

# Simply Sustainable

quarterly newsletter  
from Western SARE

working to sustain western agriculture

April 2009

Volume 3, Issue 1

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### SARE

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## SUBREGIONALS HARVEST BOUNTY

Increased grant applications and higher quality are among the apparent benefits from Western SARE's grass-roots listening and education series, known as subregional conferences.

"When we began conducting these conferences in 2007, we anticipated increased constituent engagement with SARE," said Phil Rasmussen, Western SARE's regional coordinator. "But we had no idea the positive response the conferences would generate."

As evidence, he noted that of 27 Farmer/Rancher and Professional + Producer Grants approved for funding this year, 20 came from three regions where conferences had already been held. What's more, there is a clear improvement in the quality of this year's applications as



Subregional conference moderator Jerry DeWitt, left, and keynote speaker and author Michael Ableman converse in Spokane.

conference participants learn more about the program and some take part in grant-writing seminars at the close of conferences, said Rasmussen.

Grant applications are just

one measure of success of the Western SARE Subregional Conferences, launched at the behest of its Administrative Council in October 2007 in Guam engaging peo-

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## GRANTS FUNDED FOR \$2.45 MILLION

The Western SARE Administrative Council, during its winter meeting March 2-6 in Salt Lake City, approved funding for 42 grants totaling \$2.45 million in the 2009 grant cycle.

The AC funded nine Research & Education Grants totaling \$1.36 million, 21 Farmer/Rancher Grants for \$325,000 six Ag Professional + Producer grants for \$267,300 and six Professional Development Program grants totaling \$497,000.

By principal investigator,

state, title, amount funded (all grant figures are preliminary pending budget review) and project number, the Professional Development Program Grants funded are:

**Mary Corp**, Oregon, Empowering Ag Professionals Through a Beneficial and Pest Insect Train-the-Trainer Short Course Program for Oregon, \$95,635, EW09-001.

**Melvin George**, California, Ecology and Management of Grazing, An Online Course, \$83,772, EW09-004.

<b>Hawaii (9)</b>	<b>\$253,348</b>
<b>Oregon (7)</b>	<b>\$576,772</b>
<b>New Mexico (6)</b>	<b>\$483,156</b>
<b>N. Marianas (5)</b>	<b>\$ 59,090</b>
<b>Colorado (4)</b>	<b>\$327,595</b>
<b>Guam (2)</b>	<b>\$193,957</b>
<b>Washington (2)</b>	<b>\$138,065</b>
<b>Montana (2)</b>	<b>\$ 99,180</b>
<b>Micronesia (2)</b>	<b>\$ 68,112</b>
<b>Nevada (1)</b>	<b>\$ 99,724</b>
<b>California (1)</b>	<b>\$ 83,772</b>
<b>Wyoming (1)</b>	<b>\$ 49,873</b>
<b>Arizona (1)</b>	<b>\$ 14,900</b>

*continued on page 2*

## GRANTS FUNDED FOR \$2.45 MILLION

from page 1

\$83,772, EW09-004.

**Kynda Curtis**, Nevada, Economic Evaluation of Alternative (low-water-use) Crops for the Great Basin, \$99,724, EW09-007.

**Gadi V.P. Reddy**, Guam, Increasing Ecological Insect Pest Management on Guam Through Building Agricultural Professionals' Understanding of Semiochemicals, \$59,990, EW09-012.

**Jessica Davis**, Colorado, In-Service Training and Decision-Making Tools for Optimizing Livestock Mortality Management, \$97,848, EW09-013.



**Steven Newman**, Colorado, Curricula and Instructional Modules for Sustainable Small-Scale Greenhouse Production, \$60,000, EW09-014.

Research & Education Grants funded:

**Alexandra Stone**, Oregon, Bean Mold Management Tools and Rotational Systems Management Planning, \$49,865, SW09-031.

**Steven Gulden**, New Mexico, Winter Production of Leafy Greens in the Southwestern USA Using High Tunnels, \$193,879, SW09-041.

**Kevin Murphy**, Washington, Evaluation of Organic Hop Production and Agronomy in the Pacific Northwest, \$123,465, SW09-051.

**Jessica Davis**, Colorado,

Harnessing the Sun for On-Farm Fertilizer Production, \$159,023, SW09-053.

