

2017 NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program Projects Recommended for Funding

Project #	Project Title	Last Name	First Name	State	\$\$ Requested	Cumulative	Description
FNC17-1067	Nutrient Density Profiles for Conventional vs Pasture-Raised Pork	Arbuckle	John	MO	\$7,183	\$7,183	This project will compare nutrient density profiles (Vitamins A, D, K and E and Fatty Acid profiles including Omega 6:3 ratios and Conjugated Linoleic Acid) of pork from conventionally raised pigs and forage-raised pigs on full grain, 50% reduced grain and grain-free rations.
FNC17-1068	Exploration and Expansion of a Mobile Meat Market Concept for Kansas	Bauman	Rosanna	KS	\$22,500	\$29,683	Kansas farmers hybridize marketing methods for sustainable meats and other local products in a mini-cooperative by mobilizing their farm stand.
FNC17-1069	Feast in the Forest: Mindful Eating in the Wild! Test Marketing Opportunities for the Rapidly Growing Niche Wellness Tourism Market	Beache	Penelope	MO	\$6,001	\$35,684	Domestic Wellness Retreats are rapidly becoming a top travel and tourism trend that's driven by consumer concern about well-being. Mindfully eating sustainable agriculture is a vital component of this tourism experience. Our project will test new market agritourism (see, do, buy) opportunities specifically designed to meet niche wellness tourism consumer needs.
FNC17-1070	Cultivating the Wine Cap Mushroom While Building Soil Health and Suppressing Plant Disease – an Innovative and Economical Approach to Two Common Agricultural Problems	Bender	Lindsey	WI	\$7,500	\$43,184	We will assess the use of Wine Cap mushroom beds to prepare and improve health in sandy soils for second year plant production and measure the ability of Wine Cap as a biological control agent to suppress disease in tomato plants while supplementing income by providing a unique cash crop.
FNC17-1071	Evaluation of Semen Extenders for the Preservation and Shipment of Chilled Ram Semen	Brown	Donald	OH	\$7,089	\$50,273	This project will evaluate the effectiveness of four different semen extenders on chilled ram semen, providing small sheep producers a safe, cost effective alternative to grow their flock's genetic quality, diversity and value, while reducing the bio-hazards, cost and risks of owning and keeping breeding rams.
FNC17-1072	Evaluating Management Systems and Exploring Marketing Outlets for Guinea Fowl, as a Healthier Alternative to Chicken and Duck Meat and Eggs	Bryant	Nicholas	WI	\$7,476	\$57,749	Benefits of raising Guinea Fowl, methods to raise them and offering a healthier, more nutritional alternative to chicken.
FNC17-1073	Measure the Effectiveness of Interseeded Cover Crops for Proactive Weed prevention in a Chemical-free, Low-till Vegetable Market Garden Operation	Catron	James	IN	\$7,500	\$65,249	Determine if an interseeded cover crop system provides effective and proactive weed prevention in an intensively planted market garden operation. Interseeding will be compared to common methods including biodegradable mulch and manual hoeing. In addition to effective weed prevention, impacts to soil health will be assessed.
FNC17-1074	Salad and Microgreens Automated Harvester Development	Coveyou	David	MI	\$7,500	\$72,749	Development and demonstration of a fully automated tabletop salad and microgreens harvesting tool for use in soil filled tray production of salad greens, herbs and similar leafy greens.
FNC17-1076	Evaluation and Comparison of Paper Pot Transplanter to Other Hand Transplanting Methods in No-dig beds and Cover Crop Residue	Dilts	Brad	KS	\$7,492	\$80,241	This project evaluates and adapts the hand pulled paper pot transplanter for use in no-dig garden beds with cover crop residue, and compares the transplanter against other hand transplanting tools that are available to the small market gardener in the areas of seedling vigor and vitality.
