



GRAZING LANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE: Navigating the Application Process

MICHAEL FIELDS
AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE



WALLACE CENTER MISSION & VISION

MISSION

The Wallace Center brings together diverse people and ideas to co-create solutions that build healthy farms, equitable economies, and resilient food systems.

VISION

All communities have the power to nourish themselves and regenerate ecosystems through just food and agriculture systems. At the heart of these systems are dynamic networks of people connected through interdependent relationships with each other and the land.



CO-HOSTING PARTNERS

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute (michaelfields.org)

MFAI is a non-profit organization addressing the challenges of soil fertility, water quality, climate resilience, racial equity, food security, and farm success through research, policy, and education.

National Grazing Lands Coalition (grazinglands.org)

NatGLC's mission is to provide voluntary ecologically and economically sound management of all grazing lands for their adaptive uses and multiple benefits to the environment and society through science-based technical assistance, research and education.

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (sustainableagriculture.net)

NSAC is an alliance of grassroots organizations that advocates for federal policy reform to advance the sustainability of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and rural communities.



NFO HIGHLIGHTS

- Funding Agency: USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service
- Total Funding: \$22M divided into two pools
 - Pool 1: \$14M available for 3-4-year projects between \$350k and \$1M
 - Pool 2: \$8M available for 1-2-year projects between \$100k and \$300k
- No Match Required
- Indirect Recovery
 - Limited to 10% for non-profits and institutions of higher ed
 - Other types of applicants can use their NICRA
- Eligible Applicants: tribal gov'ts and organizations, nonprofits, farmer & rancher organizations, state and local agencies, land grant universities
- Applications due May 26, 2024, by 11:59 PM ET
- Notifications made by June 25 and agreements executed by September 30



ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Strong proposals will focus on the following types of activities:

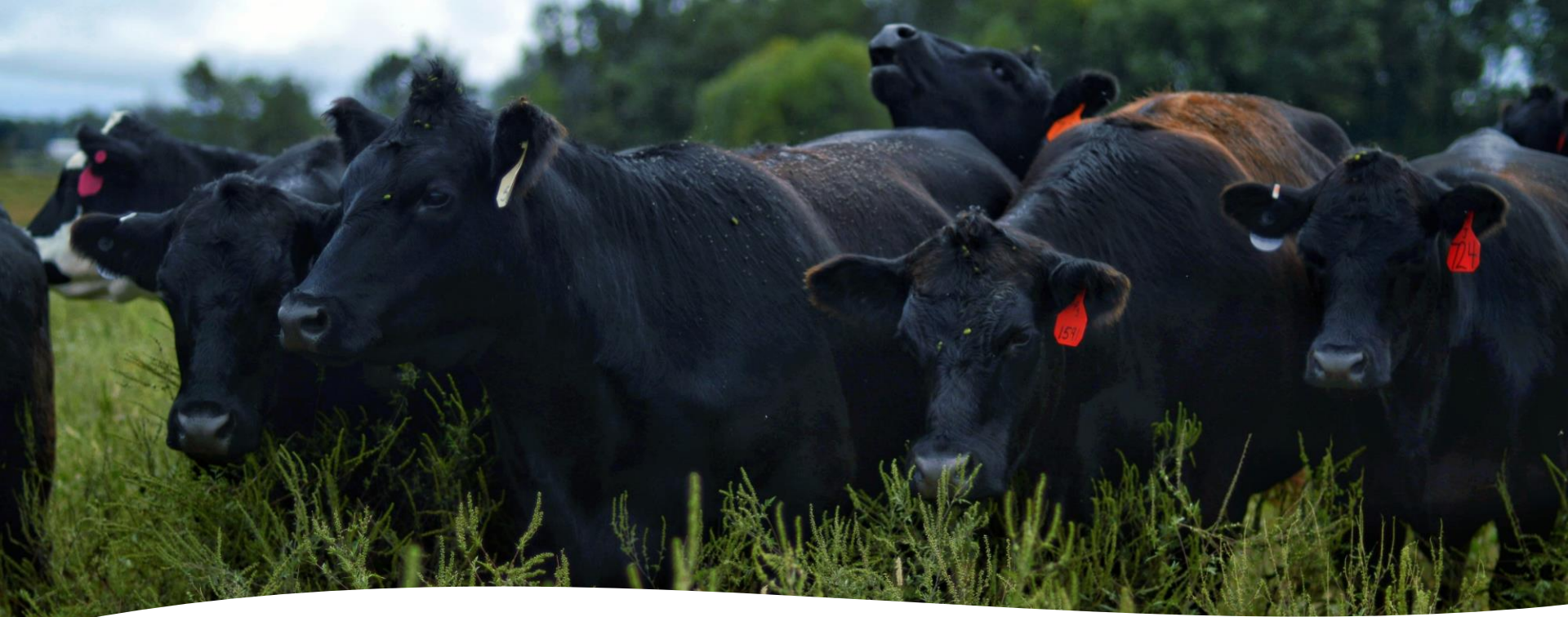
- Technical assistance
 - Write and implement grazing plans
 - Demonstrate innovation and grazing technologies
- Education (Conferences, workshops, webinars, and other educational events)
- Grazing networks (field days, pasture walks, peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, mentorship)
- NRCS Workforce Development, including mentorship, training, and apprenticeship arrangements
- Youth outreach related to grazing land management may be included to supplement producer outreach.
- **A limited amount of funds in each region may be used to conduct on-farm research as a supplemental goal for any projects conducting the above activities.



