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 $404 million to more than 8,776 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 an online library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

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

Connecticut

Project Highlight: Assessment of a Composite Herbal Feed Additive on Reducing Haemonchus contortus in a Dual Purpose Sheep Operation

Dr. Erin Masurn, a veterinarian at Fork You Farms in Bantam, Connecticut, led a team of researchers to see if the herbal formula “Early Bird” could treat harmful parasites in sheep. Gastrointestinal nematodes are a type of parasite that can negatively impact the health and reproductive ability of sheep herds. “Early Bird” has shown to be successful at preventing gastrointestinal nematode propagation; however, researchers at Fork You Farms want to test the efficacy of “Early Bird” as a treatment method for sheep that have already been affected.

With the help of a Northeast SARE grant, Dr. Masurn ran an experiment to test how sheep infected with various parasites respond to the “Early Bird” treatment. According to researchers, “Early Bird” has the potential to increase the meat, fiber and dairy productivity of small ruminant and camelid operations by diminishing overall parasite burden. Using different species with varying parasite burdens gives producers the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the limits of herbal parasite control. This project will help veterinarians develop protocols for the usage of the product and help farmers determine its worth to their specific operations.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects and search for project number ONE21-399.

SARE in Connecticut

northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/connecticut/

$1,793,264 in total funding
26 grant project (since 1988)

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

Grants awarded 2019–2024

Total awards: **26 grants**
- 9 Farmer/Rancher
- 2 Research and Education
- 5 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 4 Graduate Student
- 6 Research Only

Total funding: **$1,793,264**
- $159,410 Farmer/Rancher
- $495,698 Research and Education
- $117,787 On Farm Research/Partnership
- $58,913 Graduate Student
- $961,456 Research Only

Find a complete list of projects on page 3.

Farmer and rancher impacts 2019–2024

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

- **1,372 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**
- **494 farmers reported a change in knowledge, awareness, skills or attitude**
- **12 farmers changed a practice**

Learn about local impacts at: northeast.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/connecticut/

Find a complete list of projects on page 3.

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 northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/connecticut/ to learn more.

Rachel Bespuda
University of Connecticut
(203) 407-3172
rachel.bespuda@uconn.edu

Joe Bonelli
University of Connecticut
(860) 875-3331
joseph.bonelli@uconn.edu

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

SARE is funded by the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

This report includes summaries of competitive grant programs only. Some competitive grant programs that are no longer offered may be included or excluded from the totals in this report depending on the grant program and SARE region.
AGRICULTURE PROJECTS FUNDED IN CONNECTICUT
by USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program

Connecticut has been awarded $3,808,841 grants to support 92 projects, including but not limited to, 17 research and/or education projects, 3 professional development projects and 37 producer-led projects. Connecticut has also received additional SARE support through multi-state projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LNE23-469</td>
<td>A Three-Pronged Strategy to Equitably Provide Planting Stock to Forest Farmers: Propagation Training, Seed Exchange, and Working with Wild Harvesters</td>
<td>$246,505</td>
<td>Marlyse Duguid Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies</td>
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<td>LNE21-423</td>
<td>The Northeast Forest Farmers Coalition: Building a Community of Practice</td>
<td>$249,193</td>
<td>Marlyse Duguid Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE18-363</td>
<td>Improved N Management for Corn using Aerial Images, Adapt-N, Chemical and Biological Tests, and Cover Crops</td>
<td>$241,570</td>
<td>Dr.Karl Guillard University of Connecticut</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE13-324</td>
<td>Developing adaptable native shrubs for the green industry</td>
<td>$58,347</td>
<td>Dr.Jessica Lubell-Brand University of Connecticut</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| LNE09-279  | Development and on-farm training of biologically based methods for integrated crop management of stone fruits in New England | $195,498     | Dr.Robert Marra  
Connecticut Agricultural  
Lorraine Los University of Connecticut|
<p>| LNE09-281  | Aronia berries: A sustainable nutraceutical crop for the Northeast           | $151,821     | Dr.Mark Brand University of Connecticut                                           |
| LNE03-177  | Perimeter trap crop approach to pest management on vegetable farms           | $139,527     | Ruth Hazzard University of Massachusetts Jude Boucher UNiversity of Connecticut Cooperative Extension |
| LNE01-143  | Farmer-Run Research Organization for Southern New England                    | $167,660     | Thomas Morris University of Connecticut                                           |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LNE01-144</td>
<td>Survey of the Nutrient Status of Organic Vegetable Farms</td>
<td>$35,397</td>
<td>Thomas Morris University of Connecticut</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE00-137</td>
<td>Benefits - Drawbacks of Various Winter Cover Crops in Vegetable Pest Management</td>
<td>$89,202</td>
<td>Kimberly Stoner Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE98-106</td>
<td>Biological Control for Soil-Dwelling Insects - Diseases in Strawberries</td>
<td>$147,557</td>
<td>Richard Cowles Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE97-083</td>
<td>Nitrogen Management for Pumpkins and Squash</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Richard A. Ashley University of Connecticut</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE97-082</td>
<td>Biological and Cultural Methods of Insect Management in Vegetables: Survey and Case Studies of Organic Farms and Evaluation of the Scientific Literature</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Kimberly Stoner Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE96-065</td>
<td>Farm to School Food Education Project</td>
<td>$33,319</td>
<td>Elizabeth Wheeler The Hartford Food System</td>
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<td>LNE96-068</td>
<td>New Connections in the Northeast Food System</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>Mark Winne Hartford Food System</td>
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<td>ANE95-028</td>
<td>Integration of Biological and Chemical Control of Twospotted Spider Mites in Containerized Nursery Production</td>
<td>$35,246</td>
<td>Timothy Abbey Univ. of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System Richard Cowles Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE94-049</td>
<td>Project Farm Fresh Start: A Farm-to-School Feasibility Study</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>Mark Winne Hartford Food System</td>
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**RESEARCH ONLY GRANTS**

