2019 NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Projects Recommended for Funding

Project #	First Name	Last Name	Title	$$ Requested	State	Brief Description
FNC19-1153	Kano	Banjaw	Expanded production of Hanchotte (Coccinia abyssinica), a tropical root crop under the Mid-West climatic conditions	$ 8,930	MN	The main objective of the project is to expand the farm size of production of Hanchotte to 2.00 acres so as to meet the big demand for this crop by the Ethiopian communities in many States of the US, and to process the roots into mashed product thus adding value to it and enhancing its shelf life.
FNC19-1154	Galen	Bergquist	Susceptibility of cider apple varieties to foliar-feeding insects	$ 8,819	WI	This project will investigate differences in the susceptibility of popular cider apple varieties to foliar-feeding insect pests and their timing of incidence, leading to the creation of a susceptibility index and timeline of pest occurrence to aid growers' management program decisions.
FNC19-1155	Melissa	Boersema	A Collaborative Research Project Evaluating Greensprouting as a Sustainable Pre-Planting Treatment for Seed Potato Minitubers Under Diverse Growing Conditions	$ 27,000	MI	Field trials evaluating the effectiveness of Greensprouting as a sustainable solution to significantly increase yields of year one seed potato production under diverse growing conditions at multiple farms, leading to the creation of guidelines to be disseminated throughout the agricultural community.
FNC19-1156	Mark	Brannen	Planting a Profitable Pollinator Habitat with Native Nebraska Plants	$ 2,965	NE	We will assess the potential for small, diversified farmers to generate profit through the establishment of permanent pollinator habitat that consists of a variety of native plants that can be marketed as high-value alternative crops.
FNC19-1158	Keri	Byrum	Evaluating direct to consumer marketing of Midwest grown hops.	$ 8,821	IA	This project evaluates the effectiveness of marketing hops directly to homebrewers to increase earning potential for this emerging crop.
FNC19-1159	Nick	Carter	Holistic Forestry, Vegetables, and Small Livestock Production that Eradicates Invasive Species and Exposes Consumers to Sustainable Agriculture.	$ 8,233	IN	On 19 suburban acres of certified forest and prairie, we will systematically harvest invasive woodland species chipped as livestock bedding, compost the soiled bedding, and measure its nutrient density for garden amendments. A self-guided walking tour with educational signage will begin and end at an on-farm produce and egg stand.

FNC19-1160	Eric	Dupuis	Sustaining the Sugar Bush in a Tribal Community to Educate, Reduce Fuel Usage and Increase Marketable Maple Sap Products.	$ 9,000	MN	This project will promote Sustainable Agriculture practices to be ecologically sound and economically viable by reducing the fuel usage, preserve the quality of the sap, and educate the community on using tubing to reduce the impact of foot or vehicle traffic on the root systems of the tapped sugar maple trees.
FNC19-1161	Pantaleon	Florez	Ancestral Mexica Farming: A Comparative Yield Analysis from the 1500s	$ 8,919	KS	Comparing ancient maize cultivation to today's no-till best practices to increase crop diversity, improve food access, and test marketability of local maize.
FNC19-1162	James	Forbes	North St. Louis Riverfront "GreenCubator"	$ 25,736	MO	The project aims to incorporate an R&D model in hopes of creating a profitable, sustainable, community engagement model focused on vertical indoor agriculture
FNC19-1163	Jim	Frey	Development and Testing of a Drainable Floating Fish Tank for Fish Culture in Deep Water Bodies	$ 9,000	IA	A drainable floating fish tank will be developed and tested for use in large water bodies, e.g., quarry pits that would otherwise not be useable for aquaculture operations; excessive depth and being non-drainable makes these lakes limited for aquaculture.
FNC19-1164	Benjamin	Geaumont	Improving plant diversity in non-diverse grasslands on a small family farm in southwest North Dakota	$ 8,879	ND	The planted grasslands on our small farm lack diversity, which limits their potential for providing ecological services (ig. Forage, Honey, and wildlife cover). The purpose of this project is to determine best practices for improving diversity in tamed grasslands while considering future land uses (livestock pasture, floristic resources for honey production, etc).
FNC19-1165	Rod	Greder	Mobile Unit to Facilitate More Intensive Rotational Grazing	$ 25,383	MN	A cart with stations for mineral, salt, water, fly rub, shade/wind protection that lessen the hassles of moves could accelerate adoption of intensive grazing.
FNC19-1166	Tami	Hallam	Developing a Production and Distribution Mechanism for Feed Trained Perch Fingerlings for Use in Aquaculture Grow-out Facilities	$ 26,993	WI	We are developing an intensive perch rearing system with the sole purpose of providing perch grow-out facilities with a steady supply of feed trained fingerlings; a commodity that is lacking in the industry.

