

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...

Montana

Project Highlight: *Improving food safety for livestock processors*

Foodborne illness affects about 15 percent of the U.S. population each year. In response, the USDA has tightened food safety requirements that small-scale processors find more difficult to meet than do their large-scale counterparts.

So, SARE-funded researchers from Montana State University joined with meat and poultry inspection officers to help Montana's small livestock processors comply with new regulations by validating their existing food safety procedures. The team analyzed food safety processes at six of the state's 18 small-scale livestock plants and equipped managers with the documentation needed to pass inspections.

As prescribed by USDA, researchers sampled livestock carcasses for generic

E. Coli and counted bacteria; tested temperatures throughout processing; and reviewed existing safety plans. The team found that processors did have effective interventions to minimize harmful bacteria, but because of limited resources due to their small size, they had previously been unable to conduct studies to demonstrate that these methods work.

The team's findings provide important information that will benefit all the small-scale livestock processors in Montana. Given that Montana produces over 2 million head of livestock each year—ample supply for their in-state livestock processing facilities—this project will have a clear impact on the state.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number SW09-601.

SARE in Montana

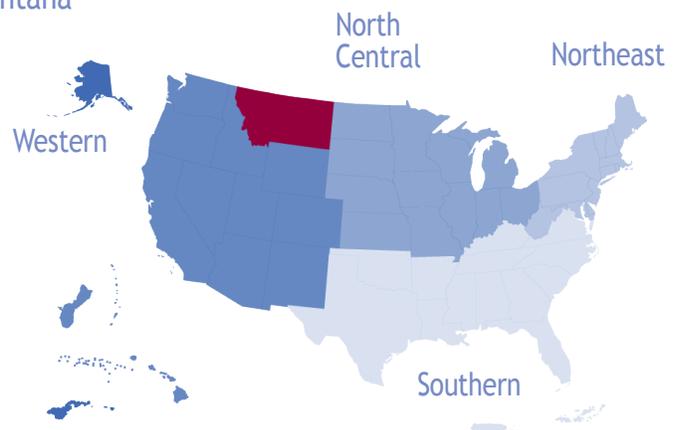
www.westernsare.org/montana

\$6.1 million in total funding

97 grant projects

(since 1988)

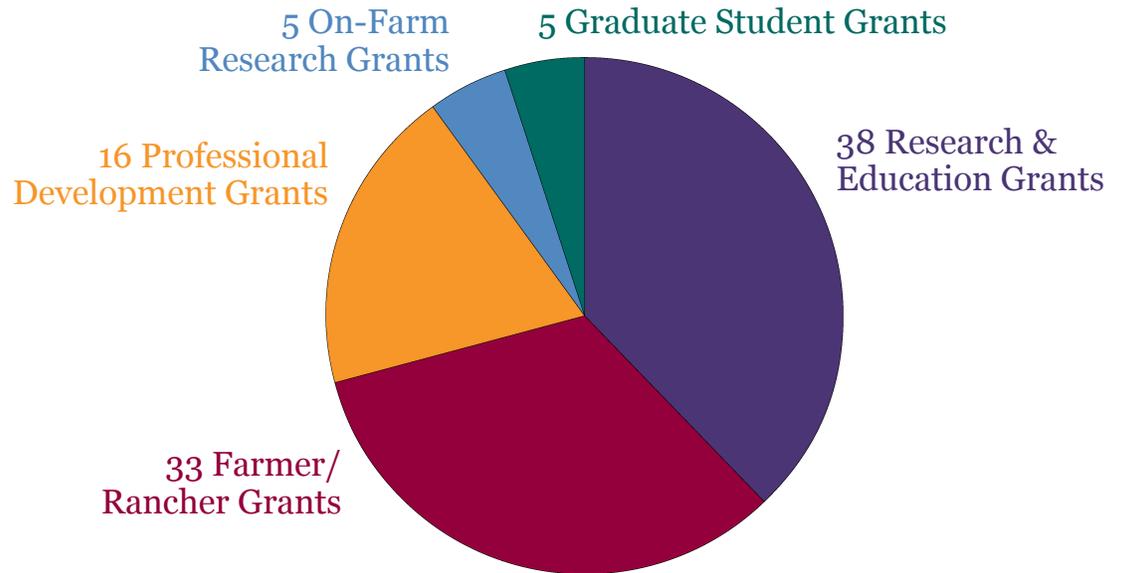
For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in Montana

SARE has
awarded a
total of
97 grants
in Montana
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/montana to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org