Ohio

Project Highlight: Improving Domestic Prawn Production

The average American eats four pounds of shrimp and prawns per year, making it the country’s most popular seafood. Almost all of the shrimp and prawns sold in the country are imported, mostly from Southeast Asia. There are concerns that these countries do not follow best practices in areas such as antibiotic use or sustainable management of fisheries, so an increase in domestically produced freshwater prawns would be appealing.

However, domestic farmers face challenges producing consistently sized prawns and obtaining good yields, which has compelled Ohio shrimp farmer Don Maloney to explore improved practices. Using three SARE grants, he has set out to identify the cause for varying size and yield.

One problem he recognized was with feeding by hand, which meant large areas of his ponds were not being covered by feed. So, he compared hand feeding with a mechanical device that evenly distributed feed, and found that the mechanical device increased yields. The device cost less than $300 and increased yields by 17 percent. These shrimp were also rated highly in taste tests. In follow-up projects, Maloney discovered other best practices, such as to not deviate from the use of commercial aerators and to place substrate in ponds such as bird netting.

For more information on these projects, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project numbers FNC14-962, FNC15-1003 and FNC16-1045.
SARE has awarded a total of **219 grants** in Ohio since 1988.

- **42 Research & Education Grants**
- **124 Farmer/Rancher Grants**
- **17 Professional Development Grants**
- **21 Graduate Student Grants**
- **2 On-Farm Research Grants**
- **1 Community Innovation Grant**
- **2 Youth Grants**
- **10 Youth Educator Grants**

**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**

- **Mike Hogan**
  Ohio State University Extension
  (614) 866-6900
  hogan.1@osu.edu

- **Cindy Folck**
  Central State University
  (937) 376-6101
  afolck@centralstate.edu

- **Suzanne Mills-Wasniak**
  Ohio State University Extension
  (937) 224-9654 ext. 123
  mills-wasniak.1@osu.edu

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/ohio to learn more.

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