FNC19-1167	Linda	Hezel	Development of a Carbon Farming Plan through Assessment of Tree/Shrub Agroforestry Data for Increased Production, Resource Valuation, Carbon Sequestration and Related Ecosystem Benefits	$ 8,998	MO	Produce a carbon farming plan using a tree/shrub inventory on a 15-acre farm as a baseline of existing agroforestry practices and related whole farm ecosystem benefits (regenerated soil, reduced pollution, erosion prevention, purification of surface/groundwater, habitat diversity, biodiverse soil microbial activity) and to guide additional tree/shrub plantings.
FNC19-1168	Kaitlin	Hossom	A Comprehensive Exploration Of Targeted Grazing With Goats	$ 8,943	IN	This project will create an easily-replicated, targeted grazing business plan while monitoring the effects of grazing on region/state-specific invasive plants.
FNC19-1169	john	jamerson	Legacy's United Farmers, Communities and Urban Food deserts	$ 26,827	IN	Development of system to unite Farmers to communities/ food deserts & best plan how to prepare, deliver, educate to increase availability & use of local produce
FNC19-1170	Abby	Johnson	Testing aged manure for enhanced soil health and tree establishment in a pioneer chestnut orchard.	$ 8,649	MI	We will compare aged manure and inorganic fertilizer during the establishment phase of a chestnut orchard by evaluating tree survival, growth, nut production, soil health, and cost of application.
FNC19-1171	Dana	Jokela	Expanding cover crop use through interseeding into established vegetable plantings	$ 8,947	MN	This project would evaluate interseeding of cover crops at various dates into an established pepper crop using both plasticulture and bare ground systems.
FNC19-1172	Edward	Kaderly	Correlating Land Management to Soil Health, Water Quality, and Nutrition	$ 6,137	WI	Our project will correlate land management to soil health, water quality, and crop nutrition by comparing soil microbial community structure and key soil chemical and physical properties in conventional and conservation agricultural fields and crops in three impaired watersheds in the Lower Sugar River Watershed in Green County, WI.
FNC19-1173	Lance	Kraai	Intercropping Systems For Small Scale Vegetable Production	$ 8,867	MI	This project will research different intercropping systems so growers can increase yield per acre and more profitability grow long day space consuming crops.

