

## Grants Available to Vermont Farmers to Explore New Ideas

Commercial farmers from Vermont and around the Northeast are invited to submit proposals for projects that test a new idea, often by conducting an experiment, trial or on-farm demonstration. Projects can explore a wide range of topics such as pest management, soil health, adding value, cover crops, grazing, marketing, livestock herd health, and/or new production techniques. Projects should seek results other farmers can use, and all projects must have the potential to add to our knowledge about effective sustainable practices.

Applications for the grant program are posted on the Northeast SARE website at [nesare.org](http://nesare.org). Printed copies are available upon request by calling the NE-SARE office at 802-656-0471. Awards are capped at \$15,000. Funds can be used to pay for farmer's time and materials specific to the project. The deadline to apply is December 8, 2009.

Since the inception of the program, NE-SARE has funded more than 670 farmer grants, including 79 to Vermont farmers, worth more than \$2.3 million. In 2009, NE-SARE funded grants to 23 Northeast farmers for projects including research on pasturing hogs on field peas and barley; mushroom cultivation; downy mildew prevention in cucurbits; and introduction of rice as a commercial NE crop.