Organic Research

GRANT PROGRAMS FOR ORGANIC AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
Organic/Sustainability Specific

- Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) USDA-NIFA
- Organic Transitions Program (ORG) USDA-NIFA
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Research and Extension Grant
- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) NRCS
- Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)
- Farmers Advocating for Organic (FAFO) Organic Valley
Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) USDA-NIFA

Deadline: 1/19/2017

Funding range: $50,000 - $2,000,000

Sample Projects:
- An experiential learning-based public plant breeding pipeline for organic cultivar development
- Needs assessment to characterize the use of soil amendments and microbial food safety best practices in organic and sustainable agriculture
- Sustainable organic strawberry (SOS) cropping systems for the southeast
- Development and implementation of systems-based organic management strategies for spotted wing drosophila
- A systems-based management practices for enhancing quality and safety of organic produce: planning grant
- Organic tomato breeding for arthropod resistance with a focus on protected cultivation: a planning proposal
Organic Transitions Program (ORG)  
USDA-NIFA

Deadline: 3/9/2017

Funding range: $0 - $500,000

Sample Projects:

- Fishing for a novel source of methionine in organic poultry feed: exploring the potential of invasive Asian carp as sustainable fish meal
- Organic decision tools to manage N for production and climate
- Reinventing sustainable protection systems for cucurbit production
- Assessing the resiliency of integrated crop-livestock organic systems under current and predicted climate
- Tradeoffs between soil carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions in organic pastures under management intensive grazing
- Quantifying and predicting the effects of ecological weed management strategies on organic agroecosystems to inform farmer decision making
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Research and Extension

Deadline: October pre-proposal

Funding range: $10,000 to $200,000

Sample Projects:
- Advanced sustainable cropping systems for dairy farms in the Northeast
- Advancing cost effective water quality improvement in the North Central Region through farmer-led engagement for prairie filter strips
- Bovine-avian interactions on dairies: improving cow welfare and farm economic stability by implementing effective and sustainable pest bird deterrence methods
- Cover Crop Diversity through Evaluation and Increase from Breeder Stocks and Germplasm Repositories
- Cover Crops Under Cover: Evaluating Costs, Benefits, and Ecosystem Services of Cover Crops in Year-Round High Tunnel Production Systems
Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)
NRCS

Deadline: 1/9/2017
Funding range: $0-$2,000,000

Sample Projects:

◦ Deploy web-based interactive tools and market through state extension offices to demonstrate how cover crop management timing impacts soil and water budgets – and nitrogen availability – based on historical weather data, soil type, growth stage and species. They propose deploying these tools in a multi-state program where water and nitrogen availability become major drivers of cover crop adoption.

◦ Demonstrate and quantify the effects of summer cover crops on clean-till and no-till winter pastures under grazing. The project will assess the impacts of adding cover crops on pasture forage production and soil properties and will quantify the economics of stocker cattle production using these alternative management systems relative to current management systems.

◦ Expand the composition and enhance the utility of the Cornell Soil Heath Test (CHST) into a Comprehensive Soil Health Test applicable on a national scale with regional usability. Project collaborators will identify and test additional regionally based indicators that will be incorporated into the existing CHST as appropriate. The utility and applicability of the new test(s) will be demonstrated through individual on-farm assessments, and results will be widely disseminated through traditional written materials, web-based products and workshops for technical professionals and producers.
Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)

Deadline: 12/12/2016

Funding range: up to 15,000

Sample Projects:
- Nutrient Budgeting in Organic Grain Production
- Creating Climate Resilient Organic Systems by Enhancing Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi Associations
- Developing integrated Irrigation Management Strategies to Improve Water and Nutrient Use Efficiency of Organic Processing Tomato Production
- A New Approach for Successful Organic Peach Production in the Southeast
- Flowering Plants in Organic Strawberry Fields to Enhance Natural Enemies and Pollinators and Improve Pest Control and Fruit Quality
- Field Evaluation of Designed Compost Extracts for Organic Weed Suppression
Farmers Advocating for Organic (FAFO) Organic Valley

Deadline: rolling acceptance of Letters of Intent, full proposals 2/1/2017 & 9/1/2017

Funding range: $5,000-$50,000

Program goal:
◦ The fund provides a way for Organic Valley farmers to address the long-term needs of the organic marketplace and the future of organic agriculture by supporting the development of long-term solutions. Through combining resources, Organic Valley farmers are able to invest in projects that affect the livelihoods of organic farmers across the country.
Non-Organic Specific

- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational, USDA-NIFA
- Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) USDA-NIFA
- Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) USDA-NIFA
- Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) MN Dept. of Ag, Federal pass-through funds
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational, USDA-NIFA

Deadline: 8/17/2016

Funding range: varies by project type; $100,000-$200,000

Sample Projects:
Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) USDA-NIFA


Funding range: $0 - $325,000

Sample Projects:
Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)
USDA-NIFA

Deadline: 11/15/2016

Funding range: $250,000-$2,000,000/yr, up to 4 yrs

Sample Projects:
- Scale neutral harvest aid system and sensor technologies to improve harvest efficiency and handling of fresh market highbush blueberries
- Development of disease-resistant walnut rootstocks: integration of conventional and genomic approaches
- Crop signaling for automated weed/crop differentiation and mechanized weed control in vegetable crops
- Creating interdisciplinary extension and research (cider) programs to redevelop the North American hard cider industry
- Planning grant to develop research and extension priorities for brown marmorated stink bug in western us specialty crops
Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) MN
Dept. of Ag, Federal pass-through funds


Funding range: $10,000-$100,000

Sample Projects:
- Statewide Marketing of Minnesota Grown Specialty Crops
- Cider Apple Variety Growing Trails
- Bugs, Flies and Disease: Helping Specialty Crop Growers Battle New Pests
- Sommer Cover-Cropping Strategies and Organic Vegetable Production for Beginning, Immigrant Farmers
- Invasive Spotted Wing Drosophila: Improving IPM Solutions by Understanding Pest Migration
- Minnesota Food Hub Collaboration
- Breeding Short Season Tomato Varieties for Minnesota Growers
- The Non-neonicotinoid Insecticide Management of Colorado Potato Beetle
Outreach Focused Programs

- Beginning Farmer Rancher Development Program (BFRDG) USDA-NIFA
- USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) USDA-RMA
- Risk Management Education (RME) USDA-NIFA
- Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
- Community Food Projects (CFPCGP) USDA-NIFA