



Grants Advising for Farmers and Agricultural Entrepreneurs in the Midwest

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute provides free Grants Advising services to agricultural producers and producer groups, through financial support from Farm Aid, the North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NC-SARE) program, and the Wisconsin Farmers Union.

What is Grants Advising?

MFAI's Grants Advisors can help you **apply to grant, loan, and cost-share programs of state or federal sources** that could help you **with specific projects to develop your agricultural, forestry or related business**. These can be programs of any federal, particularly USDA, or state agency, as well as some private sources. We assist individual producers, associations of farmers, and agricultural, fishery and forestry-related businesses to identify and apply to programs for which they are eligible.

Our Grants Advisor can help you determine what funding opportunities would be appropriate to achieve your goals, including **identifying a funding program** that fits your project and **outlining a plan of work** to meet the application deadline and all application requirements. If no known program fits, they 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.

The Advisor can help you **identify local partners** (agency staff, nonprofit organizations, or local volunteers with experience in grants and project management) to strengthen your project, help you complete a proposal, and, if funding is awarded, to manage the project.

Anyone can ask to be on the **Grant Advising email list** to get funding program announcements.

Our services are open to farmers, farmer groups and agricultural entrepreneurs in these Upper Midwest states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin. This service region is that of the NC-SARE program. Within the region special attention is given as follows:

- In Wisconsin: New or existing producers and agriculture-related businesses, as well as those working with them. Agriculture includes forestry and fisheries.
- In the Upper Midwest: Beginning farmers, limited resource farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers and/or military veterans, as well as organizations working with these farmers.

Even for deadlines later in the year, it is best to start working early with the Grants Advisor on a specific application. Get your plan of work organized early so deadlines don't sneak up on you.

Please contact **Grants Advisor** Martin Bailkey at grants@michaelfields.org. Also visit: <http://www.michaelfields.org/grant-advising-resources/>

Grants Advising is a project launched and supported by the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute since 2007, with funding from Farm Aid, USDA's Rural Development Agency, and more recently the North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. Wisconsin Farmers Union is a current project partner, offering financial support for our work with Wisconsin producers.