



CENTER *for* INTEGRATED
AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

UW-Madison CIAS
1535 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-5200

March 8th, 2021

Erin Meier, Executive Director
Green Lands Blue Waters
SARE Project Lead

Dear Erin,

On behalf of the UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS), I am writing to confirm our commitment to collaborate with Green Lands Blue Waters on this 2021 NCR SARE Research and Education project titled *Match made in heaven: livestock + crops*. The project will provide much-needed information on the practices and interests of both grain and livestock producers throughout the region and help us develop projects and educational programming that will support their needs and encourage integration of these systems.

CIAS is a sustainable agriculture and food systems research center in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. CIAS fosters multidisciplinary inquiry and supports a range of research, outreach and training projects by bringing together university faculty, farmers, policy makers and others to study relationships between farming practices and profitability, the structure of the food system, the environment, and rural vitality. This project represents an excellent opportunity for CIAS to contribute its existing connections and relevant work to support the greater integration of crop and livestock production in the Midwest. We believe this project will help strengthen and integrate our state's agricultural production.

We agree to work with Green Lands Blue Waters in the following ways:

- Advise the project's survey development team.
- Using our organization's communications resources to help distribute and publicize the survey to encourage farmer participation.
- Consult on survey data analysis.
- Use project results to inform the work of the Center.

Over the three-year project, from November 2021 to October 2024, CIAS looks forward to working with Green Lands Blue Waters staff and participants to support re-integration of livestock and crop farming in the North Central region.

Sincerely,

Michel Wattiaux
Director

Twin Cities Campus

*Department of Soil, Water, and Climate
- CFANS
Borlaug Hall*

*Room 439
1991 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, MN 55108
612-625-1244
<http://www.swac.umn.edu/>*

Erin Meier, Executive Director
Green Lands Blue Waters
SARE Project Lead

Dear Erin,

On behalf of the Minnesota Office for Soil Health I am writing to confirm our commitment to collaborate with Green Lands Blue Waters on this 2021 NCR SARE Research and Education project titled *Match made in heaven: livestock + crops*. The project will provide much-needed information on the practices and interests of both grain and livestock producers throughout the region and help us develop projects and educational programming that will support their needs and encourage integration of these systems.

A primary principle of soil health is to integrate livestock, and doing so has important positive environmental and economic outcomes. There is almost nothing that would change row crop agriculture more substantially than re-integrating grazing livestock. This project will further our mission by bringing together research-based information from the project partners with an in depth understanding of farmers' current practices and future goals and interests to create collaborative educational opportunities.

We agree to abide by the project's Management Plan and work with Green Lands Blue Waters for the duration of the project in the following ways:

Participating in the project's survey development team to create a survey instrument that will generate valuable information for our own organization as well as for the project team.

- Using UMN Extension meetings and conferences to help distribute and publicize the survey to encourage farmer participation.
- Cooperatively developing and carrying out educational programming based on survey results. Cates speaks ~20 times a year to farmer and advisor audiences, and works closely with Soil and Water Conservation Districts to reach farmers via their trusted local advisors.

Over the three-year project, from November 2021 to October 2024, the Minnesota Office for Soil Health looks forward to working with Green Lands Blue Waters staff and participants to support re-integration of livestock and crop farming in the North Central region.

Best,
Anna Cates



Assistant Professor
University of Minnesota
Minnesota Office for Soil Health
Department of Soil, Water, and Climate
State Soil Health Specialist- University of Minnesota Extension
catesa@umn.edu
406 546 4830



Wallace Center
AT WINROCK INTERNATIONAL



Pasture Project
AT THE WALLACE CENTER

March 19, 2021

Erin Meier, Executive Director
Green Lands Blue Waters
SARE Project Lead

Dear Erin,

On behalf of Wallace Center at Winrock International, I am writing to confirm our commitment to collaborate with Green Lands Blue Waters on this 2021 NCR SARE Research and Education project titled *Match made in heaven: livestock + crops*. The project will provide much-needed information on the practices and interests of both grain and livestock producers throughout the region and help us develop projects and educational programming that will support their needs and encourage integration of these systems.

