



Public and Private Funding Opportunities for Wisconsin Managed Grazing Projects

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*The **Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS)** is a research center for sustainable agriculture in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison. CIAS brings together university faculty, producers, policy makers and others to conduct research, curriculum and program development projects at the intersection of farming practices, farm profitability, the environment and rural vitality. For more information, visit www.cias.wisc.edu or call 608-262-5200.*

***GrassWorks** is a private, nonprofit membership organization that provides leadership, education and resources for grass-based farmers and regional organizations that support graziers. GrassWorks works to support on-farm research, education and adoption of managed grazing. It is a voice for sustainable farming. For more information, visit www.grassworks.org.*

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Introduction:

Funding Opportunities for Managed Grazing Projects in Wisconsin

During the fall of 2010, GrassWorks Inc. and the University of Wisconsin–Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems hosted a series of “Blue Sky Greener Pastures” meetings. These gatherings provided a forum where producers, researchers, Extension agents, nonprofit staff and other members of Wisconsin’s managed grazing community could express their thoughts concerning obstacles and opportunities for expanding managed grazing in Wisconsin. One result of this process was that a number of participants identified themselves as potential project leaders and indicated their willingness to pursue project funding.

This report is intended to link potential projects and project leaders—those identified by the Blue Sky project and those new to the project—with funding sources from both private and public institutions. The report organizes grant opportunities into three categories: public funding, private foundations and additional sources of funding, including the business community.

We hope this report provides you with ideas for funding that will allow you to launch your project. This report does not represent an exhaustive list of funding opportunities. Likewise, funding sources, programs and foci are subject to change. We invite you to identify additional funding sources, which will be included in updates to this report. Email your updates to cecarusi@wisc.edu.

We encourage you to read through the funding criteria for all the grants listed and identify several funding sources that might be suitable for your project. Each grant application has a particular set of guidelines. These guidelines are intended to move your project from a conceptual phase to a well-defined project proposal with clear goals and objectives, a budget and a timeline. The information you generate for one proposal can often be used to apply for other funding opportunities.

Don’t be discouraged if a submission deadline has passed. It takes time to prepare a successful grant and build the partnerships required for a strong collaborative project. Now is a good time to begin preparing your grant for the next funding cycle. Some granting institutions have open or continuous funding cycles that you can apply for anytime. The Blue Sky Greener Pastures steering committee is committed to helping you with technical and financial assistance to get your proposal writing process off to a good start.

Good luck!

Helpful Tips for Writing Proposals

The Blue Sky Greener Pastures process was designed to generate big ideas. Implementation of these big ideas may begin with small, well-defined projects that provide the foundation for larger, future efforts. For example, before attempting to fund the purchase of a grazing demonstration farm, you might seek support for a feasibility study. The information generated from the feasibility study can generate partnerships, enthusiasm and momentum for the actual purchase and operation of the demonstration farm. Building a reputation for achieving what you set out to do will increase your ability to secure future funding.

Collaborative projects are a current trend in grant funding. Projects benefit from the expertise and services of several organizations that partner in a collaborative team. Research and outreach projects that consider the environmental, economic and social aspects of managed grazing area natural fit for this trend. Collaboration is necessary in order to revitalize and sustain communities, create employment, increase access to high quality food and provide ecosystem services that enhance the environment, profitability and quality of life. Collaborative, community-based projects create opportunities for managed grazing to become a key component of a sustainable future.

The following information has been modified from the “Corporation for Public Broadcasting Grant Writing Guidelines”: <http://www.cpb.org/grants/grantwriting.html>. It provides an excellent overview of the basics of proposal writing.

I. Preliminary and initial activities associated with proposal writing

A proposal begins as a project idea that will help achieve a goal. Research into potential funding opportunities and their associated criteria will help you define and refine your proposal. Typical steps involved in the initial proposal process include:

1. Define your project

- Clarify the purpose of your project and write a concise mission statement
- Define the scope of work to focus your funding search
- Determine the broad project goals, then identify specific, measurable objectives
Example: Goal: Improve production quality
 Objective 1: Recruit talent
 Objective 2: Train producers
 Objective 3: Upgrade equipment
- Draft expected project outcomes in specific, measurable terms
- Draft a timeline that includes searching for funds, proposal writing and intended start date

2. Identify the right funding sources

- Foundation centers, databases, development offices, publications and public libraries are good sources of information for your search
- Do not limit your funding search to one source (e.g. government grants)
- Make direct contact with funders that support projects like yours
- Request proposal guidelines and ask about the funding range
- Determine if funding levels of the grants you select are appropriate
- Find out whether the funder has other grant sources for your project

3. Contact the funders

- Think of the funder as a resource and identify someone who will address your questions
- Ask for assistance, including reviews of draft proposals
- Inquire about budgetary requirements such as matching funds
- Remember, the contacts you make may prove invaluable for future opportunities

4. Acquire and review proposal guidelines

- Identify submission deadlines, eligibility requirements, proposal format, funding goals and priorities, award levels, evaluation process, proposal length restrictions and contact information
- Know the funder's policies on late submissions, exceptions and delays
- Find out how the funder will notify you regarding the receipt and status of your proposal

5. Construct a proposal writing timeline that includes:

- Time to gather materials and information, including personnel needs and other expenses that you will include in your budget
- Time to write multiple drafts
- Time to solicit reviews of drafts, including a review by the program officer, if appropriate

II. Writing the proposal

Attention to detail and concise writing that makes a strong case for your project are critical elements of a successful proposal. Before writing, carefully review the proposal guidelines for required information and how it should be presented.

Proposal narratives generally require:

- Statement of purpose, goals, objectives and a compelling reason for the proposal
- Methods for accomplishing goals
- Outline of activities and outcomes
- Personnel functions; names and roles of key players and partners
- Evaluation plan, in accordance with the funder's guidelines
- Project timeline that includes start and end dates, activities and outcomes
- Credentials that support your ability to successfully undertake the project

The narrative should satisfy the following questions:

- What do we want to accomplish?
- What concerns will be addressed, and why are we addressing them?
- Who will benefit, and how will they benefit?
- What specific objectives can be accomplished, and how will results be measured?
- How does this request relate to the funder's purpose, objectives and priorities?
- Who are we, and how are we qualified to undertake this project?

III. Structural components of proposals

The hook

The hook is a statement that tailors the description of the project idea to the interest of a particular funder. The hook aligns the project with the purpose and goals of the funder, and makes a strong case for funding your work.

The budget

Budgets are cost projections that not only tell your potential funder how much the project will cost, but show that you've done your homework and carefully thought through your project's activities and needs. Be sure to only include budget items the funder is willing to support. When evaluating a proposal, funders consider these questions: Can the job be accomplished with this budget? Are costs reasonable for the market? Is the budget consistent with the proposed activities?

Supporting materials

Supporting materials may endorse the project and the applicant, provide certifications, add information about project personnel and consultants, offer data to support the need for the project and confirm collaborative agreements among project partners. Policies about the inclusion of supporting materials differ among funders. Find out if supporting materials are desired or even allowed. When allowed, supporting materials are often arranged in an appendix.

