2017 ANNUAL REPORT

innovations

in sustainable agriculture

NORTHEAST SARE
Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

"Thanks to this project, I could apply some work on basic research to something that could be applied and useful to farmers. Writing the grant, administrating it, and doing the work was also a great experience!"

Flor Edith Acevedo
Pennsylvania State University
Graduate Student Grant Recipient:
"Boosting plant defenses using silicon fertilization" (GNE15-093)

Photo courtesy of Flor Edith Acevedo

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Our programs are offered to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. SARE is funded by USDA NIFA. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

About Us

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program offers competitive grants to farmers, educators, service providers, researchers, and others to address key issues affecting the sustainability of agriculture throughout our region.

The Northeast region includes: Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

We currently offer the following grant programs:
- Farmer
- Partnership
- Graduate Student
- Research and Education
- Research for Novel Approaches
- Professional Development Program
- State-based Programs

Northeast SARE is one of four regional SARE programs funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Our outcome statement that drives our program:

Agriculture in the Northeast will be diversified and profitable, providing healthful products to its customers; it will be conducted by farmers who manage resources wisely, are satisfied with their lifestyles, and have a positive influence on their communities and the environment.

On cover: A cover crop blend of winter rye and tillage radish. Right: Sunflowers used as an oilseed crop. All photos by Debra Heleba unless otherwise noted.

FROM OUR REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Thirty years of Northeast SARE

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, funded by USDA, has been promoting innovation among farmers and the people who work with them. That innovation comes from the projects conducted by our grantees that yield new and improved practices for all types of farms, in agricultural communities, and in organizations and institutions dedicated to making our food system better.

Over the past 30 years, Northeast SARE has awarded $65 million in competitive grants to 1,894 projects. That has fueled a lot of innovation. In the early days, these projects pushed the envelope of knowledge in areas like direct marketing, intensive pasture management, and organic farming. More recently, we've seen knowledge developed in other areas such as aquaculture, high tunnels, soil health, and urban agriculture. I can't wait to see what new areas will have traction in the future.

The value of Northeast SARE comes from our grantees. It's the information they generate that allows us to effectively support an enduring agriculture that is profitable, stewards our natural resources, and ensures quality of life for farmers and their communities.

My view is that Northeast SARE is effective because of our unique combination of attributes:

We involve farmers. Farmers are the ultimate beneficiaries of our grant programs so we engage them at every level. We fund them to conduct projects themselves and to host on-farm research. We invite them to serve on grant review and leadership teams. And we focus on their adoption of new practices when evaluating project results.

We seek measurable results. Our projects are investments and we focus on the quantifiable impacts that they yield for farms and communities. We ask our grantees to describe what they seek to achieve in measurable terms and to have a plan for taking those measurements.

We are impartial about farm scale and philosophy. We fund projects that serve all sizes and types of agriculture including large- and small-scale farms in rural and urban settings using conventional, organic, and other systems. No matter the scale or production system, we ask that our projects clearly aim to enhance the sustainability of agriculture.

Our door is open to ideas. We let applicants decide what areas of agriculture are important; we don't have a narrow subject matter focus. Our reviewers endorse projects that will create new

Over the past 30 years, Northeast SARE has awarded $65 million in competitive grants to 1,894 projects. That has fueled a lot of innovation.

Northeast SARE leadership committees and staff strive to better understand the diversity of agriculture and needs of farmers throughout our region through annual farm visits. In 2017, the group learned more about farming in and around Baltimore, Maryland including urban agriculture from farmers like Warren and Levette Blue of the Greener Garden LLC, left, and large scale operations like the Rose family's Clear Meadow Farm, right. SARE's projects address the needs of both kinds of farms through research and education on cover crops, soil health, marketing, and more.

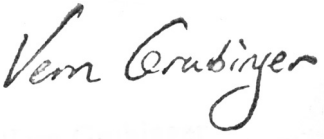
information, and it is up to applicants to make the case for how that information can be applied and why it's important to Northeast agriculture.

Our leadership is local. In each of its four regions, SARE has an Administrative Council and Technical Committee that understand that region's agriculture. The farmers, educators, agency personnel, nonprofit staff, and researchers who review our grants and guide our policies live and work right here.

We are accountable. We have moved beyond just counting grants and dollars; we now assess the impacts from our funded projects. For a snapshot, see "Program Results" on page 6.