Wallace Center develops partnerships, pilots new ideas, and advances solutions to strengthen communities through resilient farming and food systems. We are excited to partner with Green Lands Blue Waters on this project because it directly links with our [Pasture Project](#) work to advance regenerative grazing and grass-fed value chains in the Upper Midwest. This project will further our mission by bringing together research-based information from the project partners with an in depth understanding of farmers' current practices and future goals and interests to create collaborative educational opportunities.

We agree to abide by the project's Management Plan and work with Green Lands Blue Waters for the duration of the project in the following ways:

- Participating in the project's survey development team to create a survey instrument that will generate valuable information for our own organization as well as for the project team.
- Using our organization's communications resources to help distribute and publicize the survey to encourage farmer participation.
- Participating in summarization and analysis of survey data.
- Cooperatively developing and carrying out educational programming based on survey results.

Over the three-year project, from November 2021 to October 2024, Wallace Center looks forward to working with Green Lands Blue Waters staff and participants to support re-integration of livestock and crop farming in the North Central region.

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:

A0B82C81AA914A9...
Pete Huff
Co-Director

3/23/2021

Erin Meier, Executive Director
Green Lands Blue Waters
SARE Project Lead

Dear Erin,

On behalf of Practical Farmers of Iowa, I am writing to confirm our commitment to collaborate with Green Lands Blue Waters on this 2021 NCR SARE Research and Education project titled *Match made in heaven: livestock + crops*. The project will provide much-needed information on the practices and interests of both grain and livestock producers throughout the region and help us develop projects and educational programming that will support their needs and encourage integration of these systems.

Practical Farmers' mission is equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities. We are excited to partner with Green Lands Blue Waters on this project because profitable livestock and crop integration is a pathway to prosperity on Iowa's farmland. This project will further our mission by bringing together research-based information from the project partners with an in depth understanding of farmers' current practices and future goals and interests to create collaborative educational opportunities.

We agree to abide by the project's Management Plan and work with Green Lands Blue Waters for the duration of the project in the following ways:

- Recruiting an Iowa farmer to participate on the advisory team.
- Participating in the project's survey development team to create a survey instrument that will generate valuable information for our own organization as well as for the project team.
- Using our organization's communications resources to help distribute and publicize the survey to encourage farmer participation.
- Participating in summarization and analysis of survey data.
- Cooperatively developing and carrying out educational programming based on survey results.

Over the three-year project, from November 2021 to October 2024, Practical Farmers of Iowa looks forward to working with Green Lands Blue Waters staff and participants to support re-integration of livestock and crop farming in the North Central region.

Sincerely,



Meghan Filbert
Livestock Program Manager

March 18, 2021

Erin Meier, Executive Director
Green Lands Blue Waters
SARE Project Lead

Dear Erin,

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, I am writing to confirm our commitment to collaborate with Green Lands Blue Waters on this 2021 NCR SARE Research and Education project titled *Match made in heaven: livestock + crops*. The project will provide much-needed information on the practices and interests of both grain and livestock producers throughout the region and help us develop projects and educational programming that will support their needs and encourage integration of these systems.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture's mission is to enhance all Minnesotans' quality of life by equitably ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength and resilience of our agricultural economy. We are excited to partner with Green Lands Blue Waters on this project because this project helps support all three areas of our agency's mission. This project will further our mission by bringing together research-based information from the project partners with an in depth understanding of farmers' current practices and future goals and interests to create collaborative educational opportunities.

We agree to abide by the project's Management Plan and work with Green Lands Blue Waters for the duration of the project in the following ways:

- Participating in the project's survey development team to create a survey instrument that will generate valuable information for our own organization as well as for the project team.
- Using our organization's communications resources to help distribute and publicize the survey to encourage farmer participation.
- Participating in summarization and analysis of survey data.
- Cooperatively developing and carrying out educational programming based on survey results.

Over the three-year project, from November 2021 to October 2024, The Minnesota Department of Agriculture looks forward to working with Green Lands Blue Waters staff and participants to support re-integration of livestock and crop farming in the North Central region.

