Farmers use high tunnels to extend the growing season for high-value crops by several weeks. The practice is especially beneficial in Alaska, a state with short and intense growing seasons. High tunnels are so popular that over 400 have been built in the state since 2010, and the Kenai Peninsula district has the most high tunnels per farmer in the nation.

To help farmers take full advantage of these season-extending structures, they need access to well-trained agriculture agents, which is not so easy in a state so large. To increase capacity, University of Alaska’s Casey Matney used a SARE grant that provided training to 20 people, including all of the state’s Extension agriculture specialists and professionals from other organizations.

They participated in a workshop addressing nutrient management, integrated pest management, crop selection, irrigation, and construction and maintenance considerations in high tunnel production. More ag professionals and farmers have access to the information through a bulletin and video that Matney’s team produced. Each Extension agent who participated continues to offer high tunnel training in their district.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number EW15-022.
SARE Grants in Alaska

SARE has awarded a total of 28 grants in Alaska since 1988.

- 14 Farmer/Rancher Grants
- 4 Research & Education Grants
- 3 Graduate Student Grants
- 5 On-Farm Research Grants
- 2 Professional Development 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.westernsare.org/alaska to learn more.

Casey Matney
Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks
(907) 262-5824
camatney@alaska.edu

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