**Derek Bailey**, New Mexico, Enhancement of Sustainable Livestock Grazing Through Selection and Training, \$229,527, SW09-054.

**John Lambrinos**, Oregon, Integrating Beetle Habitat into Pacific Northwest Farming Systems, \$206,002, SW09-62.

**Bob Barber**, Guam, Island to Island, Farm to Chef: An Agricultural Marketing Proposal, \$133,967, SW09-067.

**Jeff Mosely**, Montana, Integrating Biological Control with Prescribed Sheep Grazing to Suppress Spotted Knapweed, \$49,865, SW09-068.

**Richard Bowen**, Hawaii, Voluntary Long-term Protection of Agricultural Land in Hawaii, \$82,814, SW09-102.

Farmer/Rancher Grants funded:

**Ken Love**, Hawaii, No-Chill Stone Fruit for Hawaii, \$9,528, FW09-002.

**Conrad Aquino**, Hawaii, Integrating Existing Crop and Livestock Enterprises on a Native Hawaiian Homestead, \$12,580, FW09-004.

**Pedro Ariola**, Northern Marianas, Demonstration of the Feasibility of Solar Energy in Sustainable Aquaculture to Address High Costs in Conventionally Produced Electricity, \$10,469, FW09-006.

**Robert Woody**, New Mexico, The Use of Two Mesilla Valley, NM Agricultural Byproducts to Create a Needed Organic Material Soil Amendment, \$14,750, FW09-008.

**Neena Roumell**, Hawaii, Project Fresh: Mountain View Community Gardens, \$30,000, FW09-012.

**Laura Plaut**, Washington, Local Farms, Healthy Kids – The Small-Scale, Sustainable Producer's Role in This Legislatively Mandated Opportunity, \$14,600, FW09-016.

**Rich Von Wellsheim**, Hawaii, Maximizing the Utilization of



Bamboo in the Hawaiian Islands, \$14,460, FW09-025.

**Jane Teves**, Hawaii, Evaluating Windbreaks and Cover Crops for Tropical Fruit Crops, \$12,206, FW09-027.

**Nancy Roberts**, Colorado, Alternative Fertilizer for Meadow Grass Hay, \$10,724, FW09-030.

**James Golo**, Arizona, Intensive Cultivation Through Edible Cover Cropping Integrated with Bee Keeping, \$14,900, FW09-032.

**Carolyn Hosono**, Northern Marianas, Maximizing Aquaculture Productivity with Sequential Polyculture Systems, \$14,892, FW09-036.

**Mike Omeg**, Oregon, Rodent Control in Orchards Using Raptors, \$11,066, FW09-038.

**Sarahlee Lawrence**, Oregon, Building a Local Food Cooperative Through an Interactive Website, \$15,000, FW09-040.

**Greg Nussbaum**, New Mexico, Camino de Paz Orchard & Berry Research & Education Program, \$15,000, FW09-041.

**Don Sturm**, Oregon, Managing Solitary Cavity Nesting Bees for Cane Fruit Pollination in Oregon, \$14,985, FW09-032.

**Fred Cowell**, Hawaii, Aversion Training for Sheep within Kona Coffee Orchards, \$11,760, FW09-043.

*The Western SARE  
Administrative  
Council funded nine  
Research and Educa-  
tion Grants, 21  
Farmer/Rancher  
Grants, six Profes-  
sional + Producer  
Grants and six Pro-  
fessional Development  
Program Grants.*

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## PANTIER TOPS IN UW AG COLLEGE

**J**oleen Pantier, contracts manager for the Western SARE Professional Development Program based at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, was selected as the Outstanding Staff Person of the Year for the UW College of Agriculture.

Pantier was among eight highly qualified nominees.

"I am so fortunate to have a job I enjoy and am honored to work with such an outstanding and dedicated team," she said of her work with Western SARE.

Pantier, who was presented with \$500 and a plaque, joined Western SARE PDP in September 2003. As an accounting associate, she oversees PDP administrative accounts, reviews state and Federally Recognized Tribal Extension proposal budgets, writes subcontract agreements and manages projects for the region's 13 states and four island protectorates.

Pantier is a former member of the UW Staff Senate, repre-



Pantier with PDP Coordinator Jim Freeburn.

sending constituents in the College of Agriculture, and a former student publications board member.

