



Western SARE
Host Institution:

Utah State University

<http://wsare.usu.edu>

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News

For immediate release

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ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Nearly 100 key players in the Southwest agricultural community will meet June 10-11 at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn in Albuquerque to assess the sustainability of Southwest agriculture.

The gathering is sponsored by the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, or Western SARE, through a grant being conducted by Jim Dyer, director of the Southwest Marketing Network, and Dennis Lamm, an animal scientist with Colorado State University.

The conference will provide an overview of Western SARE's grant activities in the Southwest states of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Nevada. Participants then will engage in directed discussions to help chart the future of sustainability and Western SARE grant programs.

"As Western SARE begins its third decade, it aims to reflect on what it has accomplished and what challenges it should be addressing in the future," says Phil Rasmussen, program coordinator at Western SARE's host institution, Utah State University. "One of SARE's strengths has been its commitment to involve farmers, ranchers and a broad cross-section of other stakeholders in the program's design and delivery. Western SARE turns once again to its customers to reflect on its past and shape its future."

Results and feedback from the conference, one of six being held in the Western region through spring 2009, will be shared with participants and posted on the web at <http://wsare.usu.edu>.

SARE, begun in 1988, provides competitive grants that typically explore, develop or promote some aspect of agricultural sustainability, which embraces profitable farms and ranches, a healthy environment and strong families and communities. Western SARE, administered through Utah State University, is one of four regions of SARE under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Western region includes 13 states and four U.S. Pacific island protectorates.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

We invite you to attend any of the events outlined in the enclosed schedule and to interview any of the people who are attending and conducting the conference. A list of contacts and the contents of this packet, which includes background on SARE and some of its successes in the Southwest, can be found on the reverse side of this news release.

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Contents:

- Conference schedule
- SARE Coordinator profiles and contact information for each of five states
- 22 Western SARE Southwest grant profiles
- An overview of SARE
- 2008 Request for Applications
- Overview of SARE website
- SARE 20/20, a new publication celebrating 20 years of SARE
- Simply Sustainable, a 2003 publication describing Western SARE