

Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) Scholarship

Purpose: This scholarship supports participation by county Extension faculty members in educational opportunities that will enhance their ability to conduct local extension programming relevant to the goals of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program of USDA. The overall objective of the scholarship is to help county Extension faculty members gain the skills and knowledge needed to develop and deliver relevant educational programs as a part of their assigned Extension responsibilities.

Type of Award: Up to \$500 to cover registration fees or travel costs associated with participating in an educational program of direct relevance to the vision and mission of the SARE program. The educational program can be taken anytime between August 2011 and July 2012.

Nomination Procedures: Self-nomination

Submit nomination materials via e-mail (Word document) to:

Robert Kluson, Ph.D.
Agriculture/Natural Resources Extension Agent
Sarasota County Extension Office
6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, FL 34241
rkluson@ufl.edu

Application Deadline: July 1, 2011

The nomination must include the following components, but will not be considered if the nomination narrative *exceeds three pages in length*.

1. Award Name: SARE Educational Scholarship
2. Nominee: Full name, title, address, telephone number, e-mail address
3. Description of Educational Program: Provide a description of the educational program you plan to attend.
4. Justification: Explain how your participation in this educational opportunity will enhance your ability to develop and deliver educational programs that are relevant to the Vision and Mission of the SARE program. Be specific – state the knowledge or skill that you expect to gain and explain how you see the skills or knowledge relating to the SARE program vision and mission.
 - a. SARE's **vision** is an enduring American agriculture of the highest quality. This agriculture is profitable, protects the nation's land and water and is a force for a rewarding way of life for farmers and ranchers whose quality products and operations sustain their communities and society.
 - b. SARE's **mission** is to advance – to the whole of American agriculture – innovations that improve profitability, stewardship and quality of life by investing in groundbreaking research and education.
5. Intended Application: Explain how you will use the knowledge and skills that you gain by participating in this educational opportunity in the development and delivery of educational programs relevant to SARE's vision and mission in your Extension programs. Explain how you will submit a report within 1 year after the award date that describes the status and/or impact of such Extension programs.

6. Supporting Documentation: If possible, provide a program or agenda for the educational opportunity. You may provide a link to a website if appropriate.
7. Successful completion of the online SARE National Continuing Education Program in Sustainable Agriculture at <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Courses-and-Curricula/National-Continuing-Education-Program/Course-1-Sustainable-Agriculture> This continuing education program is designed primarily for Cooperative Extension and Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel (particularly new staff members), and other agricultural, natural resource and community development professionals. It emphasizes core concepts and a basic understanding of sustainable agriculture, its goals and its relevance to every farming and ranching operation – large or small. Applicants must submit the available certificate of their successful completion of all available modules of the online SARE National Continuing Education Program along with their scholarship application.

Judging Criteria: Consideration will be given to the nominee's previous participation in educational programs related to the vision and mission of the SARE program with the intent of providing opportunities to those who have not benefitted from SARE funding in the recent past. Proposals will be evaluated based on three criteria: (1) relevance of educational content to the vision and mission of SARE, (2) evidence that the nominee will gain knowledge and skills that s/he can use to better address issues of sustainable agriculture in Florida, and (3) a clear plan for putting the knowledge or skills gained to use to develop local Extension programs that support the Florida SARE program.

Judges: The FACAA Sustainable Agriculture Committee will evaluate the nominations and propose the awardees to Dr. M.E. Swisher, co-leader of FL SARE Program, for selection.