FNC19-1174	Russ	Kremer	Utilization of Highly Digestible Cover Crop Ensilage by Adult Swine In an Integrated Organic Farming System	$ 22,060	MO	Addressing barriers to entry for farmers to transition to organic farming by reducing feed expense of organic swine operation utilizing cover crop ensilage.
FNC19-1175	James	Leek	Research, Create, and Market Allergy-Friendly Food for Institutions Using Local Vegetables, Fruit, Proteins and Value-added Products to Increase Small Farm Sales	$ 27,000	KS	We will create and market local, allergy-free, value-added food products from standardized recipes to institutions as a method of increasing farm income.
FNC19-1176	Rachel	Levi	Developing the Produce Efficacy Analysis and Recording (PEAR) Mobile Application	$ 9,000	MO	EarthDance Organic Farm School proposes development of a mobile application to automate crop record management and data analysis of organic fruit production.
FNC19-1177	Jan	Libbey	Local Meal Kits: CSA Adaptation for Sustainability	$ 27,000	IA	This project will support research, development, and education of a series of local meal kits designed to accompany Community Supported Agriculture deliveries.
FNC19-1178	Charles	Martin	Establishing a perennial living mulch for weed control in sweet corn	$ 8,088	IL	This project will establish a solid-seeded (no-till drilled) Kura clover (Trifolium ambiguum M. Bieb) living mulch system for weed control in sweet corn.
FNC19-1179	Emily	Martorano	Complete Guide to Lard Soapmaking for the Small Pork Producer	$ 7,379	WI	This project will provide small pork producers with all the information they need to turn extra, hard-to-sell lard into valuable and marketable all-natural soap
FNC19-1180	Lauren	McCalister	No Waste Mushroom Cultivation: Viability Comparison of Spent Grain and Coffee Grounds for Small-scale and Urban farmers	$ 5,445	IN	3 Flock Farm will complete a viability assessment by utilizing spent grain and coffee grounds for mushroom inoculation and composting processing.
FNC19-1181	Christopher	McGuire	Organic Control of Canada Thistle in Mulched Orchards	$ 8,920	WI	We will compare mulching with cardboard, organic herbicide sprays, mowing with a string trimmer, hand pulling, and hoeing as methods of suppressing Canada Thistle in orchards mulched with bark.
FNC19-1182	Jeff	Miller	Moving Beyond Anecdotes: Making Data Driven Decisions to Adapt to Climate Change	$ 7,859	IL	Utilizing weather data and aerial imagery to correlate impacts of weather events on vegetable crops and make more informed, climate smart management decisions.

FNC19-1183	Sasha	Miller	Permaculture Pond Restoration	$ 7,240	OH	Our goals are to restore a debilitated man-made pond using permaculture design principles, and reintegrate it as a central part of the whole farm water management system. The pond, and connected drain tile, were originally installed with an outdated model for water management, which accelerates the flow of water downhill to the pond, into the near by ravine, and into the Cuyahoga River. Current status includes poor soil conditions, erosion, flood/drought cycle in the fields and in the pond, and loss of topsoil into the river. Our plan includes using biological and mechanical methods (in lieu of chemical treatment) to restore the oxygen level and ecological diversity in the pond, improve soil health around the edges of the pond and in the adjacent fields, and introduce these ideas to the staff, volunteers, and visitors to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, where our farm, and our watershed are. The results will include: enhanced agricultural activity around the pond, enhanced wildlife habitat, and an innovative model for the community to learn water management.
FNC19-1184	James	Millsap	Exploration And Demonstration Of Low Pressure Steam For Disease And Weed Control On A Small Scale Vegetable Farm.	$ 9,000	MO	We propose to purchase and utilize a steam generator to steam greenhouse beds. We hope to control chickweed and Sclerotinia in salad greens and lettuce.

FNC19-1185	Shannon	Mutschelknaus	High Efficiency Year-Round Tropical Greenhouse	$ 9,468	SD	This proposed project will produce engineering performance data regarding the design trade-offs of multiple passive solar greenhouse features. This data will be used to choose the best design to construct at a site within eight miles of South Dakota's largest agriculture and engineering focused university (SDSU). Low cost/high efficiency greenhouse technology could transform our energy intensive food supply chain to a lower cost, more diverse and sustainable system that will improve quality of life for producers and consumers in northern climates. The construction of this highly efficient, cost minimizing greenhouse will allow further development of an exotic plant and fruit horticultural business and expansion into local produce business.
FNC19-1186	Lori	Nethero	Comparing the Effectiveness of Four Advertising Channels: The Case Study of a Young Rural Beef Cooperative	$ 25,530	OH	The Buckeye Valley Beef Cooperative seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of four advertising methods, namely broadcast, social, and support media and the internet.
FNC19-1187	Doug	Pavel	The evaluation of Integrated Weed Management practices to control chicory infestation in the pastures and hay ground of conventional and organic agricultural operations.	$ 17,935	SD	Integrated Weed Management methods will be evaluated to determine which produces optimum real-life, sustainable, cost-effective means to control chicory.
FNC19-1188	Andrew	Petran	Effects of Non-Chemical Pest Control on the Profitability of Day-Neutral Strawberry Production in the Midwest	$ 8,998	MN	Comparing the total yield, quality and harvest duration of day-neutral strawberry production systems using exclusion netting vs organic sprays for pest control
FNC19-1189	Matthew	Raboin	Expanding Markets for Lesser Known Perennial Crops Through the Craft Beverage Industry	$ 27,000	WI	This project will evaluate the potential of 12 uncommon crops for the craft beverage industry through test batches, consumers surveys, and robust outreach