Submission checklist

Prior to submitting your proposal, construct a submission checklist that ensures your document meets the proposal specifications.

User Notes

You have an idea for a project that will help expand grazing in Wisconsin and you want to write a proposal for funding. The first step in the proposal writing process is to research funding opportunities applicable for grazing projects. This report is meant to save you time by identifying potential funding opportunities for your project.

We suggest you graze through the entire list of funding opportunities to identify multiple possibilities. This will help you define and refine your project to make it more suitable for support. Searching through multiple funding opportunities should also help you think about collaborations and partnerships that will enhance your prospects for securing funding.

In order to make your search more efficient, we have modified descriptions of each funding opportunity to eliminate redundancy. For example, the word “farmer” is synonymous with “rancher” or “livestock producer”. All funding opportunities listed in this document are suitable for grazing projects.

Some funding opportunities listed here are currently closed, but our research indicates many of these opportunities will re-open in the future, especially those that seek to revitalize rural and urban communities by promoting sustainable social and ecological systems.

Federal Grants, Loans and Awards

There are a variety of federal funding opportunities available for grazing projects. New and veteran researchers alike can become mired in searching across government departments, agencies and categories for funding sources. This report provides a quick list of potential funding opportunities suitable for the support of project ideas that emerged during the Blue Sky Greener Pastures consultation process. The summary of each funding opportunity provides the following information:

- Eligibility
- Application deadline (most recent deadline is listed; you will need to research future deadlines)
- Focus area (e.g., environment and health)
- Geographic focus (e.g., Midwest)
- Typical funding amount
- When applicable, a Funding Opportunity Number (usually, but not always, available for grants from federal agencies)

The “Funding Opportunity Number” (FON) looks like: “RFA-ES-11-002”, and is designed to retrieve additional information for that particular funding program. If a program summary sounds like it might be a potential funding source for your project and you want more

information about the program, simply paste the FON into the federal government grants website portal—grants.gov—and the home page for the grant will appear. Using the FON with the grants.gov website is an efficient means for tracking down additional funding information. To use the grants.gov website:

1. Go to grants.gov
2. On the left side of the webpage, under “For Applicants” click on “Find Grant Opportunities”
3. Use the “Advanced Search” category and select “Open Opportunities”, “Closed Opportunities” and “Archived Opportunities”
4. Directly below, paste the Funding Opportunity Number into the box and click on “Search”

While Funding Opportunity Numbers offer an efficient search for current and past funding opportunities, they may not accurately represent future funding opportunities. This is important to know, as current budget constraints will likely impact future funding cycles. Some programs might disappear while new programs might emerge. For this reason, you should familiarize yourself with searching for current open opportunities, without a FON, on the grants.gov website.

The most intuitive method for searching the grants.gov website is under the “Advanced” tab using the “Funding Instrument Type” (e.g., Grant or Loan) and “Agency” (e.g., Department of Agriculture) search criteria. To begin, leave additional search criteria (i.e., Eligibility, Dates and Activities) in the “Any or All” categories. Otherwise, your results tend to show a myriad of programs designed for very specific projects, or no results will appear. When conducting your own searches, consider our current social-economic climate and recognize that future funding opportunities will increasingly target collaborative projects that seek to revitalize American communities by creating jobs that are socially and environmentally compatible.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: Private and nonprofit institutions, businesses, colleges, universities and individuals

Application deadline: Different for each priority area; visit grants.gov for specific deadlines

Focus area: AFRI supports research in six priority areas critical for solving current and future challenges including: Plant Health and Production, Animal Health and Production; Food Safety and Nutrition, Renewable Energy, Natural Resources and Environment; Agriculture Systems Technology and Agriculture Economics.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$500,000

For more information: www.grants.gov

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-AFRI-003397

Beginner Farmer and Rancher Loan Program

Department: USDA

Agency: Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Eligibility: Individual farmers who have not operated a farm for more than 10 years

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: Direct and guaranteed loans for beginning farmers ineligible for traditional loans

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Maximum loans of \$225,000 - \$1.12 million, depending on the type of loan

For more information:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=dfi-bl>

Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program

Department: USDA

Agency: Rural Development

Eligibility: Cooperatives, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, units of government and individuals

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: The B&I program is intended to help new and existing businesses in rural areas gain access to affordable capital. The USDA acts as co-signer on loans to lower the lender's risk, allowing more favorable interest rates. Borrowers promote businesses that provide employment; improve economic and environmental climates; promote conservation and reduce reliance on nonrenewable energy. Rural communities are defined as population centers with fewer than 50,000 citizens.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$10 million

For more information: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/b&i_gar.htm

Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Program

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Eligibility: Private and nonprofit institutions, colleges and universities

Application deadline: March 22, 2011

Focus area: The CARE grant program works to help communities develop an understanding of the many local sources of toxic pollutants and environmental risks, set priorities and identify and carry out projects to reduce risks through collaborative action at the local level. CARE's long-term goal is to help communities build self-sustaining, community-based partnerships that will continue to improve human health and local environments into the future.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: \$75,000-\$300,000

For more information: www.grants.gov

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-OAR-IO-11-08

Community Economic Development Program

Department: Health and Human Services

Agency: Community Economic Development Program

Eligibility: Private, nonprofit Community Development Corporations experienced in developing and managing economic development projects

Application deadline: July 11, 2011

Focus area: This program supports projects that address economic self-sufficiency for low-income persons and distressed communities by awarding funds to create employment and business development opportunities. Grants are awarded to cover project costs for business start-up or expansion and the development of new products and services. Funded projects create new employment or business opportunities for low-income individuals.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$800,000

For more information: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ced/index.html>

Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2011-ACF-OCS-EE-0178

Community Facilities Loans and Grants

Department: USDA

Agency: Rural Development

Eligibility: Local governments and nonprofit organizations in rural communities with < 20,000 residents

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: The development of essential community facilities and equipment required for the operation of those facilities. These loans and grants could support local and regional food systems facilities such as farmers' markets, school and community kitchens, community food banks and food storage, preparation and distribution centers.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Varies. Grant assistance may be available for up to 75 percent of project costs.