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<tr>
<td>LNE23-482R</td>
<td>Operationalizing Drone Imaging Technology to Detect Nutrient Deficiencies in Fruit Orchards</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>Dr.Chandi Witharana University of Connecticut</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE23-477R</td>
<td>Hemp hurd fiber: a sustainable substitute for sphagnum peat moss in greenhouse and nursery plant production</td>
<td>$161,414</td>
<td>Dr.Jessica Lubell-Brand University of Connecticut</td>
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<td>Project #</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE21-432R</td>
<td>Nutritional Management Strategies for Improving Growth and Carcass Composition of Beef-Dairy Crossbred Calves</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Reed</td>
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<td>University of Connecticut</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE21-425R</td>
<td>In-ovo and Early Probiotic Supplementation to Control Salmonella in Broilers</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>Mary Anne Amalaradjou</td>
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<td>LNE21-430R</td>
<td>Reducing Farmer Risk through the Use of Triploid Hemp Genetics</td>
<td>$101,168</td>
<td>Dr. Jessica Lubell-Brand</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE20-412R</td>
<td>Enhancing the Safety of Eggs and Fresh Produce by Novel Ultra-fine Bubble Technology</td>
<td>$148,874</td>
<td>Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay</td>
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### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

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<td>ENE10-116</td>
<td>Professional development for agricultural service providers in applied poultry science</td>
<td>$134,501</td>
<td>Dr. Richard Brzozowski</td>
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<td>University of Maine Cooperative Extension</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENE99-048</td>
<td>Alternative - Herbal Livestock Health Practices</td>
<td>$86,994</td>
<td>Thomas Morris</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENE98-042</td>
<td>Feeding Our Cities: Establishing a Strong Urban/Sustainable Agriculture Interface in Southern New England</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
<td>Michael T. Keilty</td>
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<td>University of Connecticut Extension</td>
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### FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS

