The flies and parasites that inhabit the native rangeland in northeastern South Dakota cause millions of dollars of damage to the ranchers who use that land to graze cattle and sheep. Ranchers stem their losses using pesticides but one producer, Linda Simmons, was concerned about pesticide resistance after she faced a sudden failure of insect control. She was also concerned that pesticides were reducing numbers of beneficial insects such as dung beetles that were her ally in controlling these pests.

In response, she designed a SARE-funded project to find ways that preserve the functions of the rangeland ecosystem and would lead to efficient and profitable livestock production. The project demonstrated the efficacy of reducing pesticide use through non-chemical controls, integrated pest management and rotational grazing. Simmons worked with her neighbors, since fly control is more effective when bordering pastures and feedlots are included.

She discovered that dung beetles are especially helpful as they consume manure, making it less available to flies and parasites. Simmons developed many documents about dung beetles and non-chemical fly control that are free to producers. Thirty producers and land managers attended a field day, demonstrating great interest in the value of encouraging dung beetles.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number FNC14-977.
SARE Grants in South Dakota

SARE has awarded a total of 105 grants in South Dakota since 1988.

- 24 Research & Education Grants
- 12 Graduate Student Grants
- 7 Professional Development Grants
- 24 Research & Education Grants
- 8 Youth Grants
- 47 Farmer/Rancher Grants
- 6 Youth Educator Grants
- 1 On-Farm Research Grant

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/south-dakota to learn more.

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

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