



Grants Advising for Farmers and Agricultural Entrepreneurs in Wisconsin

If you are a farmer or rural entrepreneur in Wisconsin*, you are invited to use a free Grants Advising service of the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute and Wisconsin Farmers Union.

MFAI and WFU's GrantAdvisers will not write your grants applications for you, but they can help you **apply to grant, loan, and cost-share programs of Wisconsin or the federal government** that could help you **improve your farming business**. These can be programs of any federal or state agency, not just the USDA. We will assist individual producers, associations of farmers, and rural agricultural and forestry-related businesses to both search for and apply to funding programs for which they are eligible.

Our Grants Advisers help you decide whether a grant would be the best way to achieve your goals. If so, he or she will help you **identify a grant program** that best fits your goals and help you **outline a plan of work** for you to follow to meet the application deadline and all application requirements. If not, the Adviser will suggest other resources you may choose to approach. Examples might be federal, state or local loan programs, loan guarantees, as well as resource information and resource persons.

You can also ask to be on our Advisers' **email list** to get program announcements ASAP.

Our Advisers can help you **identify local partners** (agency staff, nonprofit groups, or local volunteers with experience in grants and project management) to strengthen your project, to help you complete the proposal, and, if funding is awarded, to manage the project. They can help you prepare the proposal to ensure timely submission with necessary forms, attachments, and letters of support.

Even for deadlines later this year, it's best to start working *now* with a Grants Adviser on a specific application. You can get your plan of work organized so that the deadline doesn't sneak up on you.

For more information and to be on the **e-list for program announcements**, please feel free to contact one of our **Grants Advisers: Martin Bailkey**, at (608) 698-9478, martinbailkey@gmail.com or **Kitt Healy**, at (630) 346-4749, gracekhealy@gmail.com.

Also visit <http://www.michaelfields.org/grant-advising-resources/>.

**Since 2007, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute has offered Grants Advising across the Midwest. In 2014, Wisconsin Farmers Union became a project partner, offering specific financial support to provide this service to Wisconsin farmers.*