She is a graduate of Laramie Senior High School, where she was a member of the Plainsmen Band and Rifle Guard and Future Business Leaders of America. In 1999,

Pantier graduated from Laramie County Community College with an associate's degree in general studies. While working as a graphic artist and attending college, she was an AmeriCorps volunteer, tutoring children and adults and assisting with the English as a Second Language.

*"I am so fortunate to have a job I enjoy and am honored to work with such an outstanding and dedicated team."*

*— Jolene Pantier,  
Western SARE PDP  
Contracts Manager*

*From previous page*

**Amber Starr**, Hawaii, Quantifying Secondary Compounds in Common Pasture Vegetation for Behavior Based Grazing Management in Hawaii, \$30,000, FW09-044.

**Albino Garcia**, New Mexico, LaPlacita Gardens Composting Research Project, \$15,000,



FW09-047

**Steve Heil**, New Mexico, Organic Weed Control in Perennial Navajo Tea Green-thread, \$15,000, FW09-049.

**Rik Atalig**, Northern Marianas, Sustaining Deer Production in the Island of Rota, \$10,000, FW09-050.

**Joe Borja**, Northern Marianas, Pineapple Production in the CNMI, \$14729, FW09-051.

**Ben Borja**, Northern Marianas, Demonstrating Alternative Poultry Production System in Tinian, \$9,000, FW09-052.

Professional + Producer Grants funded:

**Virenda Mohan Verma**, Micronesia, On-Farm Implementation and Demonstration of Integrated Sustainable Agriculture and Livestock Production Systems for Small-Scale Farmers in Micronesia, \$38,220, FW09-302.

**Thomas Bass**, Montana, Composting Recommendations and Marketing Evaluation for Livestock Operations in Cold Semi-Arid Environments, \$49,315, FW09-305.

**Maria Haws**, Hawaii, Diversifying Hawaii Aquaculture with Clam and Oyster Culture, \$50,000, FW09-311.

**Steven Young-Uhk**, Micronesia, Utilization of the Tilapia Invasive Species as a Low-Cost Protein Feed to Improve Egg Production, \$29,892, FW09-312.

**Donn Randall**, Wyoming, Enhancing Rural Agricultural Family and Community Development in Wyoming Through Sustainable Biofuel Crop Production, \$49,873, FW09-319.

**Nick Andrews**, Oregon, Increasing Grower Adoption of Adaptive Cover Cropping Systems: Effects on Vegetable Production and Nitrogen Cycling, \$50,000, FW09-328.

## CHEYENNE TARGETS INFRASTRUCTURE



*“There’s a lot of misinformation on the consumer side, and we need to educate producers, for example, that adding value doesn’t necessarily mean more profit; it can mean more risk and more expense.”*

*—Cindy Garretson-Weibel, Wyoming Business Council, speaking in Cheyenne*

At Cheyenne’s Plains Hotel, on a cold, windy October day, 70 participants in the Western SARE subregional conference from Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado expressed needs for more systems research, infrastructure development and alternative energy sources.

Those are among issues that emerged from conference roundtable discussions.

Jessica Davis of Colorado State University pointed to a need not only to emphasize bio-fuels but bio-fertilization that reduces fossil energy requirements.

Helen Atthowe of Montana said participants at her table were passionate about water, suggesting that it may ultimately

be the most important issue of all.

Dan Rowe, a farmer from Colorado, observed that infrastructure for processing looms large, citing the need for commercial kitchens, mobile processing for livestock and grain processing units that make it easy to convert grain to food.

Bob Quinn of Montana urged that infrastructure and processing improvement include crops. He also noted the need for studies on climate change — not just its impacts, but how to adapt to it. Quinn also suggested that SARE might identify farms and ranches that do things well and can serve as models for other producers.

Thayne Mickelsen of Utah

said SARE needs to do a better job of promoting itself to broaden understanding.

James Barnhill, also of Utah, urged follow-up research on previous studies that asks: “If this worked in the trials, is it still working?”

Perry Miller of Montana said SARE needs to improve its relevance to large-scale agriculture. At the same time, he sees a need to focus on mid-size producers.

“Ag in the middle is a disadvantaged group that deserves some attention,” he said.

Deb Young, chair of Western SARE’s Administrative Council, urged participants to “hold our feet to the fire to make sure we respond.”



