

**2009 Annual State Report to the Southern Region SARE Program**  
State Oklahoma

<i>DATE:</i>	01/04/2010
STATE SUBCONTRACT NUMBER:	#RE675-153/3842638
STATE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COORDINATOR:	Kefyalew Desta
Institution/Organization	Oklahoma State University
Address	269 Agricultural Hall
City, State, Zip	Stillwater, OK 74078
Phone	405-744-6550
Fax	405-744-5269 (FAX)
Email	kefyalew.desta@okstate.edu
STATE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COORDINATOR:	Terry Gipson
Institution/Organization	Langston University
Address	Box 730
City, State, Zip	Langston, OK 73050
Phone	405.466.6126
Fax	405.466.6180 (fax)
Email	tgipson@luresext.edu
CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD:	January 2009 to December 2009
SSARE FUNDING AMOUNT:	\$20, 000

### **Abstract**

During 2009, the OkSARE PDP hosted or sponsored several professional development workshops, demonstrations, and conferences. The program also served as an information source regarding sustainable agriculture for a broad spectrum of clientele in the state. Activities and salient outcomes included hosting of three workshops; publication of two fact sheets, publication of two handbooks and one TV show. Due to the efforts of the program, more than 12 grant proposals have been submitted for possible funding to different agencies. Those attending trainings this year included: 125 Oklahoma Extension personnel and 89 individuals from other governmental and non-governmental agencies and private enterprise.

## TRAINING EFFORTS & OUTCOMES

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Enhancing the Adoption of Organic Production.** Oklahoma SARE hosted the workshop held on October 21, 2009 at the Oklahoma State University Botanical Garden. The purpose of this workshop was to present science-based information that covers basic production concepts and techniques as well as information on acts, certification rules, and marketing of organic products in Oklahoma. The workshop addressed subject matter topics (SMT) 13 and Training Objectives 1, 3, 8. The following outputs and outcomes resulted from this program.
  - 45 agricultural consultants from Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, NRCS, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, mentor producers, tribal organizations, and other individuals attended the workshop. Eight continuing education units were offered.
  - Presentations from the workshop were posted for wider audiences on the OKSARE and [OSU Sustainable agriculture](#) websites (daily visits to these web sites are estimated at 200).
  - An [online](#) organic crop production proceeding/handbook.
  - Outcomes include adoption of organic principles by producers, an increase in the number of transitioning farmers, and an increase in the certification of new operations.
  
- **Small Stock Mortality and Backyard Composting Workshop training.** A training workshop was held on Oct 20, 2009 at the Langston University Goat research facility to educate agricultural consultants and mentor producers about small stock mortality and backyard composting as an alternative to waste disposal and as means of effective resource cycling. The workshop addressed subject matter topics (SMT) 1, 2, and 3, and Training Objectives 1 and 9. The following outputs and outcomes resulted from this program.
  - 32 agricultural consultants from Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, NRCS, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, mentor producers, Tribal Organizations, and other individuals attended the workshop. Six continuing education units were offered.
  - Presentations from the workshop were posted for wider audiences on the OKSARE and [OSU Sustainable agriculture](#) websites.
  - Two fact sheets ([Small Stock Mortality Composting](#) and [Compost Turning](#)) were developed and published.
  - 1 SUNUP TV program was aired on Nov 6, 2009 on OETA channel. This program is available on [You Tube](#) for viewing.
  - Outcomes include composting and garden initiatives in churches and schools in Stillwater and surrounding cities, initiation of sustainable and permaculture farms by individuals and groups.
  
- **Grant Writing Workshop for SARE Programs.** An interactive training workshop was held on Sept 3, 2009 at the OSU/OKC Agriculture Technology Facility. The workshop addressed subject matter topics (SMT) 16 and Training Objectives 6 and 7. The following outputs and outcomes resulted from this program.
  - 41 Agriculture Professionals (extension personnel, tribes, and community outreach organizations).
  - Presentations from the workshop were posted for wider audiences on the OKSARE and [OSU sustainable agriculture](#) websites.
  - As a result of the workshop six proposals have been submitted for possible funding and 3 others are in development pending submission from participants. All participants indicated that the workshop was well worth the time. This information was obtained from a post-workshop (Dec 11, 2009) survey of participants.

- **No-till Oklahoma Conference 2009.** This workshop addressed subject matter topics (SMT) 1, 4, and 5, and Training Objectives 3 and 4. Ninety three agriculture professionals (Various extension personnel, NRCS, OCC, tribal educators, and producer cooperators) were sponsored to attend the conference.
- **Sustainable Blackberry Workshop.** This workshop addressed subject matter topics (SMT) 1, 4, and 5, and Training Objectives 1, 7, 15, and 16. Twenty five agriculture professionals (mainly extension personnel) were sponsored to attend the workshop.
- **Children's Gardening Workshop for Educators.** This workshop addressed subject matter topics (SMT) 1, 9, and 17, and Training Objectives 1 and 5. Attended by seventeen educational professionals (public schools, religious and community outreach).
- **Teff Alternative Crop Workshop and Field Day.** This workshop addressed subject matter topics (SMT) 1 and 15, and Training Objective 8. Twenty three agriculture professionals (extension personnel and producer cooperators) attended the workshop and field day. As a result of this effort many individual growers, processors and entrepreneurs expressed interest.
- **Extension Training of National Guard Personnel.** Forty five military personnel were provided training materials for outreach efforts to promote sustainable agricultural stability for Afghanistan.
- **Train the Trainer Tour and Workshop for Women in Agriculture.** This workshop addressed subject matter topics (SMT) 1, 2, and 16. Three presentations were offered in three counties on sustainable agriculture for 81 participants.

