

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

Florida

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

Project Highlight: *Improving farm workers' quality of life*

In the ever-growing organic food industry, the majority of research dollars go toward improvements in production and marketing, with less aimed at social issues. Sensing a need, Florida Organic Growers staff used a multi-year SARE grant to equip organic farmers with tools they can use to improve quality of life for themselves and their workers through improved labor practices.

The underlying premise of Florida Organic Growers' work is that many consumers would pay more for foods that came with an ethical certification. For example, a survey of Midwestern consumers by the Agricultural Justice Project found 86 percent would pay more for a product if they knew the extra cost was going directly to farmers and farm workers.

With the SARE grant, the project team surveyed hundreds of consumers and organic farmers in the South about their attitudes toward fair labor issues, and began a public education campaign to raise awareness about labor issues.

They also developed and shared a number of valuable tools with farmers and labor groups. These include training materials on health, safety and legal issues, a farm worker quality of life assessment survey, and a living wage calculator. They also shared with farmers an established food justice certification program they could pursue. During the SARE project, 10 farmers began exploring certification.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number LS09-216.

SARE in Florida

www.southernsare.org/florida

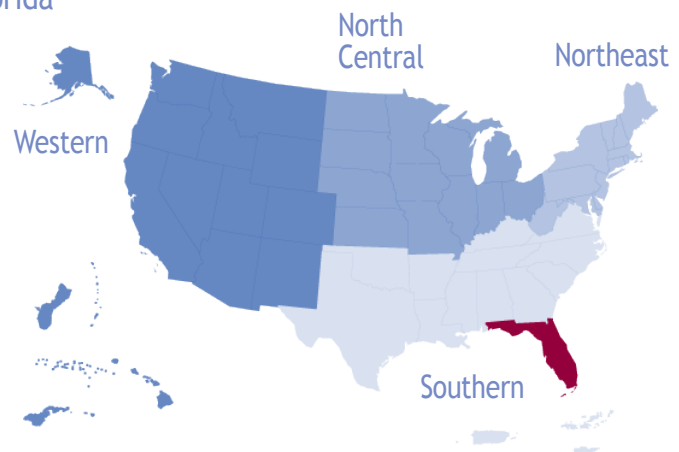
\$4.4 million in total funding

110 grant projects

(since 1988)

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

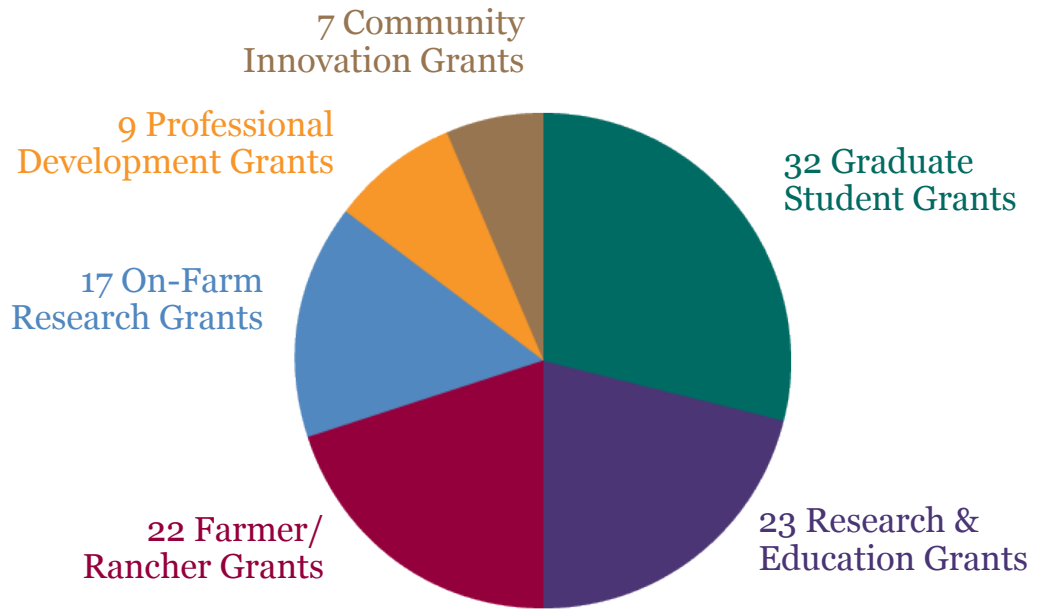
www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in Florida

SARE has
awarded a
total of
110 grants
in Florida
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/florida to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org