

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

Puerto Rico

Project Highlight: *Support for an emerging livestock industry*

The emerging sheep and goat industry in Puerto Rico faces significant challenges: For most producers, gastrointestinal parasites cause major economic losses, and tropical forages cannot meet animals' nutritional needs, forcing producers to buy expensive supplements.

Funded by a multi-year SARE grant, University of Puerto Rico researchers have shown that adding certain tropical legumes and other forages to the diets of small ruminants shows promise for solving both these problems.

In an on-farm trial, researchers found that supplementing lambs' diets with chopped mulberry led to higher weight gains than lambs that ate only guineagrass. In one research station trial, they found that lambs eating perennial peanut and grass gained twice

as much weight per day as ones eating grass alone. Also, animals eating the mix of perennial peanut and grass required less than half the number of dewormer treatments.

In an economic analysis, these alternative systems were unprofitable in the establishment year, and over time they came closer to breaking even. The team feels these systems could be profitable at a larger, commercial scale, and if farmers pursued price premiums through local direct marketing.

The Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture sees the value in this work: They gave the team money to distribute mulberry seedlings to 50 local farmers.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number LS08-212.

SARE in Puerto Rico

www.southernsare.org/puertorico

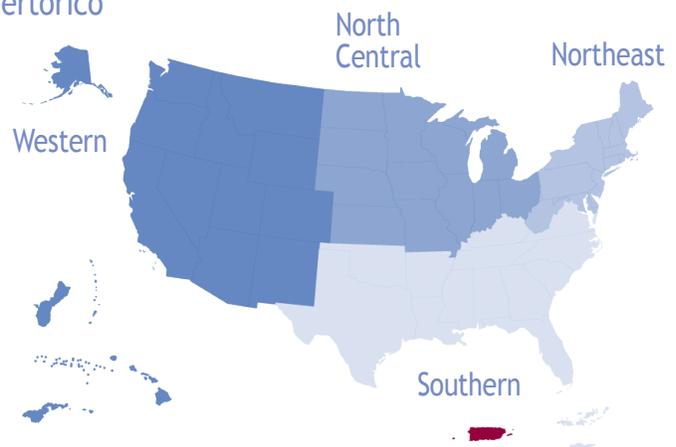
\$963,239 in total funding

19 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

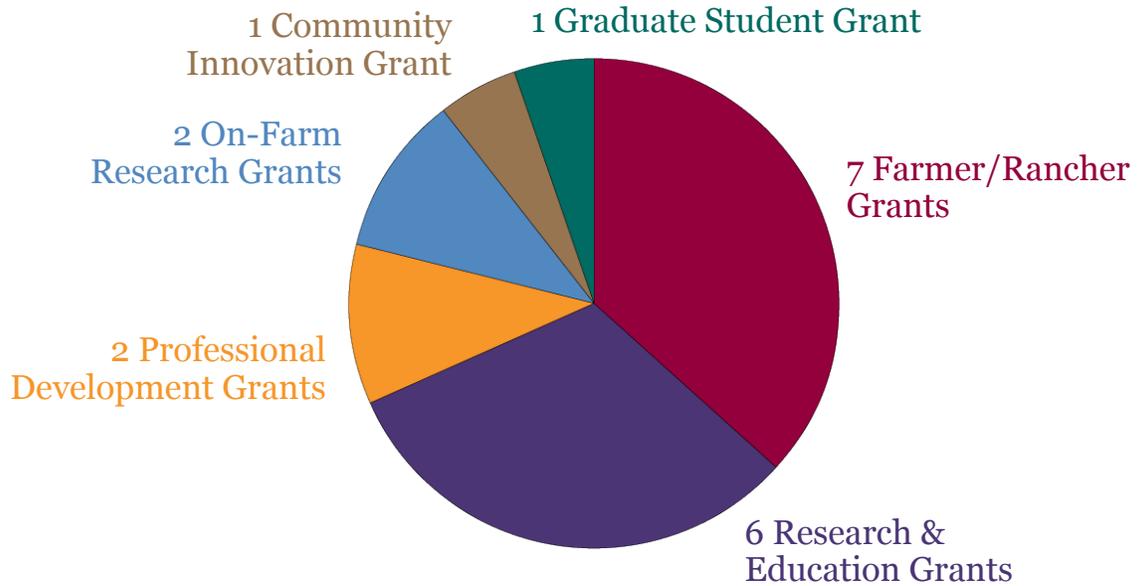
SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.



www.sare.org

SARE Grants in Puerto Rico

SARE has awarded a total of **19 grants** in Puerto Rico 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/puertorico to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org