#### **RAISING VISIBILITY OF SARE, NETWORKING, AND ENCOURAGING CLIENTELE TO SUBMIT COMPETITIVE SARE PROPOSALS**

- On July 14, 2009 an extension specialist promoted the OK-SARE and Southern-SARE programs for 150 organic field day participants.
- A total of 356 participants attended the 2009 Goat Field Day organized by Langston University on Saturday, April 25, 2009 under the theme "Breeding for the Future in the Dairy and Meat Goat Industries". Oklahoma SARE encouraged agricultural and other professionals to attend this event while our program sponsored one extension specialists to attend this event.
- An aggressive networking with state institutions, sustainable agriculture networks and organizations, tribal organizations, minority farmer groups, individual producers, and others was forged during this year. Oklahoma SARE PDP, thus Southern SARE and its services were effectively disseminated among a large fraction of Oklahoma Agricultural families.

#### **PDP COMPETITIVE ENHANCEMENT GRANT**

- The Oklahoma SARE Professional Development Program (PDP) developed and submitted a Competitive MSP Enhancement Grant proposal for conducting training for Sustainable Parasite Control for Sheep and Goats with Emphasis on Organic Producers.

#### **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

- Handbook for Nutrient and Soil Management for Master Gardeners programs: OKSARE participated in editing and formatting of this handbook which was distributed to 2,000 gardeners, home owners, extension professionals and researchers.
- A quarterly Newsletter has been in publication by OKSARE. At least 350 copies were distributed as hard copies; 400 as electronic (e-mail attachment) and posted at the OKSARE website which is trafficked by 250/Month.

- No-till Cropping Systems Handbook: To date, 3400 copies have been distributed as far away as China and Australia.
- Homeowner's Handbook for Soil Fertility: To date, 2500 copies have been distributed through the state.
- Switchgrass Production Manual for Oklahoma: To date, 1000 copies have been distributed throughout the state.
- New sustainable agriculture website developed through the Plant and Soil Sciences Department.
- New sustainable agriculture courses offered at OSU.
- The update and maintenance of the OKSARE website.

### **LONG-TERM**

- **Poultry Waste Management Education.** Previously Oklahoma SARE has helped sponsor training for educators and agency personnel providing education through the Oklahoma Poultry Waste Management Education program. The following are some of the outputs and outcomes generated in 2009 from previous trainings:
  - ✓ 140 poultry producers and/or litter applicators were certified by attending the 9-hour poultry waste management initial education program.
  - ✓ 20 continuing education sessions were conducted for those needing to maintain certification.
  - ✓ 781 poultry producers and/or litter applicators were able to maintain certification by attending at least three hours of continuing education.
- **Oklahoma Meat Goat Programming, April 21-23, 2008** Oklahoma SARE helped sponsor a three day Meat Goat Boot Camp workshop and tour which was conducted From April 21 to 23, 2008. These trainings address POW Training Topics 1, 7, 8, 13 and Training Objectives 1, 9. The following are some of the outputs and outcomes generated from those trainings.
  - ✓ Participants valued skills gained from the camp at between \$15 and \$20 per head
  - ✓ 12% and 60% indicated they would include various management practices learned at the camps.
  - ✓ Participants valued the total annual impact on their operations from the camps at approximately \$78,000.

### **FUTURE EXPECTATIONS**

- Support *Oklahoma Sustainable Agriculture Summit*.
- Organize sustainable agriculture concurrent session at OCES 2010 conference.
- Organize OKSARE sustainable agriculture concurrent session at 2010 National Association of County Agricultural Agents.
- Sponsor hide tanning training workshop at Langston University/American Institute for Goat Research.
- Send extension educators and other professionals working on sustainable agriculture to different workshops and trainings both in Oklahoma and out of state.
- Continue to raise awareness of different segments of the agricultural community about Southern SARE programs and services.
- Prepare and submit MSP enhancement competitive proposal to Southern SARE.
- Assist in preparation and printing of sustainable agriculture related publications.

**Southern Region SARE Professional Development Program  
2009 Photo Identification Form for Oklahoma SARE State Activities**



**Photo # 1**

Photographer's name: Janelle Malone

Date: April 8, 2009

Location: Cimarron Valley Research Station, Perkins, Oklahoma

Subject and activity: Educators and Producers are given information on sustainable blackberry production methods at newly established test plots in Perkins, Oklahoma.

Eric Stafne conducts discussion on latest cultivars which include thornless varieties!



**Photo # 2**

Photographer's name: Janelle Malone

Date: May 21, 2009

Location: E. (Kika) de la Garza American Institute for Goat Research, Langston, Oklahoma

Subject and activity: Drs. Kefyalew Desta and Terry Gipson monitor the progress of a small stock mortality composting bin designed to demonstrate alternative methods of mortality disposal for sustainable livestock production.



**Photo # 3**

Photographer's name: Janelle Malone

Date: October 20, 2009

Location: Oklahoma State University Botanical Gardens, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Subject and activity: Jim Shreffler presents information designed to promote adoption of sustainable fruit and vegetable production practices to interested group of educators and producers during the recent organic production workshop.



**Photo # 4**

Photographer's name: Kefy Desta

Date: September 3, 2009

Location: Agriculture Technology Center, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City Campus, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Subject and activity: Participants representing non-profit communities and several other

non-government organizations participated in a fall workshop with James Hill to promote grant

writing activity in Oklahoma.