

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

Massachusetts

Project Highlight: *Large-scale help for small-scale farmers*

In her first year as an independent farmer on five acres in North Reading, Lydia Sisson made about \$36,000 in sales through a 50-member community supported agriculture (CSA) program and a local co-op. With plans to grow, she credits much of her success to a solid business plan she created with help from the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, a Tufts University program started in 1998 that provides an array of services to new farmers.

New Entry, a recipient of three SARE grants, offers beginning farmers: a six-week business course; regular technical workshops; a three-year, on-farm training program; and a transitioning program aimed at moving farmers to independence. Most of the people New Entry helps have on-farm experience, but know little about the business side

of farming.

The transitioning program, launched in 2005 with funding from SARE and other sources, has helped a dozen farmers start small-acreage operations to supplement off-farm incomes, generally earning them between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per year.

Interested in offering more livestock and poultry programming, New Entry received a 2009 SARE grant to teach farmers how to use mobile poultry processing units (MPPUs), and navigate the regulatory and food safety issues associated with them. Three farms using MPPUs in a pilot program are expected to exceed \$51,000 in total revenue.

For more information on these projects, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project numbers ENE05-092, LNE05-223 and LNE09-284.

SARE in Massachusetts

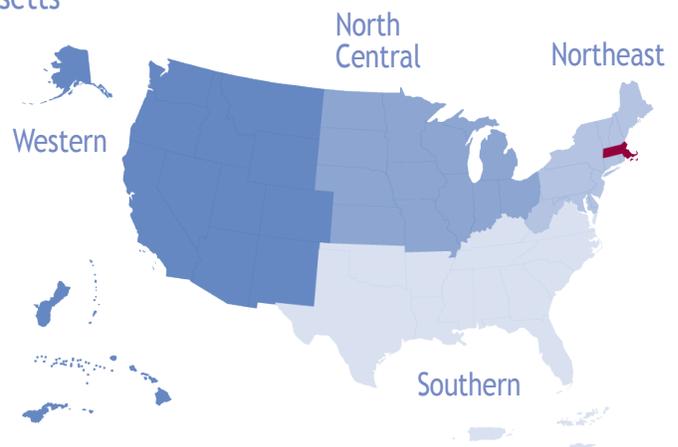
www.nesare.org/massachusetts

\$7.3 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.

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.

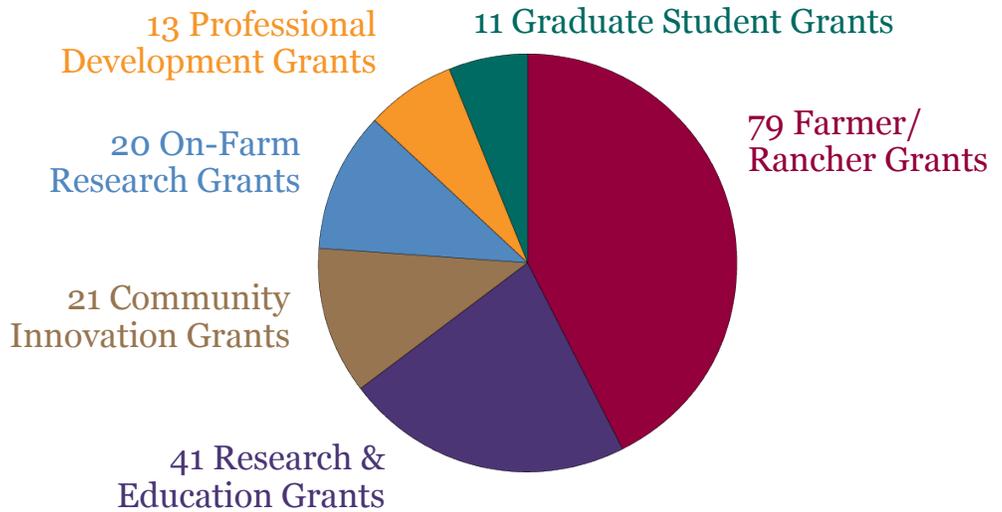


Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

SARE Grants in Massachusetts

SARE has awarded a total of **185 grants** in Massachusetts 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/massachusetts to learn more.

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