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

Louisiana

Project Highlight: Summer Cover Crops Can Boost Fall Sales

Using summer cover crops to improve soil health on farms in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama has the potential to boost production of organic vegetable crops grown for local sale. Enhanced production would help meet the large increase in demand for local produce, especially in direct markets. In these states, fall through spring is the chief growing time, with summer fields typically left fallow. However, very few studies on the use of cover crops in Gulf Coast states exist. Carl Motsenbocker aimed to fill the gap in knowledge by using a SARE grant to study the influence of summer cover crop systems on fall organic vegetable crops in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Through replicated cover crop studies—some conducted on cooperating farms—Motsenbocker did, in fact, find that several summer cover crops bode well for use in organic vegetable production.

Field days and demonstrations held over the course of the project provided information to more than 150 vegetable growers about the potential of these cover crops. At these events, the project team answered frequent questions about summer crops and vegetables from other interested parties. Importantly, Motsenbocker reported relationships being developed among Alcorn State University, Alabama A&M University, Mississippi State University, and the Louisiana State University Ag Center scientists.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects and search for project number LS10-230.

SARE in Louisiana

www.southernsare.org/louisiana

$1.6 million in total funding

34 grant projects

(since 1988)

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

SARE has awarded a total of 34 grants in Louisiana since 1988.

- 10 Research & Education Grants
- 6 Farmer/Rancher Grants
- 2 Community Innovation Grants
- 5 Professional Development Grants
- 10 Graduate Student Grants
- 1 On-Farm Research Grant

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

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/louisiana to learn more.

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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.

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

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