Tammy VerCauteren



Lew Grant



Helen Atthowe



Jess Alger



John Socolofsky

## SUBREGIONALS HARVEST BOUNTY

*...from page 1*

ple from four U.S. Pacific island protectorates. Conferences followed in Albuquerque June 2008, Kona September 2008, Cheyenne October 2008 and Spokane February 2009 (turn to pages 4 and 5 for summaries of Cheyenne and Spokane conferences).

Participants also said the conferences facilitated increased networking. And they lauded Western SARE’s interest in learning about needs and issues at the grassroots level. Several common threads have emanated from the conferences, namely:

- The need for true systems projects
- Research and extension on local food systems

- Water quality and quantity in some, but not all, subregions
- Engagement and education of youth.

To address these local issues, the Western SARE AC released Requests for Applications for conference participants in each subregion to apply for up to \$50,000 to pursue research and education in an area of need. So far, these applications have been funded:

- Pacific, Replacing Feed Imports with Local Feed Resources in the Western Pacific, Manuel Duguies, Guam, Principal Investigator, \$47,207, SW09-304
- Southwest, Farm to Fork:

Connecting Our Youth with Sustainable Agriculture, Dennis Lamm, Colorado, principal investigator, \$48,988, SW09-401.

- Hawaii, Sustaining Molo-kai Native Hawaiian Farms, Glenn Teves, Principal Investigator, \$47,420, SW09-502
- Mountain and High Plains, Infrastructure Support for Small Livestock Processing Facilities, Jane Ann Boles, Montana, principal investigator, \$46,796, SW09-601.

For overviews of the subregional conferences held so far, visit the Western SARE website, <http://wsare.usu.edu> and click on ‘Conferences.’



Miles McEvoy



Janie Burns



Craig Harrison



Fara Brummer



Liz O'Rourke

## *PNW Subregional Meet Draws 100 Participants*

Responding to climate change and connecting with consumers were among the wide range of topics addressed by participants in the Pacific Northwest Subregional Conference February 18-20 in Spokane.

Chad Kruger of Washington State University's Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, in a keynote presentation, raised the question, "How are we going to manage agriculture with a change in the climate?"

He cited potential impacts:

A shift from beneficial hydrology to one with more flooding and water unavailable when it's needed.

Changes in the duration of frost-free periods.

Shifts in carbon levels that may benefit crops but also benefit weeds.

Diminished tools to deal with weed, disease and pest controls.

"We may need new varieties in 8-10 years and new cropping systems in 15-30 years," he said. "Who will take on that role, especially in relation to potential budget cuts?"

Jennifer Miller of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides in Boise listed several challenges facing agriculture, and she wondered what role SARE will play. In addition to providing information for new producers and addressing regulations affecting food production, agriculture will need better connections with consumers.

"We need to find new ways to appeal to customers' values," she told the group, "to connect eaters and producers."

In a third keynote address, Larry Thompson of Thompson Farms in Damascus, Oregon, described how his berry and vegetable operation is con-

necting with consumers. The farm sells produce from 45-50 different crops through seven farmers markets in the Portland area, three farm stands and four hospitals. Sales at the first hospital started three years ago, and now Thompson's are the only stands on the campuses of the four hospitals. Customers are doctors, nurses, patients and outpatients.

"This is a great time to push local food," said Thompson. "At the hospitals, we have lines all the hours we're open. People in the health industry realize the benefits of locally, sustainably produced foods."

For a review of issues emerging from roundtable discussion at the conference and coverage of these and other speakers, visit the Western SARE website, <http://wsare.usu.edu>, and click on 'Conferences.'



*"We know climate change is happening, but what does that mean? Our primary issue may not be yields, but all of the things that give us problems, like powdery mildew, codling moth or diseases we haven't even seen."*

— Chad Kruger, WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, speaking in Spokane

### Mountain & High Plains Priorities

- Foster regional livestock processing plants and infrastructure of mobile facilities
- Fund systems research and grants running for longer terms
- Encourage better integration of local crop and livestock systems
- Develop model farms that demonstrate sustainable practices
- Fund research that can increase the value of production and decrease the cost of production
- Explore energy balance on conventional versus integrated on-farm energy use.