FNC17-1077	Efficacy of Horse and Donkey Manure Compost as an Economical Alternative to Commercial Biofungicides for Control of Phytophthora spp. Root Rot in Lavender Plants	Giovengo	Susan	OH	\$6,888	\$87,129	Development of an economical small farm process for appropriate disposal of horse/donkey wastes, with a simple design using recycled materials, to generate stable compost material that is a natural biocontrol product for managing plant disease
FNC17-1079	Research of Methods to Improve the Processing of Hops (<i>Humulus lupulus</i> L.)	Hines	Yvonne	SD	\$7,500	\$94,629	Experimentation with low temperature methods of oasting and pelletizing of hops for brewing can improve the final oil content, and thus improving the quality and value of the product.

FNC17-1080	Decreasing Energy Use and Cost of Grain Drying by Extending Drying Period Using Ground-Stored Heat	Jellum	Eric	IA	\$6,548	\$101,177	The project will use ground-stored heat as an inexpensive way to increase drying temperatures in natural air grain drying enough to extend the drying period well beyond what would normally be considered the end of the natural air drying period, thus substantially decreasing energy use and cost of drying.
FNC17-1081	Proof of Concept - Sustainable Chestnut Production in Northeast Lower Michigan	Johnson	Abby	MI	\$10,255	\$111,432	We will (1) determine if cold hardy varieties of grafted chestnuts can be grown in the Midwest, (2) compare growth and survival of cold hardy varieties to traditional varieties that are not cold hardy, and (3) determine if forage crops can be harvested between rows of chestnut trees.
FNC17-1082	Building the Local Food Economy in Ozark County, Missouri	LaMair	Amelia	MO	\$7,436	\$118,868	This project will contribute to the economic, social, and ecological sustainability of our food system by facilitating collaboration between farms by helping farmers find resources to succeed, increasing consumer awareness of locally available farm products, and engaging the greater community including youth, organizations, businesses, and government in the local food economy.
FNC17-1083	Farmscaping and Permaculture IPM at an Organic Farm School	Levi	Rachel	MO	\$7,500	\$126,368	EarthDance proposes to increase the effectiveness of its whole-farm approach to pest management and teach beginning farmers permaculture IPM techniques such as floral farmscaping and the use of insect netting to reduce dependence on organic pesticide.
FNC17-1084	Using USDA Local Foodsystems Toolkit to Assess and Implement the Best Cooperative Direct Marketing for an Existing Local Food Group to Increase Local Sales	Livingston-Anderson	Annelie	WI	\$21,850	\$148,218	Our existing Lake Pepin Local Food Group will implement the USDA Local Foodsystems Toolkit to determine how we can move forward cooperatively to increase local sales of produce from participating farms to restaurants, institutions and individuals – proposedly through an online sales platform.
FNC17-1085	Controlling Imported Cabbage Worm and Cabbage Looper Damage in Brassicaceae Crops in an Organic Production System	Lockhart	Ross	ND	\$7,500	\$155,718	Cabbage loopers and imported cabbage worms are capable of causing significant damage to Brassicaceae crops and often lead to negative economic impact to small-scale growers. This project seeks to find ways to mitigate pest damage through the use of non-chemical interventions, such as floating row covers and companion planting.
FNC17-1086	Investigating the Possibilities of Cooperative Sorghum Syrup Production and Marketing for Strengthening Small Farm Sustainability in Northern Indiana	Loomis	Jane	IN	\$22,477	\$178,195	Over two growing seasons, three small farms in northern Indiana will work cooperatively to investigate the optimum scale for profitably growing, harvesting, pressing and processing sweet sorghum cane on small plots, and to develop new local and regional markets for sorghum syrup.
FNC17-1087	Growing Organic Blueberries Using Biochar	Mareske	Richard	MO	\$7,500	\$185,695	I would like to determine whether biochar can be a useful soil amendment when growing blueberries in highly alkaline heavy clay soils.
FNC17-1088	Differential Impacts of Growing Medium on Micro Greens Productivity	McEvelly	Thomas	IN	\$7,458	\$193,153	I will test the interplay of growing medium cost efficiency with crop production. My intent is to identify a growing medium more economically and environmentally friendly than soil. This identification will allow microgreen growers to preserve peat and those who live in food deserts to grow their own greens.