For more information: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html

Community Foods Projects Competitive Grants Program

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: Private nonprofit entities; applicants are encouraged to seek and create partnership among public, private nonprofit and private for-profit organizations or firms

Application deadline: November 17, 2010

Focus area: Community food projects are intended to take a comprehensive approach to developing long-term solutions that help to ensure food security in communities by linking the food sector to community development, economic opportunity and environmental enhancement.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$300,000

For more information: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/communityfoodprojects.cfm>

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-CFP-003304

Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)

Department: USDA

Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Eligibility: Eligible recipients are non-federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, tribes or individuals in the Mississippi River drainage basin

Application deadline: March 4, 2011

Focus area: Agriculture, environment and natural resources. The purpose of the CIG is to incorporate well-studied conservation practices into NRCS policy by sharing of skills, technologies, knowledge and facilities to communities and governments. Hypothesis formulation projects do not qualify.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$1,000,000

For more information: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/cig/index.html>

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NRCS-NHQ-11-01

Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

Department: Commerce

Agency: Economic Development Administration

Eligibility: State, county, city or township governments and special purpose units engaged in economic development, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education and private and nonprofit institutions

Application deadline: Multiple deadlines based on funding cycles; see grants.gov for details

Focus area: The Economic Adjustment Assistance program helps distressed communities address problems associated with long-term economic distress, as well as sudden economic dislocations. Program loans are designed to establish new business opportunities leading to regional economic autonomy.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: \$550,000 (awards ranged from \$100,000 to \$1.25 million in 2010)

For more information: <http://www.eda.gov/AboutEDA/Programs.xml>

Funding Opportunity Number: EDA10142010EDAP

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Eligibility: Nonprofit institutions and Native American tribal governments

Application deadline: March 31, 2011

Focus area: Environment. The focus of this program is to build the capacity of community-based organizations to address environmental and/or public health issues at the local level. The water quality impact of large, confined animal feeding operations is an example of environmental injustice, where a few large entities spoil the resource for many.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$50,000

For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-OECA-OEJ-11-01

Extension Integrated Pest Management (EIPM)

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities and colleges

Application deadline: March 29, 2011

Focus area: This program seeks to advance Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by addressing priority needs associated with the coordination, design, development, implementation and evaluation of Extension IPM programs. Awards strengthen the ability of NIFA and its IPM partner institutions to actively address local, state and national IPM needs delivered through the Cooperative Extension Services and rapidly respond to new issues and opportunities.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: \$15,000-\$350,000

For more information: http://nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/eipm_support_Program.html

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-SLBCD-003411

Farm and Ranch Mortgage Loans

Agency: Federal Agriculture Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac)

Eligibility: Eligible borrowers include U.S. citizens or nationals

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: This mortgage loan program is for parcels of land with production of agricultural commodities or products. No minimum or maximum acreage is required. Loans are made through a nationwide network of lenders.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: \$9.8 million; maximum \$22.5 million

For more information: <http://www.farmermac.com/Borrowers/FarmNRanch/>

Farmers' Market Promotion Program (FMPP)

Department: USDA

Agency: Risk Management

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations, local governments, tribes, economic development corporations, agricultural cooperatives and regional farmers' market authorities

Application deadline: July 1, 2011

Focus area: The FMP program is designed to help communities support local food systems through direct marketing including farmers' markets, roadside stands, community supported agriculture and agri-tourism. Priority is given to projects that increase access to local foods and develop training and educational programs for direct farm marketers.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$100,000

For more information: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/FMPP>

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-AMS-FMPP-2011

Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP)

Department: USDA

Agency: Agricultural Marketing Service

Eligibility: State governments and public- and state-controlled institutions of higher education

Application deadline: February 17, 2011

Focus area: FSMIP funds projects that address challenges and opportunities in marketing, transporting and distributing U.S. agricultural products throughout the marketing chain, including direct, wholesale and retail sales, and involve small, medium or large agricultural entities. Proposals also seek small-scale innovative projects that serve as case studies. Priority is assigned to collaborations between states, academia, the farm sector and other appropriate entities.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: \$25,000-\$100,000

For more information: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/FSMIP>

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-AMS-FSMIP-2011

Guaranteed Farm Loans

Department: USDA

Agency: Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Eligibility: Farmers unable to receive a loan without a guarantee, with a percentage of funds targeted to beginning and minority applicants

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: FSA guaranteed loans provide lenders with a guarantee of up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee permits lenders to make agricultural credit available to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. FSA guaranteed loans are for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Varies; maximum loan amount is \$1.12 million

For more information:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=gfl>

Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: Public and private institutions of higher education

Application deadline: March 2011; different deadlines for regular and collaborative projects

Focus area: Agriculture, education, environment, food and nutrition, and natural resources. The primary intent is to promote the ability of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to carry out higher education programs that attract and retain graduate students.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$1,100,000

For more information: www.grants.gov

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-HSI-003398

Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: Private and nonprofit institutions, colleges, universities and individuals

Application deadline: February 10, 2011

Focus area: The purpose of this program is to fund projects that will enhance the ability of organic producers and processors to grow and market their products. The OREI is particularly interested in projects that emphasize research and outreach to assist farmers with whole farm planning.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: \$50,000 maximum for conference and planning proposals; \$1 million maximum for eXtension proposals; \$3 million maximum for integrated project proposals

For more information: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/OREI.html>

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-ICGP-003388

P3 Awards for Sustainability: A National Student Design for Sustainability

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Eligibility: Public and private degree-granting higher education institutions

Application deadline: December 22, 2010

Focus area: This program funds applicants proposing to research, develop and design solutions to real-world challenges involving the overall sustainability of human society. The P3 competition highlights the use of scientific principles in creating innovative projects focused on

sustainability by achieving the mutual goals of economic prosperity, protection of the planet and improved quality of life for its people.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$15,000

For more information: http://www.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2011/2011_p3.html

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-G2011-P3-Q2

Rangeland Research Program (RRP)

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: Land-grant colleges and universities, state agricultural experiment stations and federal laboratories

Application deadline: July 6, 2011

Focus area: The RRP program is designed to improve rangeland resources and ecosystem services by supporting projects that investigate emerging methodologies in rotational grazing, rangeland restoration and co-grazing.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: \$350,000-\$500,000

For more information: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/11_rangeland.pdf

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-OP-003451

Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program (RBEG)

Department: USDA

Agency: Rural Development

Eligibility: Local governments, nonprofit organizations and Indian tribes in rural communities with < 50,000 residents

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: The RBEG program provides grants to finance and facilitate development of small and emerging rural businesses. RBEGs may fund a broad array of activities including acquisition or development of land and construction, conversion and renovation of buildings, plants, machinery and equipment.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$10,000-\$500,000

For more information: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm>. These grants are administered through state Rural Development offices; for information specific to Wisconsin visit http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/WI_RBS_Enterprs.html#moreinfo.

Funding Opportunity Number: RDBCP-09-RBEG-ARRA

Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG)

Department: USDA

Agency: Business and Cooperative Programs

Eligibility: Nonprofit institutions

Application deadline: June 28, 2010

Focus area: Agriculture and business. The RBOG program promotes sustainable economic development in rural communities (<50,000 residents) by provisioning training and technical assistance for business and economic development.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$250,000

For more information: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/rbog.htm>. These grants are administered through state Rural Development offices; for information specific to Wisconsin visit http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/WI_RBS_Opportun.html.

