



One program offers five grant opportunities

A new grant program has been added this year bringing the total of grant opportunities offered by Southern SARE up to five.

On-Farm Research Grants are the newest category. Identical to the Producer Grants in concept, size and scope, the On-Farm Research Grants are open to extension, NRCS or NGO personnel who work with farmers. Each project must have at least three cooperating farmers or ranchers. The project maximum for each grant is \$15,000 for up to two years of activities.

"We designed this new grants program in order to recognize the ag professionals who have worked so closely with farmers in the Producer Grants program," says John Mayne, coordinator of the Producer Grants Program and the On-Farm Research Grants. "By giving these professionals an outlet for their own farm-based research activities, we also make sure the Producer Grants remain dedicated to farmer initiated and conducted research."

The call for proposals will be released in September, as is the Producer Grants call. Both sets of proposals will be reviewed by the same Producer Grants review committee.

Research and Education Program

The original Research and Education grants, which debuted in 1988, gained 12 new projects this year, raising the total number of projects funded in that program over the 150 mark.

"This year we could tell that applicants are paying attention to the priority areas in the Research and Education call for proposal," says Jeff Jordan, program director of Southern SARE. "We had plenty of proposals in some of our newer categories such as organic farming systems and also several that addressed the needs of limited-resource farmers."

Graduate Student Awards

In their second funding year, the graduate student awards attracted 13 proposals, of which five were successful.

In five different states SARE-funded graduate research will be addressing such varied topics as field border management, cover cropping, non-toxic endophyte fescue technology, and methyl bromide alternatives in tomato production.

"We are especially excited about this program," says Jeff Jordan. "By attracting new students to sustainable

ag research, we are building for the future. Even though we can't fund everyone who applies, the Graduate Student Awards program gives many students their first experience at writing a competitive grants proposal."

Producer Grants Program

The Producer Grants Program attracted 64 proposals this year, out of which 16 were funded, raising the total number of funded producer projects to 144.

"Producer grant proposals are getting better and more focused every year," notes John Mayne. "Not only that, but this year the proposals covered nearly all of the focus areas that were selected by the farmer members of the Administrative Council. For example, the Administrative Council funded projects utilizing natural fungicides in Tennessee and North Carolina, pastured

Continued on page 2



Farmers figure prominently in all SARE projects. At Possum Hollow Farm near Gainesville, FL, researcher Dave o'Keefe fills a tank from the anaerobic digester that turns restaurant waste into fertilizer. Farmer Joe Durando will apply the fertilizer to his organic crops. (Project LS98-90) Photo courtesy of The Gainesville Sun.



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Continued from page 1

Five grant opportunities

poultry production in Kentucky, companion plants for biological control in large-scale vegetable production in Florida, use of parasitoids in fly control in Arkansas dairies, marketing edamame soybeans in Kentucky and permanent ground cover in garlic production in Texas.”

Professional Development Program

In the Professional Development Program, 13 proposals were submitted and 8 were funded.

“We are pleased with the subject matter diversity of this year’s projects, which range from training in forest land conservation to establishing a sustainable farming program through community partnerships,” says Rosanne Minarovic, speaking for the PDP management team. “Florida garnered three grants this year, which doubles the number they have won since the PDP program began in 1994. The success rate increase is probably due to the hard work of the state sustainable agriculture coordinators Mickie Swisher of the University of Florida and Cass Gardner of Florida A&M University.”

One of the successful Florida proposals was submitted by a producer organization, the Florida Organic Growers.

“It’s especially gratifying to see producers participating in the planning and delivery of a training program,” Minarovic continues. “Many people don’t realize that the PDP competitive grants are open to producer groups and other NGOs. The PDP collaborative model is an important component because all interest groups have the opportunity to come together to address important issues in the state through training.”



Don Vietor of Texas A&M is conducting a full Research and Education project (LS00-117) based on his previous planning project (LS99-108). A team of researchers, farmers and people from the dairy and sod industries developed an integrated dairy/sod system to use manure in the production of turfgrass sod. Photos by Don Vietor.

Research and Education Grant Awards



LS01-119 *Use of Goats for Sustainable Vegetation Management in Grazing Lands*, Arthur L. Goetsch, Langston University, Langston, OK, \$172,210

LS01-120 *Long-term, Large-scale Systems Research Directed Toward Agricultural Sustainability*, Paul Mueller, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, \$230,000,

LS01-121 *Enhancing Sustainability in Cotton Production Through Reduced Chemical Inputs, Cover Crops and Conservation Tillage*, Harry H. Schomberg, USDA-ARS, Watkinsville, GA \$207,876

LS01-122 *Assessing the Immunological Health of Standard Turkey Varieties vs. Industrial Turkeys Stocks*, Donald E. Bixby, American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, Pittsboro, NC, (planning grant) \$18,052

