

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

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

North Carolina

Project Highlight: *Saving the heritage hogs that hold genetic diversity*

There are more than 10 million hogs in North Carolina, but only three breeds dominate production: the Duroc, Hampshire and Yorkshire. While these breeds provide large-scale hog farmers with the characteristics they need to be profitable, they do not represent the full spectrum of genetic diversity available today.

Heritage breeds carry genes for regional adaptations, lard production and disease resistance, among other traits that make them beneficial for small-scale production. Unfortunately, they are becoming endangered. That is why the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) is using a 2011 SARE grant to support heritage hog production and marketing.

Through a value chain analysis, which includes interviews with chefs

and breeders in North Carolina, South Carolina and Kentucky, ALBC has found the market for heritage breeds is growing. The research also shows that the main challenge to raising endangered breeds is not the demand, but that feed costs, heritage stock availability, availability of processing, transportation costs and marketing inhibit production. The ALBC team is working to address these challenges.

Next, the researchers hope to quantify the genetic variability of eight endangered hog breeds and develop informational materials for producers on hog stock selection, health care and farm management practices for productivity.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number LS11-246.

SARE in North Carolina

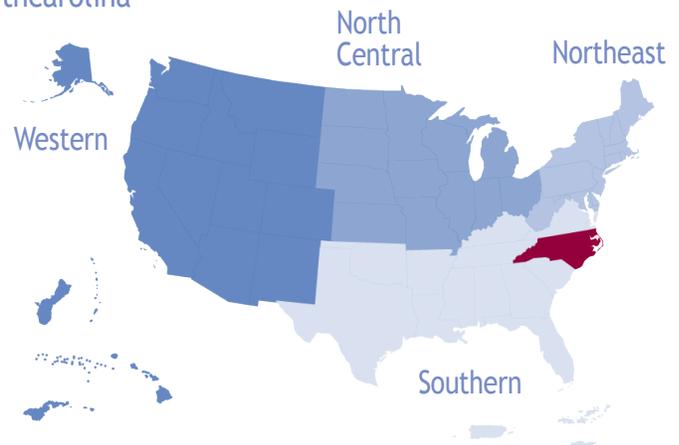
www.southernsare.org/northcarolina

\$10.7 million in total funding

185 grant projects

(since 1988)

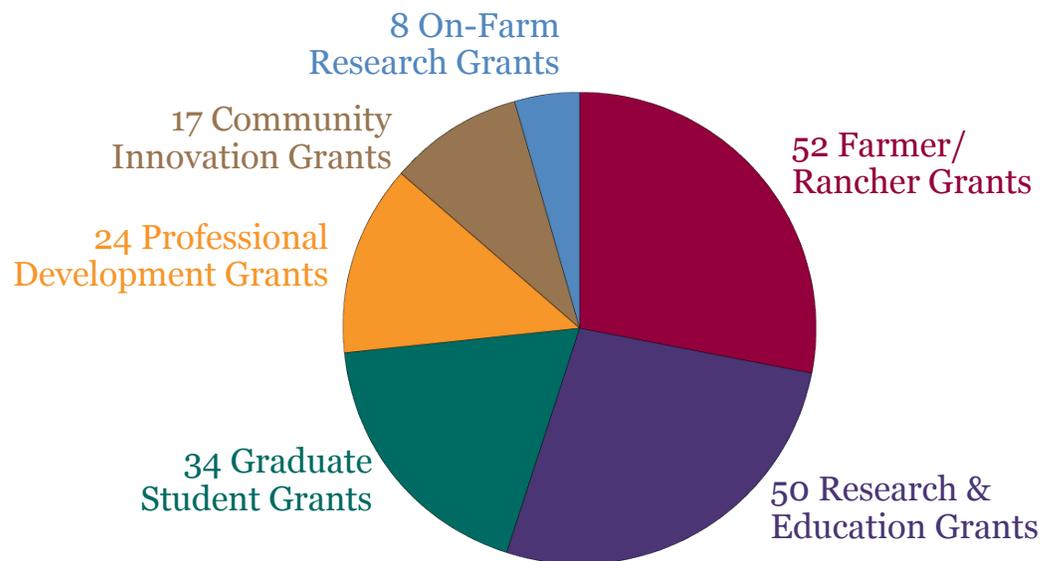
For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in North Carolina

SARE has awarded a total of **185 grants** in North Carolina 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.southernsare.org/northcarolina to learn more.

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