

## 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 over \$273 million to more than 6,800 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)

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

# New Mexico

### Project Highlight: *Hill-Climbing Cows May Benefit Ranchers*

Most would say that cows don't go up steep slopes, climb hills or travel far from water, but some just take off for the hills. As grazers, cattle provide ecological benefits to natural areas and help control invasive weeds, but overgrazing can damage riparian areas and can affect downstream water quality. A possible solution? Hill-climbing cattle, which could increase ranchers' stocking rates as much as 30 percent and improve the productivity of rangeland in the western United States.

New Mexico State University Range Science Professor Derek Bailey and his team of scientists across the West used SARE funding to look at the genetics of behavior—specifically to identify the genes linked to hill climbing—to develop an inexpensive screening test that allows ranchers to select stock with a

genetic disposition to wander and climb. By tagging cattle on ranches with GPS collars, tracking their every move and drawing blood from the hill-climbers to identify genetic commonalities, Bailey's team collected and analyzed enough data to believe that an affordable screening test is possible and that the hill-climbing trait does not come with significant genetic downsides. More hill-climbing cows would allow ranchers across the West to use harder-to-reach areas for grazing and to thus better manage their rangeland.

For more information on these projects, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project number SW15-015.

## SARE in New Mexico

[www.westernsare.org/new-mexico](http://www.westernsare.org/new-mexico)

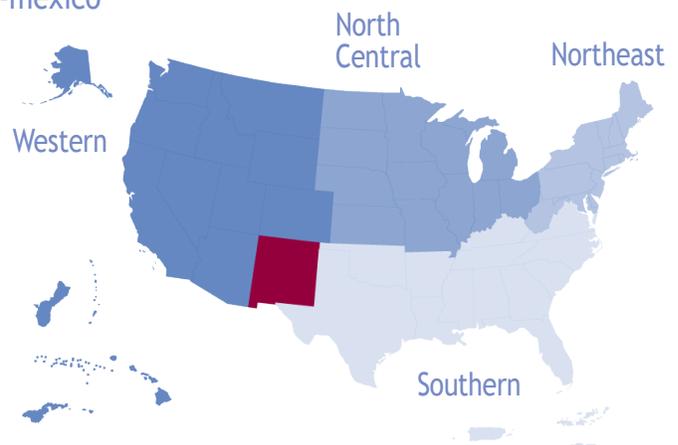
**\$2.4 million in total funding**

**67 grant projects**

(since 1988)

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

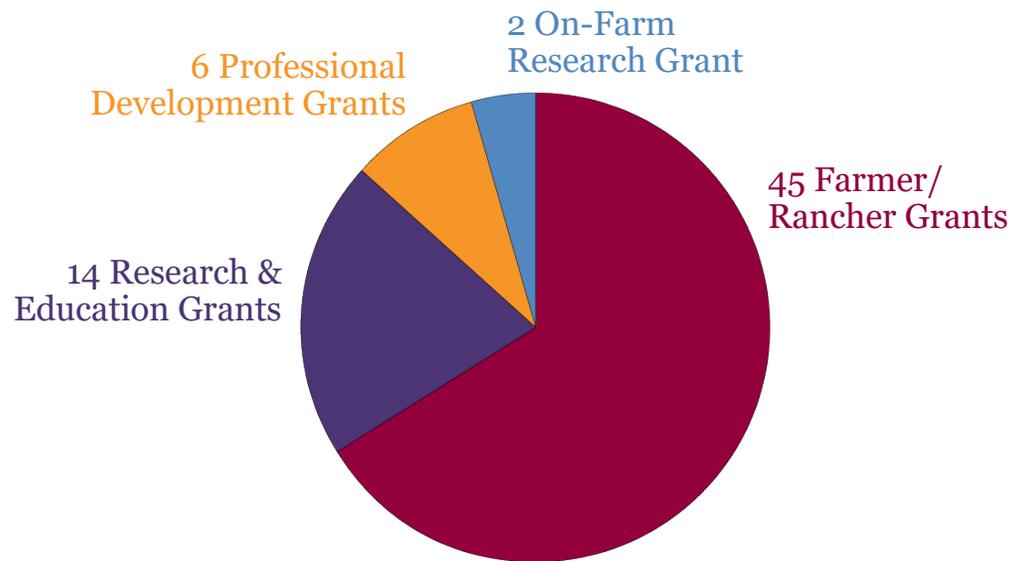
[www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://www.sare.org/state-summaries)



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

# SARE Grants in New Mexico

SARE has awarded a total of **67 grants** in New Mexico 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/new-mexico](http://www.westernsare.org/new-mexico) to learn more.

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