Sincerely,



Kelly R. Anderson
Livestock Development Specialist/Livestock Dealer and Market Licensing
Agricultural Marketing and Development
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
(320) 808-4424

March 15, 2021

To: SARE Research and Education Grant Proposal

RE: "Match made in heaven: livestock + crops"

Dear Sir or Madam:



4924 Upton Ave S

Minneapolis, MN 55410

I write on behalf of the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota (SFA) in support of the Green Lands Blue Water proposal to North Central SARE for a grant to fund much needed research on the integration of crops and livestock. We believe that livestock integration is an incredibly important piece of improving soil health on our agricultural lands. Research like this is important to determining how best to provide educational resources and programming to encourage these practices.

The Sustainable Farming Association advances environmental stewardship, economic resilience and strong, diverse communities through farmer-to-farmer networking, education, demonstration and research. Now in its 31st year, SFA has built a durable base of farmers, food advocates, agricultural professionals, educators and health care providers who are committed to protection of water quality, land and air, and to regenerative agricultural practices. Through our Soil Health Network and local chapters, SFA provides the structure for farmers to meet, share ideas and practices, and expand local markets for the food they produce. Inspiring the public to support sustainable agriculture, local food, and nearby farmers is a universal theme for SFA programs, and we host a number of annual events.

In this program, SFA agrees to abide by the project's Management Plan and work with Green Lands Blue Waters for the duration of the project in the following ways:

- Participating in the project's survey development team to create a survey instrument that will generate valuable information for our own organization as well as for the project team.
- Distributing and publicizing the survey among our organization's members, encouraging them to participate.
- Participating in summarization and analysis of survey data.
- Cooperatively developing and carrying out educational programming based on survey results.

The Sustainable Farming Association looks forward to working with Green Lands Blue Waters staff and participants to support re-integration of livestock and crop farming in this region.

Yours Truly,

Jared Luhman, Soil Health Lead
507.271.5968 - jared@sfa-mn.org



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

University of Illinois Extension
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Decatur, IL 62521
(217) 877-6042

go.illinois.edu/dmp

March 17, 2021

Erin Meier, Executive Director
Green Lands Blue Waters
SARE Project Lead

Dear Erin,

On behalf of University of Illinois Extension, I am writing to confirm our commitment to collaborate with Green Lands Blue Waters on this 2021 NCR SARE Research and Education project titled, "Match Made in Heaven: Livestock + Crops". The project will provide much-needed information on the practices and interests of both grain and livestock producers throughout the region and help us develop projects and educational programming that will support their needs and encourage integration of these systems.

The University of Illinois Extension mission is to promote and encourage adoption of new agricultural practices which are environmentally sound, sustainable and profitable, and we are excited to partner with Green Lands Blue Waters on this project because it helps Illinois to address the issues of water quality and the economic sustainability of farmers and rural communities. This project will further our mission by bringing together research-based information from the project partners with an in depth understanding of farmers' current practices and future goals and interests to create collaborative educational opportunities.

We agree to abide by the project's Management Plan and work with Green Lands Blue Waters for the duration of the project in the following ways:

- Participating in the project's survey development team to create a survey instrument that will generate valuable information for our own organization as well as for the project team.
- Using our organization's communications resources to help distribute and publicize the survey to encourage farmer participation.
- Participating in summarization and analysis of survey data. Cooperatively developing and carrying out educational programming based on survey results.

Over the three-year project, from November 2021 to October 2024, we look forward to working with Green Lands Blue Waters staff and participants to support re-integration of livestock and crop farming in the North Central region.