We seek continuous improvement. We modify our procedures based on applicant and reviewer feedback and, at the behest of our Administrative Council, we create new grant programs to meet emerging needs. For example, we started the graduate student grant program 7 years ago to invest in our future scientists. Our agroecosystems program funded systems research for over a decade, filling a much needed grants gap. And, in 2017, we began our newest program--Research for Novel Approaches--to fund applied research on sustainable agriculture practices not yet ready for farmer adoption.

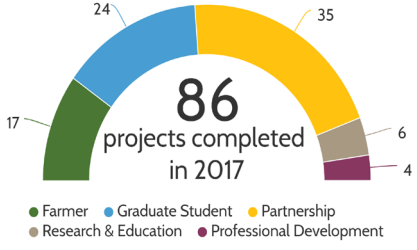
With three decades of learning behind us and a solid platform for inquiry and education underneath us, I believe that the future is bright for Northeast SARE.



Program results

Each year, Northeast SARE awards about $3 million in competitive grants to annually conduct around 100 projects throughout the Northeast and mid-Atlantic. But the value of Northeast SARE extends beyond grant-making.

Our grantees generate new information to advance sustainable agriculture throughout our region, all with the vision of an agriculture that is profitable; stewards our region's land, air and water; and ensures quality of life for our farmers and their communities. Further, our grant managers monitor projects to track project successes and close the loop on our grant investments. Through this work, we know that of the 86 projects completed in the calendar year 2017, 94% achieved all of their planned objectives. In total, these projects trained 7,820 farmers and 462 agricultural service providers through 168 workshops and other events, and produced 40 guides, fact sheets, and related educational products.



As a result, these projects documented that at least 1,164 farms made on-farm changes. See examples of projects completed in 2017 on right and learn more about our work at: **www.nesare.org/stories.**

A sampling of Northeast SARE projects completed in 2017

In his Farmer grant, Tom Gilbert, Black Dirt Farm, studied the nutrition and pathogenic risks of feeding food scraps to poultry to reduce feed costs. He found they can be safe additions to his flock's feed rations while providing new income from collecting community food wastes.

In her Graduate Student grant, Cornell University's Lisa Kissing Kucek conducted a participatory breeding project with organic grain farmers to develop new populations of wheat, einkorn, and other grains to improve early vigor and weed-competiveness traits.

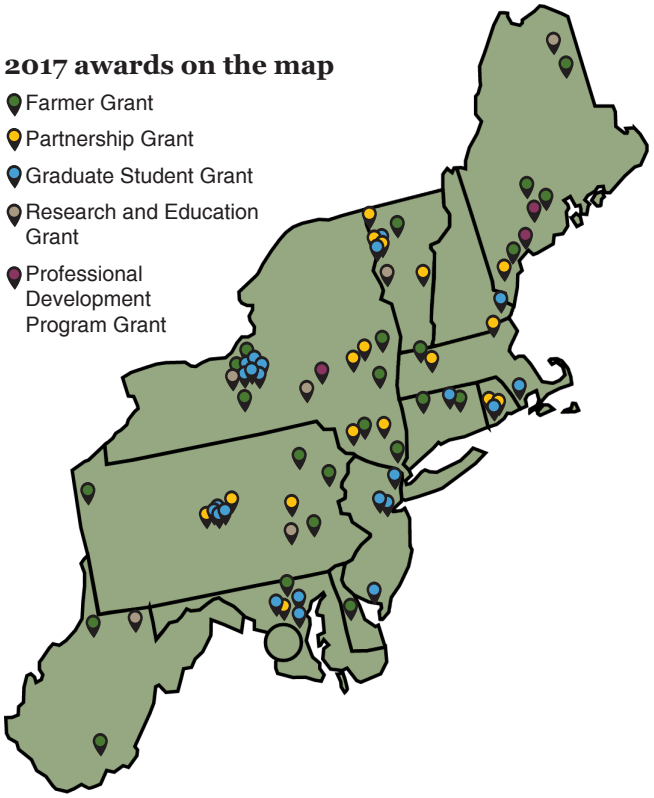
West Virginia's Downstream Strategies explored farm equipment sharing models with their Partnership grant. They shared lessons learned--including insurance needs, scheduling considerations, transporation issues, and other keys to success--in an online handbook.

