

SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

Alabama

Project Highlight: *Creating a stronger pasture-based goat industry*

Pasture-based goats are becoming an increasingly important part of small-scale farming in Alabama. The total herd size grew 59 percent from 2002 to 2007, when 80,400 goats were being raised on 4,100 farms.

However, poor knowledge of forages and pasture management leads many goat farmers into a costly situation: relying on hay and commercial feed up to six months out of the year, and dealing with significant parasite problems.

But Tuskegee University researchers and Alabama goat farmers are changing that. With multiple SARE grants, they are conducting new research into improved pasture management strategies, and are sharing their knowledge with educators and farmers.

With a 2002 grant, Tuskegee researcher Sandra Solaiman showed farm-

ers could double their per-goat profit through forage diversification. Now, she is using a 2009 SARE grant to explore how forage diversity can improve a pasture's soil nutrient balance, provide high-quality feed and reduce parasite populations.

With a 2011 SARE grant, fellow Tuskegee researcher Uma Karki is establishing cool-season grasses and legumes at two farms in order to see which species thrive, and which ones goats prefer. With another grant, she and collaborators in two states are developing comprehensive training curricula for year-round forage production, and are training field-level educators.

For more information on these projects, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project numbers OS11-059, ES11-107, LS09-223 and LS02-141.

SARE in Alabama

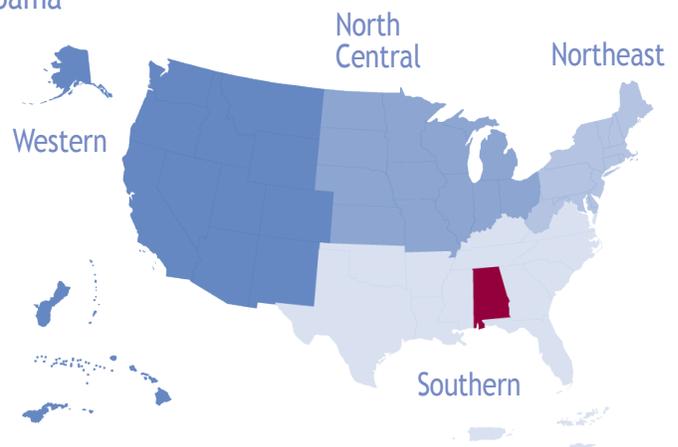
www.southernsare.org/alabama

\$3.2 million in total funding

71 grant projects

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to www.sare.org/state-summaries



SARE's four regional programs and outreach office work to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

What is SARE?

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program has been the go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who want to develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. To date, SARE has awarded \$245 million for more than 6,100 initiatives.

SARE is grassroots with far-reaching impact

Four regional councils of expert practitioners set priorities and make grants in every state and island protectorate.

SARE communicates results

SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

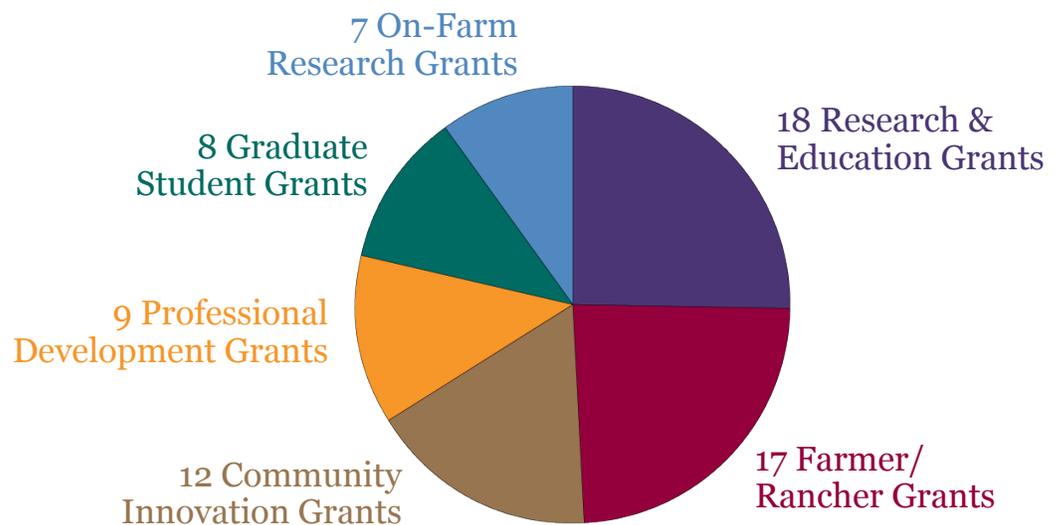


Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

SARE Grants in Alabama

SARE has
awarded a
total of
71 grants
in Alabama
since 1988



SARE's Impact



53 percent of producers report using a new production technique after reading a SARE publication.

79 percent of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project.

64 percent of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales.

Contact Your SARE State Coordinator

SARE sustainable ag coordinators run state-level educational programs for Extension and other ag professionals, and many help grant applicants and recipients with planning and outreach. Visit www.southernsare.org/alabama to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to
www.SARE.org