

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

Tennessee

Project Highlight: *Adding value to organic milk production*

Milk is one of the biggest segments of the organic food industry, but the majority of the \$765 million in organic milk sales goes to Northern states. Recognizing a lack of information on organic milk production in Southern states is holding back the local industry, researchers from the University of Tennessee (UT) set out to add to the scant information already available.

Using SARE funds, UT researchers focused on forage production systems, a key component of an organic dairy. They tested different forage mixes for dairy cows and found mixes of annual forages, perennial forages and cool-season perennial legumes that can meet the various needs of local producers.

Feedback from field days helped researchers identify pros and cons of each

system. The annual forage mix, for example, provided more weed control than the other two mixes and introduced the nitrogen-fixing cowpea to farmers who had not used it as forage before. Other producers were interested in the perennial mix, as it required less management than the annual mix, thereby reducing time in the field and soil disturbance.

This innovative research added to a body of knowledge that will be useful for organic livestock producers, depending on their specific objectives and capabilities. UT Extension agents are now able to advise livestock producers on the proper mix of forage for dairy cows based on scientific research in their region.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number OS11-057.

SARE in Tennessee

www.southernsare.org/tennessee

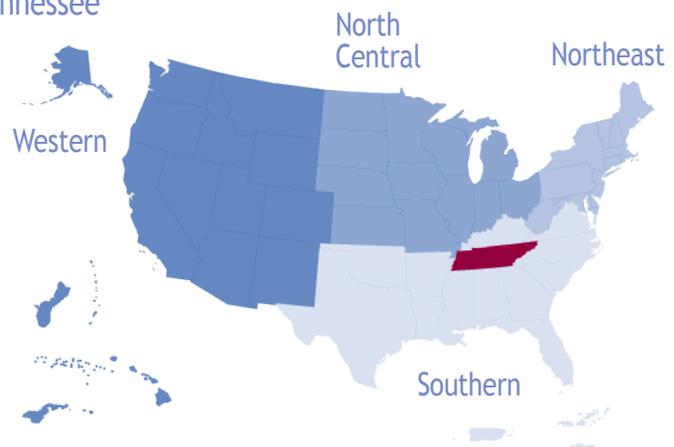
\$1.9 million in total funding

53 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

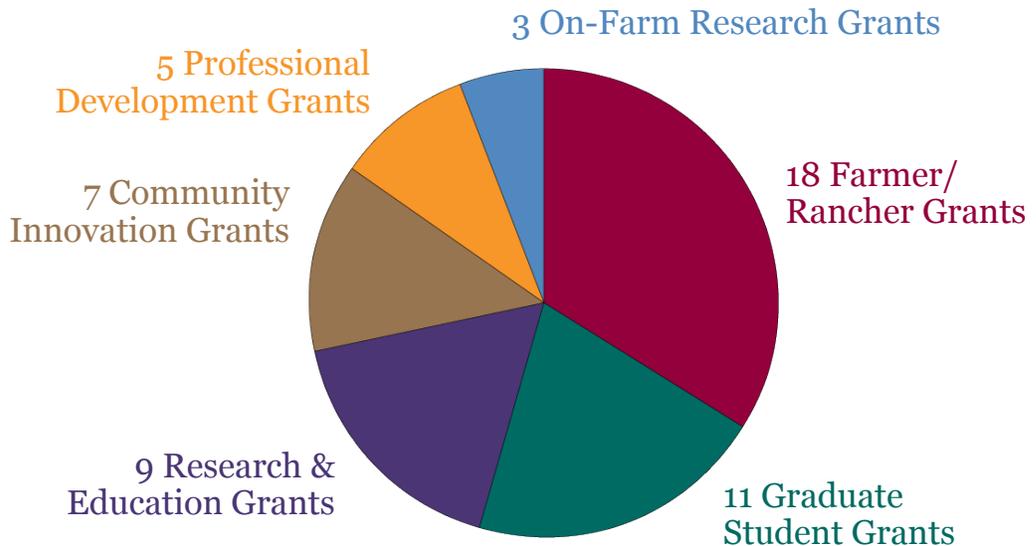
SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.



www.sare.org

SARE Grants in Tennessee

SARE has awarded a total of **53 grants** in Tennessee 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/tennessee to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org