FNC19-1190	Lauren	Rudersdorf	Should I Start a CSA Farm?: An Educational Video Series for Current & Aspiring CSA Farmers	$ 26,185	WI	This project supports the long-term success of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) by increasing farmer knowledge of expectations inherent in CSA through an educational video series so that they may assess the appropriateness of CSA as a business model for their operation, obtain a higher quality of life, and increase profitability.
FNC19-1191	Nadia	Ruffin	The use of Bacillus thuringiensis spp. as a Biological Control for Small Hive Beetles (Aethina tumida) and Wax Moths (Galleria mellonella and Achroia grisella) inside Beehives	$ 9,000	OH	With this project I would like to investigate the use of Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) species as a biological control against waxworms and small hive beetles.
FNC19-1193	Kami	Schoenfeld	Grazing Sheep in an Upper Midwest Vineyard to Control Vegetation	$ 11,340	MN	A research trial of grazing sheep during spring and summer to manage vegetation growth and reduce labor and equipment cost for a vineyard in the Upper Midwest.
FNC19-1194	Leah	Sienkowski	Designing a Mobile Milking Parlor for an Multi-site Educational Goat Farm	$ 8,650	MI	This project will focus on designing and engineering the first certified mobile milking parlor in Michigan.
FNC19-1195	Walton	Sumner	Macro and micronutrient density in staple grains and amaranth grown on conventionally versus sustainably managed silt loam soil	$ 9,000	MO	This project compares ratios of trace elements and essential organic compounds to calories in crops grown on depleted farm soil that is either conventionally fertilized or sustainably managed to restore soil organic matter and a balance of essential elements, in preparation for human studies linking soil health to human health.
FNC19-1196	Mikael	Thompson	Varroa mite and Small Hive Beetle management: Single brood chamber hive versus double brood chamber hive	$ 7,965	IN	This project will study the viability of using a single brood chamber hive in place of a double brood chamber for management of Varroa mites and SHB
FNC19-1197	Michelle	Tyon	Wiconi Waste Resistance Farm a Lakota regenerative agroforestry permaculture demonstration farm	$ 9,000	SD	Wiconi Waste Resistance Farm (We-Choni Washtey means “Good Life”) will build an agroforestry permaculture demonstration farm for socially-disadvantaged disabled Lakota farmers.

FNC19-1198	Kris	Vrooman	Understanding effects of mealworm frass on downy mildew and Japanese beetles in hops production	$ 27,000	NE	Jord Producers is seeking to understand the effect of mealworm frass on reducing disease and pests in hop production.
FNC19-1199	Maggie	Wachter	The cultivation of wild yeast strains to add value to farmhouse fermentation	$ 26,370	IL	This project will demonstrate how wild yeast found in honey samples taken from various agricultural locations might add value to agricultural income streams by enhancing flavor profiles for beverages produced in small-batch farm breweries, meaderies and cideries.
FNC19-1200	Kevin	Wolz	Enhancing berry farm profitability through perennial alley crops	$ 8,940	IL	Saturn Farms will experiment with rhubarb, asparagus, and prairie as profitable, berry-harvester-compatible alternatives to grass-clover in berry crop alleys.
FNC19-1201	David	Danzinger	Using Micro-Nutrients to Control Shattering of La Crescent Grapes (Cold-Climate)	$ 8,790	WI	La Crescent Grape is a very popular variety has an issue with individual berries will fall off the cluster as grapes reach maturity, reducing harvest yield.
FNC19-1202	Noreen	Thomas	Malting Organic Oats, Hertiage wheats, and Hertiage Barley	$ 26,978	MN	Producing organic barley, oats, and ancient wheat to research what crops are suitable for craft malting and can be grown successfully in the Red River Valley; increasing market opportunity for farmers, diversifying crops, and building community through local production, with the output of artisan craft beer.