

SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

New Hampshire

Project Highlight: *Ranchers extend short season with rotational grazing*

Ranchers in the Northeast are faced with short grazing periods—usually ranging from four to six months—but through a 2012 SARE grant, ranchers Carole Soule and Bruce Dawson found that rotationally grazing cattle on high-energy brassicas actually extends the grazing season and increases profits.

Their cattle gained an additional 2.47 pounds per day compared to traditionally pastured cattle. This translates to an additional \$2,754 in revenue for 10 cows, at \$1.50 per pound. Weight gain on hay, a cow's standard winter diet, paled in comparison to the gain on their high-energy rotations, earning only \$1,309.50 more in revenue.

To complete this research, the ranchers divided six acres into three sections. The first was mechanically

plowed and planted with turnips, the second mechanically plowed and planted with a forage mix, and the last plowed through management intensive grazing (MIG)—placing cattle in a paddock at a high density so their hooves will turn the soil while they graze—and was planted with turnips.

The ranchers compared turnip production on the MIG plot and the plowed plot, and found that MIG does help “cultivate” the soil, but that the 10 cattle were not enough to properly turn the two-acre plot. They plan to use MIG in the future to reduce fuel, equipment and labor costs attributed to mechanical preparation of the soil.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number FNE12-767.

SARE in New Hampshire

www.nesare.org/new-hampshire

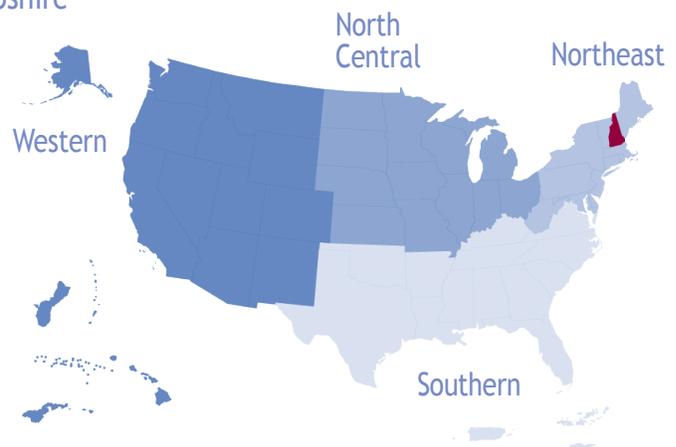
\$3.1 million in total funding

79 grant projects

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to

www.sare.org/state-summaries



SARE's four regional programs and outreach office work to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

What is SARE?

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program has been the go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who want to develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. To date, SARE has awarded \$245 million for more than 6,100 initiatives.

SARE is grassroots with far-reaching impact

Four regional councils of expert practitioners set priorities and make grants in every state and island protectorate.

SARE communicates results

SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

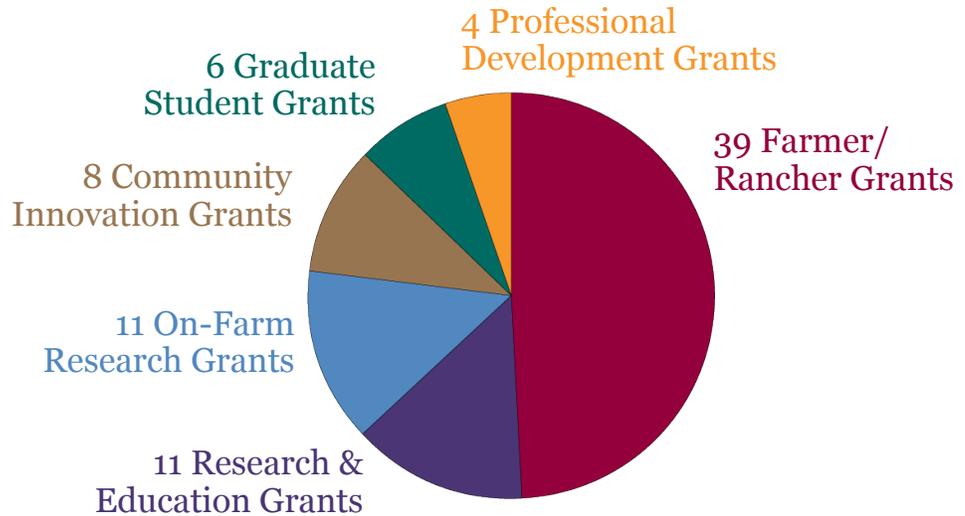


Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

SARE Grants in New Hampshire

SARE has awarded a total of **79 grants** in New Hampshire since 1988



SARE's Impact



53 percent of producers report using a new production technique after reading a SARE publication.

79 percent of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project.

64 percent of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales.

Contact Your SARE State Coordinator

SARE sustainable ag coordinators run state-level educational programs for Extension and other ag professionals, and many help grant applicants and recipients with planning and outreach. Visit www.nesare.org/new-hampshire to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org