

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

New York

Project Highlight: *Research on profitable, sustainable onion production*

Onions are one of New York's most valuable vegetable crops, but growers face a host of challenges: For example, bacterial rot cuts deep into profits, and fragile muck soil, in which most onions are grown, is susceptible to up to one foot of erosion every 10 years.

But the toolbox of solutions is expanding fast, thanks to promising SARE-funded research by Cornell University Extension Vegetable Specialist Christine Hoeping, who is using a series of grants to study new approaches from conservation tillage to mulches to planting techniques to soil fertility.

In one study, Hoeping found that halving plant spacing to four inches could reduce yield lost to bacterial rot by 63 percent beyond growers' standards and could boost net profit by up

to \$258 per 100-foot bed for fresh market onions. Using alternatives to black plastic mulch—which absorbs sunlight and can create favorable, warm conditions for bacteria—yielded similarly positive results.

In another study, Hoeping found that minimum tillage could boost yields on exposed fields because it protected soil and young onions from harsh winds.

In a third study, she leveraged a \$10,000 SARE grant into a \$220,000 grant from the Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center to examine the relationship between soil nutrient levels and bacteria incidence.

For more information on this research, see www.sare.org/projects, and conduct a coordinator-name search for “Hoeping.”

SARE in New York

www.nesare.org/new-york

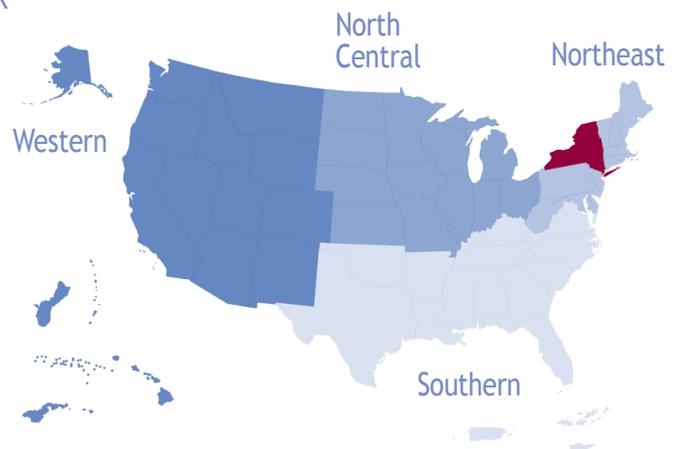
\$16.1 million in total funding

470 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

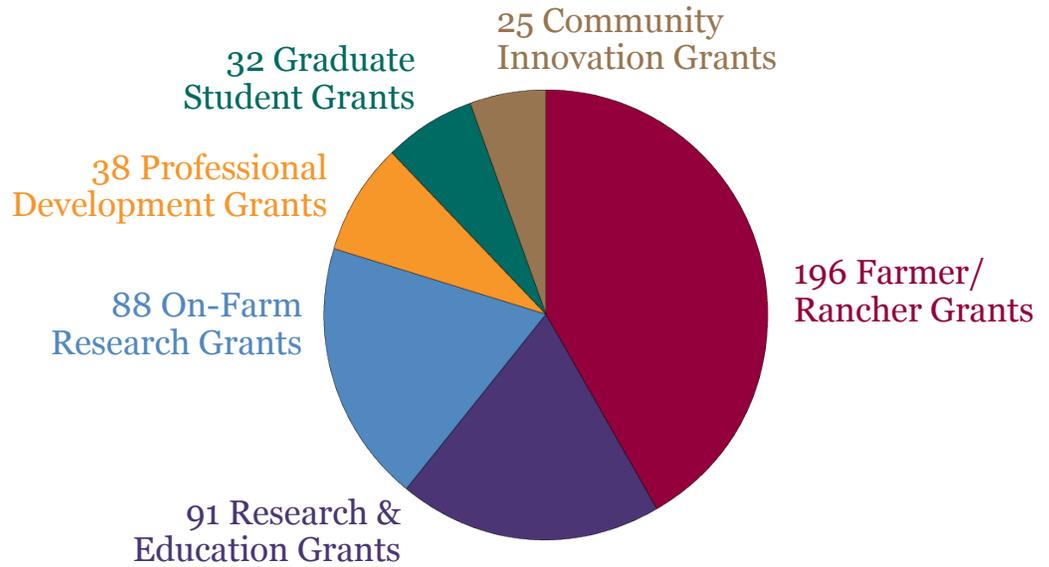
SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.



www.sare.org

SARE Grants in New York

SARE has awarded a total of **470 grants** in New York 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.nesare.org/new-york to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org