LS01-123 *Crop/Livestock Integration: Restoring a Traditional Paradigm in Contemporary Agricultural Research*, Roger N. Gates, Coastal Plain Station, UGA, Tifton, GA, (planning grant) \$21,121

LS01-124 *Sustainable Control of Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Small Ruminants in the Southeastern USA*, T.H. Terrill, Fort Valley State University, GA (planning grant) \$12,600

LS01-125 *Sustainable Vegetable Production in Rural Mississippi*, Franklin O. Chukwuma, Alcorn State, MS, \$133,260

LS01-126 *Sustaining Ecological and Economic Diversity Among Limited Resource Landholders by Expanding Opportunities for Management of Productive Woodlands*, Sarah Warren, NCSU, Raleigh, NC, \$180,431

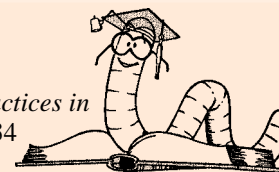
LS01-127 *Organic Management of Cucumber Beetles with Cucurbits*, Gary Cline, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY, \$134,038

LS01-128 *Influence of Microbial Species and Functional Diversity in Soils on Pathogen Dispersal and Ecosystem Processes in Organic and Conventional Agroecosystems*, Jean Beagle Ristaino, NCSU, Raleigh, NC, \$167,842

LS01-129 *Developing Strategies for Education of Underserved Forest Landowners*, Glenn Hughes, Mississippi State University, MS, \$169,875

LS01-130 *Building from Excellent Agents to Effective Organizers of Collaborative, Sustainable Rural Enterprise* J. V. Worstell, Delta Land & Community, Almyra, AR, (planning grant) \$19,990

Graduate Student Awards



GS01-007 *Economic, Agronomic and Ecological Cost/Benefits of Field Border Management Practices in Agricultural Systems of Mississippi*, Wes Burger/Mark Smith, Mississippi State University, \$9,934

GS01-008 *Breeding a Better Cover Crop: A Screen of Rye Germplasm for Weed Suppression and Nitrogen Scavenging*, Nancy Creamer/Chris Reberg-Horton, North Carolina State University, \$9,986

GS01-009 *Competition for Nitrogen and Groundwater Nitrate Levels in Temperate Alley Cropping Systems*, Shibu Jose/Samuel Allen, University of Florida, \$10,000

GS01-010 *Enhancing the Sustainability of Tall Fescue Forage Systems for Beef Cattle Production with Non-Toxic Endophyte Technology*, Mark McCann/Jane Bondurant, University of Georgia, \$10,000

GS01-111 *Suppression of Soil Borne Phytopathogenic Fungi of Tomatoes via Integrated Production Systems*, Carl Sams/Martin Lyons, University of Tennessee, \$10,000

Professional Development Program Awards

ES01-52 *The Third Tuesday-Thursday Thing: Building Kentucky's Experience and Expanding the Sustainable Agriculture Educational Model into Tennessee*, Kentucky State University, Marion Simon, \$50,000

ES01-53 *Innovative Cropping Systems: Promoting Conservation Technology to Your Clients*, Colonial Soil & Water Conservation District, Brian Noyes, VA, \$49,913

ES01-54 *Growing with the Community: A Hands-on Training Design for Agriculture Educators, Farmers, and Community Leaders*, Florida Organic Growers, Ellen Huntley \$49,735

ES01-55, *Delivery of Biological Control Information and Technology in Florida*, University of Florida, James P. Cuda, \$49,919

ES01-56 *Training in Production and Utilization of Composted Waste Materials in Warm, Humid Climates to Improve Soils for Horticultural Cropping Systems*, University of Florida, Monica Ozores-Hampton, \$47,896

ES01-57 *South Carolina Farm and Forest Land Conservation Training*, Clemson University, Ben Boozer \$25,428

ES01-58 *Sustaining Agriculture Through Community Partnerships*, Central Carolina Community College, Robin Kohanowich, North Carolina, \$49,884

ES01-59 *Training for Pasture Land Management Research Extension & Education*, Virginia Tech, John M. Galbraith, \$49,981



It's no secret that shade trees outrank air conditioning, and outdoor classrooms are favored over conference centers. Participants in PDP program evaluations consistently rank hands-on experiences as their preferred educational methods.

While farm tours and demonstrations are at the heart of the Professional Development Program, they are important to all SARE projects.

(Left) Extension Plant Pathologist Sharon Von Broembsen at a tour stop on Haydon Farms in Oklahoma (LS99-102). Photo by Claud Evans.