A Research and Education project, led by Cornell University, showed that Adapt-N, a digital nitrogen (N) management tool for field corn production, can help farmers reduce average N inputs by 29 lbs/acre without yield decreases, resulting in higher farm profits ($29/acre).

As a multi-state Professional Development Program, the Northeast Beginning Farmer Learning Network trained 263 professionals to better support beginning farmers; 51 demonstrated improved services to 1,820 farmers; as a result 488 farmers reported management changes.

2017 awards by state

During 2017, Northeast SARE funded 72 projects, totaling $1,653,370. Projects were funded in every Northeast state, see the following list. Find more information about these and other SARE-funded projects by searching project name, number, coordinator, etc. on SARE's national database at: projects.sare.org/search-projects.



Connecticut

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-869

Establishing propagation protocols and assessing weed risk of Litchi tomato, *Solanum sisymbriifoium*

Diane Dorfer, Cobblestone Farm, Mansfield Center CT
$5,459

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-883

Comparison of indigenous microorganism and commercial soil inoculant on crop yields and basil downy mildew disease resistance

Melody Wright, Pleasant Valley Botanicals, Collinsville CT
$15,000

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-146

Maximizing the health and size of on-site native pollinator populations for crops requiring sonication pollination

John Campanelli, University of Connecticut, Storrs CT
Advisor: Julia Kuzovkina
$14,973

Delaware

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-873

Improving poultry farm sustainability through pollinator buffers

Tina Hill, Hill Farms, Inc., Houston DE
$11,481

Massachusetts

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-866

Combining insecticide bait with visual traps for apple maggot control

Dana Clark, Clark Brothers Orchard, Ashfield MA
$8,509

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-161

Parasite Mitigation Strategies in Bay Scallop Aquaculture

Harrison Tobi, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth MA
Advisor: Jennifer Koop
$14,575

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-290

Legal guidelines for on-farm labor & learning

Brianna Bowman, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, Lowell MA
$15,000

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-300

Evaluating the methods, effects, and economics of interplanting oyster mushrooms with vegetable crops

Geunhwa Jung, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA
$14,877

Maryland

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-875

Using real-time generated rate-of-gain to determine anthelmintic need in pastured Blue Faced Leicester Maryland lambs

Andrew Keller, Vista View Farms, Damascus MD
$9,104

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-295

On-farm food safety trainings for community supported agriculture, on-farm markets, and agritourism operations

Paul Goeringer, University of Maryland, College Park MD
$14,974

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-148

The Maryland winter cover crop program: Assessing performance

Brian Davis, University of Maryland, Beltsville MD
Advisor: Brian Needelman
$14,800

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-150

Integrating sustainability and food safety: Assessing *Salmonella* serovar fitness in irrigation water and transfer onto crops

Angela Ferelli, University of Maryland, Riverdale MD
Advisor: Shirley Micallef
$14,958

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-160

Effect of winter cover crops on soil nitrogen dynamics in no-till corn systems

Resham Thapa, University of Maryland, College Park MD
Advisor: Katherine Tully
$14,998

Maine

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-864

Building soil fertility with spent brewers grains

Anson Biller, Full Fork Farm, China ME
$11,272

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-868

The effect of crowning and weed management practices on hop yield and downy mildew

Krista Delahunty, Aroostook Hops, Westfield ME
$12,206

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-876

Developing a breed registry for Polwarth sheep using imported semen and radio-frequency technology

Nanne Kennedy, Meadowcroft Farm, Washington ME
$15,000

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-877

Integrated oyster and littleneck clam aquaculture to increase seafarm yield

Jordan Kramer, Winnegance Oyster Farm, Portland ME
$14,942

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-306

A histopathological-biochemical health and condition assessment of farmed blue mussels in a changing Gulf of Maine

Adam St. Gelais, University of New England, Biddeford ME
$14,233

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANT: LNE17-358

Developing best management practices for pulse and oilseed crops in the Northeast

Jake Dyer, Maine Potato Board, Presque Isle ME
$105,527

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT: ENE17-146

Professional development in calibrating pesticide and nutrient application equipment for agricultural service providers

Caragh Fitzgerald, University of Maine, Augusta ME
$90,743

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT: ENE17-147

Training the trainers: Enhancing Cooperative Extension resources for beginning farmers

