

**University of Illinois – USDA-NCR-SARE  
Sustainable Agriculture Mini-Grant Program  
Invitation to Apply**

The purpose of the Sustainable Agriculture Mini-Grant program is to develop the skills and competencies of agricultural professionals. Agricultural professionals includes Extension educators, Natural Resource Conservation Service staff, state and federal agency personnel and educators in the profit and not-for-profit sectors serving the food and fiber system.

Mini-grant activities are to build educator expertise, develop new curriculum or programming, implement innovative educational approaches and create an opportunity for learning and skill development of the agricultural professional.

Applications are to include producers, agency staff, not-for-profit organizations and other local stakeholders in planning, creating and delivering any mini-grant outreach activities.

The intended outcome of the mini-grant program is to develop the knowledge and skills of the agricultural professional. Applicants are required to explain how any mini-grant activities will contribute to their professional development and/or the professional development of other educators.

Competitive grants of up to \$1,500 are available. Funds can be spent between May 1, 2009 and April 31, 2010. Priority will be given to project proposals in the areas of alternative marketing, cover crops, local foods, organic agriculture, small farm stewardship and sustainable living with evidence of partnering and coordination among groups, organizations, and/or agencies.

**Application Requirements**

The application is available at

[http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm/sare/mini\\_grants/mini\\_grant\\_app.cfm](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm/sare/mini_grants/mini_grant_app.cfm)

In the Project Narrative section, answer each of the following questions:

- What are the intended educational outcomes of the project? (Describe who is intended to benefit from the educational event and what you would anticipate the person or persons to do as a result of participating.)
- What is the output or action plan to accomplish the intended outcomes? (Describe briefly the actions and/or events that will occur to support the educational outcomes.)
- What is the evaluation plan to determine if your educational outcomes have been achieved? (Describe indicators that will help determine if your outcomes have been successfully accomplished.)

### **Application Procedure**

Proposals must be completed by February 27, 2009. Decisions on the review of those proposals will be given by March 20. Proposals must be submitted online at [http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm/sare/mini\\_grants/mini\\_grant\\_app.cfm](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm/sare/mini_grants/mini_grant_app.cfm)

### **Application Evaluation**

Proposals will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the University of Illinois SARE PDP Advisory Committee. Funding recommendations will be based upon well-defined educational outcomes, effective plan of action, potential benefit or outcome of the project, appropriateness of the budget, cooperation among groups, organizations, or agencies in planning and delivering the project, potential contribution to the development of the skills and competencies of agricultural professionals.

### **SARE National Continuing Education Program in Sustainable Agriculture Module**

Successful applicants will be required to complete the SARE National Continuing Education Program in Sustainable Agriculture module; *Sustainable Agriculture: Basic Principles and Concept Overview* (<http://www.sare.org/coreinfo/course1info.htm>) before receiving SARE PDP funds.

### **Reporting**

A brief report of the project, outlining the accomplishments towards the intended outcomes is required. This narrative can be written similar to annual accomplishment reports. The report is due within 30 days of completion of the educational project. Report should also include any materials developed (e.g., agendas, brochures, materials distributed, etc.)

Applicants are also required to complete Mini-Grant Post-Event Survey at [http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm/sare/mini\\_grants/mini\\_grant\\_survey.cfm](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm/sare/mini_grants/mini_grant_survey.cfm)

### **For More Information**

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