Producer Grant Program Awards

FS01-129 *Development of Multi-Herd Management Software for Small Farmers*, Dee Blaha, Masaryktown, FL, \$9,949

FS01-130 *Improving Salad Mix Quality and Yield Through Soil Management and Post Harvest Techniques*, Carol Cassedy
Whitestone Organic Farm, Bagdad, KY, \$9,600

FS01-131 *Fungicidal Effects of Compost Tea on Organic Strawberry Production*, John Dysinger, Bountiful Blessings
Organic Farm, Williamsport, TN, \$9,814

FS01-132 *Ginseng Production Utilizing Natural Fungicides*, Robert A. Eidus, Eagle Feather Farm, Marshall, NC, \$9,986

FS01-133 *Low Cost Method of Establishing High Seral Native Grass Species*, Terry Stuart Forst, Waurika, OK, \$8,518

FS01-134 *Soil Nutrient and Organic Matter Improvement and Maintenance in a Crop Rotation System*, Hilbert W.
Gramelspacher, Vaughan, MS, \$6,423

FS01-135 *Soil Fertility Improvement in Fruit Orchards by Windrowing Urban Plant Debris and Poultry Litter*,
William C. Graves, IV, Tetley Groves, Inc., Vero Beach, FL \$8,644

FS01-136 *A Natural Control for Algae in Virginia Farm Ponds*, Linda Layne, Virginia Fish Farmers Association
Bremo Bluff, VA, \$5,140

FS01-137 *Marketing Edamame Soybeans in Kentucky*, Sara McNulty, Wildwood Acres, Owensboro, KY, \$9,133

FS01-138 *Developing a Model to Increase Support for Organic Farming Research at Land Grant Institutions*, Marty Mesh,
Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc. (FOG), Gainesville, FL \$14,999

FS01-139 *Composted Yard Waste as a Replacement for Pine Bark Mulch in Blueberry Production*, Richard J. Nogaj
Harvest for Humanity, Inc., Immokalee, FL, \$9,800

FS01-140 *Using Companion Plants to Increase Biological Control for Thrips in Pepper Crops*, Chuck Obern, Clewiston, FL
\$9,300

FS01-141 *Pastured Poultry Production*, Mac Stone, Frankfort, KY, \$7,003

FS01-142 *Pepitas de Ajo; Permanent Ground Cover in Garlic Production*, Lydia Villanueva, Communities Approaching
Sustainability with Agroecology, Hereford, TX \$14,132

FS01-143 *Biological Fly Control on Arkansas Dairies Utilizing Parasitoids*, Floyd Wiedower, Damascus, AR, \$15,000

FS01-144 *Opti-Maizing Beef Cattle Profits and Environmental Quality*, Beth Wilson, Pulaski County Ag. Advancement
Council, Somerset, KY \$12,716

Which SARE grant program for you?

Southern SARE administers five separate grant programs, each with its own priorities and audiences. The process begins with the release of calls for proposals for each of the programs. If you are on the Common Ground mailing list you will receive an issue prior to the release of each call for proposals. The SSARE web site www.griffin.peachnet.edu/sare is the quickest way to receive the calls for proposals as soon as they are released.

Research and Education Projects generally are conducted by interdisciplinary, multi-institutional, and often, multi-state research teams coordinated by a principal investigator from a non-governmental organization, university or governmental agency. These projects include farmers as participants. For more information call Jeff Jordan at (770) 412-4788.

2001

June 1 Call for preproposals released

August 31 Preproposals due

November 1 Full proposals invited.

2002

January 18 Full proposals due

March Full proposals reviewed

April Administrative Council announces all grant awards

Producer Grant Projects are developed, coordinated and conducted by producers or producer organizations. These projects are generally located in one state, often on one farm. There is a \$10,000 limit for funding proposals submitted by an individual producer and a \$15,000 limit on proposals submitted by producer organizations. For more information about Producer Grants call John Mayne at (770) 229-3350.

2001

September 15 Call for proposals released

2002

January 25 Proposals due

March Proposals reviewed

April Administrative Council announces all grant awards

Graduate Student Awards are intended for full-time graduate students (masters or Ph.D.) enrolled at accredited colleges and universities in the Southern Region. Up to \$10,000 will be paid directly to the university for use on the graduate student's project. For more information call John Mayne at (770) 229-3350.

2001

May 1 Call for proposal released

2002

January 9 Proposals due

April Administrative Council announces all grant awards

Professional Development Program Projects train agricultural information providers in sustainable agriculture techniques and concepts. For more information contact Rosanne Minarovic at (919) 515-3252.

2001

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August 31 Preproposals due

November 1 Full proposals invited

2002

February 4 Full proposals due

March Full proposals reviewed

April Administrative Council announces all grant awards

On-Farm Research Projects are conducted by agricultural professionals such as extension agents, NRCS and/or NGO personnel who currently work with farmers and ranchers. Cooperators must include at least three producers at all stages of the project. Funded for a maximum of \$15,000 for up to two years of activities. For more information call John Mayne at (770) 229-3350.

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