Jason Lilley, University of Maine, Falmouth ME
$47,107

New Hampshire

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-153

Developing legume-grass mixtures to improve the environmental sustainability of NE organic dairies

Mohammad Ghelich Khan, University of New Hampshire, Durham NH
Advisor: Andre Brito
$14,916

New Jersey

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-141

Breeding for thermal tolerance in farmed atlantic surfclams (*Spisula solidissima*)

Michael Acquafredda, Rutgers University, Port Norris NJ
Advisor: Daphne Munroe
$14,963

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-149

Roles of rhizobacteria from Northeast natural ecosystems in improving crop productivity and stress tolerance

William Errickson, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ
Advisor: Bingru Huang
$14,848

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-158

Reclamation of nutrients and irrigation waters from livestock wastewater

Alon Rabinovich, Rutgers University, Newark NJ
Advisor: Ashaki Rouff
$15,000

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-162

Increasing horse pasture productivity by integrating warm-season grasses into cool-season rotational grazing systems

Jennifer Weinert, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ
Advisor: Carey Williams
$14,997

New York

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-862

Livestock manure briquette fuel-making machine: Design and implementation for small farms

Rose Marie Belforti, Finger Lakes Dexter Creamery, King Ferry NY
$13,743

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-867

Residual doramectin in alpaca manure compost

Steve Cole, Faraway Farm Alpacas, Yorktown Heights NY
$14,521

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-872

Targeted thermal protection for fruiting zone in a vineyard

Tom Higgins, Heart & Hands Wine Company, Union Springs NY
$14,952

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-874

Oyster mushroom cultivation using spent coffee grounds and hardwood sawdust

Renee Jacobson, Firefly Farm, Beaver Dams NY
$14,994

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-879

Economic viability for the farmer, fresh food for low-income families: A manual

Leah Penniman, Soul Fire Farm, Petersburg NY
$14,955

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-880

Frost protection comparison for Haskaps (*Lonicera caerulea)*

Chris Pennings, Christopher Jacobs Winery at Pennings Vineyards, Pine Bush NY
$10,228

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-884

Edible weeds from farm to market: A resource guide

Tusha Yakovleva, Golden Roots Farm, Hudson NY
$14,975

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-292

Developing lavender and mint production in the Northeast

Lily Calderwood, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville NY
$14,987

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-298

Nitrogen dynamics and yield response to minimal supplemental heating in high tunnel winter production

Ethan Grundberg, Cornell University, Middletown NY
$14,997

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-301

Lease mediation project

Claudia Kenny, New York State Agricultural Mediation Program, Albany NY
$14,487

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-303

Increasing soil health and climate resilience education for pasture-based livestock farmers

Dave Llewellyn, Glynwood Center, Inc., Cold Spring NY
$14,967

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-143

Combining resistances to major bacterial, fungal, and oomycete diseases of Northeast-adapted tomato