Funding Opportunity Number: RDBCP-10-01-RBOG

Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program (RCDG)

Department: USDA

Agency: Rural Development

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations in rural communities with < 50,000 residents

Application Deadline: July 22, 2011

Focus area: Rural Cooperative Development grants establish and operate centers for cooperative development for the primary purpose of improving the economic condition of rural areas through the development of new cooperatives and improving operations of existing cooperatives. The U.S. Department of Agriculture desires to encourage and stimulate the development of effective cooperative organizations in rural America as a part of its total package of rural development efforts.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$225,000

For more information: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/rcdg/rcdg.htm>

Funding Opportunity Number: RDBCP-11-01-RCDG

Sheep and Goat Fund Partnership with National Livestock Producers Association

Department: USDA

Agency: Research and Promotion Programs (National Sheep Industry Improvement Center)

Eligibility: Sheep and goat producers and businesses in the sheep and goat industry

Application deadline: September 15, 2011

Focus area: The sheep and goat industry seeks creative ideas that will add value to sheep and goats, and the products they provide. The National Livestock Producers Association encourages industry members to evaluate the immediate needs in their area, gather support from others who recognize those needs, and work together to find the most effective solutions to local concerns.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: A total of \$1 million is available for this grant program

For more information: <http://www.nsiic.org/> and <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/NSIIC>, 800-951-1373

Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: Private and nonprofit institutions and organizations, colleges, universities and individuals

Application deadline: January 31, 2011

Focus area: SCRI will give priority to projects that are multistate, multi-institutional or trans-disciplinary, and include mechanisms to communicate results to the public. Projects must address at least one of five focus areas: research in breeding to improve characteristics, efforts to address threats from pests, efforts to improve profitability, new innovations, and methods to minimize food safety hazards in production and processing.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: NIFA has a total of \$47.3 million available for SCRI grants. Maximum funding amounts vary from \$50,000 for planning projects to \$2 million per year for coordinated agricultural projects.

For more information: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/specialty_crop.html

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-SCRI-003357

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Graduate Student Grants

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: Graduate and PhD Students

Application deadline: Usually in late January

Focus area: The Graduate Student Grant Program supports graduate students' projects that address sustainable agriculture issues. Funded proposals contribute to farmer profitability, environmental quality and the enhancement of the quality of life of farmers, rural communities and society as a whole. The program prefers projects that involve farmers.

Geographic focus: North Central USA, including Wisconsin

Typical funding amount: Up to \$10,000

For more information:

<http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants/Graduate-Student-Grant-Program>

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Producer Grants

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: Individual farmers or groups of farmers

Application deadline: Usually in early December

Focus area: The SARE Producer Grant Program is for farmers who want to explore sustainable solutions through on-farm research, demonstration and education projects. Farmer grants fund a variety of topics including pest/disease management, crop and livestock production, education/outreach, networking, quality of life issues, marketing, soil quality, energy, off-farm inputs and other ways to enhance their livelihoods.

Geographic focus: North Central USA, including Wisconsin

Typical funding amount: Up to \$6,000 for individuals and up to \$18,000 for groups

For more information:

<http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants/Farmer-Rancher-Grant-Program>

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

Professional Development Grants

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: Applicants are educators who often represent, but are not limited to, Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service and nonprofit groups

Application deadline: Usually in mid-May

Focus area: Professional Development Grants support professional development programs for training agricultural professionals in extension addressing emerging issues in agriculture.

Geographic focus: North Central USA, including Wisconsin

Typical funding amount: \$30,000-\$75,000

For more information:

<http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants/Professional-Development-Grant-Program>

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

Research and Education Grants

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: Open to anyone with experience in agricultural research, preferably in cooperation with commercial farmers, and applied research that will translate quickly into improved practices on the ground.

Application deadline: Usually in mid-June

Focus area: These grants are designed for researchers and educators involved in projects that promote environmentally sound, profitable and socially responsible food and fiber systems and include an outreach component, producer involvement, are interdisciplinary and explore the

following topics: crop and livestock production, education/extension, marketing, value-added marketing, water quality and weed control.

Geographic focus: North Central USA, including Wisconsin

Typical funding amount: \$10,000-\$200,000

For more information:

<http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants/Research-and-Education>

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

Youth and Youth Educator Program

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: Youth and youth educators

Application deadline: Usually in mid-September

Focus area: The Youth Educator Program provides a way to introduce new farming options to youth, parents and community members. The program supports opportunities for youth and youth educators to research and demonstrate sustainable agriculture.

Geographic focus: North Central USA, including Wisconsin

Typical funding amount: \$400 maximum for youth; \$2,500 maximum for youth educators

For more information:

<http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants/Youth-and-Youth-Educator-Grant-Program>

Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification (YFSEC) Program

Department: USDA

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: Colleges and universities.

Application deadline: January 21, 2010

Focus area: Agriculture and education. YFSEC supports national efforts to deliver appropriate training to youth seeking employment or already employed in agricultural production.

Geographic focus: None.

Typical funding amount: Up to \$300,000

For more information: www.grants.gov

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-SLBCD-002673

Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG)

Department: USDA

Agency: Rural Development

Eligibility: Nonprofits, businesses and individuals, independent producers, farmer or rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups and majority-controlled, producer-based business ventures that are farmer controlled (check with your state RD office before applying)

Application deadline: August 29, 2011

Focus area: VAPGs help farmers receive a higher portion of the retail dollar. Grants support planning activities, such as developing a business plan, or provide working capital for labor, inventory and advertising. There is 10 percent set-aside for projects that focus on local and regional supply networks. 10 percent of funds are also available for beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and small or medium-sized farms or ranches.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Up to \$300,000

For more information: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm>

Funding Opportunity Number: RDBCP-11-02-VAPG

Federal Cost-Share Programs

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Department: USDA

Agency: National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Eligibility: Producers with crop, pasture and forestry operations

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities and improving, maintaining and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land. The NRCS will make CSP available nationwide on a continuous application basis.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Varies with project

For more information:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/?ss=16&navtype=SubNavigation&cid=null&navid=1001203000000000&pnavid=1001200000000000&position=SubNavigation&ttype=main&pname=Conservation%20Stewardship%20Program%20|%20NRCS>

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Department: USDA

Agency: National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Eligibility: Owners of land in agricultural or forest production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land and who have a natural resource concern on the land

Application deadline: Varies

Focus area: The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan

and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial, private forest land.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Varies with project

For more information:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/?ss=16&navid=100120310000000&pnavid=100120000000000&position=SUBNAVIGATION&ttype=main&navtype=SUBNAVIGATION&pname=Environmental%20Quality%20Incentives%20Program>

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Department: USDA

Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Eligibility: Farmland must be part of a pending offer from a state or local farmland protection program, be privately owned, have a conservation plan, be large enough to sustain agricultural production, be accessible to markets, have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services and have surrounding agricultural land in production

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: Matching funds from this program help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranch land in agricultural uses. The USDA partners with state or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value

For more information: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/>

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

Department: USDA

Agency: National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Eligibility: Agriculture producers and local communities

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: This voluntary conservation program emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity and protection of grassland under threat of conversion to other uses. Participants voluntarily limit future development and cropping uses of the land while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices and operations related to the production of forage and seeding.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Varies with project

For more information: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/grp/>

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

Department: USDA

Agency: National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Eligibility: Farm land must be part of a pending offer from a state or local farmland protection program, privately owned, able to sustain agricultural production, market assessable and have surrounding land in agricultural production.

