

SARE: advancing the frontier of...

Organic Farming

Organic agriculture is a whole-farm management system that replaces synthetic inputs with methods that mimic natural ecological processes. Demand for organic food is far outpacing supply, as U.S. sales in this dynamic sector have nearly quadrupled in the last decade. All 50 states have USDA-certified organic farmland, totaling more than 4 million acres of range, pasture and cropland. SARE was the first federal program to fund research in organic agriculture and, since 1988, has invested in hundreds of organic research and education projects.

SARE Project Sampler

To view the entire organic farming portfolio, visit www.sare.org/projects. For selected grants, see the reverse side.

North Central SARE: SARE funds training in organic across the country: A two-year effort in Ohio used workshops and farm tours to teach extension agents, growers and others key strategies for successful transition to organic grain and livestock production. See www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number ENC99-040.

Northeast SARE: SARE-funded research at the Rodale Institute in Pennsylvania is helping solve a conundrum for organic farmers: How to control weeds and add natural inputs, such as compost, without using soil-eroding tillage. See www.sare.org/projects, and search for project numbers LNE06-244 and LNE08-268.

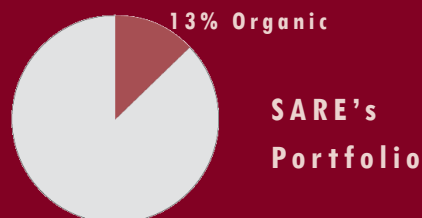
Western SARE: Large-scale vegetable growers in California's Salinas Valley successfully converted to organic, thanks to a SARE-funded research-grower initiative at the University of California. The researchers monitored fields and provided feedback to the growers, who, in turn, adapted their strategies. See www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number SW01-057.

Southern SARE: In North Carolina long-time tobacco grower John Vollmer used a SARE grant to research organic methods and "unhook" from tobacco by growing organic strawberries. Vollmer's successful transition allowed him to keep the farm in the family. See www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number FS98-083.

Getting the Word Out

SARE's Professional Development Program has provided Extension training in organic in nearly every state. Further, SARE has published an array of materials on organics, including a 32-page bulletin, *Transitioning to Organic Production*. SARE books such as *Building Soils for Better Crops* and *Managing Cover Crops Profitably* are rich with information on best practices.

An independent study found that the SARE organic portfolio—about 13 percent of SARE's projects—provides what organic farmers need most: practical research and new innovation for best practices.



SARE's mission is to advance — to the whole of American agriculture — innovations that improve profitability, stewardship and quality of life by investing in groundbreaking research and education.

SARE's Organic Farming Portfolio

Selected Grants

WESTERN REGION

Organic Seed Production: Materials, Training and a Seed Database - Professional Development Grant

Brian Baker, Organic Materials Review Institute, Eugene OR, EW06-010, \$97,555

Alternaria Control Using Biocontrol Yeast in Organic Pistachio Production Systems - Research & Education Grant

Dan E. Parfitt, UC Davis, Davis CA, SW06-091, \$110,286

Effects of Weed Communities in Conventional and Organic Agricultural Systems - Graduate Student Grant

Fred Pollnac, Montana State University, Bozeman MT, GW06-026, \$7,536

Organic Seed Producer Database - Farmer/Rancher Grant

Don Tipping, Seven Seeds Farm, Williams OR, FW06-309, \$15,960

Integrated Soil and Crop Management for Organic Potato Production - Research & Education Grant

Dan Sullivan, Oregon State University, Corvallis OR, SW05-091, \$196,067

SOUTHERN REGION

Improving Sustainability of a Long-Term Certified Organic Cash Grain Production System - Farmer/Rancher Grant

W. Todd Henley, Hillsborough Farm, Walkerton VA, FS08-225, \$8,828

"Gathering" of Homestead Economic and Entrepreneurs of Food Based, Organic Foods and Other Related Businesses

- Community Innovation Grant

Martha Pile, UT Extension of Montgomery County, Clarksville TN, CS07-056, \$10,000

Building Organic Agriculture Extension Training Capacity in the Southeast - Professional Development Grant

Elena Garcia, University of Arkansas CES, Fayetteville AR, ES07-088, \$195,000

Cover Crop Mulches for No-Till Organic Onion Production - Graduate Student Grant

Emily Vollmer, NCSU, Raleigh NC, GS07-058, \$10,000

Transition Strategies for an Organic Peanut-Grain Cropping System - Research & Education Grant

Craig Kvien, 1862 Land Grant, Tifton GA, LS07-198, \$220,000

NORTHEAST REGION

UNH Organic Dairy Farm Agroecosystem Study - Research & Education Grant

John Aber, UNH, Durham NH, LNE08-277, \$379,087

Use of Alternative Row Covers and Pollinators to Manage Insect Pests and Improve Cucurbit Production and Profitability

- On-Farm Grant

Michele Gauger, PASA, Millheim PA, ONE08-083, \$9,764

Using High Tunnels to Produce Blackberries Organically in West Virginia - Farmer/Rancher Grant

William Jett, Lost Creek WV, FNE08-638, \$6,318

Learning from Farmer Innovation in Nitrogen Fixation for Improved Nutrient Management on Organic Farms

- Research & Education Grant

Laurie Drinkwater, Cornell University, Ithaca NY, LNE07-252, \$99,108

Whole Farm Nutrient Planning for Organic Farms

- Professional Development Grant

Elsa Sanchez, PSU, University Park PA, ENE07-104, \$96,756

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Evaluating Rye Germplasm for Use as a Cover Crop in the Upper Midwest - Graduate Student Grant

Michael Kantar, University of Minn., St. Paul MN, GNC07-075, \$9,898

Grassfed and Organic Beef: Production Costs and Profit Potential - Research & Education Grant

Mary Holz-Clause, Iowa State University, Ames IA, LNC07-289, \$149,966

Growing Organics: Integrating Science, Farmer Indigenous Knowledge, and Experience in Expanding Organic Production in Ohio - Research & Education Grant

Carol Goland, Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association, Columbus OH, LNC07-288, \$140,416.75

Agro-Forestry Project: Incorporating Grass-Hay Alley Cropping with Organic Nut Production - Farmer/Rancher Grant

Raymond Hansen, Prairiewood Farm, Ogden IA, FNC06-624, \$5,985

Conservation Planning Training for Private Sector Agronomy Service and Local Conservation Agencies

- Professional Development Grant

Tim Gieseke, The Minnesota Project, Inc., St. Paul MN, ENC05-086, \$53,562

For information on hundreds more SARE-funded organic farming projects (1988-2008),

search the SARE project database: www.sare.org/projects

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