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<tr>
<td>FNE24-085</td>
<td>Nutrient Replacement Strategies for Hydroponics</td>
<td>$29,084</td>
<td>William Heiden</td>
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<td>Levo International, Inc.</td>
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<td>Nathaniel Heiden</td>
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<td>Levo International, Inc.</td>
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<td>FNE24-099</td>
<td>Flail Mowing as a Viable No-till Method of Transitioning from Overwintered Cover Crops to Summer Planted Cucurbits</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>Janna Siller</td>
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<td>Adamah</td>
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<td>FNE23-066</td>
<td>Identifying and Selecting Wild Yeast Strains in Hard Cider</td>
<td>$29,104</td>
<td>Jeff Rogers</td>
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<td>Rogers Orchards</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNE23-046</td>
<td>The Ask Aunt Nellie Project - A Crowd-Sourced Connecticut Farm Management Knowledge Base</td>
<td>$15,797</td>
<td>Diane Dorfer</td>
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<td>Cobblestone Farm</td>
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<td>FNE22-005</td>
<td>Germination Testing to Improve the Quality of Ecotypic Native Seed in the Northeast</td>
<td>$29,299</td>
<td>Dina Brewster</td>
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<td>FNE21-996</td>
<td>Using Shade Cloth to Prevent Heat Damage in Summer Broccoli</td>
<td>$10,320</td>
<td>Andrew Urbanowicz</td>
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<td>FNE19-925</td>
<td>Honey Plant Intercropping on Christmas Tree Farms</td>
<td>$10,032</td>
<td>Richard Cowles</td>
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<td>FNE19-939</td>
<td>Tree Regeneration and Establishment Strategies in Silvopasture and Sugarbush Systems</td>
<td>$13,450</td>
<td>Dr. Joseph Orefice</td>
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<td>FNE19-944</td>
<td>Winter Triticale and Red Clover Double Cropping Field Trials for a Three-Year Production Cycle</td>
<td>$14,824</td>
<td>Craig Stearns</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNE17-883</td>
<td>Comparison of indigenous microorganism and commercial soil inoculant on crop yields and basil downy mildew disease resistance</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Melody Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNE17-869</td>
<td>Establishing propagation protocols and assessing weed risk of litchi tomato, Solanum sisymbriifolium</td>
<td>$5,459</td>
<td>Diane Dorfer</td>
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<td>FNE13-783</td>
<td>Enhancing growth rate and well-being of pigs raised on pasture through the use of mobile evaporative cooling while improving pasture fertility and reducing environmental degradation</td>
<td>$11,033</td>
<td>Peter Lowy</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNE12-736</td>
<td>Conservation tillage for organic cabbage: Yield, weed growth, and management costs</td>
<td>$4,561</td>
<td>Janna Berger</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNE11-709</td>
<td>Evaluation of the insect resistance of interspecific squash hybrids</td>
<td>$4,022</td>
<td>Bryan Connolly</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNE07-605</td>
<td>Small farm air chill system</td>
<td>$6,912</td>
<td>Craig Floyd</td>
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<td>Project Code</td>
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<td>Amount</td>
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<td>FNE07-604</td>
<td>Determining cost-effectiveness of raising slow growing genotype broilers in three alternative housing systems</td>
<td>$7,861</td>
<td>Julie Cronin</td>
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<td>FNE06-569</td>
<td>Breeding colorful disease- and pest-tolerant potatoes</td>
<td>$3,225</td>
<td>Bryan Connolly</td>
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<td>Green Dragon Farm</td>
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<td>FNE04-515</td>
<td>Horticultural Weed Barrier Mats From Dairy Manure - Phase 2</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Matthew Freund</td>
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<td>Freunds' Farm, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNE03-454</td>
<td>Remote Sensing for Nitrogen Management in Corn</td>
<td>$6,298</td>
<td>Randolph Blackmer</td>
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<td>FNE03-457</td>
<td>Tolerance Variation to Mexican Bean Beetles of Common Bean Cultivars</td>
<td>$1,974</td>
<td>Bryan Connolly</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNE03-465</td>
<td>Litchfield County Farmers Livestock Market</td>
<td>$4,137</td>
<td>Christos Glynos</td>
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<td>Bethlehem Boer Goat Ranch</td>
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<td>FNE02-412</td>
<td>Horticultural Weed Barrier Mats From Dairy Manure</td>
<td>$8,800</td>
<td>Matthew Freund</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNE02-437</td>
<td>Increasing Small Farm Profits with American Chestnut Production and Silvopasture</td>
<td>$4,766</td>
<td>Elisa Santee</td>
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<td>Foxfire Farm</td>
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<td>FNE01-373</td>
<td>Compost Planting Pots</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>Matthew Freund</td>
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<td>FNE00-315</td>
<td>Timing of Brassica planting to reduce flea beetle damage.</td>
<td>$4,697</td>
<td>Brian O'Hara</td>
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<td>FNE00-294</td>
<td>Fava beans and kale as potential spring nurseries for insect natural enemies to move into the greenhouse.</td>
<td>$5,382</td>
<td>Kathryn Caruso</td>
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<td>FNE99-272</td>
<td>&quot;Clean Green Machine&quot; A Hydroponic System</td>
<td>$4,520</td>
<td>David S. Roberts</td>
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<td>FNE99-243</td>
<td>Compost Planting Pots</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>Matthew Freund</td>
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<td>Freunds' Farm, Inc.</td>
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<td>FNE99-236</td>
<td>Demonstration of the Effectiveness of Pediobius for Control of Mexican Bean Beetle and Squash Beetle</td>
<td>$2,480</td>
<td>Kathryn Caruso</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project #</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNE22-297</td>
<td>Controlling Salmonella on eggs using probiotics and postbiotics.</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Mary Anne Amalaradjou</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Ragini Reddyvari</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNE22-281</td>
<td>Farmer Engagement with Regenerative Agriculture in New England: Understanding Barriers and Facilitators to Improve Services and Outreach</td>
<td>$13,913</td>
<td>Brian Gareau</td>
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<td>Sandra DiDonato</td>
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<td>Boston College</td>
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<td>GNE19-221</td>
<td>Importance of Environmental Factors on Plantings of Wild-Simulated American Ginseng</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Marlyse Duguid</td>
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<td>Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies</td>
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<td>Karam Sheban</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNE19-213</td>
<td>Use of Lactic Acid Bacteria to Control L. monocytogenes on Apples under Simulated Commercial Conditions</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Mary Anne Amalaradjou</td>
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<td>Mairui Gao</td>
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<td>University of Connecticut</td>
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</table>
GNE17-146  Maximizing the health and size of on-site native pollinator populations for crops requiring sonication pollination  $14,973  Dr.Julia Kuzovkina  University of Connecticut
                      John Campanelli  University of Connecticut