Sincerely,

Douglas Gucker, CCA
Extension Educator, Local Food Systems & Small Farms

University of Illinois Extension

College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences
University of Illinois, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Local Extension Councils Cooperating
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

go.illinois.edu/dmp

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Richard Wiegand
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Paul Daigle
Marathon County

Jacob Grace
UW CIAS

Adam Abel
USDA NRCS

Contracted Staff:

Jill Hapner, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Heather Flashinski
Conference Planner

March 17, 2021

Erin Meier, Executive Director
Green Lands Blue Waters
SARE Project Lead

Dear Erin,

On behalf of Grassworks Inc., I am writing to confirm our commitment to collaborate with Green Lands Blue Waters on this 2021 NCR SARE Research and Education project titled Match made in heaven: livestock + crops. The project will provide much-needed information on the practices and interests of both grain and livestock producers throughout the region and help us develop projects and educational programming that will support their needs and encourage integration of these systems.

Grassworks Inc., mission is to provide grazing education and learning opportunities to farmers and the community with our Non-Profit membership structure. We implement farmer to farmer learning in the form of Grazier's Pasture Walks, meetings, and an Annual Grassworks Grazing Conference. We also utilize multiple partnerships with our on-line educational opportunities, print materials and vast array of partnerships with Grazing Networks, Educational Institutions, Partner Farm Organizations, and the public. Grassworks is excited to partner with Green Lands Blue Waters on this project because this effort to integrate Crops and Livestock will result in improvements to the environment, provide financial opportunities for many farmers, and can bring in new people and partners who will experience an expansion of the benefits Grazing and Cover Crops can provide to our communities. This project will further our mission by bringing together research-based information from the project partners with an in depth understanding of farmers' current practices and future goals and interests to create collaborative educational opportunities.

We agree to abide by the project's Management Plan and work with Green Lands Blue Waters for the duration of the project in the following ways:

- Participating in the project's survey development team to create a survey instrument that will generate valuable information for our own organization as well as for the project team.
- Using our organization's communications resources to help distribute and publicize the survey to encourage farmer participation.
- Participating in summarization and analysis of survey data.
- Cooperatively developing and carrying out educational programming based on survey results.

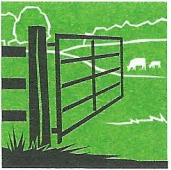
Over the three-year project, from November 2021 to October 2024, Grassworks Inc. looks forward to working with Green Lands Blue Waters staff and participants to support re-integration of livestock and crop farming in the North Central region.

Sincerely,



Kevin Mahalko
Grazier/Farmer /Grazing Educator/President of the Board of Grassworks, Inc





LAND
STEWARDSHIP
PROJECT

LEWISTON OFFICE
180 East Main St, Box 130
Lewiston, MN 55952
507-523-3366

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE
821 East 35th St, #200
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-722-6377

MONTEVIDEO OFFICE
117 South 1st St
Montevideo, MN 56265
320-269-2105

March 17, 2021

Erin Meier, Executive Director
Green Lands Blue Waters
SARE Project Lead

Dear Erin,

On behalf of the Land Stewardship Project, I am writing to confirm our commitment to collaborate with Green Lands Blue Waters on this 2021 NCR SARE Research and Education project titled *Match made in heaven: livestock + crops*.

We applaud this plan for deep, detailed research to analyze responses from both grain and livestock producers throughout the region about their current practices and their needs and interests for their operations. This overview will be vital to help us develop projects and educational programming that will support farmers' and ranchers' needs and encourage integration of these systems.

The Land Stewardship Project's mission is to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture, and to develop healthy communities. We are excited to partner with Green Lands Blue Waters on this project because its goals and objectives directly apply to the pillars of our mission. This project will bring together research-based information from the project partners with an in-depth understanding of farmers' current practices and future goals and interests to create collaborative educational opportunities.

We agree to abide by the project's Management Plan and work with Green Lands Blue Waters for the duration of the project in the following ways:

- Participating in the project's survey development team to create a survey instrument that will generate valuable information for our own organization as well as for the project team.
- Using our organization's communications resources to help distribute and publicize the survey to encourage farmer participation.
- Participating in summarization and analysis of survey data.
- Cooperatively developing and carrying out educational programming based on survey results.

Over the three-year project, from November 2021 to October 2024, the Land Stewardship Project looks forward to working with Green Lands Blue Waters staff and participants to support re-integration of livestock and crop farming in the North Central region.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sogn-Frank
LSP Soil Health Team Organizer