

**Paul C. and Edna H. Warner Endowment Fund for Sustainable Agriculture
Interdisciplinary Grant Program for On-Farm Research
2012 Request for Proposals**

Introduction:

The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Sustainable Agriculture Team and Agroecosystems Management Program (AMP) are offering interdisciplinary grants to promote on-farm research in sustainable agriculture. This program is made available through the Paul C. and Edna H. Warner Endowment Fund established specifically for on-farm research in sustainable agriculture related to crop (agronomic and horticultural) and animal production systems, that are ultimately intended for human consumption.

Sustainable agriculture is characterized by a state of balance between:

- Practices and values that promote environmental stewardship and conservation of resources
- Long-term economic viability of farms and rural communities, and
- Preservation of the quality of life for farm families and support for rural communities.

Research is intended to identify and publicize sustainable agricultural practices and systems that are profitable, socially responsible, energy efficient and improve water quality and other environmental concerns relevant to Ohio farmers.

Grant Program Description:

Eligible Recipients: Proposals **must** come from OSU CFAES faculty and extension personnel as principal investigators. Interested farmers, graduate students, and members from other agricultural or environmental organizations are **strongly encouraged** to contact OSU faculty and extension agents in their communities to suggest or initiate collaborative research projects. **A mandatory criterion is collaboration with farmers who are identified in the proposal.**

Farmers or other organizations can receive help in connecting with an appropriate principal investigator, and OSU faculty can connect with the producer organizations listed to find farmers with a specified area of interest through the following contacts:

OSU Extension Contacts:

Sustainable Agriculture Team	Mike Hogan, (740) 264-2212, hogan.1@osu.edu , or Alan Sundermeier, (419) 354-9050, sundermeier.5@osu.edu
Food Safety Team	Hal Kneen, 740-992-6696, kneen.1@osu.edu or Mark Koenig, 419-334-6340, koenig.55@osu.edu
Agronomy Team	Greg LaBarge, (419) 337-9210, labarge.1@osu.edu , or Peter Thomison, (614) 292-2373, thomison.1@osu.edu
Forage Team	Mark Sulc, (614) 292-9084, sulc.2@osu.edu or Cliff Little, (740) 432-9300, little.16@osu.edu
Dairy Team	Maurice Eastridge, (614) 688-3059, eastridge.1@osu.edu
Beef Team	Steve Boyles, (614) 292-7669, boyles.4@osu.edu
Sheep Team	Jeff McCutcheon, (419) 947-1070, mccutcheon.30@osu.edu
Fruit Team (IPM)	Joe Kovach, (330) 263-3846, kovach.49@osu.edu
Vegetable Team	Matt Kleinhentz, (330) 263-3810, kleinhentz.1@osu.edu

Farm Organization Contacts:

Innovative Farmers of Ohio (IFO)	Mary Holmes, IFO Board Chair mkhcon@yahoo.com , info@ifoh.org . (440) 423-0859
Ohio Forage and Grassland Council (OFGC)	Bob Hendershot, bobhendershot2011@gmail.com , (740) 477-1114
Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association (OEFFA)	Renee Hunt, renee@oeffa.org ; Carol Goland, oeffa@oeffa.com ; cgoland@oeffa.org , (614) 421-2022
Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) Chapter 2	Steve Elliot, growwithnature@aol.com (740) 361-4965
Small Farm Institute	Leah Miller, leah@smallfarminstitute.org , (740) 545-6349

Grants may be made only to applicants residing or located in the state. An applicant is eligible to receive only one grant at a time. **Grantees must have completed projects and submitted reports to be eligible for future awards.**

Eligible Activities:

The program objectives are to research the profitability, energy efficiency, social consequences and environmental soundness of sustainable agriculture practices and production systems. Also, the program aims to help farmers solve problems on their own farms, possibly applying those principles to other farms as well.

Grants may include, but are not limited to the following areas:

- enterprise diversification using traditional and non-traditional crops and livestock;
- cover crops and crop rotations to improve nutrient efficiency and conservation;
- conservation tillage and weed management, especially in the context of sustainable farming systems;
- integrated pest management systems for insects, weeds and diseases;
- livestock production and manure management systems;
- nutrient, pesticide, and sediment management systems that preserve water quality;
- growing for and accessing greater marketing opportunities including season extension, direct marketing, adding value, and on-farm storage and handling of products.

Project Funding:

Grant awards are available to a maximum of \$5000 to fund supplies, transport costs, services, and labor. Average awards have been approximately \$2000.

Grants are normally for one year. However, longer-term projects of merit may receive additional awards beyond the first year, contingent upon submission of an annual progress report and follow-up grant proposals. Lack of progress may result in the loss of continued support. Eligibility for future funding is dependent upon submission of a final report for a previous grant.

Funding may not be used for capital expenditures or livestock purchases. However, fuel, seed, production inputs, and normal maintenance costs may be covered with the awarded funds. Stipends for graduate students and labor costs for farmers or undergraduate students may also be funded. Funding for participation in professional association meetings or for travel to such meetings will not be provided. However, travel for research purposes will be supported.

