

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

Massachusetts

Project Highlight: *Expanding Winter Harvest and Sales for New England Vegetable Crops*

New England farmers are responding to the public's steadily increasing desire for year-round access to local food. Growing and selling enough fresh vegetables in the winter months to satisfy the market requires both adapting traditional techniques and technologies, and adopting altogether new ones

Beginning in 2010, a SARE-funded team from the Universities of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, along with two local food organizations, conducted research trials and collaborated with winter vegetable producers throughout New England on methods for production, storage and marketing to strengthen this aspect of the regional food system.

The research component focused

on winter production and the postharvest handling of root crops, primarily carrots, and explored low-cost ways for farmers to increase winter sales using low tunnels. The results of both the production and storage trials reached over 4,300 people through a vigorous educational program that included 50 events. At the end of the project in 2014, farmer surveys confirmed the benefits of winter sales and production as a way to increase farm income, maintain steady customer contact and keep employees year round.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number LNE10-297.

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 in Massachusetts

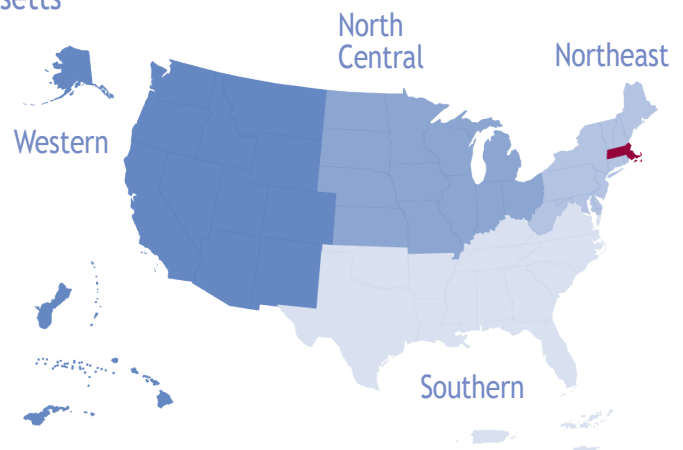
www.nesare.org/massachusetts

\$7.9 million in total funding

205 grant projects

(since 1988)

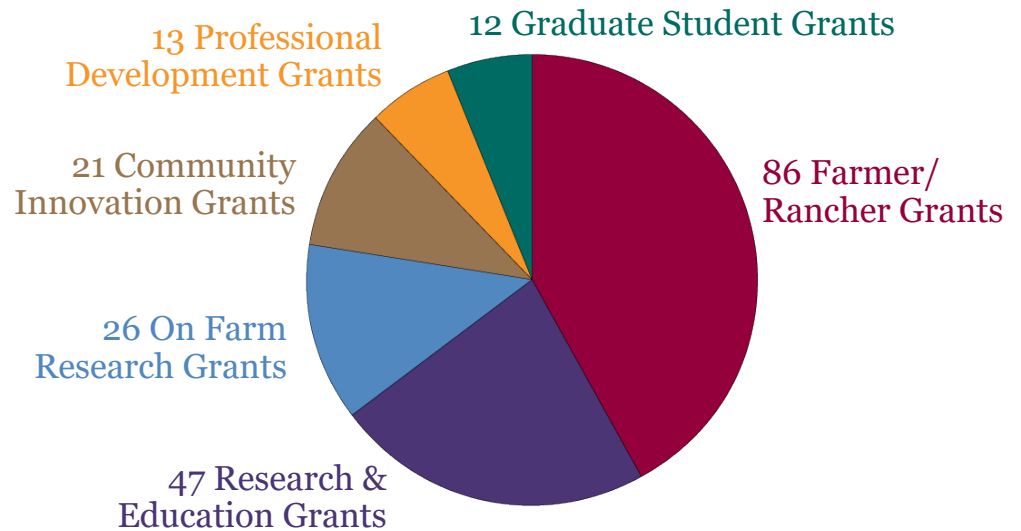
For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in Massachusetts

SARE has awarded a total of **205 grants** in Massachusetts 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/massachusetts to learn more.

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