Taylor Anderson, Cornell University, Ithaca NY
Advisor: Martha Mutschler
$14,994

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-151

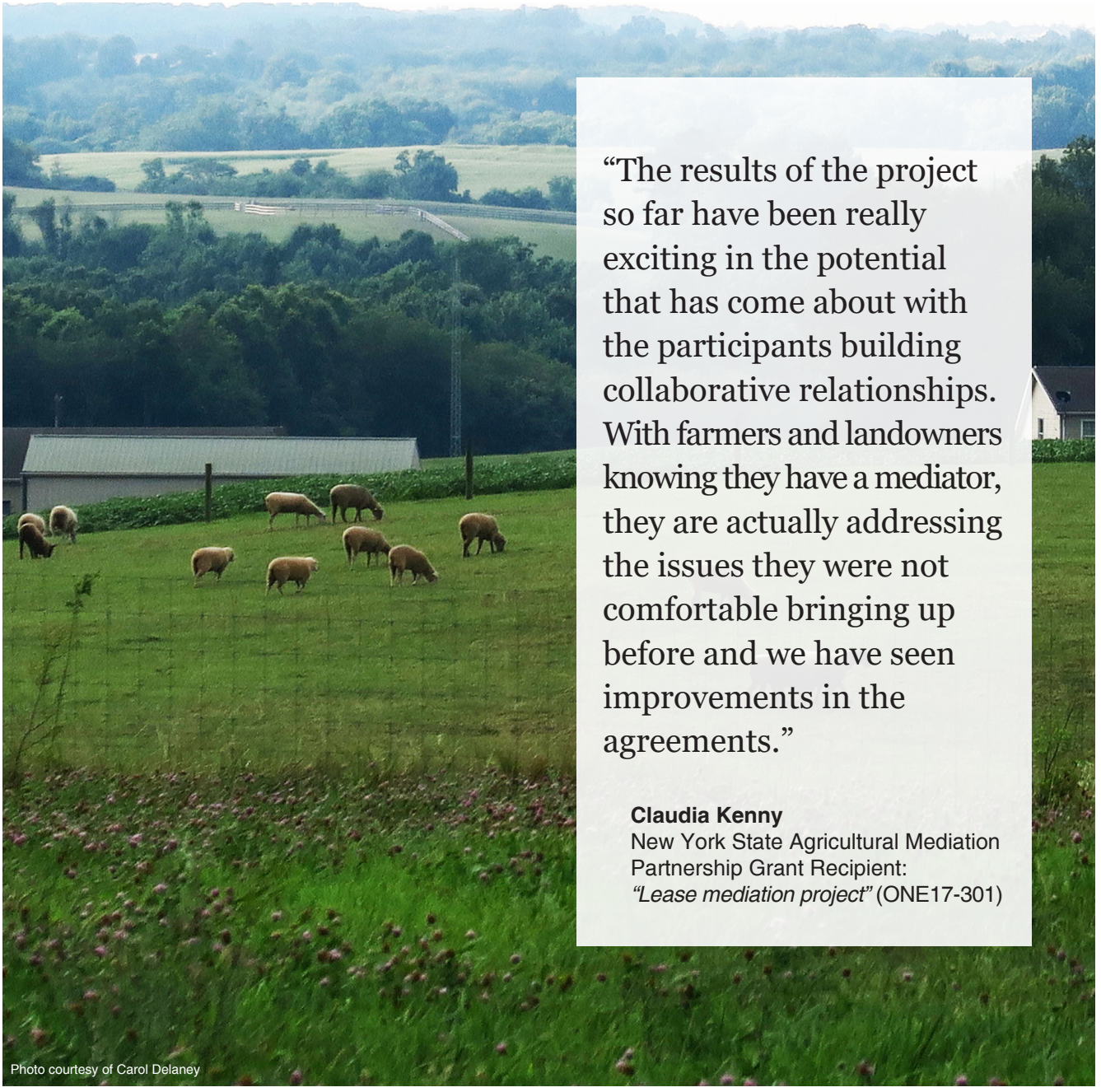
Application of limestone-bed bioreactors to treat silage leachate

Bahareh Hassanpour Guilvaiee, Cornell University, Ithaca NY
Advisor: Tammo Steenhuis
$14,957

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-152

Using palissage to reduce disease incidence and fungicide use in winegrapes

Anne Kearney, Cornell University, Ithaca NY
Advisor: Justine Vanden Heuvel
$14,993



"The results of the project so far have been really exciting in the potential that has come about with the participants building collaborative relationships. With farmers and landowners knowing they have a mediator, they are actually addressing the issues they were not comfortable bringing up before and we have seen improvements in the agreements."

Claudia Kenny
New York State Agricultural Mediation Partnership Grant Recipient:
"Lease mediation project" (ONE17-301)

Photo courtesy of Carol Delaney

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-154

Mineral nitrogen recovery from manure slurry through multi-layer sorption of NH_3 and CO_2 onto pyrolyzed biomass

Leilah Krounbi, Cornell University, Ithaca NY
Advisor: Johannes Lehmann
$15,000

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-156

Increasing the profitability of Kernza perennial wheat with inter-cropped grain legumes

Eugene Law, Cornell University, Ithaca NY
Advisor: Matthew Ryan
$15,000

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-159

Insect larvae production on dairy cow manure: a potential windfall for dairy farmers and sustainable aquaculture

Nathaniel Sibinga, Cornell University, Ithaca NY
Advisor: Helene Marquis
$15,000

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANT: LNE17-357

Farmer-generated training and equipment solutions for producing and processing value-added grains

Elizabeth Dyck, Organic Growers' Research and Information-Sharing Network, Bainbridge NY
$76,019

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANT: LNE17-360

Undervine cover crops to reduce herbicide use and management costs in New York State vineyards