GNE16-128  Early (in-ovo) administration of probiotics to promote growth in broiler chicken  $14,999  Mary Anne Amalaradjou  University of Connecticut
                      Michael Darre  University of Connecticut
                      Muhammed Shafeekh Muyyarikkandy  University of Connecticut

GNE15-113  Natural and eco-friendly approaches to control aflatoxins in poultry feed  $14,393  Michael Darre  University of Connecticut
                      Dr.Kumar Venkitanarayanan  University of Connecticut
                      Hsinbai Yin  University of Connecticut

GNE14-083  Anaerobically digested dairy as a renewable substitution for peat in media for nursery production  $14,856  Dr.George Elliott  UCONN
                      John Lamont  Frog Belly Farm

GNE11-020  Organic fertilization for greenhouses  $12,556  Dr.George Elliott  UCONN
                      Kristin Hulshart  University of Connecticut

GNE10-010  Prevalence of Clostridium difficile (C. diff) in Connecticut Swine farms  $12,520  Dr.Robert Heimer  Yale University School of Public Health
                      Dr.Lynda Osadebe  Yale University

ON FARM RESEARCH/PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<th>Project Leaders</th>
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<tr>
<td>ONE22-415</td>
<td>Investigating Poor Growth of Hard Clams in New Jersey</td>
<td>$28,713</td>
<td>Dr.Sylvain Deguise, DMV, PhD  Connecticut Sea Grant, University of Connecticut</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONE22-431</td>
<td>Monitor Streptomycin Resistance in Erwinia Amylovorla Populations in New England</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>Quan Zeng  Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONE22-412</td>
<td>Pairing Residues, Resistance Genes and Microbial Community Structure to Understand Off-Farm Impact of Antibiotic Use on Dairy Farms</td>
<td>$29,057</td>
<td>Dr.Christine Georgakakos  SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry</td>
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<td>ONE21-399</td>
<td>Assessment of a Composite Herbal Feed Additive on Reducing Haemonchus contortus in a Dual Purpose Sheep Operation</td>
<td>$14,319</td>
<td>Dr.Erin Masur, DVM  Fork You Farms, LLC</td>
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</table>
Incorporating Online Ordering Systems to Increase Farmer Sales at Farmers' Markets and Beyond

Boosting farmer sales through culinary events and marketing

Farmer-led cover crop trials and demonstrations for vegetable and corn silage fields

Investigating forage radish and compost as a means of alleviating soil compaction in established bramble and blueberry fields

Management of basil downy mildew using organic fungicides and nitrogen fertilization rate

Evaluation of Organic Control Products for Basil Downy Mildew

Hastening Adoption of Zone-Tillage on CT/ New England Vegetable Farms

Increasing biological control of brassica pests through overwintering

Simple methods to stack manure and make compost without nutrient loss

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INNOVATION GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNE10-073</td>
<td>Farmland ConneCTions Guide</td>
<td>$14,978</td>
<td>Greg Plotkin, American Farmland Trust, Ben Bowell, American Farmland Trust</td>
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<td>CNE10-079</td>
<td>Granby Sampler</td>
<td>$14,942</td>
<td>Michelle Niedermeyer, Granby Agriculture Commission</td>
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<td>CNE09-064</td>
<td>Southern Litchfield County's first regional locally-grown produce distribution facility</td>
<td>$11,214</td>
<td>Vincent Nolan, Jr., Town of New Milford</td>
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<td>Project Code</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
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<td>CNE07-029</td>
<td>Creating sustainable food purchasing guidelines in the Northeast</td>
<td>$9,831</td>
<td>Joshua Viertel</td>
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<td>Yale Sustainable Food Project</td>
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<td>CNE07-018</td>
<td>Engaging and growing community through a community supported market</td>
<td>$9,986</td>
<td>Nicole Berube</td>
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<td>CitySeed, Inc</td>
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<td>CNE06-015</td>
<td>Planning for community farms across Connecticut</td>
<td>$9,953</td>
<td>Kimberly Stoner</td>
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<td>Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station</td>
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**Total funding from the USDA SARE program to Connecticut**

$3,808,841

For further information on projects, contact 802-651-8335 or nesare@uvm.edu. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) is funded by USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).