### Pacific Northwest Priorities

- Develop local/regional infrastructures for processing, cleaning, distributing
- Conduct systems research on many topics
- Support projects that develop local food-sheds
- Facilitate on-farm trails, demonstrations and farmer-to-farmer events
- Support whole-farm energy and nutrient systems
- Support regional food and farm enterprise and innovation centers
- Provide funding support for mentors to build community relationships and apply for grants

## HEDBERG NAMED SARE DIRECTOR



*“With the idea of sustainable agriculture, it’s kind of like apple pie, nobody can disagree with you.”*

— *Mike Smith (above), Wyoming PDP Coordinator for Western SARE, quoted in the Wyoming Livestock Roundup*

Capital Hill veteran **Rob Hedberg** has been named director of National SARE, succeeding Phil Rasmussen, who had served as acting director following the departure of Jill Auburn in November 2008.

Hedberg was previously Science Policy and Legislative Affairs Advisor to Colien Hefferan, administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service.

Before joining CSREES, he was Director of Science Policy for the Weed Science Society of America and, before that, business manager for Agway, a leading regional farm input cooperative in Vermont.

Hedberg received a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University in crop and soil science and a master’s in plant science from the University of New Hampshire.

He holds a certificate of special studies in administration from Harvard University.

♦♦♦♦

Western SARE has named two new members to its Administrative Council, **Larry Cundall**, a rancher from Glendo, Wyoming, and **Dennis Alexander**, State Conservationist for New Mexico with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Alexander, a native of Missouri, succeeds Gus Highbanks, former state con-



Dennis Alexander of New Mexico.

### Reports on SARE and Ag Sustainability



New SARE Director Rob Hedberg.

servationist in Washington State.

A graduate of Truman State University, Alexander began his career in Missouri in 1972 as a soil conservation technician. He worked in various locations in Missouri before transferring to Lakewood, Colo., in 1995 as assistant state conservationist for operations. In 2002, he was named assistant state conservationist for programs in Colorado, advancing to his current position as New Mexico state conservationist in 2006.

He is a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and last year received from the Bureau of Land Management in New Mexico the Restore New Mexico Award in recognition of NRCS support for landscape restoration.

Cundall, who runs a cross-bred cow herd with his wife Ruthie on deeded and leased land in eastern Wyoming, succeeds Colorado rancher Mark Frasier on the Western SARE AC.

As a forward-thinker, he is involved in wind energy development as head of the Glendo Wind Energy Association (featured in a *New York Times* article last November) and is one of the first ranchers in the

area to have an approved plan for carbon sequestration on his ranch.

Cundall is a past president of the Wyoming Beef Cattle Improvement Association and is a past recipient of the association’s producer of the year. He currently serves as chair of the University of Wyoming Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center advisory committee and is a member of the Platte County FSA committee.

He continually strives to improve his ranch, installing irrigation improvements, water pipelines, stock tanks, cross fencing and shelterbelts.

♦♦♦♦

Wyoming Professional Development Coordinator **Mike Smith** was featured in Feb. 28 article in the *Wyoming Livestock Roundup*, in which he provided a broad overview of Western SARE and its grant options.

“Your definition of sustainability might be different from mine or anybody else’s, and sustainability in your environment might be quite a bit different than the guy’s in the next country or state,” Smith was quoted as saying. “With the idea of sustainable agriculture, it’s kind of like apple pie, nobody can disagree with you,”

♦♦♦♦

Signs that sustainability is deepening its penetration into mainstream vernacular are found in recent articles. *Restaurants and Institutions* magazine last October ran a six-page special report titled, “The Era of Sustainability.” And the *New York Times*, in a front page article in its March 22 Sunday Business section asked the question, “Is a Food Revolution Now in Season?” The feature-length article frequently cites the impact of “sustainable food advocates” and quotes, among others, **Ferd Hoefner**, policy director of the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition.

## A TRAIL RIDE ON HOPI RANGELANDS

Approaching the highest point on Hopi Tribal lands, two dozen riders reined their horses in and out of pinon-juniper woodlands on the high desert rangelands.

The riders, nearly half in their teens, had been winding their way up ravines and along rocky ridges since early morning, experiencing Hopi rangelands firsthand as part of the Hopi Trail Ride, a Sustainable Agriculture Tour, June 26-27, 2008, funded by a grant from Western SARE.

"We're trying to expand the rangeland experience of the Hopi ranchers, to bring them out and show them something," said grant recipient Dennis Becenti, a Navajo who works as range conservationist for the Hopi Office of Range Management/Land Operations.

