

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

North Dakota

Project Highlight: *Family uses livestock, no-till to restore the land*

The Grotbergs are working to return their multi-generational farm in Wimbledon back to its chemical-free, organic roots through rotational grazing, no-till and cover crops. In the process, they hope to serve as a model for other small- and mid-sized farms seeking to do the same.

The Grotbergs, who keep about 150 head of cattle and grow grasses, grains and legumes on 440 acres, received a 2006 SARE grant to develop an integrated crop/livestock system that utilizes nine-field, nine-year rotations of pasture and cropland. Working with USDA researchers, they collected soil data in order to compare the effect over time of different management practices.

More recently, the Grotbergs used a 2008 SARE grant to experiment with

no-till, an elusive practice for organic producers because of weeds. Along with two neighboring farms, they tested no-till in combination with roll-killed cover crop blends and grazing for weed management. Together, these two projects laid the groundwork for their 2010 organic certification.

“Our goal is to change the concept of organic no-till, from being an oxymoron to the idea that it is the farming choice of the future,” says Linda Grotberg.

To share their transitional experience, they hosted hundreds of farmers, researchers and 4-H youth on their farm during their grant projects.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project numbers FNC06-625 and FNC08-738.

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 in North Dakota

www.northcentralsare.org/north-dakota

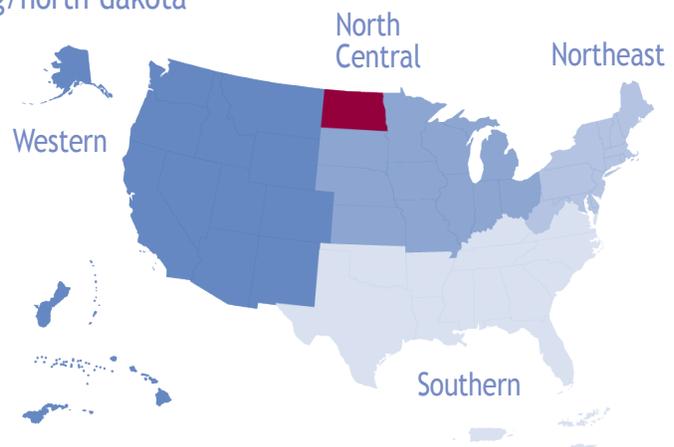
\$4.4 million in total funding

105 grant projects

(since 1988)

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

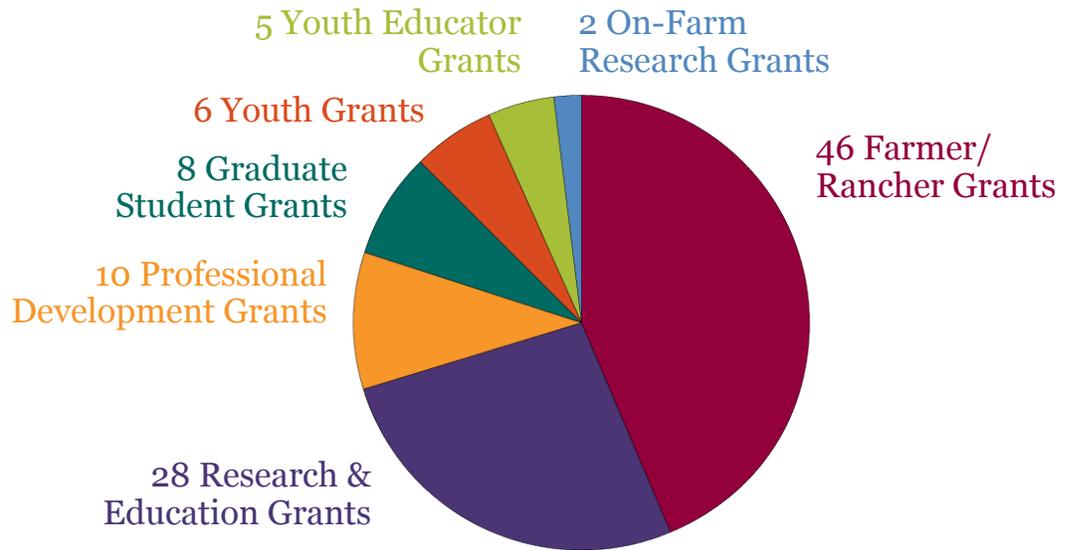
www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in North Dakota

SARE has awarded a total of **105 grants** in North Dakota 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.northcentralsare.org/north-dakota to learn more.

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