Justine Vanden Heuvel, Cornell University, Geneva NY
$87,983

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT: ENE17-148

Improving whole-farm planning education in the Northeast

Sarah Williford, Center for Agriculture Development and Entrepreneurship, Oneonta NY
$149,945

Pennsylvania

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-863

Mite-biting behavior in feral swarms: The Pennsylvania queen improvement project

Jeffrey Berta, Always Summer Herbs, LLC, Slippery Rock PA
$15,000

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-865

Single-producer-scale preparation of warm-season grass for poultry bedding

Will Brandau, Wood Crest Farm, Wapwallopen PA
$13,555

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-878

Advanced cultivation tools for walk-behind tractors

Mark Nuneviller, Nuneviller Family Farms, Collegeville PA
$7,944

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-881

Growing Verona grapes organically in Pennsylvania

Randall Rice, Mountain View Vineyard, Stroudsburg PA
$14,832

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-294

Community benchmarks for productivity and profitability for diversified pastured livestock farmers

Franklin Egan, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Millheim PA
$14,326

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-307

Crediting cover crops and soil organic matter in a variable rate nitrogen fertilizer prescription

Charles White, Pennsylvania State University, University Park PA
$14,832

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-308

Evaluating the use of low-input technology for small-scale, no-till organic farming systems

Gladis Zinati, Rodale Institute, Kutztown PA
$14,990

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-142

Designing farms that support wild bees

Melanie Kammerer Allen, Pennsylvania State University, University Park PA
Advisor: Christina Grozinger
$15,000

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-144

To be host or not to be: Finding sustainable management through endophyte interactions

Laura del Sol Bautista Jalon, Pennsylvania State University, University Park PA
Advisor: Maria del Mar Jimenez-Gasco
$15,000

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-147

UV-blocking plastics for sustainable control of spotted wing drosophila in everbearing raspberries in high tunnels

Maria Cramer, Pennsylvania State University, State College PA
Advisor: Richard Marini
$14,705

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-155

A root-centric view of root-microbe interactions in apple replant disease

Emily Lavely, Pennsylvania State University, University Park PA
Advisor: David Eissenstat
$15,000

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANT: LNE17-356

Optimizing yield, milling quality, and disease management in spelt and other heritage grain production in the mid-Atlantic

Alyssa Collins, Pennsylvania State University, Manheim PA
$57,281

Rhode Island

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-291

Testing laser scarecrows for neighbor-friendly bird damage reduction in sweet corn on periurban farms

Rebecca Brown, University of Rhode Island, Kingston RI
$14,925

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-304

Efficacy and cost effectiveness of foliar nutrient applications to vegetable crops on a large Rhode Island farm

Andrew Radin, University of Rhode Island, Kingston RI
$14,963

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-145

The effect of season upon the life cycle and development of *Haemonchus contortus* in experimentally infected lambs

Marissa Brummett, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI
Advisor: Katherine Petersson
$14,640

Vermont

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-871

Establishing populations of ground-nesting native bees (*Colletes*) for orchard pollination services

John Hayden, The Farm Between, Jeffersonville VT
$6,989

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-293

Winter-terminated cover crop strategies for vegetable farms in northern New England

Heather Darby, University of Vermont, St. Albans VT
$14,996

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-299

Evaluating perennial living mulches in a silage corn production system in the Northeast

Sid Bosworth, University of Vermont, Burlington VT
$15,000

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-302

Application of regionally adapted nematodes for root maggot management

Scott Lewins, University of Vermont, Burlington VT
$13,046

PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ONE17-305

A farmer collaboration initiative

Beth Roy, Vital Communities, White River Junction VT
$14,994

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-157

Full-diet farming: A case study of an alternative model for community-supported agriculture

Caitlin Morgan, University of Vermont, Burlington VT
Advisor: Amy Trubek
$14,171

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT: GNE17-163

Linking adaptive management to climate change impacts on diversified vegetable and berry farms in northern New England

Alissa White, University of Vermont, Burlington VT
Advisor: Ernesto Mendez
$13,385

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANT: LNE17-355

Improving pasture resource management with farmer-engaged planning

Cheryl Cesario, University of Vermont Extension, Middlebury VT
$91,852

West Virginia

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-870

Determination of optimum planting dates for strawberry production in southern West Virginia

Kent Gilkerson, Sunset Berry Farm & Produce LLC, Alderson WV
$13,725

FARMER GRANT: FNE17-882

Defining honeybee pollen sources in Appalachia, July through October

Michael Staddon, Honey Glen LLC, Salem WV
$14,968

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANT: LNE17-359

Obtaining preventative veterinary care in underserved areas

William Shockey, West Virginia University, Kingwood WV
$67,092

"After years of working on this project…we seem to have developed a momentum that is unimaginable! It is truly the scientific process, the more we discover, the more questions we have, yet another hypothesis to investigate. For example, the control bees that we used actually showed their own different type of grooming behavior."