FNC17-1089	Hoosier Young Farmer Coalition	McKiernan-Allen	Genesis	IN	\$6,244	\$199,397	Hoosier Young Farmers Coalition is a group of young and beginning farmers organizing a community for knowledge sharing, relationship building, and improved farming practices.
FNC17-1090	A Comparative On-farm Study of Root Crop Production and Postharvest Systems for Scaling Up Diversified Vegetable Farms	Montri	Dru	MI	\$22,241	\$221,638	Three small-scale, diversified farms will evaluate mechanized production and postharvest handling of root crops to investigate environmental benefits, labor effectiveness, cost of production, and economic viability.

FNC17-1091	Local linen: Exploring the Feasibility of Small-scale Mechanized Processing of Fiber Flax for Linen Production in Minnesota and Wisconsin	Myklebust	Andrea	WI	\$14,587	\$236,225	Can new technology revive an ancient textile fiber? We explore the feasibility of developing a local linen industry; growing flax in an organic rotation on a diversified farm. We will then utilize a newly-developed mechanical processing equipment to turn flax into linen products: line flax, tow fiber and roving, linen yarns, and handmade paper.
FNC17-1092	A Youtube Series; An Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture for Growing Ecological Eaters	Niemier	Therese	MI	\$7,500	\$243,725	This project will produce a 14 part video series of information bytes, to be used in the classroom to augment the students hands-on exposure to ecological farming as it relates to consumer responsibility, environmental restoration and creating a resilient food system for the future of food security.
FNC17-1093	Food Hub Development in the Rural Midwest	Nixon	Katie	KS	\$22,493	\$266,218	This project will help develop and strengthen a cooperatively owned farmer food hub serving the Kansas City region in its second year of operation with innovative approaches to the issues of food safety and logistics.
FNC17-1094	Developing a Woman Farmer Butchering and Meat Processing Cooperative plan for Southern Wisconsin	Prusia	April	WI	\$20,175	\$286,393	This project assesses the feasibility and demand for a cooperatively owned, federally licensed and woman-farmer led mobile slaughtering unit and/or retail butcher establishment in South Central Wisconsin, primarily servicing the counties of Green, Lafayette and Iowa.
FNC17-1095	Success with Stockdogs: Herding Workshops and Continuing Skills Development for Livestock Producers	Rackley	Denice	IN	\$21,714	\$308,107	Livestock producers can improve sustainability, animal welfare, farm efficiency, profit and safety through strategic use of well-trained stockdogs, but the steep learning curve defeats many first-time dog handlers; this project presents a proven combination of in-depth stockmanship workshops and on-going support for skill development that will foster success with stockdogs.
FNC17-1096	Growing Grasses and Legumes under Spruce/White Pine for Grazing Cows in a Silvopasture Setting	Rosenow	Steven	WI	\$7,500	\$315,607	Establishing silvopasture in Central Wisconsin
FNC17-1097	Grain Free Pasture Egg Production	Self	Charles	WI	\$6,500	\$322,107	We want to continue our mobile chicken coops following behind our milk cows but instead of importing grain from Cashton. We want to produce soldier fly grubs for the protein needed to sustain egg production while maintain healthy soil.
FNC17-1098	Improving Soil Health by Rotationally Grazing Cattle on Full Season Cover Crop Cocktails on a No-till Farm in the Red River Valley of North Dakota	Severance	Clint	ND	\$15,000	\$337,107	We will be analyzing the benefits to soil health by rotationally grazing cattle on season-long cover crops for both one year and two consecutive years and simultaneously measuring the weight gain of cattle per acre grazed.
FNC17-1099	Does Open-Pollinated Corn Have a Place on Today's Organic Farm?	Smith	Stanley	MN	\$6,008	\$343,115	With yield data and nutritional value I will compare open pollinated corn to a hybrid of similar maturity to see if the lower cost of open pollinated corn will offset the loss in yield.
