trainer” grants
- Funding limit \$75,000
- 2 years for training and 1 year for evaluation



Strengths of Funded PDP Grants

- True “train the trainer”
- Creative, innovative, new (search data base)
- Collaborative (with diverse teams)
- Ask for less than full funding
- Start early, leave plenty of time
- Ask questions, we will help
- Write clearly and concisely
- Follow budget guidelines

Research to Grass Roots Grants

- Must be based upon previous SARE research
- Are NOT research grants
- Again all entities eligible to receive federal funds may apply
- Apply previous research results “on the ground”
- At least 3 farmers/ranchers involved
- \$75,000 over 3 years again
- \$300,000 available for 2020

R2GR Grants

- New last year, so no track record yet
- A way to use the SARE portfolio and test or share results from previous research.
- Previous SARE project does not have to be Western SARE, just SARE
- Demonstrations, trainings, focus groups, etc are encouraged, but no replicated research
- Works well for visiting experts in remote areas

More on R2GR

- Innovation and creativity are keys
- Collaborative by nature, producers working to apply or test SARE research
- Examples: Cover crops in Alaska; or mulch and cropping systems in the Pacific islands
- More producer involvement will strengthen
- Works well as a farmer-rancher education program

Chapter 1 Grants

- Research and Education
- Farmer-Rancher
- Ag Professional plus Producer
- Graduate Student



Research and Educations Grants

- Most go to Land Grant Faculty
- Usually 3 years in duration
- 5 farmers or ranchers required to be involved
- Up to \$350,000 per project
- Focus usually on replicated research
- Very diverse topically

Farmer-Rancher Grants

- Must have a researchable question
- Most innovative grants; creativity emphasized
- No funds for land purchase
- Equipment purchases no more than \$5,000
- \$20,000 for 1 producer, up to \$25,000 for three or more producers
- Technical advisor required
- Shorter term; usually 2 years or less



Ag Professional plus Producer

- Led by ag professional with farmer/rancher involvement
- Up to \$50,000
- Grassroots oriented
- Both FRG and P+P due in November

Graduate Student Grants

- Producer collaboration still required
- Evidence of student involvement is paramount
- Faculty advisor is key
- Up to \$25,000
- Open December 3 to February 11, 2020
- Dates similar in 2021

Application Website

- All WSARE grant applications are found at the following website:
- <https://projects.sare.org>
- Create a username and password and start writing

The Timeline;

Summary for 2021 SARE Grants

- June, Research preproposals due
- November/December; all grants due (except grad student grants)
- Mid-January – All proposals reviewed
- Early March – Administrative Council makes funding decisions
- Mid to late March – applicants notified
- Summer-Fall 2020 – Funded projects begin

Summary Thoughts

- Read the instructions; read them again
- Start early
- Be creative
- Collaborate
- Ask questions. We can't critique a proposal, but we may answer questions

Contact Information

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- Always go to our website at www.westernsare.org for details or information

Questions??

- All ideas and all questions are valid
- Discussion does not end today
- Staff goal is to fund the very best grants possible, so we will help
- But we can't review or critique a proposal
- Stay in touch!