Jeff Berta
Always Summer Herbs
Farmer Grant Recipient:
"Mite-biting behavior in feral swarms: The Pennsylvania queen improvement project" (FNE17-863, FNE16-836, FNE15-819)

Photo courtesy of Jeff Berta

New Northeast staff and leaders

2017 brought some staffing changes to Northeast SARE. Joining the regional office staff housed at the University of Vermont Extension, Debra Heleba took on the position of the regional communications specialist following Helen Husher's retirement after her 19-year tenure, and Jennifer Pelkey joined the team as office manager. Nevin Dawson stepped up to become the professional development program associate, adding this role to his duties as the University of Maryland state SARE coordinator.

Northeast SARE gained new state coordinators: Beth Holtzman is now University of Vermont's state SARE coordinator; Dr. Naveen Kumar is the new state coordinator at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and Olivia Saunders is University of New Hampshire's state coordinator. Rachel Bespuda of the University of Connecticut is now the project coordinator for the CT-MA-RI tri-state SARE program.

In addition, the Northeast SARE Administrative Council—the regional governance council that sets program policy and direction and makes final decisions about which projects to fund—also saw some membership changes.

Joining the Northeast Administrative Council in 2017 include:

- Brent Beidler, Beidler Family Farm, Randolph Center, VT;
- Kristy Borrelli, Professional Development Program Liaison, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA;
- Nathan L'Etoile, Four Star Farms, Northfield, MA;
- Mark Powell, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Annapolis, MD; and
- Andrew Smyre, Anchor Ingredients Company, Mohrsville, PA.

Joining the Northeast SARE staff (top row) are Nevin Dawson, professional development program associate; Debra Heleba, regional communications specialist; and Jennifer Pelkey, office manager. New state SARE coordinators (middle row) include Beth Holtzman (VT), Naveen Kumar (MD), and Olivia Saunders (NH). Rachel Bespuda (right) joins Northeast SARE as the CT-MA-RI project coordinator.

Celebrating 30 years of sustainable agriculture

OUR FARMS, OUR FUTURE

April 3-5, 2018
St. Louis, Missouri

ofof.sare.org

Join SARE and NCAT/ATTRA at this national event that will bring together our diverse agricultural community including farmers, students, educators, food system businesspeople and advocates, researchers, agency staff and nonprofit leaders. The conference will give us an opportunity to look at the progress of sustainable agriuclture and understand our trajectory for the future.

A look ahead

We look forward to another year of grant-making in 2018. Our new slate of **state-based programs** will address:

- Sustainable livestock production practices (CT-MA-RI);
- Supporting beginning farmers (DE);
- Cover crops and soil health (DE-MD);
- Apple orchard establishment on the Eastern Shore (MD);
- Building soil health (MD, ME);
- Integrated crop management (MA);
- Beekeeping (NH);
- Specialty crop (NJ) and wholesale (NY) marketing;
- Alternative grain crop production (PA);
- Season extension with catepillar tunnels (RI);
- Enhanced sustainable agriculture programming through evaluation (VT) and grant writing (WV) skills; and,
- Agripreneurship training and network development (WV).

Learn more at: **nesare.org/State-Programs**.

Our newest grant program, **Research for Novel Approaches**, is an exciting opportunity for researchers exploring sustainable agriculture practices that are not quite ready for farmer adoption. Stay tuned for the first crop of funded projects later this winter. This grant program joins our other five competitive grants programs; learn more at: **nesare.org/Grants**.

Finally, following a competitive call for proposals to serve as the **regional host institution**, the University of Vermont was selected to continue leading Northeast SARE for the next 5 years. The University of Connecticut will remain host of our Professional Development Program. We are delighted to continue serving you with grant-making opportunities to advance sustainable agriculture through the Northeast region.

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