

Western SARE State PDP Coordinators



Each of the 13 states and four U.S. Pacific island protectorates in the Western region has a SARE coordinator who promotes sustainable agriculture. They publicize SARE grant programs and provide educational opportunities for extension agents and other ag professionals using state SARE Professional Development Program (PDP) funds.

Here are the state coordinators for Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah.

Rick Gibson

Arizona PDP Coordinator
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Rick is the University of Arizona agricultural extension agent for Pinal County. He has been the Western SARE Arizona PDP Coordinator since 1994. Based in Casa Grande, he has expertise in commercial horticulture, vegetable, fruit, nut and vine crops and the Master Gardener program. Rick provides consultation regularly for small farm and limited acreage organic operations. He notes that even though Arizona agricultural producers face a sometimes inhospitable desert climate, the state is ideal for producing a wide variety of food and fiber products.

Dennis Lamm

Colorado PDP Coordinator
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Dennis was raised on a Pennsylvania dairy, beef and crops farm and moved west in 1981, joining the faculty in animal science at Colorado State University as extension beef specialist. In 1994 he became the Colorado Professional Development Program coordinator for Western SARE, the same year he attained the rank of professor. Dennis served as state assistant director of CSU's Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resource programs from 1986 to 1997, and is currently director of the Master of Agriculture-Extension Education Program at CSU.

Stephanie Walker

New Mexico PDP Coordinator
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As the extension vegetables specialist at New Mexico State University, Stephanie focuses on chili peppers and onions, genetics and breeding, mechanical harvest, enhancing pigment content, post-harvest quality and irrigation efficiency. She was named New Mexico PDP coordinator in 2004 at the same time as she joined the NMSU Extension Plant Sciences Department. In addition to helping commercial vegetable growers and related industries enhance their sustainability through a variety of activities, she is continuing her quest for the “perfect processing chili pepper.”

John Burton

Nevada PDP Coordinator
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John has been assistant director for the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension since 2000, providing leadership for programming in all subject areas, including SARE, for which he became Nevada PDP coordinator in 2003. Before moving to Nevada, he had worked as the 4-H Youth Development Program Leader in South Dakota. A U.S. Army veteran of tours in Germany and Vietnam, John has nearly 30 years of experience in community development working with Cooperative Extension in a variety of places, including Alabama, Poland, Guam, Montana and North Carolina.

Bob Newhall

Utah PDP Coordinator
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Bob was named Utah PDP coordinator in 1995, and has also served as Western SARE deputy coordinator since 1997. An extension research associate at Utah State University, he focuses on soil and water conservation, land use and hydrology. Bob's research plots, located throughout Utah, are related to diversified farming systems, including direct seeding technology, use of animal manures and compost and windbreak establishment. His research and extension activities also encompass alternative crops, agroforestry, riparian habitat restoration and range/fire rehabilitation.