Despite measures that had successfully eradicated brucellosis in cattle and stopped its spread to humans, the deadly disease can still be found in elk and bison in the the greater Yellowstone area. Over the past 10 years, the disease began spreading to local livestock, leading to expensive quarantines and economic losses to producers as they choose to, or are required to, euthanize cattle to undergo imperfect and time-consuming diagnostic testing. A positive result from the currently used test does not guarantee that the animal was in fact infected.

To reduce these burdens on ranchers, University of Wyoming graduate student Noah Hull worked to increase the ability to identify animals infected with brucellosis in the greater Yellowstone area by creating and validating a new molecular assay. As the project progressed, Hull found that this test was twice as effective as the traditional method at identifying animals that were truly infected. Perhaps more meaningfully to producers, the new testing procedure can be done on animals while still alive, which could lead to a reduction in culling. The turnaround time for results is much faster as well. To spread the word about his findings, Hull held four stakeholder meetings in the state that reached 120 participants.

For more information on this project, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project number GW16-038.
SARE Grants in Wyoming

SARE has awarded a total of 49 grants in Wyoming since 1988.

- 18 Farmer/Rancher Grants
- 16 Research & Education Grants
- 9 Graduate Student Grants
- 5 Professional Development 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.westernsare.org/wyoming to learn more.

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

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