Proposal Format:

Please include the following sections (Description and Methods should be at least two and no more than five 8.5 x 11" pages).

1. Cover Page (template attached)

2. Description

Describe the problem or question your project will address. Please include background and the objectives of your project. Describe how this will help the collaborating farmer and other Ohio producers, farm more sustainably. Sustainable farming is ecologically sound (reduces reliance on non-renewable resources and impact on the environment), economically viable (improves profitability), and socially responsible (supports family farms and rural communities). If this is a resubmission you should describe what modifications you have made to improve your proposal. If you are requesting continuation of funding from a previous year, include a brief summary of your results.

Preference is given to proposals that:

1. enhance the sustainable agriculture practices of Ohio producers while being potentially profitable, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable.
2. describe what is not sustainable about current production practices related to the sustainable agriculture practices being researched in the proposal.
3. detail the interactions among farmers, researchers, extension, teaching faculty, departments, graduate students, and relevant non-profit organizations.
4. are sited on commercial farms, using regular farm resources.
5. involve producers in the analysis and interpretation of results.

3. Methods

Describe in detail how you would use this grant to address the problem or questions. Include in the methods:

- 1) A description of the farming operation (include acreage, number of head of livestock, crops raised, etc.) where research will be conducted;
- 2) Experimental design, variables you will measure (if applicable), how you will measure them, statistical analysis;
- 3) Timetable of research activities,
- 4) Production and financial information you will document (e.g. Soil tests; crop yields; animal weight gains; equipment, feed, and building expenses; sales; profits).
- 5) Any outreach or extension activities that are proposed.

4. Budget (template attached)

The budget should include two columns: "Grant funds requested" and "Matching Support".

Matching support is not required but will strengthen the proposal's potential for funding. Include the categories: labor, supplies and equipment, lease of land, outreach, travel and services.

5. Appendices

other details as required (letters of support, maps, diagrams etc)

Proposal Application Deadline, Submission Requirements and Review Procedures:

Proposals are due Friday, March 2, 2012

The entire proposal must be saved as a **single pdf file** and **emailed** to Megan Shoenfelt, AMP Program Coordinator, shoenfelt.9@osu.edu. An electronic signature will be accepted, or the signed cover page can be faxed to (330) 263-3686.

Proposals will be reviewed by a six-member selection committee consisting of:

1. Three representatives from CFAES faculty.
2. A representative from the OSU Sustainable Agriculture Team.
3. Two Ohio farmers

(Investigators submitting proposals for the current year are ineligible for Selection Committee participation).

Applicants will be notified of the results by **Wednesday, April 4, 2012**.

For more information or questions, please contact:

Megan Shoenfelt
Agroecosystems Management Program
Coordinator
201 Thorne Hall
OARDC-Wooster
Wooster, OH 44691
☎ 330-202-3537
shoenfelt.9@osu.edu

or Casey Hoy
Kellogg Endowed Chair in Agricultural
Ecosystems Management
201 Thorne Hall
OARDC-Wooster
Wooster, OH 44691
☎ 330-263-3611
hoy.1@osu.edu

Dissemination of Results

A report of project findings that includes in non-technical terms:

- a general description of the project;
- description of activities: what, where, when, and how activities were completed, and conclusions;
- production information (yield, pounds, head, number produced or saved); and
- financial information (expenses and returns),

will be due **Friday, December 28, 2012**. The report must be saved as a **single pdf file and emailed** to Megan Shoenfelt, AMP Program Coordinator, shoenfelt.9@osu.edu. CFAES and other organizations involved in sustainable agriculture will publish research findings annually through various bulletins, publications, and websites including, but not limited to the Agroecosystems Management Program website, Sustainable Agriculture Team website, *Ohioline*, the CFAES Alumni newspaper, IFO and OEFFA websites, and the C.O.R.N. Newsletter (Crop Observation and Recommendation Network). Investigators are also encouraged to present posters at meetings and conferences of farm organizations, such as those listed on the preceding page.

**Paul C. and Edna H. Warner Endowment Fund for Sustainable Agriculture
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2012 Cover Page**

Project Title:

Project Leader(s):

Address: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Producer(s) and Location of Farm(s):

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate how many years it will take to complete your project, starting in spring of 2012. Project length: _____years.

- 1) I agree to provide a project report summary that includes items described in this request for proposals.**
- 2) I have not received funds from this program for which an annual report is overdue.**
- 3) I will conduct the research on an Ohio farm.**
- 4) I will return any unused funds by Wednesday, January 9, 2013 or at the conclusion of the project period as required.**

Signature of Applicant

Date

**Paul C. and Edna H. Warner Endowment Fund for Sustainable Agriculture
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2012 Budget Page**

Item (<i>and brief description</i>)	Requested Funds	Matching Support
A. Labor		
B. Supplies and equipment		
C. Lease of land		
D. Outreach		
E. Travel		
F. Other services		
Totals	<p>.....</p> <p>(not to exceed \$5,000)</p>	<p>.....</p>