FNC17-1100	Improving Nitrogen Use Efficiency in Sustainable Corn Production Through Use of Remote Sensors to Direct Site-specific Nitrogen Application	Stevens	Dean	NE	\$15,000	\$358,115	The goal of this project is to conserve nitrogen use in sustainable corn production by: demonstrating the efficiency of applying a larger percentage of nitrogen in-season; assessing cutting-edge technologies for determining optimum nitrogen rate; utilizing variable rate technology for applying precise nitrogen rates in accordance with crop needs across fields.
FNC17-1101	Increasing the Use of Farm Fresh Food in Institutional Settings by Education Chefs, Youth, and Local Farmers Through Demonstrations, Workshops, and Visual References	Swanson	Ann	IL	\$7,448	\$365,563	I intend to provide farm to table education to foodservice providers, youth, farmers and the local community to encourage moving away from prepackaged, pre-processed, unhealthy food that institutionalized kitchens often provide while also creating awareness of the importance of supporting local farms in the community.

FNC17-1102	The Minnesota Hmong Agriculture Cooperative's Aggregation and Value-added Program	Thao	Phenhli	MN	\$19,350	\$384,913	The Hmong Minnesota Agriculture Cooperative's Aggregation and Value-added Project will empower 20 limited-resource farmers to increase their produce sales and 5 urban entrepreneurs to create food related businesses in 2017 through our processing, marketing and distribution co-ops, which will enable them to become more financially stable and self-sufficient.
FNC17-1103	Mobile Hop Dryer	Volkman	David	OH	\$7,500	\$392,413	We propose to build a mobile hop dryer that will quickly dry hops to national quality standards for processing, storage and sale, while allowing sharing among collaborating growers, reducing the need for all growers to build fixed facilities, saving them money, and improving crop quality and marketability.
FNC17-1104	Lawrence Worm Farm, Sustainability in Food Waste Reclamation	Ward	Nicholas	KS	\$14,305	\$406,718	Through local partnerships, Lawrence Worm Farm will improve upon an already successful educational model by increasing capacity of local food waste capture and yield of the nutrient rich soil amendment known as worm castings.
FNC17-1105	Increasing Farm Income and Diversification By Converting Abandoned Manure Pits Into Aquaculture Production Facilities	West	William	WI	\$20,406	\$427,124	Small dairy operations are slowly being converted to larger operations, beef cattle or grain operations leaving behind hundreds of manure pits which are ideally designed and suited for use in the aquaculture industry.
FNC17-1106	Creating a Resource on How to Build an Urban Farm in Chicago with a Modest Budget	Williams	Catherine "Katie"	IL	\$7,500	\$434,624	We will document and measure the inputs and processes involved in creating an urban farm in Chicago on vacant land and use this information to create a web and print resource for aspiring urban farmers.
FNC17-1107	Building a Virtual On-Line Food Hub for Small Scale Sustainable Farms in Rural Areas	Zita	Jacquelyn	MN	\$15,000	\$449,624	Our challenge is how to develop in North Branch, Minnesota (and surrounding area) a rural customer base and consumer motivation to buy organic or sustainably grown produce from small scale local farmers through an on-line virtual food hub service.
FNC17-1108	Integrating Cover Crop Seeding and Strip Tillage into a One Pass System	Thompson	Lee	MN	\$ 6,650	\$456,274	This project will combine cover crop seeding with strip tillage into a one pass system following soybean harvest. Cover crops will be selected to provide benefit to the following years corn crop. The trial will take place on two 70 acre fields split to be compared to conventional tillage.
FNC17-1109	Topographical Contour Measurement and Water Management Earthworks for Ecologically Restorative Edible Silvopasture Planting	Bernstein	Jess	WI	\$ 7,403	\$463,677	We will measure and mark topographical contours in order to design and excavate swales, berms, and ponds that will capture water flowing downhill and distribute it across the hillside to prepare for the biomimetic silvopasture planting of edible native fruits and nuts uncommonly found in local markets.