



#### Western SARE

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#### Professional Development Program

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#### Western SARE Grant Categories

- Research & Education
- Professional Development
- Farmer/Rancher
- Professional + Producer
- Graduate Student
- Sustainable Farm Tours

Go to <http://wsare.usu.edu>  
Click on: Apply for a Grant

## IDAHO SARE COORDINATOR

#### Context and Overview

Sustainable agriculture in Idaho is a collaborative and multidisciplinary effort. College of Agricultural and Life Sciences faculty in research and extension engage with other faculty, producers, non-profit organizations and agricultural and environmental agencies to address some of the most challenging problems facing Idaho agriculture today. The current focus of our work in sustainable agriculture includes:

- Conserving natural resources
- Small acreage farming
- Alternatives for pest management
- Sustainable grazing systems
- Biodiesel fuels

(For more on these and other projects visit the Idaho Sustainable Agriculture website, [www.ag.uidaho.edu/sustag](http://www.ag.uidaho.edu/sustag).)

The Idaho SARE Professional Development Program (PDP) is a small, yet integral part of the statewide activities of the UI College of Agricultural and Life Sciences



Idaho Western SARE Coordinator Cinda Williams discusses sustainable ranching practices at Eaton Ranch, Colton, WA.

tural and Life Sciences related to sustainable agriculture. Idaho SARE PDP focuses on sharing resource publications and information and providing financial support to agricultural professionals to participate in a variety of educational opportunities related to sustainable agriculture. The goals are to:

- Enhance the understanding of the holistic nature of sustainability in agriculture
- Build professional expertise and capacity to address the concerns of producers and others

#### Activities and Methods

Recent activities funded through Western SARE Idaho PDP include:

[Sustainable Table Tour Across America: Home on the Range at Eaton's Natural Beef Ranch](#)

Several local organizations – UI Extension, North Central Idaho Food Sustainability Collaborative and Rural Roots – worked with Joe and Nikki Eaton of Colton, Wash., to host this educational and culinary event, in which the Eat Well Guide tours America highlighting sustainable livestock producers. Western SARE and Sustainable Table provided funds for advertising, buses, tent rental and supplies. Eaton's provided the beef and several local producers provided vegetables for the meal catered by a local sustainable food-focused restaurant, Nectar, of Moscow. The event drew 120 people and included a tour, discussion of the ranching and market approaches, a presentation on sustainable practices at Eaton Ranch and

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*Western SARE, a USDA organization, funds grants for research and education that develop or promote some aspect of agricultural sustainability, which embraces*

- *profitable farms and ranches*
- *a healthy environment*
- *strong families and communities.*

*The Western Region, one of four SARE regions nationwide, is administered through Utah State University.*

**Western SARE:**  
<http://wsare.usu.edu>

**National SARE**  
[www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)

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distribution of numerous SARE publications.

A series of workshops on "Protecting Your Farm or Ranch: Legal Liability for Direct Farm Marketers" and "Enhancing Your Direct Farm Marketing Success"

This series brought essential direct marketing and risk management education to four sites in Idaho. Moscow and Caldwell hosted workshops focused on liability and included the Risk Management Agency, insurance representatives, lawyers, health departments, Idaho Health and Welfare Food Protection program and Idaho Department of Labor. Pocatello and Post Falls offered more basic direct marketing education and marketing plan development.

Cultivating Success: Small Farms Education Program

This sustainable agriculture-focused collaborative project among UI, Rural Roots and WSU conducted a Farmer Mentor workshop for 24 small farm producers in Moscow. Farmers experienced with tours, apprentices or on-farm workshops shared their knowledge with attendees about on-farm education strategies and how to be involved with Cultivating Success.

### Positive Impacts and Contributions

The Sustainable Table Ranch tour and dinner in Wawaiwai Canyon near Colton, Wash., demonstrated a broad interest in sustainable agriculture and support of local food systems. Over 100 SARE bulletins were distributed.

Eighty farmers and ag professionals attended the liability and direct marketing workshops and copies of the Idaho



Participants in a marketing workshop at Post Falls, Idaho.

Legal Liability guide for Direct Farm Marketers were distributed to all Idaho Extension Educators. Of the participants surveyed, 94% indicated they would implement practices they learned about assessing farm or ranch sustainability on their farm or in their work. The workshops helped build relationships with Idaho Department of Agriculture, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and local health districts, which oversee food safety in processing and farmers markets, resulting in a new publication, more workshops addressing food safety and liability training for farm direct marketers in Idaho.

In the Cultivating Success Farmer Mentor Training, three UI and two WSU faculty members and three non-profit representatives teamed with farmers to discuss successful methods of growing the new generation of sustainable

farmers through on-farm education focused on curriculum-based learning, complementing our Western SARE R&E grant on the subject.

The biggest success in professional development in sustainable agriculture has been with partnering agencies, an unexpected result of reaching out to include them in program presentations and workshops. We are also connecting with a few UI faculty not previously engaged.

Outcomes include successful applications for Western SARE grants: two Farmer/Rancher grants and one Professional + Producer grant in Idaho and a Research & Education grant to a WSU professor that includes UI research and extension faculty.

### Feedback

Feedback from farmers and ranchers has been positive. Those who attended the Legal Liability workshops and the Farmer Mentor trainings said they increased their knowledge on multiple aspects of sustainable agriculture, reducing farm risks and promoting on-farm education for future sustainable farmers. Many indicated enthusiasm for working on future programs. More and more, sustainably oriented producers are connecting with Idaho extension educators who show an interest in helping them, seeing and benefiting from the wealth of information and resources that extension can provide.



A Cultivating Success cider press demo..