

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

Arizona

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: *Attracting alternative pollinators to farms*

Southern Arizona has seen the worst declines in honeybee populations in the state, so many growers there are turning their attention to alternative pollinators, which can provide vital services to both agriculture and the local ecology. Using a SARE grant, a farmer-led team evaluated over 65 species of plants for their ability to support native pollinators, and shared this wealth of new information with more than 1,000 in the local agricultural community.

In Arizona, 1,300 native bee species work side by side with a network of other pollinators to contribute to the health, productivity and diversity of plants and crops. To maintain this rich diversity, the research team set out to determine the most attractive plants to pollinators by building carefully de-

signed hedgerows on eight farms. They monitored the survival of the plants and their attractiveness to pollinators.

They found 15 plant species to be especially effective, including mesquite, wolfberries, sennas, desert willows and milkweeds. The team then shared their findings at workshops with farmers, researchers, gardeners, ranchers, orchardists, restorationists, and educators. They also created handouts, and distributed them along with books and publications.

The team is using the information gleaned from this research to plant more hedgerows to maintain the biological diversity that is found in the state.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number FW12-068.

SARE in Arizona

www.westernsare.org/arizona

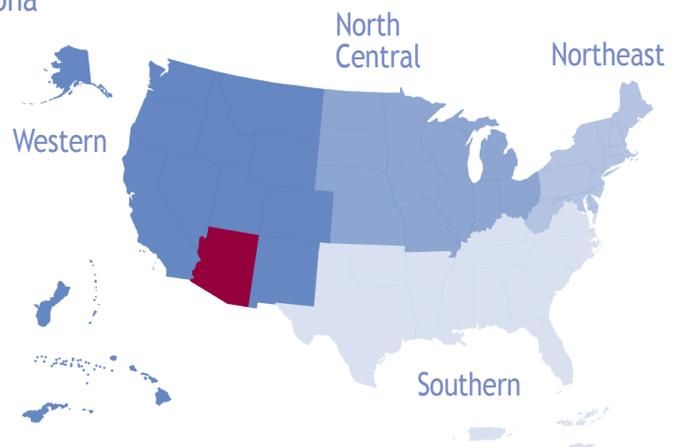
\$1.6 million in total funding

44 grant projects

(since 1988)

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

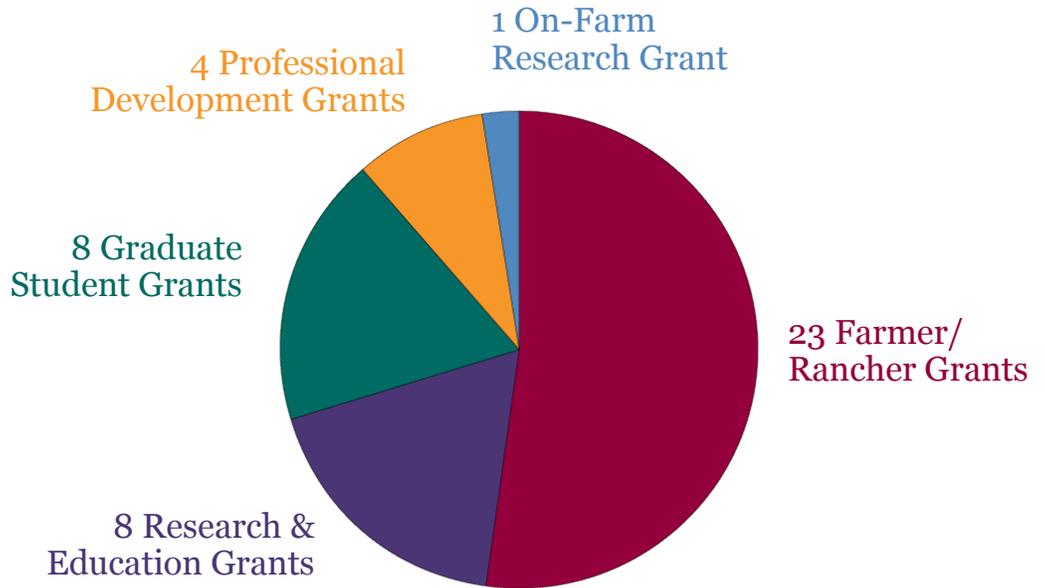
www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in Arizona

SARE has
awarded a
total of
44 grants
in Arizona
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/arizona to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org