NRCS PRIORITY AREAS

Proposals must address one or more of the following priority areas:

- Addressing local natural resource concerns.
- Utilizing Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry practices and principles.
- Encouraging existing and new partnerships to advance the resource needs of underserved communities.
- Identifying and implementing innovative strategies to quantify, monitor, report on and verify conservation benefits associated with grazing management systems.
- Utilizing Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK), where applicable.



NRCS EVALUATION PRIORITIES

NRCS will place priority upon projects that:

- Promote grazing management systems.
- Have a long-term project plan for funding beyond the life of this award.
- Are led by organizations serving primarily historically underserved producers or tribal governments and organizations
- Include multi-stakeholder partnerships of three or more organizations.
- Have significant farmer and rancher involvement.
- Have strategies to quantify, monitor, report on and verify conservation benefits.



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Submission through Grants.gov - *don't wait to set up an account and familiarize yourself with the platform! Give yourself plenty of time to submit.*
- Application Requirements:
 - Project Title & Summary
 - Project Narrative (≤15 pgs. of text, ≤ 5 pgs. of figures and tables)
 - Background on your organization and any partners (incl. key personnel and at least one partner)
 - Workplan (incl. goal and objectives, timeline with milestones, indicators/metrics, and evaluation)
 - SF-424A (budget, entered directly into form on Grants.gov)*
 - Budget Narrative*
 - Other forms: Lobbying, Applicant Contact Info, Statement of Support (optional templates provided), NICRA (if applicable), Conflict of Interest (if applicable)
 - SAM Registration and UEI Number - **begin this process ASAP if you are doing it for the first time**

**NRCS has helpful guidance and examples of what these look like*



APPLICATION REVIEW

- Applications will first be screened for completeness and compliance, read the NFO carefully!
- Applications will then go through a merit/technical review, which will focus on*
 - Project consistency with GLCI purpose and priorities
 - Organizational support and partnerships
 - Project workplan
 - Budget
- Once notice of selection for funding is made, a final administrative and risk review will take place

**More specifics on evaluation criteria in the NFO!*

CURRENT GLCI GRANTEE & PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

National Center for Appropriate Technology

“Women, Livestock, and the Land–South: Connecting Underserved Farmers in the Gulf States Region”



CURRENT GLCI GRANTEE & PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Illinois Grazing Lands Coalition
"Building Illinois Grazing" Project





**ILLINOIS GRAZING
LANDS COALITION**

The Voice of Regenerative Grazing!

Illinois Grazing Lands Coalition

Christian Lovell, Executive Director





Who We Are

- **Our Genesis & Mission**
- **Mix of Public & Private Support**
- **Regional Grazing Groups Structure**
- **Key Programs**
 - **Pasture Walks**
 - **Grazing Schools**
 - **Grazing Conferences**
 - **On-Farm Consultation Visits**



Our GLCI Project

- **“B.I.G. Grant” = *Building Illinois Grazing***
- **Key Components:**
 - **Advanced Grazing School Workshop**
 - **Annual Statewide Grazing Conference**
 - **Additional Support for Regional Grazing Groups**
 - **Grazing Demonstration Trailer**
 - **Master Grazer Award Program & ILGLC Partners Program**
 - **Marketing & Promotional Efforts to Raise Awareness**



**ILLINOIS GRAZING
LANDS COALITION**

The Voice of Regenerative Grazing!

Our GLCI Project in Practice

- **Selected Work Products:**
 - **2024 Statewide Grazing Conference**
 - **ILGLC Partners Program**
 - **Grazing Demonstration Trailer**



ILLINOIS GRAZING LANDS COALITION

The Voice of Regenerative Grazing!

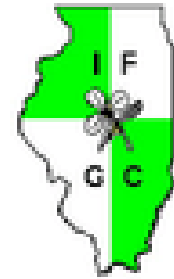
2024 Statewide Grazing Conference

- **Held March 2024 in Springfield, IL**
- **100+ attendees over two days**
- **Dr. Allen Williams, Keynote Speaker**
- **Various vendor exhibits**



ILGLC Partners Program

- **Joint ILGLC-Partner Pasture Walks**
- **Expands our Reach**
- **First Partners Program Event**
 - **Saturday, April 13 in Anna, IL**
 - **Illinois Beef Association**
 - **“Building a Strong Grazing Program”**



Embarras Grazing Partnership



Grazing Demonstration Trailer

- **Outfitted with Grazing Supplies**
- **Will be featured at ILGLC Events**
- **Allows for Hands on Instruction**
- **GLCI Funding Covered:**
 - **Trailer**
 - **Supplies**
 - **Logo Wrapping**
 - **Mileage**





**ILLINOIS GRAZING
LANDS COALITION**

The Voice of Regenerative Grazing!

Illinois Grazing Lands Coalition



Thank you!



Christian Lovell
ILGLC Executive Director
christian@ilgrazinglands.org

PROPOSAL RESOURCE & ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHTS

Wallace Center - *Coordination Spreadsheet*

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute - *Proposal Planning*

National Grazing Lands Coalition - *General Support*

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition - *Sign-on Letter*



USDA RESOURCES

1. Check out the USDA website for more info:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/glci-grazing-lands-conservation-initiative>

2. Visit [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) to view the notice of funding opportunity
(USDA-NRCS-NHQ-ST-24-NOFO0001313)

3. Contact Michael Margo (Michael.Margo@usda.gov)





QUESTIONS?



Wallace Center
AT WINROCK INTERNATIONAL

CONTACT INFO:

Wallace Center:

Pasture Project Team (pastureproject@winrock.org)

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute

Wren Almitra (grants@michaelfields.org)

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

Jesse Womack (jwomack@sustainableagriculture.net)





For questions and more information, contact
wallaceinfo@winrock.org



Wallace Center
AT WINROCK INTERNATIONAL