

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

# Alaska

## 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)

## Project Highlight: *A recipe for better soils from local ingredients*

Facing high food costs and diet-related health concerns, rural Alaska communities are interested in growing their own produce to increase access to fresh food, but poor-quality soils present a major barrier.

So, researchers from the University of Alaska Fairbanks set out to determine the best recipes to create quality soil using locally sourced compost and marine materials. Using a SARE grant, they worked with five growers who compared potato yield in their locally made soil to imported soils, finding no difference between the two. In fact, growers saved money by building their own soils, since purchasing imported, fabricated soils can be costly.

The researchers then showed Alas-

kans in river and beach ecosystems how to build soil from local ingredients. In the beach ecosystem, they found that they could dig down to find rich soil that could be augmented with kelp, clams, seaweed and sand that have been dried and cleansed of salt water. Compost can also be added to locally produced soil to enhance organic matter to a level necessary for crops.

Researchers shared this information in workshops and through their “Soil Building” video—now on DVD and YouTube—which also includes a primer on how to build raised beds out of a variety of household materials.

For more information on this project, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project number SW10-901.

## SARE in Alaska

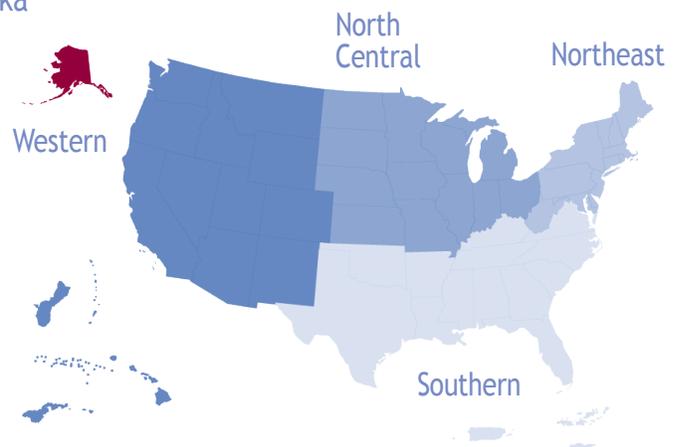
[www.westernsare.org/alaska](http://www.westernsare.org/alaska)

**\$737,983 in total funding**

**24 grant projects**

(since 1988)

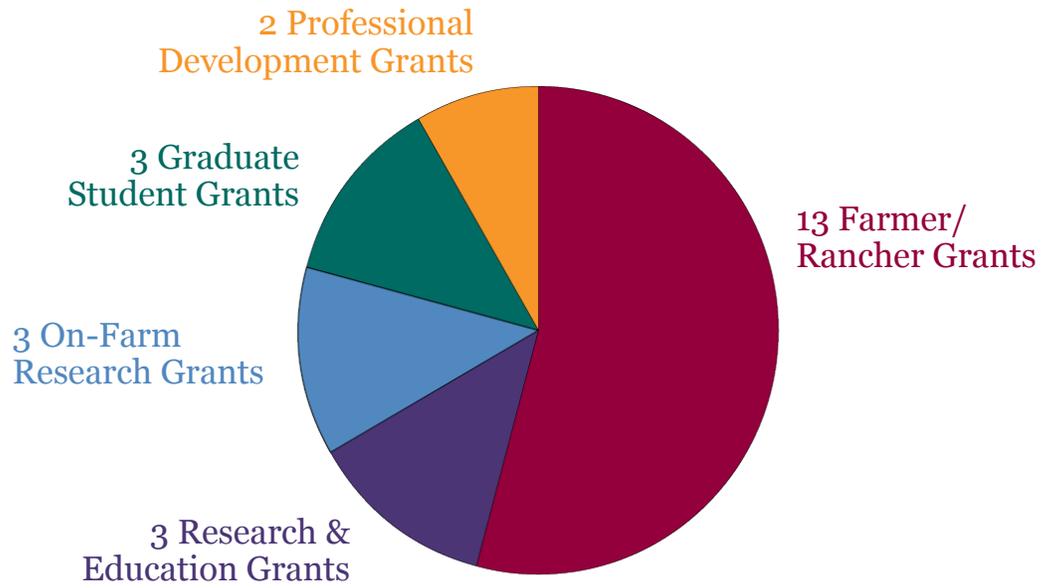
For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to [www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://www.sare.org/state-summaries)



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

# SARE Grants in Alaska

SARE has  
awarded a  
total of  
**24 grants**  
in Alaska  
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.westernsare.org/alaska](http://www.westernsare.org/alaska) to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to  
[www.SARE.org](http://www.SARE.org)