

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

# Pennsylvania

### Project Highlight: *Better Practices, Better Dairy Farms*

**P**ennsylvania abounds with dairy farms, and with milk ranking as the state's most valuable agricultural product, these farms are an integral part of the state's economy and communities. Yet volatility in prices for milk and production inputs makes it difficult to earn a reliable profit. At the same time, dairy farmers face pressure to be good environmental stewards.

Fortunately, more sustainable systems are in reach, thanks to a large-scale, multidisciplinary research effort led by a Penn State University team. The effort, funded through multiple SARE grants, focuses on developing cropping systems that help dairy farmers cut costs by reducing off-farm inputs such as feed and fertilizer while maintaining productivity.

The project, ongoing since 2010,

compares the performance of a standard, two-year rotation of corn and soybeans with a six-year, no-till rotation that includes perennial and annual forages on a simulated 65-cow, 240-acre dairy farm. It includes other comparisons of manure applications and herbicide treatments.

The project has generated a wealth of information. For example, researchers have found that by injecting manure instead of broadcasting it, farmers can save up to 70 pounds of nitrogen per acre. They were also able to reduce herbicides in corn with banding and high-residue cultivation.

For more information, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project numbers LNE09-291, LNE13-329 and LNE16-354.

### SARE in Pennsylvania

[www.nesare.org/pennsylvania](http://www.nesare.org/pennsylvania)

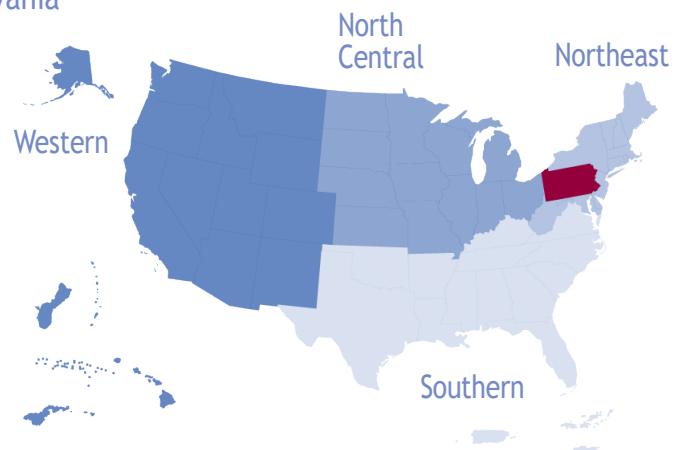
**\$12.3 million in total funding**

**298 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.

### 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.

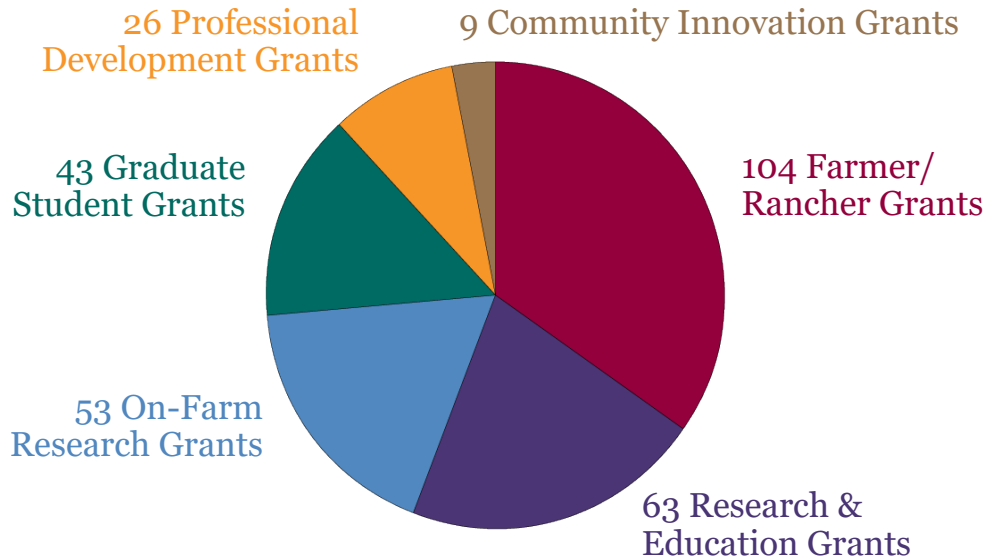


**Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education**

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

# SARE Grants in Pennsylvania

SARE has awarded a total of **298 grants** in Pennsylvania 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.nesare.org/pennsylvania](http://www.nesare.org/pennsylvania) to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

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