

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

2024 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.
- Preservation of the quality of life for farm families and support for rural communities.

Warner On-farm research projects are intended to identify, improve, 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. **The focus should be on on-farm research projects in which farmers and OSU scientists and extension staff work closely to jointly identify key questions, design and implement the research, review findings, and develop outreach or educational materials.**

Grant Program Description

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 under working farm conditions. A key goal is 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 handling of products.

Project Funding:

Grant awards are available to a maximum of \$5,000 to fund supplies, transport costs, services and labor. Recent awards have been in the \$2,000 - \$4,000 range. Funding is distributed through the OSU principal investigator and is transferred to the OSU investigator's chosen account as a reimbursement for documented project expenses. Grants are for a single year, with a final report expected by February 15, 2025. Eligibility for future funding is dependent upon submission of a final report for any previous grant.

Proposals for ongoing research on the same topic will be considered with no special status over other proposals, and the team should clearly describe progress on previous work and how the new proposal adds to the work with an independent set of objectives. Warner Grants may provide seed funding for multi-year research proposals to state, federal, or other programs; and assistance from AMP will be available for development of such proposals if they are built on Warner Grant projects and results.

Funding may not be used for capital expenditures (e.g., buildings), equipment, or relatively permanent infrastructure, 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.

Eligible Recipients:

Proposals **must** come from OSU CFAES faculty and extension personnel as principal investigators.

Proposals must be received by the **deadline, March 1, 2024**.

Interested farmers, graduate students, and members of 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 and others can receive help in connecting with an appropriate principal investigator, and OSU faculty can connect with producer organizations listed to find farmers with a specified area of interest through the list of contacts on the next page. This is not a complete list, but a great place to explore potential collaborations!

Feel free to reach out to Douglas Jackson-Smith, AMP Director, with any questions and for help finding a good collaborator!

Suggested OSU Research and Extension Contacts:

Agromony	Amanda Douridas	937-484-1526	douridas.9@osu.edu	https://agbmpps.osu.edu/people/amanda-douridas
	Osler Ortez	330-263-9725	ortez.5@osu.edu	https://hcs.osu.edu/our-people/dr-osler-ortez
	Greg LaBarge	419-460-0600	labarge.1@osu.edu	https://agnr.osu.edu/people/greg-labarge
	Elizabeth Hawkins	937-382-0901	hawkins.301@osu.edu	https://fabe.osu.edu/our-people/elizabeth-hawkins-phd
Soil Health	Jim Ippolito	614-292-4723	ippolito.38@osu.edu	https://senr.osu.edu/our-people/jim-ippolito
	Manbir Rakkar	330-263-8040	rakkar.4@osu.edu	https://senr.osu.edu/our-people/manbir-rakkar
Weeds	Eugene Law	614-292-5493	law.262@osu.edu	https://hcs.osu.edu/our-people/dr-eugene-law
Forages	Marília Chiavegato	614-292-0109	chiavegato.1@osu.edu	https://hcs.osu.edu/our-people/marilia-chiavegato
Compost & Manure Mgt	Fred Michel	330-262-1624	michel.36@osu.edu	https://fabe.osu.edu/our-people/frederick-c-michel-jr
	Glen Arnold	419-422-3851	arnold.2@osu.edu	https://agnr.osu.edu/people/glen-arnold
Meat Processing	Lyda Garcia	614-292-3642	garcia.625@osu.edu	https://ansci.osu.edu/our-people/lyda-g-garcia
Dairy	Maurice Eastridge	614-688-3059	eastridge.1@osu.edu	https://ansci.osu.edu/our-people/maurice-l-eastridge
	Luciana da Costa	614-247-8145	da-costa.2@osu.edu	https://vet.osu.edu/about-us/people/luciana-da-costa
Swine	Steve Boyles	614-292-7669	boyles.4@osu.edu	https://ansci.osu.edu/our-people/stephen-boyles
Beef & Sheep	Garth Ruff	740-651-7140	ruff.72@osu.edu	https://agnr.osu.edu/people/garth-ruff
	Braden Campbell	330-263-5563	campbell.1279@osu.edu	https://ansci.osu.edu/our-people/braden-campbell
Fruits and Vegetables (IPM, Produce Safety)	Gary Gao	740-289-2071 ext. 123	gao.2@osu.edu	https://southcenters.osu.edu/dr-gary-gao-phd
	Melanie Lewis Ivey	330-263-3849	ivey.14@osu.edu	https://plantpath.osu.edu/our-people/melanie-l-lewis-ivey
	Frank Becker	330-264-8722	becker.587@osu.edu	https://wayne.osu.edu/people/frank-becker
	Ashley Leach	330-263-9723	leach.379@osu.edu	https://entomology.osu.edu/our-people/ashley-leach-phd
	Matt Kleinhenz	330-263-3810	kleinhenz.1@osu.edu	https://caps.osu.edu/people/kleinhenz.1
Urban Ag	Fernanda Krupek	330-263-8039	krupek.1@osu.edu	https://hcs.osu.edu/our-people/dr-fernanda-krupek
Sustainable Agriculture	Mike Hogan	614-292-7670	hogan.1@osu.edu	https://franklin.osu.edu/people/mike-hogan
	Sarah Noggle	567-344-5013	noggle.17@osu.edu	https://paulding.osu.edu/people/sarah-noggle

