

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 \$197 million for more than 5,000 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 Outreach has produced a library of how-to books, bulletins and online courses for producers and researchers on everything from clean energy farming to direct marketing to raising pastured poultry.



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.

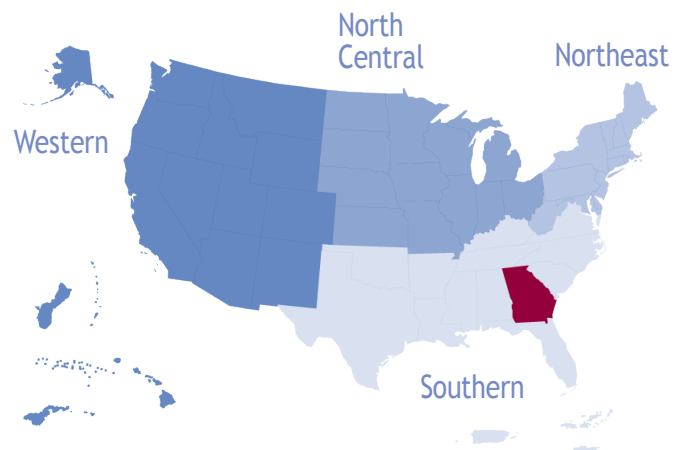
SARE in Georgia

\$7.2 million in total funding

91 grant projects

(since 1988)

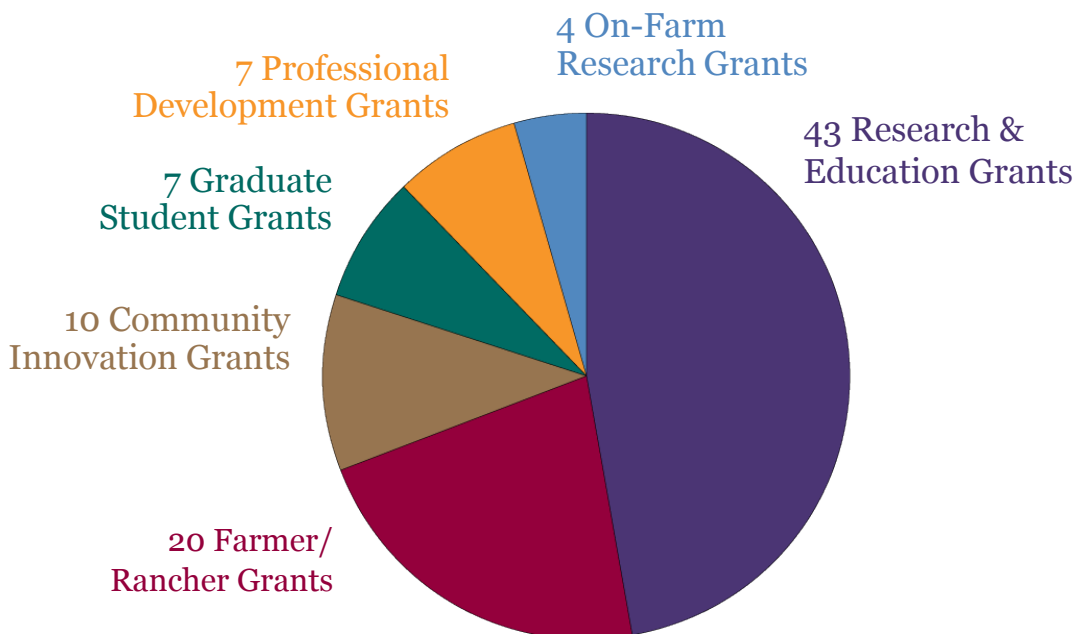
For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to www.sare.org/state-summaries



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 **91 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.



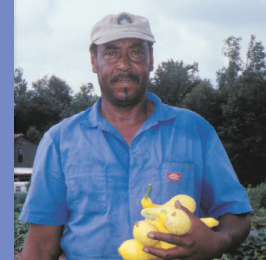
75 percent

of SARE-funded educators led at least one program to share innovations.



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.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org