

2017 NCR-SARE Partnership Grant Program Projects Recommended for Funding

Project #	Project Title	Last Name	First Name	Primary Grantee	State	\$\$ Requested	Cumulative	Description
ONC17-023	Indy Urban Mushrooms: Growing Revenue Through Collaborative Exploration of Mushroom Production	Angstmann	Juila	Butler University	IN	\$29,865	\$29,865	This project leverages the shared interest, expertise, and experience of farmers to develop best practices for small-scale urban farms seeking to diversify product and income streams. Sharondale Mushroom Farm will provide expertise to four Indianapolis farmers as they trial outdoor production, research local markets, and create a shared marketing platform.
ONC17-024	The Best of 'Farmer to Farmer' Podcast: Revisiting and Expanding Solutions for Market Farm Start-up, Scale-up, CSA Modeling, and Employee Management	Blanchard	Chris	Purple Pitchfork	WI	\$28,973	\$58,838	The Farmer-to-Farmer(F2F) podcast, reaching 8,000+ weekly, is effective because farmers can listen while working. However, the audio format makes it hard to relocate information. This project creates transcripts of F2F's 90+ episodes, making them searchable. Highlights will become new episodes on farm start-up, scale-up, CSA modeling, and employee management.
ONC17-025	Cultivating partnerships: Building Farm-research Networks for Improved Physical Weed Control	Brainard	Daniel	Michigan State University	MI	\$25,595	\$84,433	This project utilizes the perspectives of farmers and agriculture professionals to collect, discuss, and adapt information on recent innovations in PWC through conference participation, farm tours and on-farm testing. The dissemination of this information through demonstrations, videos and extension bulletins will ultimately improve profitability and environmental sustainability on north central region farms.
ONC17-026	Oat Variety Trial under Organic Management: Increasing Profitability for Organic Producers in the North Central Region	Caffe-Tremel	Melanie	South Dakota State University	SD	\$30,000	\$114,433	On-farm oat variety trials under organic management will be conducted in South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The data collected will help organic producers identify the oat varieties best suited to their production system and therefore it is expected to increase grain productivity and marketability.
ONC17-027	Using Grafting Technology to Enhance Greenhouse Cucumber Production in High Tunnels	Guan	Wenjing	Purdue University	IN	\$29,791	\$144,224	Grafting has the potential to extend harvest season and increase the yield of greenhouse cucumbers in high tunnel systems. This project introduces cucumber grafting technology to high tunnel growers, with the goal of increasing high-quality cucumber production and diversifying high tunnel systems in the North Central Region.
ONC17-028	Tall Fescue Pasture Seed Head Control Methods	Lee	Rusty	The Curators of the University of Missouri	MO	\$29,039	\$173,263	Cattle producers are rolling back the effects of endophyte-infected Tall Fescue pastures. This study will evaluate the ability of lower cost of operation roller crimpers as an alternative to rotary mowing for seed head control.
ONC17-029	High Tunnel Immigrant Farmer Training and Demonstration Plot	Mabe	Nick	The Good Acre	MN	\$30,000	\$203,263	Immigrant farmers, educators, researchers, and NRCS staff collaborate to provide on-farm demonstration/trials and hands-on workshops on high tunnel production and cover cropping. Through hands-on peer-learning opportunities, this project establishes improved methods of engagement, information sharing and knowledge amplification culminating in farmers applying for funding to obtain their own high tunnel.
ONC17-030	Comparing Apples to Apples: Participatory Research for Artisanal Cider Producers	Raboin	Matthew	The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System	WI	\$29,999	\$233,262	This project will identify cider apple varieties preferred by experienced growers. Laboratory testing, sensory evaluation, and focus group tasting will be used to analyze cider made from each variety and to define cider market preferences. The project will catalyze longer term experimentation through robust outreach and dissemination of preferred varieties.
ONC17-031	Agronomy in the Field: A Women's Cohort for Increasing Capacity of Agronomic and Conservation Principles	Rieck-Hinz	Angela	Iowa State University	IA	\$29,999	\$263,261	Agronomy in the Field is a cohort of women landowners and farmers interested in learning more about sustainable agronomic and conservation practices. Hands-on learning sessions will be offered at four locations, five to ten sessions will be offered in the field and five sessions will be offered in the classroom.

ONC17-032	Growing Together: Latino Farmer Learning Circles for Knowledge and Networks	Starkweather	Kathie	Center for Rural Affairs	NE	\$30,000	\$293,261	This project will empower Latino farmers to overcome social and informational isolation. Participants will receive support to start/expand environmentally and financially sound livestock operations and develop a peer and professional network for long-term support. A collaborative learning circle methodology will provide peer learning, expert training, resource connections, and networking.
ONC17-033	Use of Tarps to Terminate High-Residue Winter-Hardy Cover Crops Before No-Till Organic Vegetables	Strader	Claire	UW Extension Dane County	WI	\$29,998	\$323,259	This research explores using three different tarp materials to terminate a rye/vetch cover crop before no-till organic vegetables. It addresses challenges identified in previous work with organic no-till such as weed control, difficulties with narrow termination windows, and the need for specialized equipment.
ONC17-034	Do Cover Crops pay? Expanding a Learning Circle for Peer to Peer Cover Crop Promotion Using Economics as a Theme	Stute	James	Michael Fields Agricultural Institute	WI	\$29,355	\$352,614	This project will measure the impact of multiple cover crops on yields of subsequent crops and use partial budget analysis to evaluate the economic impact. We will expand our current learning circle for peer to peer education, results dissemination and cover crop promotion, resulting in increased knowledge and adoption.
ONC17-035	Interseeding Fall Catch Crops in Winter Wheat	Wander	Michelle	University of Illinois Urbana Champaign	IL	\$29,974	\$382,588	This project interseeds catch crops with winter wheat in the fall to scavenge nutrients that might otherwise be lost during the winter months. Catch crops such as tillage radish, oats, or phacelia will winterkill and release the scavenged nutrients in the spring to the growing wheat.
ONC17-036	Adoption of Cover Crops to Build Soil Health in the Northern Plains (Continuation)	Wick	Abbey	North Dakota State University	ND	\$29,488	\$412,076	An additional two years of funding for research and extension efforts on previously established SARE Partnership grant research/demonstration sites will allow for (1) evaluation of cover crops for reducing soil erosion, (2) assessment of effective soil health measurements for the region and (3) continued building farmer interest in cover crops.