Farm Organization Contacts:

Ohio Forage and Grassland Council (OFGC)	Gary Wilson	419-348-3500	osuagman@gmail.com	https://ohioforage.com/
Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association (OEFFA)	Casey Brooks John Stock	614-421-2022	casey@oeffa.org john@oeffa.org	http://www.oeffa.org/
Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA)	Walter Horodyski	330-772-6992	wjrhodyski@gmail.com	https://ocia.org/people/
Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association		740-828-3400	ohiopgma@gmail.com	http://www.opgma.org/

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 to farm more sustainably. Sustainable farming is ecologically sound (reduces reliance on non-renewable resources and impact on the environment), economically viable (improve 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 funding for the next phase of a project funded in a previous year, include a brief summary of your results.

Preference is given to proposals that:

- Enhance the sustainable agriculture practices of Ohio producers while being potentially profitable, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable.
- Describe what is not sustainable about current production practices related to the sustainable agriculture practices being researched in the proposal.
- Detail the interactions among farmers, researchers, extension, teaching faculty, departments, graduate students, and relevant non-profit organizations.
- Are sited on commercial farms, using regular farm resources.
- 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:

- A description of the farming operation (include acreage, number of livestock, crops raised etc.) where research will be conducted.
- Experimental design, variables you will measure (if applicable), how you will measure them, statistical analysis.
- Timetable of research activities.
- Production and financial information you will document (e.g., soil tests; crop yields; animal weight gains; equipment, feed and building expenses; sales; profits).
- 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
- Lease of land
- Outreach
- Travel and services

5. **Appendices:** Other details as required (e.g., letters of support, maps, diagrams, etc.)

Proposal Application Deadline, Submission Requirements and Review Procedures:

Proposals are due March 1, 2024

The entire proposal must be saved as a **single PDF file** and be *emailed* to Cheryl Fischnich, AMP Office Associate, fischnich.1@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:

- Three representatives from CFAES (College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences) faculty
- A representative from the OSU Sustainable Agriculture Team
- Two Ohio Farmers

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

The target date for notification of awards is **April 1, 2024**.

For more information or questions, please contact:

Douglas Jackson-Smith
Director, Agroecosystem Management Program
1680 Madison Avenue, 134 Williams Hall
Wooster, OH 44691
330-202-3540 (office)
jackson-smith.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, how activities were completed and conclusions.
- Production information (yield, pounds, head, number produced or saved etc.)
- Financial information (expenses and returns)

Final reports will be due **February 15, 2025**. The report must be saved as a **single PDF file** and *emailed* to Douglas Jackson-Smith, jackson-smith.1@osu.edu and Cheryl Fischnich, fischnich.1@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.

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2024 Cover Page

Project Title:

Project Leader(s):

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

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

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Agreement to Grant Terms:

If funded, I agree to provide a project report summary that includes items described in this request for proposals by February 15, 2025.

I have not received funds from this program for which an annual report is overdue.

I will conduct the research on an Ohio farm.

I will return any unused funds by *March 31, 2025* or *at the conclusion of the project period* as required.

I agree to the above stated terms.

Signature of Applicant

Date

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2024 Budget Template

Budget Item (include a brief description)	Requested Funds	Matching Support
A. Labor		
B. Supplies		
C. Lease of Land		
D. Outreach		
E. Travel		
F. Other Services		
Total		

Not to exceed
\$5,000