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: Matching funds from this program help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranch land in agricultural use. The USDA partners with state or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements from landowners.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Varies with project

For more information: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/>

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Department: USDA

Agency: National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Eligibility: Only states, local units of government and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are eligible to submit proposals and enter into agreements with the NRCS. However, once a project has been approved, eligible landowners may apply through regional NRCS offices.

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: This program provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts.

Geographic focus: Entire USA

Typical funding amount: Varies with project

For more information: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/>

Wisconsin State Programs

Note: Many of these programs are administered through the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. As of July 1st, 2011, functions once performed by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce are being moved to other state agencies and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. We will update this document as more information becomes available.

Agribusiness Guarantee

Department: Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority

Eligibility: The application must be submitted prior to the start of the project. The agribusiness is required to show that it has made a considerable effort to purchase a substantial percentage of its raw agricultural commodities from Wisconsin suppliers. Principal place of operations for

processing or marketing must be located in a Wisconsin city, town or village with a population of less than 50,000. Direct production of raw commodities is not eligible.

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: The loan guarantee is for eligible agribusiness projects that will create a new product for the business, expand production of an existing product or improve business efficiency. It is intended to encourage the development of products that utilize Wisconsin agricultural materials.

Typical funding amount: Varies with project

For more information: WHEDA, 201 West Washington, Ste. 700, Madison, WI 53703
800-334-6873

<http://www.wheda.com/root/BusinessPartners/SmallBusinessLenders/Dynamic.aspx?id=833>

Agricultural Development and Diversification (ADD) Grant Program

Department: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include individuals, associations, agribusinesses and industry groups where the recipient provides 25 percent of project costs

Application deadline: March 15, 2011

Focus area: Grants are awarded for the development of new value-added products, new markets or new technologies in agriculture.

Typical funding amount: Up to \$50,000

For more information: Mike Bandli, 608-224-5136, mike.bandli@datcp.state.wi.us
http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Grants_and_Financial_Aid/index.aspx

Branded Program—Food Export Association of the Midwest

Department: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Eligibility: Only companies defined as small and medium by the U.S. Small Business Administration are eligible. Agricultural producer cooperatives are also eligible and are exempt from size restrictions. All activities must be concluded and paid for by December 31.

Application deadline: October 1 of each year

Focus area: This cost-share program provides financial assistance to help exporters promote products in international markets.

Typical funding amount: 50 percent cost reimbursement, up to \$300,000 in a calendar year. Maximum funding amounts vary with export experience. There is a \$250 application fee for this program.

For more information: Lisa Stout, Agricultural Marketing Consultant, 608-224-5126, lisa.stout@wisconsin.gov, WI DATCP, P.O. Box 8911 Madison, Ag. Drive, Madison, WI 53708
Program manual:

http://fea.files.cms-plus.com/BrandedProgram/branded_program_manual.pdf

Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin (BLBW) Grant Program

Department: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Eligibility: Proposals are accepted from individuals, groups, businesses and organizations involved in Wisconsin agriculture, food processing, distribution, warehousing, retail and agricultural tourism, and may involve collaborations between producers, food businesses, industry, academia or organizations

Application deadline: August 23, 2010

Focus area: The BLBW program provides competitive grants for projects that stimulate the purchase of Wisconsin-grown or -produced food by local food buyers. Projects help find ways to reduce marketing, distribution and processing hurdles impeding Wisconsin's local food system.

Typical funding amount: Up to \$50,000

For more information: Teresa Engel at 608-224-5101, DatcpBLBW@wi.gov

http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/BLBW_Grants/index.aspx

Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin (BLBW) Producer First Technical Assistance Program

Department: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Eligibility: Technical assistance includes business planning, accounting and financial organization, packaging and label development, food safety, grant writing assistance, market development, cooperative development, etc. Eligible applicants are any Wisconsin farmer or local market producer.

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: This program provides technical assistance for farmers. The applicant will identify someone with the experience and expertise they need to provide the assistance or DATCP can identify someone. A list of consultants is available upon request.

Typical funding amount: Up to \$3,000

For more information: Keefe Keeley by email, at keefe.keeley@wi.gov, or by phone, at 608-306-0844. http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/Producers_First/index.aspx

Customized Labor Training Program

Department: Department of Commerce

Eligibility: Eligible recipients are businesses upgrading a product, process or service that requires training in new technology. Training focuses on new technologies, skills or manufacturing processes and must not be available through other resources. The business must be committed to locating a new facility or expanding an existing facility in Wisconsin. Funds can be used for trainee wages, training material and trainer costs.

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: Funding worker training programs at businesses

Typical funding amount: Funding of up to 50 percent or \$2,500/employee for eligible costs

For more information: Contact your Area Development Manager; contact information and mapped regions are at <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/bd/BD-AreaDevManagers.html>.

Program website: <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/bd/BD-CLTprogram.html>

Dairy 2020 Early Planning Grant / Value Added Initiative Grant Program

Department: Department of Commerce

Eligibility: Eligible costs relate to having a qualified, independent third party provide the professional services necessary to assist the applicant in the start-up, modernization or expansion of a dairy farm. Eligible professional services include activities such as the preparation of a comprehensive business plan. Matching of at least 25 percent is required from sources other than the state of Wisconsin.

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: Grants are intended to encourage the start-up, expansion and modernization of Wisconsin dairy farms.

Typical funding amount: Up to \$3,000

For more information: Irv Possin, Executive Director Dairy 2020 Program, WI Department of Commerce, 140 North Main Street, P.O. Box 1303, Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1303, 920-322-1888; Irv.Possin@wisconsin.gov

<http://commerce.wi.gov/BD/BD-AG-Dairy2020EPG.html>

Dairy Manufacturing Facility Investment Credit

Department: Department of Commerce

Eligibility: Eligible businesses are producers of dairy products and include individuals, estates, trusts, partnerships, limited liability companies or tax exempt organizations that have invested in modernizing or expanding a dairy manufacturing facility in Wisconsin and are certified by the Department of Commerce.

Application deadline: Applications may be submitted after the end of the applicant's taxable year in which the eligible capital investment occurred, and no later than February 15 of the subsequent taxable year.

Focus area: Tax credits. Refundable tax credits are provided to owners of dairy and milk processing businesses that have made a capital investment to modernize or expand their dairy manufacturing facilities in Wisconsin. Businesses can earn up to 10 percent of this investment, with a maximum of \$200,000.

Typical funding amount: Up to \$200,000

For more information: Contact your Area Development Manager; contact information and mapped regions are at <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/bd/BD-AreaDevManagers.html>.

Program website: <http://commerce.wi.gov/BD/BD-DMFI.html>

Farm Asset Reinvestment Management Program (FARM)

Department: Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority

Eligibility: The recipient must submit an application before the start of the project. Funds cannot be used for short term assets (feed, fertilizer, etc.—these are funded under the CROP program). Funds can be used for land, building, equipment, machinery, livestock or the refinancing of debt (if 75 percent or less of loan).

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: Loan guarantees from this program are for start-ups, expansion and modernization.

Typical funding amount: While there is no maximum loan amount, the maximum loan guarantee is 25 percent of the FARM loan; or the farmer's net worth, including assets and liabilities incurred with the FARM loan; or \$200,000.

