

## 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 \$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.



[www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)

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

## Project Highlight: *Growing a Local Understanding of Soil Health*

Some farming practices commonly used in Oklahoma have reduced the state's soil quality, leading to soils that are often low in organic matter. To remain productive, attention needs to be placed on improving and monitoring soil quality.

Realizing the importance of such attention, Kefyalew Desta used a SARE grant to obtain local soil quality information and develop a soil quality assessment index that can be used to quantify the overall soil quality status of a farm. As Desta was testing soil properties on-farm, 65 percent of the owners participated in the sampling and discussed the results.

This engagement of the farmers paid off. According to Desta, at the beginning of the project, 65 percent of them did not know the difference

between soil health and soil fertility. Following the on-farm sampling and trainings, 80 percent of the farmers are now communicating with ag educators to seek help in soil health analysis. At least 60 percent plan to use on-site soil quality testing as part of their routine soil management. Desta also coordinated in-service trainings and demonstrations, reaching over 200 people.

For more information on this project, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project number OS11-058.

## SARE in Oklahoma

[www.southernsare.org/oklahoma](http://www.southernsare.org/oklahoma)

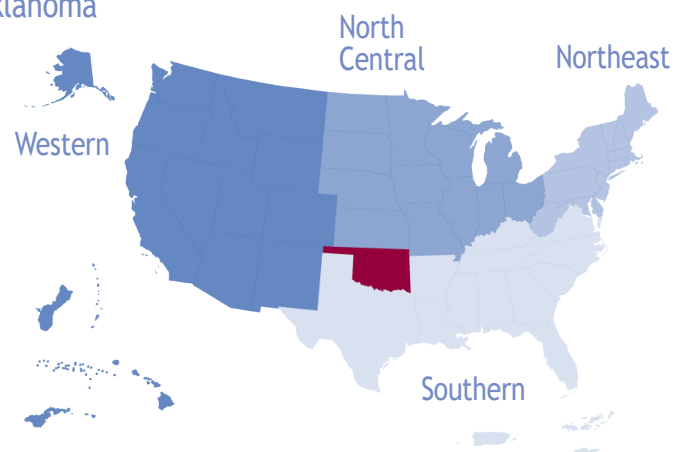
**\$2.5 million in total funding**

**45 grant projects**

(since 1988)

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

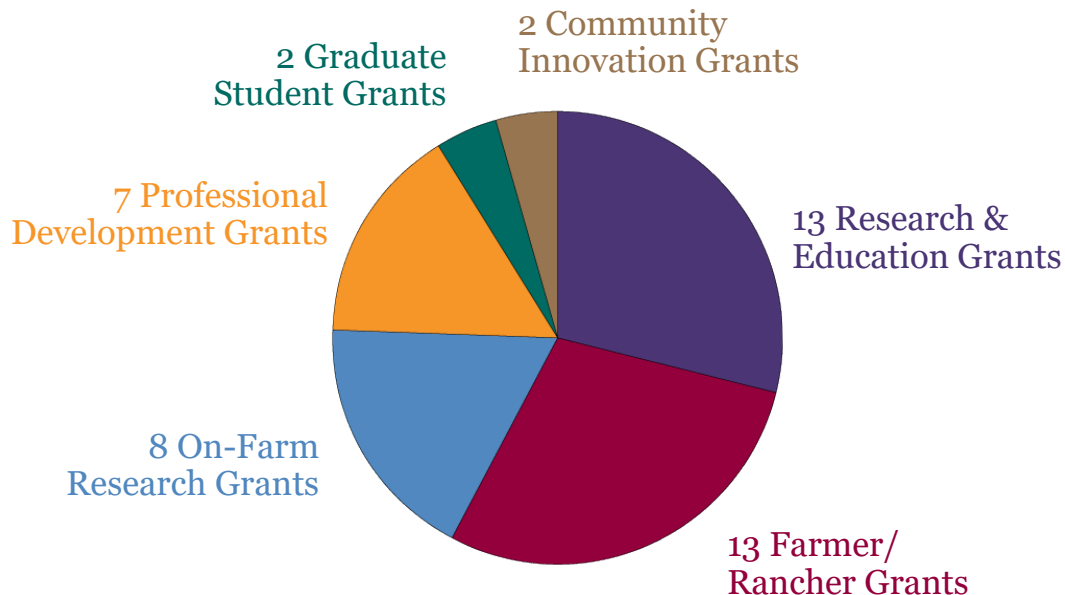
[www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://www.sare.org/state-summaries)



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

# SARE Grants in Oklahoma

SARE has  
awarded a  
total of  
**45 grants**  
in Oklahoma  
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.southernsare.org/oklahoma](http://www.southernsare.org/oklahoma) to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

**[www.SARE.org](http://www.SARE.org)**