Thousands of Texas ranchers hurt by drought are seeking new ways to make their land profitable. Large Texas farms are being subdivided. Farms of all sizes are now in closer contact with non-agricultural communities due to urban growth. Agriculture in Texas is changing, and the technical professionals who support producers must keep up by learning innovative, research-based production and marketing strategies relevant to their clientele’s interests.

This need prompted Texas A&M Extension educators to organize a SARE-funded training program on the sustainable and organic practices that are of emerging interest to Texas’ farmers and ranchers. The program reached 45 employees of Texas A&M and Prairie View A&M Extension, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. It included hands-on farm training conducted at six locations, with classroom presentations and discussions over four days. Eleven farmers and ranchers served as trainers during the on-site visits.

Participants reported back on what they did in their communities as a result of their involvement in the program. Five months after conclusion of the training, they brought information about sustainable and organic practices to 1,000 farmers in 37 different counties through a combination of events and one-on-one outreach.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number ES13-120.

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

Texas

Project Highlight: Training for a Sustainable Agricultural Future

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 $287 million to more than 7,000 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 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.

SARE’s four regional programs and outreach office work to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.
SARE Grants in Texas

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

- 34 Research & Education Grants
- 25 Farmer/Rancher Grants
- 4 Community Innovation Grants
- 15 On-Farm Research Grants
- 20 Graduate Student Grants
- 7 Professional Development Grants

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

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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/texas to learn more.

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

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