

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

Georgia

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

Project Highlight: *Grazed herds a boon to coastal dairy industry*

With the conventional dairy industry in Georgia contracting rapidly in the last 15 years, grazing-based systems have emerged as an economically stable alternative for dairy farmers, particularly in the state's Coastal Plains region.

Now, with the help of numerous SARE grants, University of Georgia researchers and Extension agents are responding to this trend by developing tools and expertise to help dairy farmers who practice management intensive grazing (MiG) better maintain their pastures and herds.

SARE-funded projects include:

- A series of workshops and MiG dairy tours attended by dozens of ag professionals, with 87 percent saying they gained information they planned to use.
- Partnering with MiG dairy farmers to construct a Web-based forage planning

spreadsheet that calculates forage yield and quality, and milk production.

- Research to improve the efficiency of nutrient and water use on MiG pastures, which has the potential to improve farmers' profits.

The need for such research has become increasingly apparent: While Georgia's conventional dairies lost an average of 1,820 cows per year from 1997 to 2007, MiG dairies now account for a greater share of the industry, from less than 1 percent in 2006 to nearly 6 percent in 2009, according to state and federal data.

For more information on this research, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for projects LS07-196, ES09-096 and OS09-049.

SARE in Georgia

www.southernsare.org/georgia

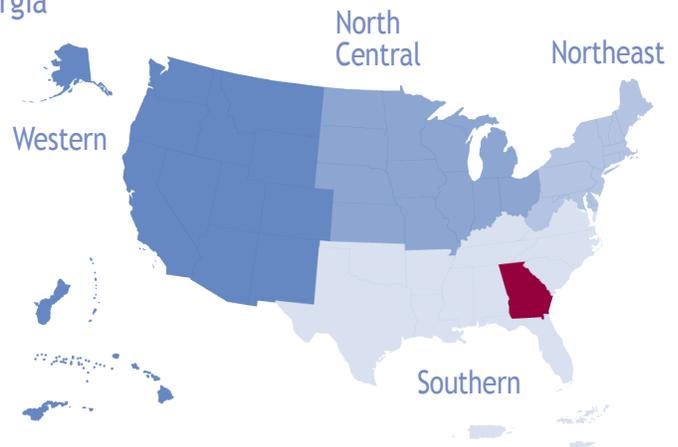
\$7.7 million in total funding

103 grant projects

(since 1988)

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

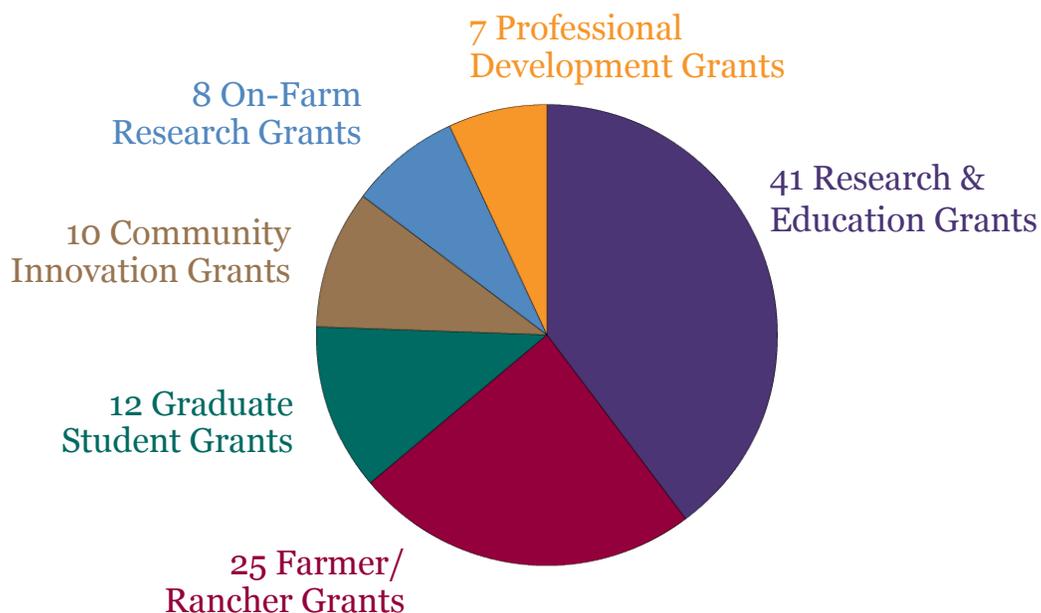
www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in Georgia

SARE has
awarded a
total of
103 grants
in Georgia
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/georgia to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org