

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

Kansas

Project Highlight: *Evaluating Local Cover Crop Economics*

Though the conservation benefits of cover crops are well known, there is far less data on the economic return generated by cover cropping. With that in mind, Josh Roe, backed by funding from a SARE grant and with assistance from a Kansas State University agronomist, dug into the economics of cover cropping on his family's farm in Republic County, Kan., to determine which cover cropping scenario is most profitable.

Roe established a cover crop mix following wheat and compared the economics of three treatments: haying, grazing and terminating the cover crop without incorporating livestock. He used sensitivity analysis to evaluate profitability at various price and yield levels. High hay prices and favorable

weather during his 2014 trials created conditions for him to harvest 1.59 tons per acre. Based on his costs, Roe estimated a break-even point of \$73 per ton, or nearly 20 percent below that season's price.

Encouraged by the results, Roe plans to continue looking at how each system performs under different local conditions and to continue using cover crops for both grazing and haying. To spread the word within his community of farmers, Extension agents and county conservation district staff, he has hosted on-farm field days and has been asked to speak at numerous events.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number FNC14-971.

SARE in Kansas

www.northcentralsare.org/kansas

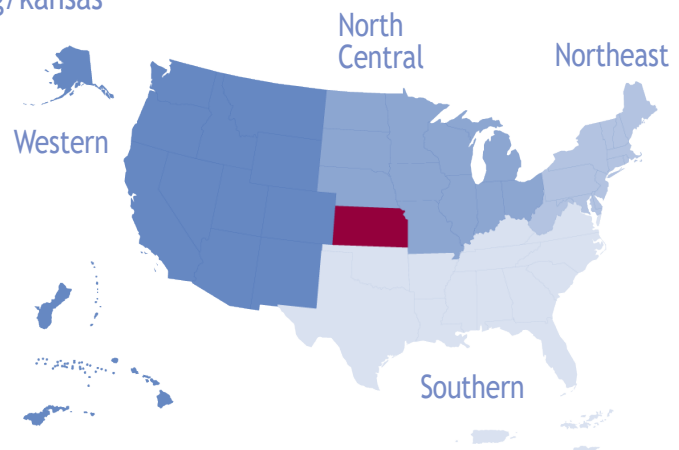
\$3.7 million in total funding

155 grant projects

(since 1988)

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

www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

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.

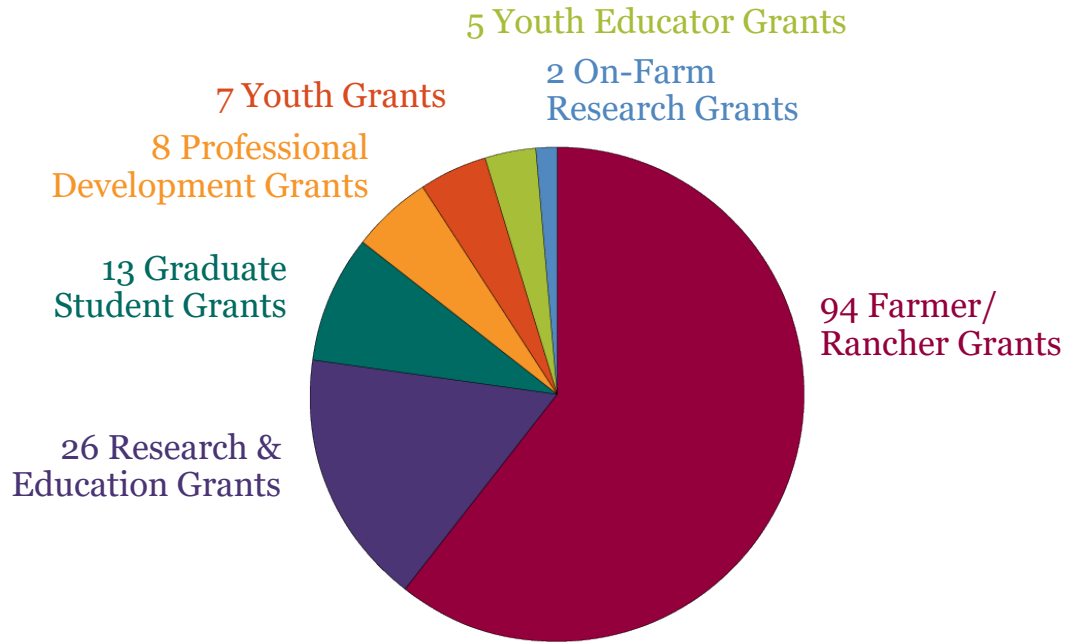


Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

SARE Grants in Kansas

SARE has awarded a total of **155 grants** in Kansas 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.northcentralsare.org/kansas to learn more.

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SARE is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org