



GRANT MONIES

MOSES ORGANIC FACT SHEET

Grant Opportunities for Farmers

Farming is a business, and like most businesses, it is rare to receive grant funds to support operations, purchase land or improve buildings. However, there are opportunities for farmers to receive grant support for on-farm research projects, business planning and some kinds of marketing support. The following list outlines where to look for dollars to support these kinds of activities.

Research & Producer Grants:

Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) – North Central Region

SARE is a competitive grants program providing grants to researchers, agricultural educators, farmers and ranchers, and students in the United States. Farmer project grant requests are generally due in the late fall. (612)-626-3113 www.sare.org/ncersare

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)

A nonprofit foundation that sponsors research, including farmer directed research related to organic farming practices. Proposals are considered twice a year, May and November. (831)-426-6606, www.ofrf.org, jane@ofrf.org

Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG)

Grants may be used for planning activities, for working capital to market value-added agricultural products, and for farm-based renewable energy. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. Although smaller projects may be funded, multi-year and larger projects can also fit this program, however a large match of funds is required. March deadline. www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm

Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)

Offers grants to qualified small businesses (including small and medium-sized farms) in support of high quality, innovative research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefit if successfully commercialized.



Grants may be available for research, planning or marketing.

Contact Dr. S.

Sureshwaran, National Program Leader, at ssureshwaran@csrees.usda.gov, (202)-720-7536. www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/sbir/sbir.html

Young and Beginning Program

Farm Credit Services of America offers a Young & Beginning Program featuring financial benefits for less-established producers. This program is designed for producers age 35 or younger, or with 10 years experience or less. This is a loan program. www.fcsamerica.com/products/YoungBeginningProgram.aspx

Wisconsin Grants:

WI Dept of Ag, Trade & Consumer Protection Ag Development and Diversification (ADD)

The ADD Grant Program invites proposals for projects that are likely to stimulate Wisconsin's agricultural economy through the development and exploration of new value-added products, new markets, or new technologies in agriculture. ADD grants are awarded competitively each

year, with deadlines generally in mid-March. Questions, contact: Mike Bandli: (608)-224-5136 mike.bandli@datcp.state.wi.us www.datcp.state.wi.us/mktg/business/marketing/val-add/add/index.jsp

Buy Local Buy Wisconsin (BWBL)

The BLBW grant program invites proposals for projects that are likely to stimulate Wisconsin's agricultural economy by increasing the purchasing of Wisconsin grown or produced food by local food buyers. Deadline mid April. For questions email: DatcpBLBW@wi.gov, call Amy Bruner Zimmerman at (608)-224-5017 or Lois Federman at (608)-224-5124. www.datcp.state.wi.us/mktg/business/marketing/val-add/directmktg/blbw.jsp



Iowa Grants:

Leopold Center

The Leopold Center offers competitive and renewable grants for the state of Iowa. Check their website for upcoming grants or contact them with your ideas. Grants are agriculture focused and cover a wide range of topics including: research, buy local, and policy. leocenter@iastate.edu, (515) 294-3711 www.leopold.iastate.edu/index.htm

Additional Listings:

Federal Resources for Sustainable Farming and Ranching

This publication from ATTRA offers an overview of the major federal conservation programs that provide resources for farmers and ranchers to enhance and maintain sustainable farming and ranching practices. This guide helps farmers and ranchers make their way through the often complex and difficult application processes. http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/federal_resources.pdf

Where Can I find Agricultural Funding Resources?

Visit this USDA webpage for links to current info about federal and other funding opportunities. www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/funding.shtml



Minnesota Grants:

Ag. Utilization Research Institute (AURI)

AURI provides expertise and assistance to increase value, demand and market opportunities for agriculturally-based products. AURI is helping to add value to Minnesota agriculture. Applicants are required to

match contributions and work with AURI personnel in developing the value added project. (800)-279-5010 www.auri.org

MN Dept of Ag Producer Grants (MDA)

MDA will provide up to \$25,000 to individuals or groups on a competitive basis for sustainable agriculture research or demonstration projects in Minnesota. Sustainable agriculture is characterized by practices and values that promote environmental stewardship and conservation of resources, long-term economic viability and productivity, diversification, preservation of quality of life for farm families and support for rural communities. (651)-201-6012 www.mda.state.mn.us/index.htm.

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Visit www.mosesorganic.org for more resources and tools, including our Organic Resource Directory and the Organic Broadcaster Newspaper. Plan to attend our annual Organic Farming Conference in February. To find upcoming events including MOSES trainings and field days visit our web calendar at: www.mosesorganic.org/events.html

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