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

Wyoming

Project Highlight: A Better Way to Identify Livestock Disease

Despite measures that had successfully eradicated brucellosis in cattle and stopped its spread to humans, the deadly disease can still be found in elk and bison in the the greater Yellowstone area. Over the past 10 years, the disease began spreading to local livestock, leading to expensive quarantines and economic losses to producers as they choose to, or are required to, euthanize cattle to undergo imperfect and time-consuming diagnostic testing. A positive result from the currently used test does not guarantee that the animal was in fact infected.

To reduce these burdens on ranchers, University of Wyoming graduate student Noah Hull worked to increase the ability to identify animals infected with brucellosis in the greater Yellowstone area by creating and validating a new molecular assay. As the project progressed, Hull found that this test was twice as effective as the traditional method at identifying animals that were truly infected. Perhaps more meaningfully to producers, the new testing procedure can be done on animals while still alive, which could lead to a reduction in culling. The turnaround time for results is much faster as well. To spread the word about his findings, Hull held four stakeholder meetings in the state that reached 120 participants.

For more information on this project, see **www.sare.org/projects**, and search for project number GW16-038.



\$2.8 million in total funding

50 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 over \$287 million to more than 7,000 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.



Research & Education

www.sare.org



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.westernsare.org/wyoming to learn more.

Caitlin Youngquist University of Wyoming cyoungqu@uwyo.edu



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

SARE is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).