



November 28, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to pledge my support to serve as an advisor to Lea Zeise on her proposed NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Development Program grant. As the project evolves, I will consult on protocol development and implementation of the research components. I will advise Daniel Hayden on his work related to the project, as well as other student(s) that may be involved in the project. Further, I will help with the analysis and interpretation and data, as well as outreach events and documents.

I currently serve as an Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In that capacity, I also lead the university's Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension program focused on serving and supporting organic farmers through improving the efficiency and sustainability of all cropping systems in safe and environmentally-friendly ways. I have extensive experience with organic no-till production and cover cropping, working with both row and vegetable crops. There is both great interest and great need to further refine and promote these techniques, with farmer innovation being a primary tool to reach these goals.

To learn more about our efforts, please visit our website at www.uworganic.wisc.edu.

Sincerely,

Erin Silva
Associate Professor
Organic and Sustainable Cropping Systems