

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

# Pennsylvania

## Project Highlight: *Grant puts (good) crimp in farm operations*

**I**t all began in 2002 with a \$6,500 Pennsylvania SARE grant and the seed of an idea. Today, that idea has grown into hundreds of research projects around the country and a new, effective no-till tool that farmers are adding to the ways they suppress weeds in cash-crop fields.

The tool is the roller crimper, and, while now a common site on land-grant university research farms around the country, it was first developed in Kutztown by local farmers collaborating with the Rodale Institute. A roller crimper is a drum with blades mounted to the front- or back-end of a tractor and used to roll down, crimp and kill cover crops, creating thick, weed suppressing mulch. Until the crimper, farmers were largely left with two weed-control options:

cultivate the weeds into submission or spray herbicides. The former disturbs the soil and allows for erosion; the latter is often expensive for conventional farming, and unusable for organic.

While not a fix-all, the roller crimper has shown promise in using about 40 percent less energy than cultivating or spraying, reducing erosion and retaining moisture.

Tim Bock, who runs a 100-acre certified organic farm outside Kutztown, has tried the roller on more than 20 acres for another SARE-funded project. “The results have been outstanding,” he says.

For more information on this research, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for the term “roller crimper.”

## SARE in Pennsylvania

[www.nesare.org/pennsylvania](http://www.nesare.org/pennsylvania)

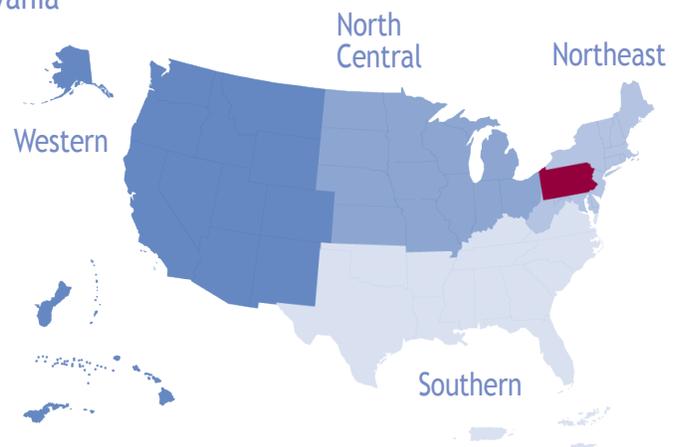
**\$11.7 million in total funding**

**264 grant projects**

(since 1988)

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

[www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://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.

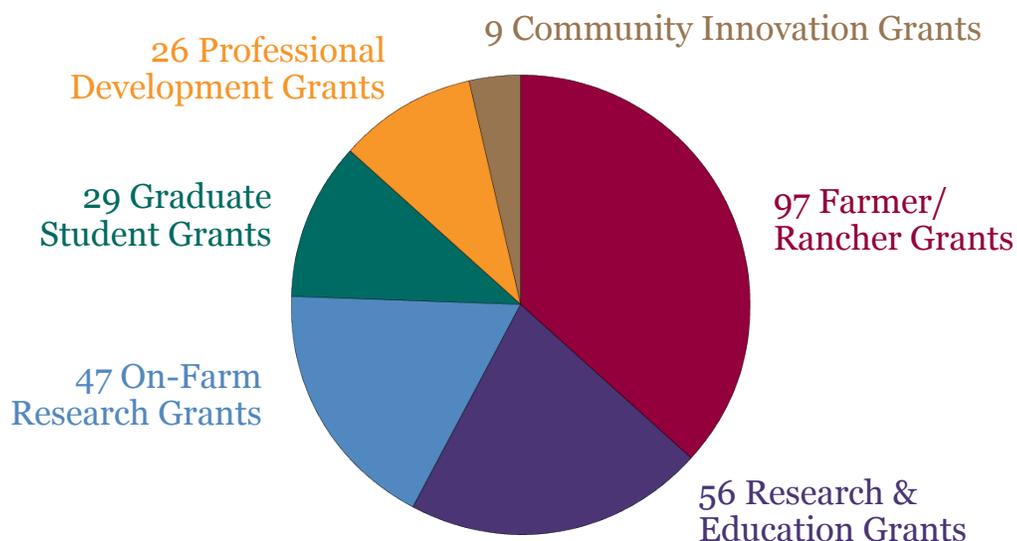


**Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education**

[www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)

# SARE Grants in Pennsylvania

SARE has awarded a total of **264 grants** in Pennsylvania 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/pennsylvania](http://www.nesare.org/pennsylvania) to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

[www.SARE.org](http://www.SARE.org)