

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

Virginia

Project Highlight: *Locally raised honeybees show improved resilience*

In the face of dwindling honeybee populations, many Virginia beekeepers have turned to purchasing new bees from other states, but out-of-state bees tend to die off easily due to the stress of transport or because they are unaccustomed to the local climate.

The Prince William Regional Beekeepers Association, using a SARE grant, has shown that local can be better: In a comparison, they found that hives split off from existing ones had a better survival rate than hives created from out-of-state bees. After two winters, they found 70 percent of local hives survived, compared to 40 percent of imported hives, most of which come from Georgia, California and Texas.

Improving the survivability of hives benefits not only hobby beekeepers and honey producers, it also affects local

production of tomatoes, melons, apples and other valuable crops requiring pollination.

To establish new hives from existing ones, beekeepers developed what is called a nucleus colony—they separated honey, pollen, worker bees and emerging brood from a hive and introduced a new queen. Because it is difficult to raise queen bees, association members starting a rearing program during the course of their SARE project, and successfully raised 15 queens that were distributed to area beekeepers.

Through workshops, project organizers shared information about local bee production with more than 500 people.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number FSo8-223.

SARE in Virginia

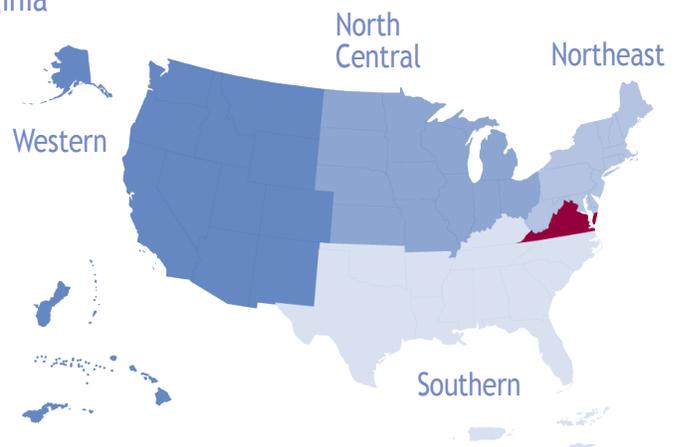
www.southernsare.org/virginia

\$4.8 million in total funding

99 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.

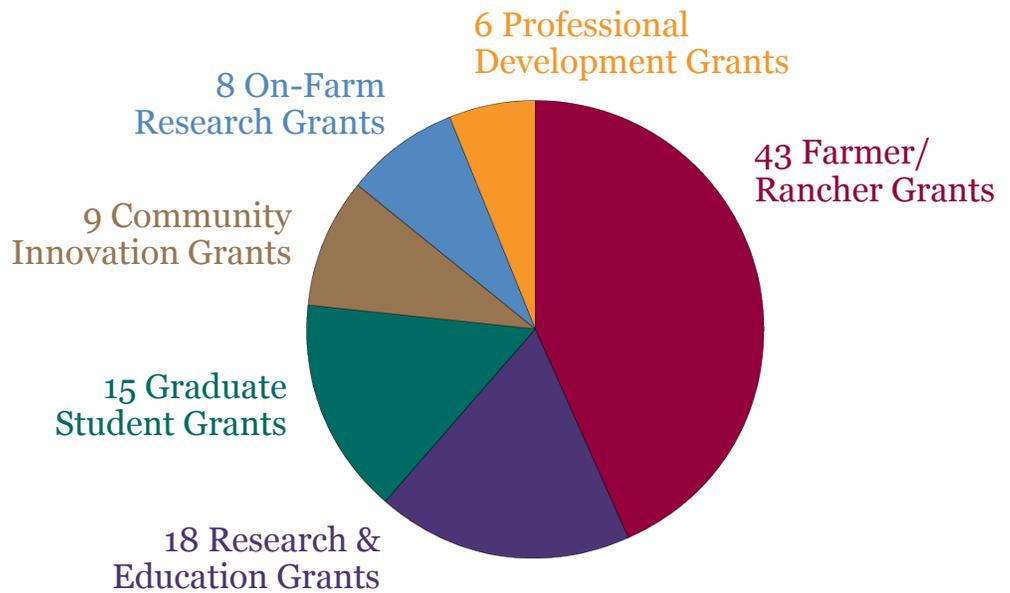


Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

SARE Grants in Virginia

SARE has
awarded a
total of
99 grants
in Virginia
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/virginia to learn more.

Eric Bendfeldt
Virginia Tech
(540) 432-6029 ext. 106
ebendfel@vt.edu

Christopher Mullins
Virginia State University
(804) 524-5834
cmullins@vsu.edu



SARE is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

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