

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

# Arkansas

## Project Highlight: *A systems solution to small ruminant parasites*

**S**heep and goats are common on small farms—2,825 Arkansas farms kept goats and 728 kept sheep in 2007—but parasite problems have led to a level of dewormer resistance that has farmers and researchers alarmed.

So, supported by SARE grants, farmers and researchers in the state are teaming up to develop integrated strategies that reduce parasitism and the use of chemical dewormers, to the benefit of producers across the South.

A 2008 SARE-funded project, led by the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Booneville, studied and promoted a range of techniques. For example, they found that sericea lespedeza, a legume, can be fed to small ruminants to reduce parasite infections, reducing dewormer costs 50 percent. And of the farmers

trained on the use of FAMACHA, a simple eye chart that gauges whether an animal is infected, 72 percent reported having less trouble with parasites.

Participating in a 2007 SARE-funded project, Marianna farmer Ben Anthony eliminated parasitism from his herd through controlled grazing—for example, making sure animals do not graze too close to the ground or when the soil is too moist. A follow-up project in 2008 showed that grazing on chicory effectively reduces parasitism also.

A fourth SARE-funded project showed that selecting sheep resistant to parasites is a key piece of the puzzle.

For more information on these projects, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project numbers OS09-045, LSo8-204, OS08-044, and OS07-039.

## SARE in Arkansas

[www.southernsare.org/arkansas](http://www.southernsare.org/arkansas)

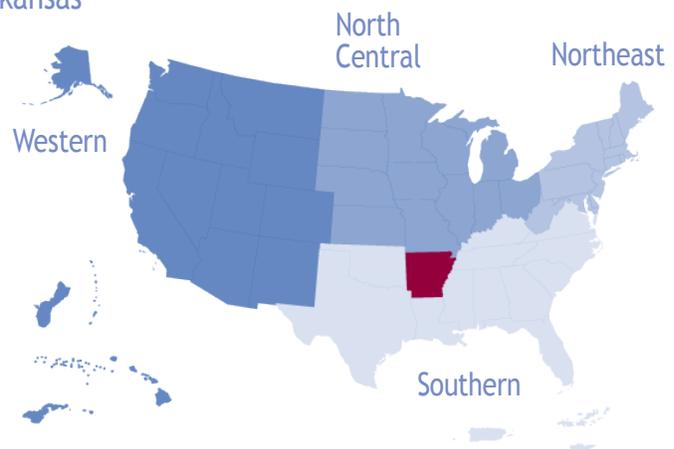
**\$5.7 million in total funding**

**79 grant projects**

(since 1988)

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

[www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://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.

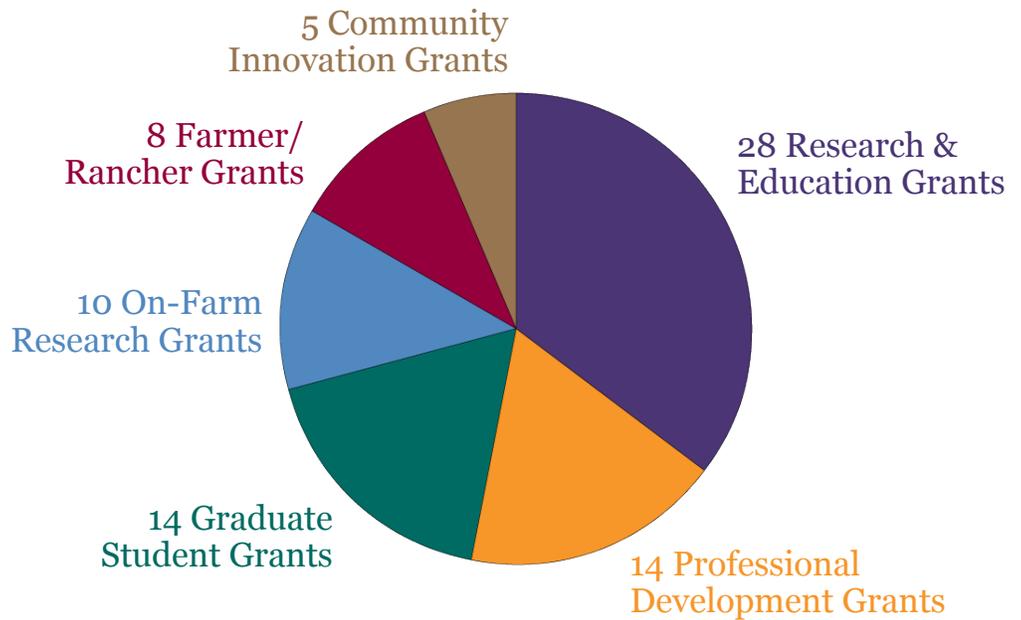


**Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education**

[www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)

# SARE Grants in Arkansas

SARE has  
awarded a  
total of  
**79 grants**  
in Arkansas  
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.southernsare.org/arkansas](http://www.southernsare.org/arkansas) to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

[www.SARE.org](http://www.SARE.org)