For more information: WHEDA, 201 West Washington, Ste. 700, Madison, WI 53703

800-334-6873

<http://www.wheda.com/root/BusinessPartners/AgriculturalLenders/Dynamic.aspx?id=516&terms=FARM>

Food Processing Plant and Food Warehouse Investment Credit

Department: Department of Commerce

Eligibility: Tax credits are earned by incurring eligible expenses for food processing plant or food warehouse modernization or expansion, if acquired and placed in service in Wisconsin during taxable years that begin after December 31, 2009, and before January 1, 2017.

Businesses that are eligible to apply for Wisconsin's Dairy Manufacturing Facility Investment Credit or the Meat Processing Facility Investment Credit are not eligible for the Food Processing Plant and Food Warehouse Investment Credit.

Application deadline: Application must be completed and either postmarked or delivered to the Department of Commerce after the end of the applicant's taxable year in which the eligible capital investments occurred, and no later than February 15 of the subsequent taxable year.

Focus area: Tax credits. This program is a refundable tax credit for businesses that have invested to modernize or expand food processing plants or food warehouses in Wisconsin and that have been certified by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

For more information: Steve Sabatke, Economic Development Consultant, Bureau of Business Finance and Compliance, WI Dept. of Commerce, 201 West Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53707-7970. 608-267-0762, Steven.Sabatke@Wisconsin.gov.

<http://commerce.wi.gov/BD/BD-FPTC.html>

Grazing Grants for Education (Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Grants)

Department: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Eligibility: Applicants may include, but are not limited to county, state and federal agricultural and natural resource agencies, colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations and grazing networks.

Application deadline: November 12, 2010

Focus area: The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative is a national effort begun in 1991 to help landowners improve the ecological and productive condition of the nation's private grazing lands, the economic condition of farmers and ranchers and the social well-being of rural communities. This program invites proposals for education and on-farm demonstration projects that can include workshops, conferences, on-farm field days and pasture walks. It also supports grazing networks and grazing schools, among other projects.

Typical funding amount: Up to \$30,000 per year

For more information: Laura Paine, Agricultural Business Development, WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, P.O. Box 8911 Madison, WI 53708-8911, 2811 Agricultural Drive, Madison, WI 53704-6777
http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Grazing/Grazing_Grants_for_Education/index.aspx

Grazing Grants for Research (Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Grants)

Department: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Eligibility: Applicants may include, but are not limited to county, state and federal agricultural and natural resource agencies, colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations and grazing networks.

Application deadline: November 12, 2010

Focus area: The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative is a national effort begun in 1991 to help landowners improve the ecological and productive condition of the nation's private grazing lands, the economic condition of farmers and ranchers and the social well-being of rural communities. This program invites proposals for research in managed intensive grazing.

Typical funding amount: Up to \$40,000 per year

For more information: Laura Paine, Agricultural Business Development, WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, P.O. Box 8911 Madison, WI 53708-8911, 2811 Agricultural Drive, Madison, WI 53704-6777

http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Grazing/Grazing_Grants_for_Research/index.aspx

Grazing Grants for Technical Assistance (Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Grants)

Department: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Eligibility: Applicants may include, but are not limited to county, state and federal agricultural and natural resource agencies, colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations and networks.

Application deadline: November 12, 2010

Focus area: The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative is a national effort begun in 1991 to help landowners improve the ecological and productive condition of the nation's private grazing lands, the economic condition of farmers and ranchers and the social well-being of rural communities. This program invites proposals for technical assistance in managed intensive grazing. It primarily funds projects that include staff positions to provide one-on-one technical assistance to farmers for grazing planning and development of grazing related facilities on farms.

Typical funding amount: Varies with project

For more information: Laura Paine, Agricultural Business Development, WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, P.O. Box 8911 Madison, WI 53708-8911, 2811 Agricultural Drive, Madison, WI 53704-6777

http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Grazing/Grazing_Grants_for_Technical_Assistance/index.aspx

Main Street Program

Department: Department of Commerce

Eligibility: Wisconsin municipalities are eligible to enter this competitive process, which begins by attending a mandatory application workshop held in September or October.

Application deadline: Intent to Apply forms due November 1, 2010; applications due February 7, 2011

Focus area: The Wisconsin Main Street Program is a comprehensive revitalization program designed to promote the historic and economic redevelopment of traditional business districts in Wisconsin. Each year, the Department of Commerce selects communities to join the program. These communities receive technical support and training to restore their main streets to centers of community activity and commerce.

For more information: Jim Engle, James.Engle@Wisconsin.gov, 608-267-0766
<http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/cd/cd-bdd.html>

Meat Processing Facility Investment Credit

Department: Department of Commerce

Eligibility: Businesses engaged in processing livestock into meat products or processing meat products for sale commercially may be eligible to apply for the tax credits. Tax credits are earned by incurring eligible expenses for meat processing modernization or expansion.

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: Tax credits. The Wisconsin Meat Processing Facility Investment Credit is a refundable tax credit for taxpayers who have invested to modernize or expand meat processing facilities in Wisconsin and who have been certified by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

For more information: Steve Sabatke, Economic Development Consultant, Bureau of Business Finance and Compliance, WI Dept. of Commerce, 201 West Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53707-7970. 608-267-0762, Steven.Sabatke@Wisconsin.gov
<http://commerce.wi.gov/BD/BD-MPFI.html>

Rural Economic Development Program

Department: Department of Commerce

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are for-profit businesses or cooperatives with fewer than 50 employees and 1) located in a city, town or village with a population less than/equal to 6,000, OR 2) located in a county with a population density of less than 150 people/sq. mile. (All but the following counties are eligible: Brown, Dane, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Outagamie, Racine, Rock, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago.)

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: Loans. Capital and fixed asset financing is available for start-up and expanding businesses in rural or small communities.

Typical funding amount: Up to 50 percent of costs, with a maximum of \$100,000

For more information: Contact your Area Development Manager; contact information and mapped regions are at <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/bd/BD-AreaDevManagers.html>. Program website: <http://commerce.wi.gov/BD/BD-RED-Program.html>

Value Added Services Funding

Department: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Eligibility: Producers

Application deadline: March 31, 2011

Focus area: Grant intended for projects that provide direct services to producers and help them market or produce value added agricultural products **other than dairy**. A successful proposal for this funding must involve services that facilitate the marketing or production of a value added commodity by a producer or group of producers.

Typical funding amount: Up to \$50,000

For more information:

http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Ag_Innovation_and_Development_Center/Value_Added_Services_Funding/index.aspx

Wisconsin Working Lands Program—Farmland Preservation Tax Credit

Department: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Eligibility: To claim a tax credit, landowners must be located in an area zoned and certified for farmland preservation or have a farmland preservation agreement and be located in an agricultural enterprise area. Landowners must be residents of Wisconsin and must meet other criteria, including compliance with state soil and water conservation standards.

Application deadline: Continuous

Focus area: Tax credit. This program provides eligible landowners with an opportunity to claim farmland preservation tax credits. The income tax credits are applied against tax liability and are available for the 2010 tax year and beyond.