The trail ride was the first grant funded under Western SARE's Sustainable Agriculture Tour program, begun in 2008 to enhance farmer and rancher networking with other producers, researchers and agricultural professionals.

Ten such grants were funded in the first round of providing sustainable ag tours in places like Colorado, California and the Northern Mariana island of Rota. The Western SARE Administrative Council, at its March 2-5 meeting in Salt Lake City, authorized another \$20,000 for the tours.

The Hopi Trail Ride not only provided a close-up look at the soils and plants types at elevations ranging from 5,000 to more than 7,000 feet, presentations by range specialists like Robert Adams added depth to the observations.

"Overall, the trail ride was a great success," said Adams. "The people that went along all got a different perspective on the land base."

The riders stopped for a lunch break at Cactus Valley



The day-and-a-half trail ride included several stops for range education.

### A Western SARE Grant Profile



Tour Coordinator Dennis Becenti.

"Lookout Point," then rode to Zucchini Peak and Walk a Mile Spring, arriving at Camp Mazzie where they were joined by more participants to spend the night.

Each stop provided a teaching opportunity on sustaining Hopi rangelands, where grazing provides forage for the tribe's commercial cattle operations.

- Soil types, plant growth and revegetation near Peabody Coal Mine
- Tree species and growth patterns
- Noxious and invasive weed growth, control and reseeding with native vegetation

- Traditional crops, growing methods and irrigation

That evening, miles from the nearest town, campers dined on traditional food, listened to live 'Country Indian' music and watched a PowerPoint tribute to Arnold 'Arnie' Masawistewa, a Hopi range technician and drummer in the band, who passed away in 2006.

"Arnie was into trail riding," said Becenti. "He wanted to get people out on the range. He grew up ranching and always expressed quality over quantity. He would have enjoyed the trail ride, especially seeing the number of youth who participated."

Becenti said the trail ride will be repeated in 2009, perhaps closer to town as a way to increase participation.



Youth comprised nearly half of the riders.



*"Overall, the Trail Ride was a success. The people that went along all got a different perspective on the land base."*

*—Robert Adams  
(above), Range Technician, Hopi Office of Range Management/Land Operations*



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 Western Sustainable  
 Agriculture, Research,  
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*SARE is funded by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), USDA*

## Western SARE Announces 2010 RFA

**W**estern SARE has opened Requests for Applications for the 2010 funding cycle, with six categories of competitive grants. Congressional funding remains level with the previous year's at just under \$3 million available for competitive grants. Applications are at <http://wsare.usu.edu>, under 'Apply for a Grant.'

**Research & Education Grants.** Pre-applications are due June 12, 2009. After scrutiny by a technical review panel, highly rated applications are selected to submit full applications, due Nov. 13, 2009. Full applications reviewed in January 2010. Western SARE Administrative Council selects applications for funding March 2010.

**Professional Development Program Grants.** PDP grants are limited to \$60,000 for single-state applications, while applications with meaningful involvement from more than one state can apply for

up to \$100,000. Grants can run for up to three years, with final year focused on project evaluation. Applications due Nov. 3, 2009; technical review January 2010. Western SARE AC selects applications for funding in March 2010.

**Farmer/Rancher Grants.**

Applicants can seek up to \$15,000 as a single producer, \$30,000 for three or more. The deadline is Dec 4, 2009. A technical review will be held in January 2010, and applications will be selected for funding in March 2010.

**Professional + Producer Grants.** Applicants can seek up to \$50,000 and must have at least five producers involved. Applications due Dec. 4, 2009. Technical review will be held in January 2010, and applications will be selected for funding in March 2010.

**Graduate Student Grants.** Graduate students may apply for a maximum of \$25,000, and grants may last up to two years. Those eligible are mas-

ters or Ph.D. students enrolled full time (as determined by the institution's requirements) at accredited colleges or universities in the Western region. Applications are due May 29, 2009. Technical review panel July 17, 2009. Western SARE AC selects applications in August 2009, and award notification will be made in September.

**Sustainable Ag Tour Grants:** Designed to enhance farmer and rancher networking with other producers, researchers and agricultural professionals. Targeted for producers to conduct or attend on-farm demonstrations or educational outreach tours in the area of sustainable agriculture. Applicants are eligible for up to \$2,000, and the grants are funded for one year. A review panel composed of Western SARE AC members will assess applications as they are submitted, and funds will be utilized until exhausted.