



State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

March 19, 2021

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

Dear Erin,

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), I am writing to confirm DATCP's commitment to collaborate with Green Lands Blue Waters on their 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 develop projects and educational programming that will support their needs and encourage integration of these systems.

As DATCP's Agriculture Program Specialist in organics, grazing, specialty crops and underserved farmer outreach, this project aligns perfectly with my position priorities, and I am excited to partner with Green Lands Blue Waters to ensure project success. At DATCP, our mission is to help grow the economy by promoting quality food, healthy plants and animals, sound use of land and water resources, and a fair marketplace, and this project will help build more resilient, sustainable and stronger agricultural systems. By pairing research-based information from project partners with an in depth understanding of farmers' current practices, values, barriers and future goals, this project is positioning itself to develop farmer-informed collaborative educational opportunities.

I 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:

- Participate 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.
- Use DATCP's communications resources to help distribute and publicize the survey to encourage farmer participation, as well as, specifically help this project reach underserved farmers to increase an equitable representation in project outcomes and findings.
- Participate in summarization and analysis of survey data.
- Cooperatively develop and carry out educational programming based on survey results.

Over the three-year project, from November 2021 to October 2024, DATCP 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,

D. Andrew Bernhardt
WI-DATCP Agriculture Program Specialist
Organics, Grazing, Specialty Crops and Underserved Farmer Outreach



Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

225 S East Street, Suite 740 - Indianapolis, IN 46202

6 October 2020

Pete Huff
Associate Director – Resilient Agriculture and Education
Wallace Center at Winrock International
via email

Re: SARE Research and Education Grant Proposal

Pete,

The Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) has a mission of improving soil health on Indiana cropland. Incorporating livestock into a cash grain production system is a practice being adopted by a growing number of the top Soil Health farmers within our network. Understanding the potential benefits of this practice – economically and environmentally – along with perceived and real obstacles to its adoption will be critical to further livestock integration into traditional grain production operations.

CCSI has a robust network of farmers, conservation staff, agronomists and others who work one-on-one with farmers and landowners to further the adoption of soil health practices. As I understand the project proposed by the Pasture Project (Winrock), the Midwest Perennial Forage Working Group, and Grassland 2.0, access to this network can help further your research and education efforts on livestock integration.

Please accept this letter as a pledge of support for your efforts. CCSI will work with the Pasture Project and partners to access farmers, landowners, and others through our network to participate in surveys as well as support your education and outreach efforts.

As a multi-agency organization, CCSI truly understand that strong farmer-facing research such as yours is critical to “getting more conservation on the ground” across Indiana.

If you need further information, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lisa Holscher
Director, Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative



March 8, 2021

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

Dear Erin,

On behalf of Green America's Center for Sustainability Solutions, 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.

Green America's Center for Sustainability Solutions run the Soil & Climate Alliance which focuses on bringing together the food and agricultural supply chain with the goals of regenerating soil, restoring the climate, and rebuilding farm prosperity. We are excited to partner with Green Lands Blue Waters on this project because understanding the needs of farmers, including what support they need to transition to more regenerative practices, is key to our work of shifting the entire food and agriculture supply chain to adopt practices that benefit soil, climate, and farmers.

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, Green America's Center for Sustainability Solutions 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. H. Dillon".

Jessica Hulse Dillon
Director Network Engagement
Soil & Climate Alliance



March 23, 2021

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

Re: Letter of Support for *Match Made in Heaven: Livestock + Crops*

Dear Erin,

Sand County Foundation (SCF) is pleased to provide this letter of support for Green Lands Blue Waters' 2021 proposal titled *Match Made in Heaven: Livestock + Crops*. The approach laid out in your proposal will complement and expand into additional states the rotational grazing efforts promoted through SCF's ongoing Wisconsin based SARE project number LNC20-440.

SCF's mission is to inspire and enable a growing number of private landowners to ethically manage the natural resources in their care, so future generations have clean and abundant water, healthy soil to support growing food demands, plentiful habitat for wildlife and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Results and deliverables completed through your proposed project will provide additional outreach and data to encourage landowners across the Midwest to adopt a more sustainable approach to livestock grazing.

Over the three-year project from November 2021 to October 2024, SCF pledges to share project results during our field days and pasture walks. Cases studies and presentations developed during our current project will be shared with your team to expand the reach. We will encourage participation from your team during our virtual field day to highlight results beyond Wisconsin.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Heidi Peterson', is positioned above the typed name.

Heidi M. Peterson, PhD
Vice-President, Agricultural Research and Conservation
Sand County Foundation



March 23, 2021

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

Dear Erin,

On behalf of Iowa Corn, 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.

Iowa Corn's mission is to create opportunities for long-term Iowa corn grower profitability, and we are excited to partner with Green Lands Blue Waters on this project because livestock is our number one customer. 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, Iowa Corn 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,

Ralph Lents, chairman
Animal Agriculture and the Environment committee



March 23, 2021

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

Dear Erin,

On behalf of the Iowa Soybean Association, 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.

Iowa Soybean Association's mission is to be the most trusted partner of Iowa soybean farmers, dedicated to expanding opportunities and delivering results and we are excited to partner with Green Lands Blue Waters on this project because this provides an opportunity for our farmers to share feedback and will provide resources to them. 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:

- Using our organization's communications resources to help distribute and publicize the survey to encourage farmer participation.

Over the three-year project, from November 2021 to October 2024, Iowa Soybean Association 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,

Bre Wagner

Bre Wagner
ISA Producer Services Coordinator



The Artisan Grain Collaborative is a network of farmers, millers, maltsters, bakers, chefs, brewers, distillers, agricultural researchers, and affiliated individuals and organizations working to strengthen a regenerative grainshed in the upper Midwest.

www.graincollaborative.com

March 19, 2020

Erin Meier, Executive Director
Green Lands Blue Waters
University of Minnesota

Dear Erin,

I am writing to affirm the Artisan Grain Collaborative's enthusiasm to participate in Green Lands Blue Waters' NCR-SARE proposal, '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 develop projects and educational programming that will support their needs and encourage integration of these systems.

The Artisan Grain Collaborative (AGC) is a network of 130+ individuals and organizations working to regionalize diversified staple crop production, processing, and consumption in the Upper Midwest. Our collective efforts have the potential to improve overall environmental conditions in the region and beyond and support rural communities while enhancing regional food security. We are excited to partner with Green Lands Blue Waters on this project because to enact the environmental change we hope to see, it is crucial that livestock is integrated into cash grain systems. Without that integration, truly regenerative agriculture is not possible. 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, AGC looks forward to working with Green Lands Blue Waters staff and project participants to support re-integration of livestock and crop farming in the North Central region.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Alyssa J. Hartman".

Sincerely,
Alyssa Hartman
Executive Director
ahartman@graincollaborative.com
www.graincollaborative.com



March 24, 2021

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

Dear Erin,

On behalf of Missouri Forage and Grassland Council, 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.

Missouri Forage and Grassland Council's mission is to promote the efficient use of forages through a variety of research, education and service programs and we are excited to partner with Green Lands Blue Waters on this project because we feel that it aids in promoting 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, Missouri Forage and Grassland Council 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Neier, President". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy S. Neier
President, Missouri Forage and Grassland Council