Snapshots – Projects from Our 1890 Land Grant Partners

1890 Institutions

Since 1988 USDA’s Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program has administered competitive grants to fund research and education in agriculture that improves farm profitability, protects natural resources and revitalizes communities.

Our 1890 land grant partners lead efforts to assist minority and limited resource farmers in sustainable ag practices through SSARE’s grants programs. Our grants also support farmer research, education and outreach efforts.

We’ve funded over 60 projects from 1890 institutions throughout the Southern region, with topics ranging from goat production to direct marketing to specialty crops.

Learn more about those research outcomes and outreach projects at www.southernsare.org.

More information

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Keeping Goats Healthy with Farmer Education

Small ruminant producers are all too familiar with the damaging effects of gastrointestinal parasites and the challenges of effectively managing them. But a group of scientists, veterinarians and Extension specialists across the South have made it their mission to solve the biggest health problem in the goat and sheep industries.

Since early 2000, through initial Southern SARE funding, the Southern Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control (recently renamed American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control) has been leading training workshops to educate small ruminant producers on a number of sustainable management techniques to control worms, such as the blood-sucking barber pole worm.

“Anthelmintic treatments, which were highly effective 50 years ago, are now not as useful. The worms show resistance to the drugs,” said ACS-RPC coordinator and Fort Valley State University professor Tom Terrill. “We needed to develop methods that not only extend the life of existing drugs, but also provide alternative sustainable parasite control.”

Those methods include FAMACHA© evaluation, “smart drenching,” copper oxide wire particles, and lespedeza forage grazing. “Everything we do is producer-oriented,” said Terrill. “The applications must be simple technologies that are inexpensive and easy to use.”

The impact of the group’s efforts is widespread. The trainings have reached hundreds of producers across the South; over 30,000 FAMACHA evaluation cards have been distributed to nearly 1,600 Extension agents, veterinarians and FAMACHA trainers; and training requests have come from nearly every state in the country.

“What we are doing is so important to the industry,” said Terrill. “SARE funding allowed us to get started and subsequent SARE support has allowed us to expand our research and education efforts and keep going.”
Snapshots of minority and limited resource projects in sustainable agriculture

Fort Valley State University is Georgia’s 1890 land grant institution, and has been serving students for more than 100 years. Located in Fort Valley, GA, the institution was started in 1895 as Fort Valley High and Industrial School. The mission of the institution is to advance the cause of education with an emphasis on a commitment to the community through a concept known as “communiversity.”

Fort Valley’s agricultural efforts are housed in the College of Agriculture Family Sciences and Technology. It ranks 25th nationally in the production of African American agriculturists and is quickly becoming a leader in ag research using the most modern and well-equipped labs in the state.

The university’s small ruminant research is conducted at the Georgia Small Ruminant Research and Extension Center. It is the largest facility of its kind east of the Mississippi River and is recognized as a national leader in goat research. It’s here at the Center where some of the most cutting edge small ruminant research is conducted -- from reproductive performance, to grazing systems, to dairy and meat goat management methods -- aiding farmers in sustainable agriculture practices and techniques.

FVSU Southern SARE Funded Projects and Partner Grants

**LS00-114 Investigation of Sustainability of Dairy Goat Industry by Innovative Method of Product Development**

**LS01-121 Enhancing Sustainability in Cotton Production through Reduced Chemical Inputs, Cover Crops and Conservation Tillage**

**LS01-124 Novel Methods for Sustainable Control of Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Small Ruminants**

**LS02-138 An Investigation of the General and Niche Market Goat Meat Demand**

**LS02-143 Novel Methods for Sustainable Control of Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Small Ruminants**

**LS04-164 Sustainable Control of Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Small Ruminants Using Forages Containing Condensed Tannins**

**LS05-174 Understanding Plant-Soil-Livestock Interactions: A Key to Enhanced Sustainability in Southern Pine Silvopasture Systems**

**LS05-175 Sustainable and Profitable Control of Invasive Plant Species by Small Ruminants**

**LS05-177 Sustainable Control of Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Small Ruminants**

**LS11-240 Organic Farms’ Credit Access and Farm Lenders’ Assessment of Organic Farms’ Credit Risks**

**ES04-075 Regional Goat Production and Marketing Project**

**ES05-081 Regional Meat Goat Production and Marketing Project: Phase 2**

**ES06-084 Smart Drenching and FAMACHA Integrated Training for Sustainable Control of Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Small Ruminants**

**ES08-089 Toolbox for Small Ruminant Educators: Building on the Small Ruminant Resource Manual**

**ES08-094 Experiential Education to Form an Extension Organic Prouction Team in Georgia**

**ES09-096 Training Educators and Agricultural Professionals on Sustainable, Pasture-Based Dairy Systems**

**ES09-098 Strengthening the Goat Industry: A National Goat Conference**

**FS98-072 Microbial Input for Organic Production of Vegetables**

**GS06-054 Novel Methods for Sustainable Control of Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Llamas and Alpacas in the Southeastern United States**

**MS09-003 Focusing on the Future of Sustainable Agriculture in Georgia: Southern SARE Planning Grant**

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