

## 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 \$287 million to more than 7,000 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](http://www.sare.org)

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

# Maryland

### Project Highlight: *Deep-Rooted Cover Crops Reduce Leaching Risk*

Despite the advantages of planting cover crops to reduce nitrate leaching to local waters and the Chesapeake Bay, adoption is still low in Maryland. Estimates are that even with subsidies, less than half of the state's corn and soybean farms are cover cropped. One reason could be that most cover crops used in the subsidy program are planted after fall harvest and terminated before spring planting, which does not give them much time to grow roots that can capture excess nitrogen in the soil and provide farmers an economic benefit.

So, using a SARE grant, University of Maryland researcher Raymond Weil examined strategies for planting cover crops earlier in the season and the effect it had on both nutrient requirements and yields of corn and soybeans. Work-

ing with other researchers and farmers in both Maryland and Pennsylvania, he focused on cover crop species not typically used under the subsidy program, including radishes, legumes and mixes.

The team found that early, deep-rooted cover crops did reduce the risk of nitrate leaching into groundwater and improved corn yields by providing nitrogen in the spring. They have shared project results with more than 2,000 farmers and educators, and the use of a radish cover crop in the state program has increased in recent years.

For more information on this project, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project number LNE14-338.

## SARE in Maryland

[www.nesare.org/maryland](http://www.nesare.org/maryland)

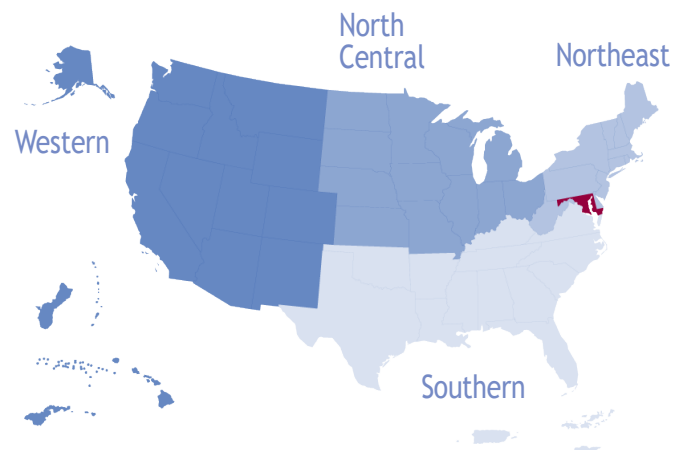
**\$4.9 million in  
total funding**

**131 grant  
projects**

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to

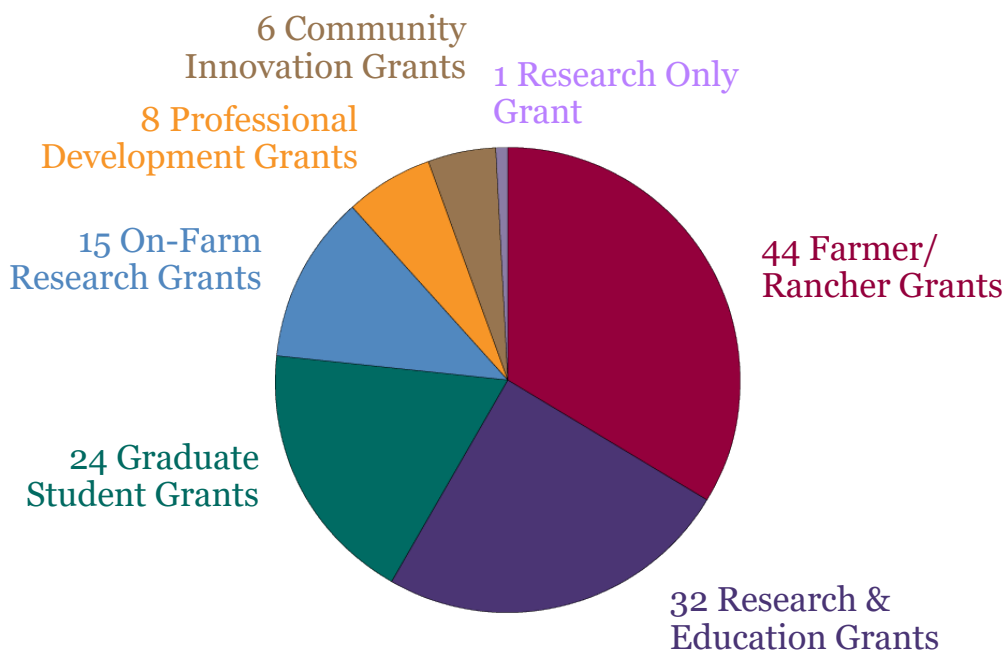
[www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://www.sare.org/state-summaries)



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

# SARE Grants in Maryland

SARE has awarded a total of **131 grants** in Maryland 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/maryland](http://www.nesare.org/maryland) to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

[www.SARE.org](http://www.SARE.org)