



Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands

One Program . . .



Six Grant Opportunities



Research & Education Grants

Who can apply?

Including, but not limited to, teams of researchers from public and private institutions such as 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities, environmental agencies, historically black universities, USDA-ARS labs, non-governmental organizations and community based organizations.

What activities are eligible?

Research-based activities with an educational/outreach component that focuses on developing sustainable agricultural systems or moving existing systems toward sustainable agriculture.

How much will the grants fund?

Recent projects have averaged \$175,000 for one to three years duration.

Successful proposals include:

- **Systems orientation.** Instead of looking at just increasing yields or reducing inputs, systems research looks at all the parts of an agricultural production system to determine how each individual component interacts with the other components.
- **Multiple disciplines.** Even though scientists are trained within disciplines, real-world agricultural problems seldom occur within such neat boundaries. The research team should consist of cooperators from a variety of disciplines who design a plan to integrate their efforts.
- **Multiple institutions.** A systems research team should have members from diverse institutions in order to take advantage of their unique strengths and mandates. It can include, but is not limited to, non-governmental organizations, 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions, non-land-grant colleges, USDA researchers, and private sector researchers.
- **Farmer or end-user involvement.** Producers and consumers should be part of the process from problem identification through project development, implementation, dissemination of results, and evaluation.

Research and Education Call for Proposals are released each Spring at www.southernsare.org
Start checking the website in March.

Graduate Student Grants

Who can apply?

Full time Master's or Ph.D. students at accredited institutions in the Southern Region.

What activities are eligible?

Research projects that address issues of sustainable agriculture of current and potential importance to the Southern Region and the nation.

How much will the grant fund?

A project maximum of \$10,000 for up to three years work on the student's project.

Successful proposals include:

- A clear and well-defined research topic.
- A research topic that contributes to a better understanding of sustainable agriculture.

Notice of Changes

Starting in March 2009 the R&E call for proposals will have **three categories of New Research Grants**. Proposals can address

- * Production research or
- * Postharvest/food systems research or
- * Production/postharvest combined research.

Within those categories applicants can apply for **three levels of funding:**

- * Developing/planning project;
- * Preliminary research project;
- * Full systems research and education project.

Read the details about these and other new opportunities:

<http://www.southernsare.uga.edu/documents/AdvancingSustAg.doc>



Graduate Student Grant Call for Proposals are released each March at www.southernsare.org

Producer Grants

Who can apply?

Any producer or producer organization in the Southern Region is eligible to apply for a Producer Grant.

What activities are eligible?

On-farm research and marketing projects that promote sustainable agriculture. Projects should be innovative, generate results that are useful beyond one year, and produce information that many farmers can use.

How much will the grants fund?

Project maximums are \$10,000 for an individual producer or \$15,000 for a producer organization.

Successful proposals include:

- **Cooperators.** They can be other farmers, researchers, extension agents or specialists, governmental or nongovernmental organizations, or other interested individuals who cooperate in project planning, data collection, or communication of project results.
- **An outreach plan** for providing other producers, researchers, and extension personnel with an opportunity to learn from project results. Outreach plans may include workshops, field days, fact sheets, or brochures.
- **Clear goals.** Clear and simple goals help ensure a successful project.



Sustainable Community Innovation Grants

Who can apply?

Any person or organization with an idea that will link sustainable agriculture activities to healthy rural community development can apply for an SCI grant.

What activities are eligible?

Activities that blend sustainable ag practices with new community development strategies to increase and support resilient farms, businesses, families and communities. This could include but is not limited to developing school materials about local agriculture, establishing nutrition classes about the benefits of local foods, providing agritourism training for county officials and farmers or facilitating local processing of pastured livestock.

How much will the grants fund?

Project maximums are \$10,000 for up to two years of activities.

Successful proposals include:

- **Partnerships.** All relevant stakeholders in the community should be represented, including producers, civic organizations, local government and entrepreneurs. To that mix should be added researchers, community development professionals, environmentalists and other specialists as needed.
- **Linkages.** Link sound farm and non-farm economic development with agricultural and natural resource management.

Producer Grant Call for Proposals are released each September at www.southernshare.org



SCI Call for Proposals is released in late summer. at www.southernshare.org

Professional Development Grants

Who can apply?

Agricultural professionals such as Cooperative Extension, NRCS, FSA and other USDA staff, agricultural consultants, non-governmental organizations, farmer trainers, and others.

What activities are eligible?

Training activities may include seminars, workshops, farm tours, or on-farm demonstrations. Or they may develop, market, and distribute training materials such as handbooks or videos. Activities may take place in a single state, multiple states or throughout the entire southern region.

How much will the grants fund?

There's no set amount, but training grants generally range from about \$20,000 to \$120,000.

Successful proposals include:

- A **focus** on developing sustainable agriculture systems or moving existing systems toward sustainable agriculture as defined in the 1990 Farm Bill.
- A central **purpose** of providing training to Cooperative Extension Service agents; NRCS, FSA and other USDA agency personnel; consultants; and other professionals, including farmers, who will serve as trainers.

For more information about PDP grants contact:

*Jim Horne
Kerr Center
(918) 647-9123
mpenick@kerrcenter.com*

PDP Call for Preproposals are released each March at www.southernsare.org



On-Farm Research Grants

Who can apply?

Extension, NRCS, and/or NGO personnel who currently work with farmers and ranchers.

What activities are eligible?

On-farm research and marketing projects that promote sustainable agriculture. Projects should be innovative, generate results that are useful beyond one year, and produce information that many farmers can use.

How much will the grants fund?

Project maximum is \$15,000.

Successful proposals include:

- **Cooperators.** On-Farm Research Projects must include at least one farmer and/or rancher project cooperators.
- **An outreach plan** for providing producers, researchers, and extension personnel with an opportunity to learn from project results. Outreach plans may include workshops, field days, fact sheets, or brochures.
- **Clear goals.** Clear and simple goals help ensure a successful project.

On-Farm Research Call for Proposals are released each September at www.southernsare.org

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program of the Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service has been the USDA's primary means of studying and spreading the word about farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound and good for communities.

All seven calls for proposals and more information are available from Southern Region SARE :

Phone: (770) 412-4787
info@southernsare.org
www.southernsare.org

*SARE is funded by USDA. Opportunities are offered to all people regardless of race, national origin, sex, age or handicaps.
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