

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

Nevada

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

Project Highlight: *Reducing water use through alternative crops*

In Nevada, the driest state in the country, people largely depend on groundwater from the Colorado River for farming, household and industrial uses. But as the population grows and rainfall remains low, water tables are falling and more water is being diverted from agricultural to residential uses.

Recognizing a pressing need to farm using less water, a team from University of Nevada and Utah State University used a 2009 SARE grant to develop a curriculum and manual that addresses profitable, water-efficient farming methods for the Great Basin region. These materials, intended for educators, focus on the use of alternative crops.

Over 1,250 copies of the curriculum have been distributed—information that has now been passed along to hundreds of farmers. After receiving the training,

over a third of the educators said that they assisted producers in implementing low-water-use crops and taught farmers how to measure the effects of alternative crops on water and soil quality, in addition to profitability.

The curriculum outlines steps to complete a profit analysis based on crop, soil type and irrigation costs, and farmers learn how to select alternative crops specifically for their production. Farmers can then use a calculation to analyze the market potential for the crop that they choose. Knowledge is power, and those farmers who have reduced their water needs will be more resilient as this precious resource becomes more scarce.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number EW09-007.

SARE in Nevada

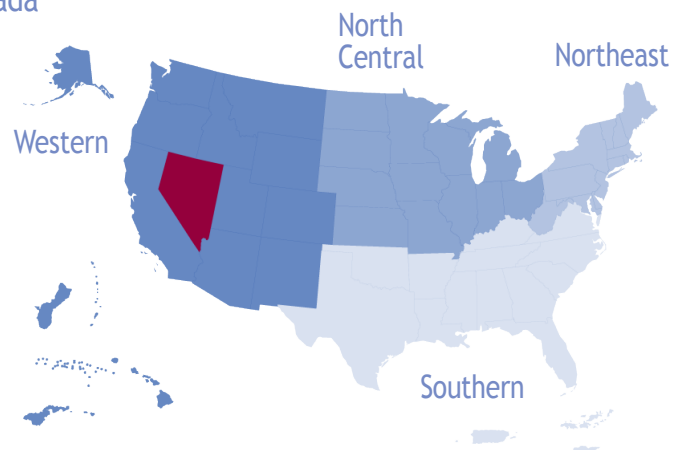
www.westernsare.org/nevada

\$642,972 in total funding

13 grant projects

(since 1988)

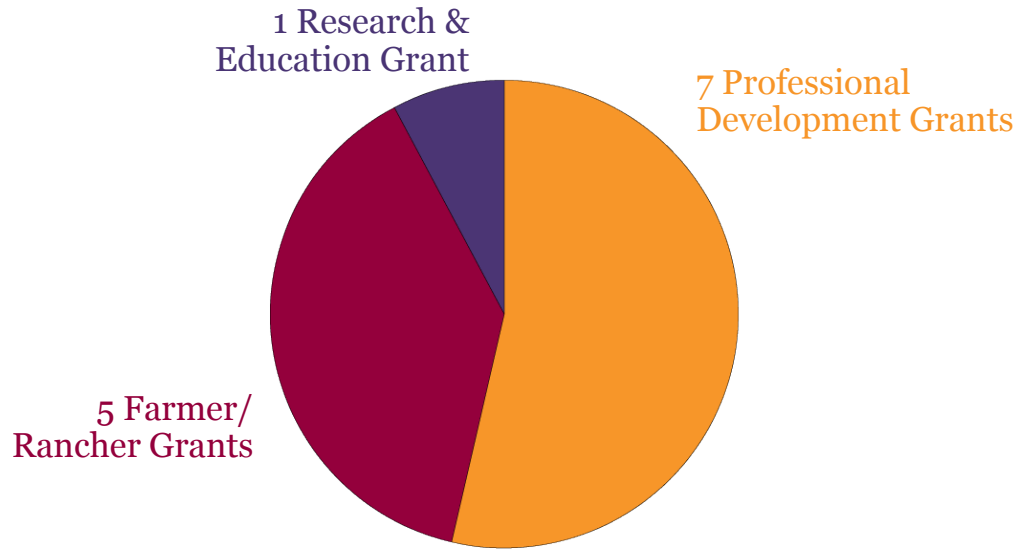
For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in Nevada

SARE has
awarded a
total of
13 grants
in Nevada
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/nevada to learn more.

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