Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

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 $3.0 million to more than 49 initiatives [1].

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...

Delaware

Project Highlight: Using Drones to Measure Cover Crop Biomass as a Predictor of Soil Nitrogen And Corn Emergence Issues

Jamie Taraila, a graduate student at the University of Delaware, is using drone technology to investigate how seeding rates of cover crops impact crop yields. Cover crops are a common soil health management practice adopted by Delaware farmers who seek to capitalize on ecosystem services like N fixation, nutrient scavenging and soil cover. The services that cover crops provide make them valuable for increasing crop productivity; however, the timing of cover crop termination plays a significant role in the level of ecosystem services provided. The goal of this project was to integrate consumer drone technology into cover crop scouting to figure out how to improve productivity while maximizing the soil health benefits of cover crops.

With the help of a SARE grant, Taraila and a team of researchers from the University of Delaware used drone imaging technology to observe and compare cover crop biomass readings and stand counts. By using drones, the researchers were able to rapidly collect and analyze cover crop data to identify what termination timing and seeding rate provide the most opportunity for ecosystem services. This research will help producers improve crop productivity and will support future uses of drone technology for sustainable agriculture research.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects and search for project number GNE20-241.

SARE in Delaware

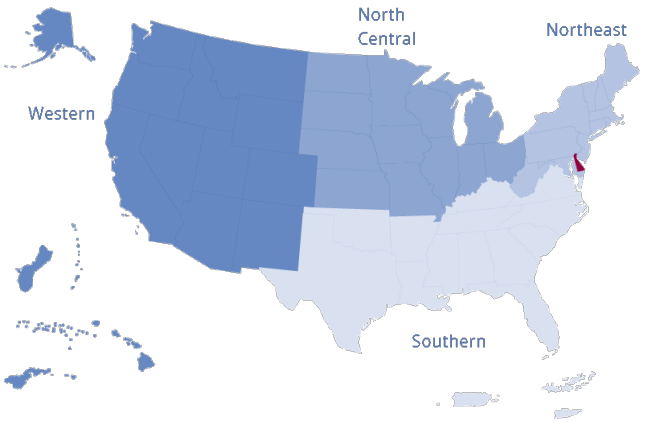
northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/delaware/

$2,981,750 in total funding

49 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of Delaware grant projects, go to projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/



[1] These totals reflect available data; complete information may not be available for all grant programs prior to 2016.

SARE in Delaware, 2021–2026

This is a summary of recent SARE-funded activities and impacts in the state. To search all SARE projects visit projects.sare.org. For a list of all projects in Delaware visit projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/.

Grants awarded

Total awards: **13 grants**

3	Farmer/Rancher
1	Research and Education
1	On Farm Research/Partnership
1	Graduate Student
5	PDP State Program [2]
1	Community Foods Project
1	Farming Community

Total funding: **$1,218,417**

$89,011	Farmer/Rancher
$199,992	Research and Education
$21,039	On Farm Research/Partnership
$15,000	Graduate Student
$357,710	PDP State Program [2]
$308,306	Community Foods Project
$227,359	Farming Community

[2] The Professional Development Program (PDP) State Program is a non-competitive award that funds the activities of the state coordinator(s). See more below.

For a complete list of Delaware awards, visit:
projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

465 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

24 farmers changed a practice



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

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/delaware/ to learn more.

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SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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