

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 \$273 million to more than 6,800 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

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

North Carolina

Project Highlight: *Local Food Systems as a Means of Positive Change*

For 10 years, the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) worked to evaluate the impacts of local food systems on farm profitability and viability, production practices, distribution networks and the health of local communities. Their belief is that when the distance between consumer and producer decreases, transparency increases and drives changes in the way food is produced. Their decades-long work, however, led to unanswered questions, such as how are consumer values and behaviors impacting the characteristics of the local food system? What are the unintended consequences of localizing food production and consumption?

To find answers, ASAP has received three SARE grants since 2011 to examine the impacts of food system localization on local economies, farm profit-

ability, production practices and health. In their first project they analyzed data and developed a working theoretical framework to understand how and why local food systems can be a means of creating positive food system change. Their two additional projects are 1) studying the impact of farmers' market experiences on participants and their role in building a base of local food and farm supporters, and 2) quantifying the larger economic impact of farmers' markets and looking more closely at their relationship to larger local food system dynamics.

For more information on these projects, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project numbers LS11-239, LS14-260 and LS17-285.

SARE in North Carolina

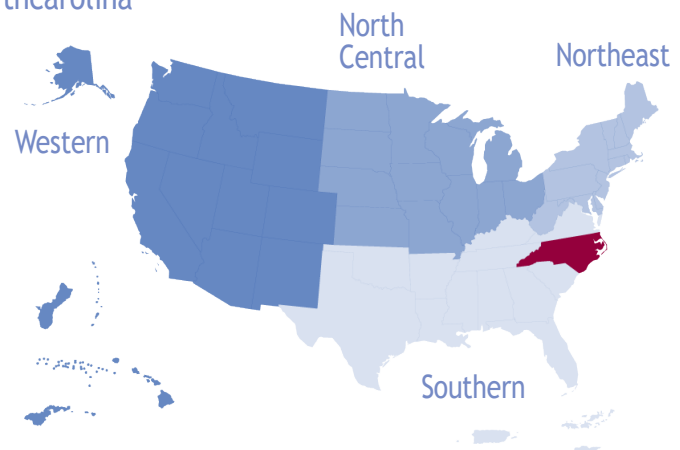
www.southernsare.org/northcarolina

\$12.1 million in total funding

204 grant projects

(since 1988)

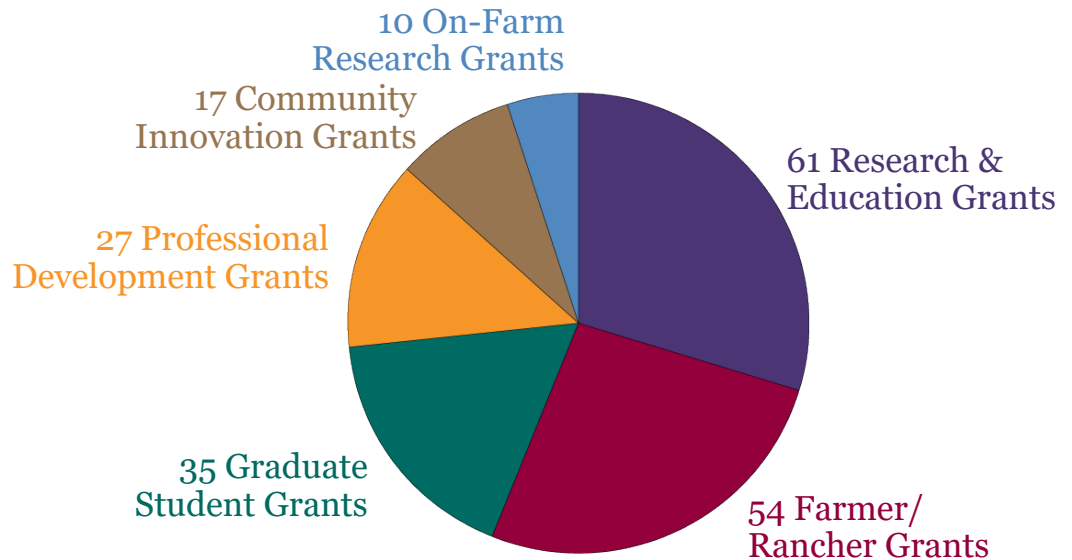
For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in North Carolina

SARE has awarded a total of **204 grants** in North Carolina 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.southernsare.org/northcarolina to learn more.

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