Typical funding amount: Credits are \$5.00, \$7.50 or \$10.00 per acre, depending on zoning

For more information: WI DATCP P.O. Box 8911 Madison, Ag. Drive, Madison, WI 53708

http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Working_Lands_Initiative/Farmland_Preservation_Tax_Credits/index.aspx

Wisconsin Working Lands Program—Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE)

Department: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Eligibility: Landowners may not apply for PACE funding directly. Interested landowners should apply to the local cooperating entity for easement consideration, who will submit a proposal for an easement to the DATCP. PACE funds can only be used for farmland preservation area as identified in a certified county farmland preservation plan. Landowners must be willing to relinquish the easement or development rights. Proposed easements must protect or enhance

waters of the state or other public assets and the location of the easement should be consistent with county and local farmland preservation plans.

Application deadline: This program was not funded by the Wisconsin Legislature in 2011. Currently, applications are not being accepted. The program may resume in the future.

Focus area: The state provides funding to cooperating local governments or nonprofit organizations to purchase easements from willing landowners. Land with an agricultural conservation easement cannot be developed for any purpose that would prevent its use for agriculture.

Typical funding amounts: The program provides up to 50 percent of the cost of purchasing agricultural conservation easements.

For more information: WI DATCP P.O. Box 8911 Madison, Ag. Drive, Madison, WI 53708
DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov, Lisa Schultz, 608-224-4604
http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Working_Lands_Initiative/PACE/index.aspx

Private, Nonprofit Foundations

The following section lists 19 nonprofit foundations that potentially offer funding for a variety of grazing projects focused on the environment, health, regional sustainability and education. We provide a summary of the mission statement for each foundation as well as eligibility requirements, funding amounts, initiation processes and contact information. Note that some foundations do not have websites and prefer contact by letter or phone. Also note that many foundations have an open funding cycle, and a letter of inquiry is typically required as the first step in the proposal process.

Many nonprofit foundations exist due to generous donations by wealthy individuals; therefore, funding generally supports projects that showcase the foundation's mission in order to generate further contributions. Projects funded are often components of larger, multi-partnership projects such as "Restoration of the Great Lakes" or "Upper Mississippi River Basin" initiatives. Projects supported are also typically multifaceted; for example, linking environmental health to strong communities and regional economies is a common theme.

786 Foundation

The Wisconsin-based 786 Foundation funds projects in education, the environment and natural resource development. Grants are generally awarded for curriculum development, general operating support, matching funds and scholarship endowments.

Eligibility: Open to all Wisconsin-based projects. There are no specific forms or deadlines.

Typical funding amount: \$3,000-\$50,000

Grant initiation process: Letter of inquiry

Contact: Jennifer Ridley-Hanson, M & I Trust Co. N.A, P.O. Box 8988, Madison, WI 53708
Telephone: 608-232-2009

Adams Legacy Foundation

The Adams Legacy Foundation is a California-based organization. The 2011-2015 funding cycle is focused on land conservation with an emphasis on restoring or preserving functional, sustainable ecosystems in agriculture. The primary focus of the Adams Legacy program is to promote programs that allow farmers to remain on their land and use it in a sustainable manner.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations

Typical funding amount: Up to \$25,000

Grant initiation process: Letter of inquiry by November 15th of each year

Contact: Blair Carty, PO Box 1957, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Telephone: 562-431-0011. Email: bcarty@adamslegacyfoundation.org

<http://www.adamslegacyfoundation.org/index.html>

AgStar Fund for Rural America

The AgStar Fund for Rural America is discretionary granting program focused on education, environment, technology and quality of life of farmers. Applicants should apply between October 1st and November 30th.

Eligibility: Limited to individuals in Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, Washburn, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce or St. Croix counties

Typical funding amount: Up to \$10,000 to be used for project or program support, technical assistance, general operating support and/ or equipment

Grant initiation process: Submit application online

Contact: Melanie Olson Email: Melanie.Olson@AgStar.com, 952-997-1255

<http://www.agstar.com/enhancingamerica/fundforruralamerica/Pages/default.aspx>

The American Honda Foundation

The American Honda Foundation provides grants each year to fund K-12 science education. It accepts applications year round. The foundation funds innovative leadership programs that involve ecology, agriculture and education.

Eligibility: Nonprofits and public school districts

Typical funding amount: \$20,000-\$60,000

Grant initiation process: Submit application online

Contact: American Honda Foundation, 1919 Torrance Blvd., 100-1W-5A, Torrance, CA 90501

<http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

The Bradshaw-Knight Foundation

The Bradshaw-Knight Foundation promotes the preservation and conservation of the ecological health of the United States by strengthening the sustainability of both rural and urban communities. The foundation believes in that meaningful work by human beings is intricately bound to the ecological health of the nation and the globe. The goal behind the foundation's

mission is the maintenance of economically and spiritually healthy communities on a scale appropriate to the fulfillment of a high quality of life—for all life. The Bradshaw-Knight Foundation primarily serves the Upper Midwest region of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Eligibility: Open

Typical funding amount: \$1,000-\$150,000

Grant initiation process: Letter of inquiry

Contact: Renee Knight, 712 Harrison Street, Madison, WI 53711

<http://www.bkfnd.org>

The Ceres Trust

The Ceres Trust supports and promotes organic and sustainable agriculture.

Eligibility: Open

Typical funding amount: \$15,000-\$250,000

Grant initiation process: Letter of inquiry

Contact: Ceres Trust, 1000 N. Water St., 1700, Milwaukee, WI 53202

<http://www.thecerestrust.org>

The Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation

The Lindbergh Foundation provides grants each year in many categories such as agriculture, education and conservation. The Lindbergh Foundation believes that innovation, science and technology hold the key to addressing humanity's environmental and productivity challenges. They accept applications year round.

Eligibility: Individuals

Typical funding amount: Up to \$10,580

Grant initiation process: Fill out application forms (access on website)

Contact: The Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation, 2150 Third Avenue North, Suite 310, Anoka, MN 55303-2200. Phone: 763-576-1596, Fax: 763-576-1664,

E-mail: info@lindberghfoundation.org

<http://www.lindberghfoundation.org>

Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation

The Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation funds programs that promote the environment and health to enhance long-term viability of communities and regions. To accomplish this, the foundation supports programs that aim to prevent toxic substances from entering the environment, encourage regional planning aimed at integrating economic and social goals with sound environmental policies, and enhance sustainability in agricultural and food systems.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations

Typical funding amount: Up to \$600,000

Grant initiation process: Letter of inquiry by early March

Contact: Bruce A. Hirsch, 44 Montgomery St., Suite 1970, San Francisco, CA 9410
Telephone: 415-989-9839. Email: info@cehcf.org
http://cehcf.org/env_health.html

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

The Packard Foundation provides grants in many different areas including health, climate change and agriculture. It accepts letters of inquiry at all times during the year. It has a funding category specific to conserving and restoring the Earth's natural systems, including the reduction of agricultural greenhouse gases by 20 percent over the next decade.

