

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

New Mexico

Project Highlight: *Year-round vegetables in northern New Mexico*

New Mexico State University researchers working with local farmers are finding cost-effective ways to grow vegetables year-round in high tunnel greenhouses, opening the door to off-season premiums for their produce.

Del Jiminez and Steve Guldán of the Alcalde Research Center received a 2009 SARE grant to construct different designs of high tunnels in several locations throughout northern New Mexico. Their findings show that vegetables such as spinach and lettuce can be grown in an inexpensive manner on a year-round basis.

As a result of the project, several more high tunnel greenhouses have been constructed in northern New Mexico. The outcome has been fresh, locally grown produce for farmers markets and family consumption.

“The high tunnels have allowed area farmers to capitalize on the year-round farmers market in Santa Fe, where local produce commands a premium price during winter months,” Guldán says.

Previously, Jiminez worked with Espanola farmer Don Bustos on a 2005 SARE-funded project, in which Bustos outfitted his greenhouses with an innovative solar-powered heating system. The system cut his annual greenhouse heating bill from \$2,000 to almost nothing, and, because it allowed him to grow year-round, boosted his annual yields 30 to 40 percent. Along with selling his produce at area markets, Bustos provides some to local schools.

For more information on these projects, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project numbers FW05-011 and SW09-041.

SARE in New Mexico

www.westernsare.org/new-mexico

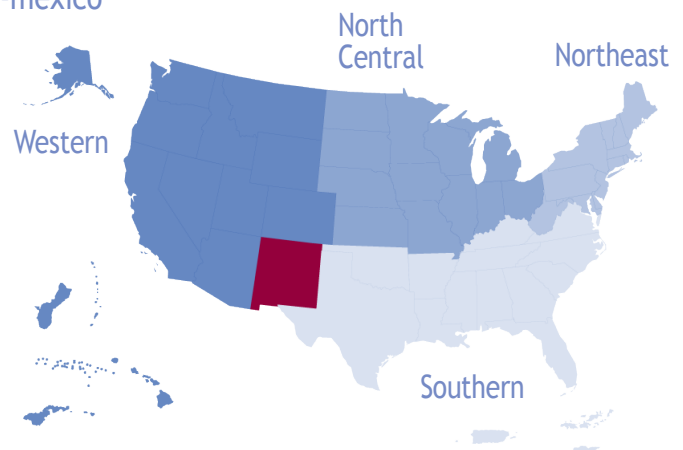
\$2.2 million in total funding

60 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.

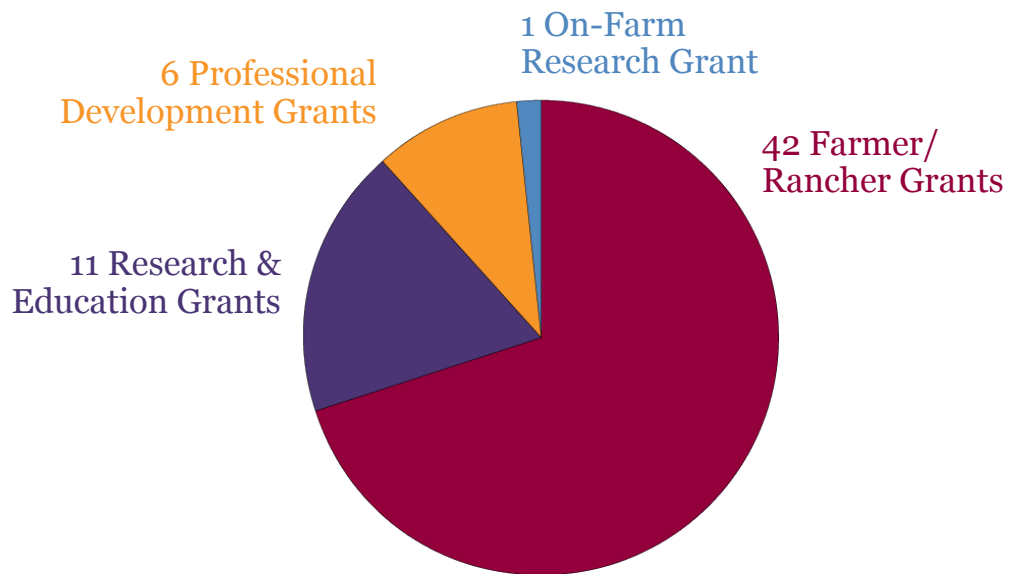


Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

SARE Grants in New Mexico

SARE has awarded a total of **60 grants** in New Mexico 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.westernsare.org/new-mexico to learn more.

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