

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

Illinois

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: *Controlling Canada thistle without chemicals*

About 15 grain, hay and vegetable farmers nearly eliminated perennial weeds from their fields using a multi-faceted, “many little hammers” approach that did not require herbicides, while collaborating with University of Illinois researchers on a 2007-2009 SARE-funded project.

Instead of chemicals, the farmers used an integrated strategy of carefully timed tillage and mowing, along with a warm-season grass cover crop, to control Canada thistle. They achieved control of 90 percent or better.

“We believe the method developed here has very high potential to contribute to the sustainability of organic farmers,” says University of Illinois researcher Dan Anderson. Canada thistle

“can render some fields useless. An organic solution will save some fields and encourage some farmers that realistic solutions do exist.”

Anderson and his colleagues shared the promising results of their work with farmers, Extension educators and others through online fact sheets, reports, presentations at farmer meetings, and other avenues.

The farmer collaborators, each year ranging in number from eight to 15, participated with minimal financial risk, thanks to minigrants of \$500 given to each out of the original SARE grant.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number LNC07-282.

SARE in Illinois

www.northcentralsare.org/illinois

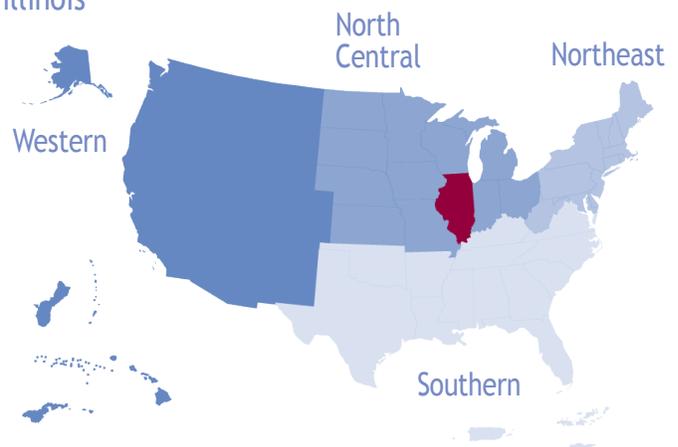
\$2.3 million in total funding

109 grant projects

(since 1988)

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

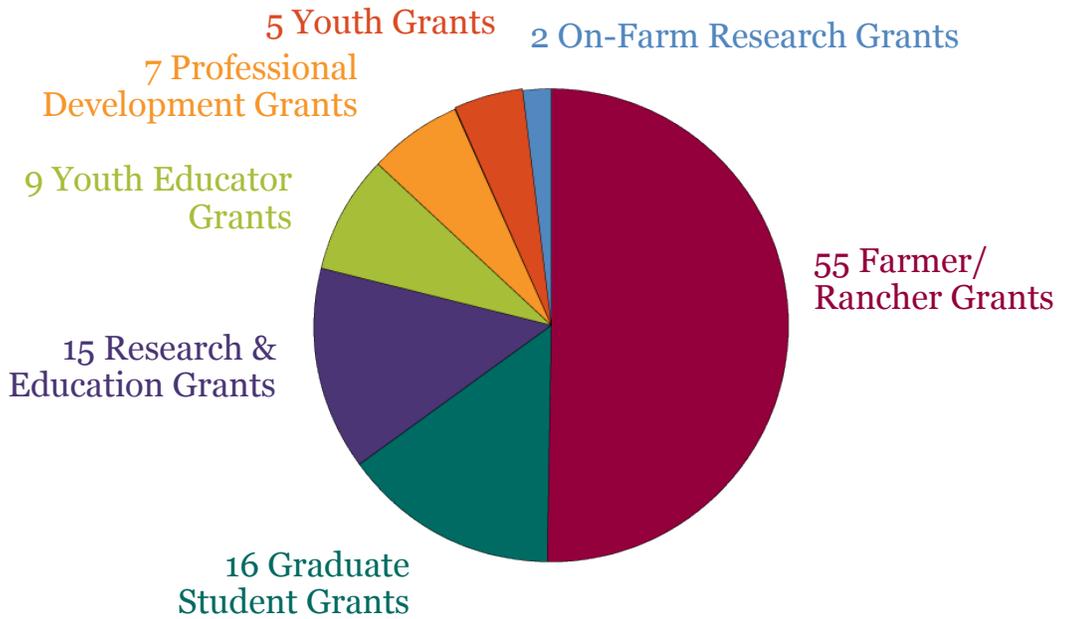
www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in Illinois

SARE has
awarded a
total of
109 grants
in Illinois
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/illinois to learn more.

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