

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: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

Missouri

Project Highlight: *Missouri farmers lead the way for grass biofuel*

A Kingsville farmer who raises perennial and native grasses for biofuel is now, along with hundreds of fellow growers, helping to determine the future of cellulosic-based biofuels.

Steve Flick, who got a 2007 SARE grant to grow elephant grass for bio-energy, is chairman of the Show Me Energy Cooperative, which in 2011 won a \$15 million USDA Biomass Crop Assistance Program grant to grow grass for its processing facility in Centerview. The award involves 600 farmers and 50,000 acres in 39 Missouri and Kansas counties.

While the farmers will plant a range of grasses and herbaceous plants, Flick's SARE grant gave him a head start on evaluating *Miscanthus giganteus*, or

elephant grass. Elephant grass yielded well—better than switchgrass typically does, a common biofuel grass—but Flick found that establishing it was labor intensive, and it preferred wet areas. This led him to conclude that elephant grass would be well-suited for marginal lands, and not on more than 10 acres at a time.

Flick used Show Me Energy's processing facility to pelletize the *Miscanthus* he grew, and sold it to a utility in the South. For *Miscanthus* to take off, Flick says, more facilities like his need to be built. In the meantime, he will focus his energy on growing the Show Me Energy "fuel shed."

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number FNC07-692.

SARE in Missouri

www.northcentralsare.org/missouri

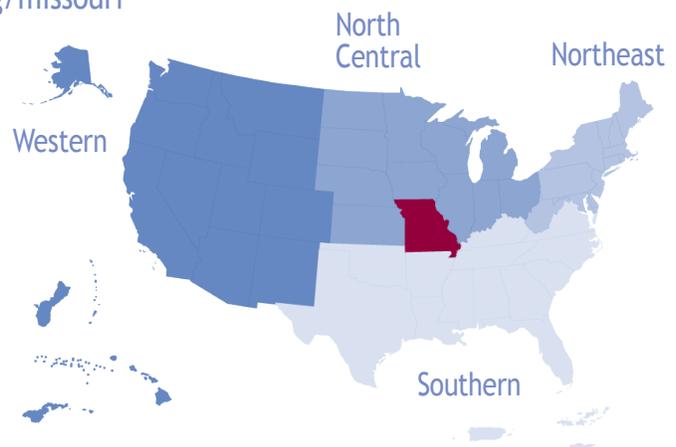
\$4.3 million in total funding

229 grant projects

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to

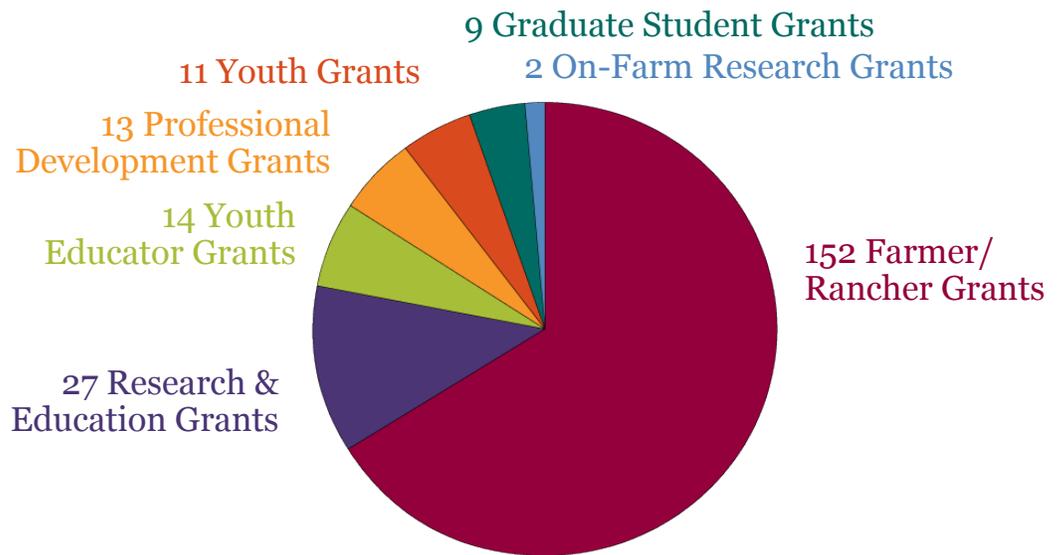
www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in Missouri

SARE has
awarded a
total of
229 grants
in Missouri
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.northcentralsare.org/missouri to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org