Eligibility: Private and nonprofit organizations

Typical funding amount: Multiple levels starting at \$5,000 and going up to \$1,000,000

Grant initiation process: Letter of inquiry

Contact: Laura Sullivan, Program Associate, Conservation and Science,
Telephone: 650-917-7106. Email: lsullivan@packard.org
<http://www.packard.org/>

Farm Aid Grants

Farm Aid offers three grant programs. The first is designed to build connections between farmers and consumers, creating new markets for family farmers. The second is designed for farmers transitioning to more sustainable practices. The third is designed for projects that encourage family farm-centered agriculture.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations

Typical funding amount: \$1,000 to \$20,000

Grant initiation process: Follow grant application process found online by August 1

Contact: Grant Program Manager, Farm Aid, 501 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02141
Telephone: 1-800-FARM AID. Email: grants@farmaid.org
http://www.farmaid.org/site/c.qII5IhNVJsE/b.2723745/k.9953/Grant_Guidelines.htm

Farm Foundation

The Farm Foundation seeks proposals for small grants that stimulate new ideas and build networks. Grant proposals should address one of the foundation's six program areas: |
1) Agriculture in the Environment, 2) Energy and Agriculture, 3) Food, Agriculture and Trade Policy, 4) Agricultural and Food System Productivity, Research and Technology; 5) Food Quality, Safety and Consumer Perceptions and 6) Viability of Rural Regions. The Farm Foundation seeks to support activities that are national or broadly regional in scope.

Eligibility: Private and nonprofit institutions and individuals

Typical funding amount: Varies

Grant initiation process: Submit application online by April 30

Contact: Farm Foundation, NFP, Attn: Small Grants Program, 1301 W. 22nd Street, Suite 615
Oak Brook, IL 60523
<http://www.farmfoundation.org/ourwork.aspx?m=Guidelines&a=357>

The Garden Club of America Fellowship in Ecological Restoration

This fellowship is available for graduate study and research, focused on ecological restoration, at an accredited university.

Eligibility: Graduate students

Typical funding amount: \$8,000

Grant initiation process: Submit application online by December 31

Contact: Brad Herrick, UW-Madison Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI 53711

Telephone: 608-262-5209, Email: bmherrick@uwarb.wisc.edu

<http://www2.gcamerica.org/outreach-scholarships-details.cfm?ScholarshipID=13>

Greater Milwaukee Foundation

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation supports a variety of programs that improve the communities of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee or Washington counties. This foundation is a potential source of support for linking healthy food produced by the grazing community with urban populations.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations; some government agencies

Typical funding amount: Varies, but this organization has the ability to fund small and large projects

Grant initiation process: Update your nonprofit organization's information on Philanthropy Online, followed by a letter of inquiry

Contact: Greater Milwaukee Foundation, 101 W. Pleasant St., Suite 210, Milwaukee, WI 53212

Telephone: 414-272- 5805

http://www.greatermilwaukeefoundation.org/grant_seekers/index.shtml

Harry Chapin Foundation

The Harry Chapin Foundation accepts grant proposals related to community education, agriculture and the environment. It supports organizations that improve the livelihood of community members by helping them become self-sufficient.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations

Typical funding amount: \$500 - \$10,000

Grant initiation process: Application format online, sent to Executive Director Leslie Ramme

Contact: Harry Chapin Foundation, 16 Gerald St., Huntington, NY 11743

<http://www.harrychapinfoundation.org/>

Jesse Smith Noyes Foundation

The Jesse Smith Noyes Foundation supports programs that enhance environmental stewardship and sustainability. The foundation views the Earth as one community where human society is an integral part. It is interested in funding sustainable agricultural practices, especially in areas with low incomes and high minority populations.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations

Typical funding amount: Up to \$25,000

Grant initiation process: Letter of inquiry or online application form

Contact: Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, 6 East 39th Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10016

Fax: 212-689-6549, Email: noyes@noyes.org

<http://www.noyes.org>

Joyce Foundation

The Joyce Foundation provides grants for education and environmental protection, and specifically funds programs that protect the Great Lakes by promoting clean energy, combating global warming, restoring river ecosystems and advocating investment in Great Lakes restoration.

Eligibility: Open to a wide variety of organizations (public and private), year round

Typical funding amount: Multiple levels starting at \$25,000 and up to \$500,000

Grant initiation process: Letter of inquiry

Contact: The Joyce Foundation, 70 West Madison Street, Suite 2750, Chicago, Illinois 60602

Telephone: 312-782-2464

<http://www.joycefdn.org>

Surdna Foundation

The Surdna Foundation seeks to foster just and sustainable communities in the United States that link social justice, healthy environments, strong local economies and thriving cultures where consumption and conservation are balanced.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations, applications year-round.

Typical funding amount: Multiple levels starting at \$10,000 and up to \$500,000

Grant initiation process: Letter of inquiry (submit online)

Contact: The Surdna Foundation, 330 Madison Ave., 30th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Telephone: 212-557-0010

<http://www.surdna.org>

Weeden Foundation Consumption Program

The Weeden Foundation supports K-12 education projects on sustainable consumption. This foundation also targets projects that preserve or restore biodiversity and healthy ecosystem functioning.

Eligibility: Educational, scientific or charitable organizations

Typical funding amount: \$20,000

Grant initiation process: Letter of inquiry

Contact: 747 Third Avenue, 34th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Telephone: 212-888-1672, Email: weedenfdn@weedenfdn.org

<http://www.weedenfdn.org/trial.html>

Additional Resources

Capital Connections Inventory

Source: Thrive

Description: Thrive works in the spirit of collaboration to ensure resources are available to the people and organizations that do business in the Madison, Wisconsin area, helping the region continue its tradition of delivering first-rate products and services to the world. Thrive operates in the south-central Wisconsin counties of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock and Sauk. The Capitol Connections Inventory is a comprehensive database of financial tools available for businesses and economic development projects in the Madison region, with information on 350+ financial programs available at the federal, state and local levels.

Contact: <http://thrivehere.org/business-tools/funding/>

Dairy Business Innovation Center (DBIC)

Description: The DBIC is a private, nonprofit organization that provides technical, marketing and business planning assistance to dairy businesses.

Contact: Kathy Brown, DBIC: 262-740-2175; Norm Monsen, DATCP: 608-224-5135;
<http://www.dbicusa.org>

Resources for Wisconsin Businesses –Got Moo-La

Source: Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Description: This resource lists numerous funding opportunities including grants, guaranteed loans and tax credits available for Wisconsin businesses.

Contact: http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Business/pdf/Wisconsin_Business_Resources.pdf

Whole Foods Market: Local Producer Loan Program

Description: Whole Foods Market offers fixed-rate loans to help producers upgrade or expand their capacity to grow and sell local food. Independent, local producers who meet the Whole Foods quality and animal compassion standards are eligible for loans ranging from \$1,000 to \$100,000. Visit the website or call for loan guidelines and application.

Contact: 512-542-0895; <http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/pdfs/programoverview.pdf>