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](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project number LNE10-297.
SARE Grants in Massachusetts

SARE has awarded a total of 218 grants in Massachusetts since 1988.

- 90 Farmer/Rancher Grants
- 47 Research & Education Grants
- 14 Graduate Student Grants
- 13 Professional Development Grants
- 29 On Farm Research Grants
- 21 Community Innovation Grants
- 4 Research Only 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

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.

Clem Clay
University of Massachusetts
(413) 545-5021
cclay@umext.umass.edu

Rachel Bespuda
New Haven County Extension Center
(203) 407-3172
rachel.bespuda@uconn.edu

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

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