

## 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 \$9.9 million to more than 279 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...

# Maine

**Project Highlight: Assessment of Nursery Gear Technology to Optimize Growth, Survival and Economic Efficiency in Farming Atlantic Sea Scallops**

Dr. Christopher Davis led a team of researchers at Pemaquid Oyster Company to study how producers can use nursery gear technology to develop new aquaculture businesses in Maine. For years, Maine has been characterized by a longstanding economic and cultural tradition of scallop fishing due to its ideal environmental conditions for sea scallop populations. Although there are numerous established Maine business entities with sea scallops, the abundance and profit opportunity of scallop harvesting indicates that this industry will continue to grow for years to come. To support the growth of this industry, Dr. Davis studied nursery technology to develop an innovative production strategy for sea scallop harvesters.

With the help of a SARE grant, Dr. Davis assessed five different nursery gear technologies by comparing growth rates, survival rates and the costs of using the different gear types. The results of this project are valuable to farmers looking to enter the sea scallop sector, especially existing aquaculture operations looking to diversify income and fishermen who rely on the competitive wild-caught market. The data from the study has the potential to optimize growth rates and survival of sea scallops, and may enable Maine sea-farmers to take advantage of the economic growth promised by sustainable sea scallop aquaculture.

For more information on this project, see [sare.org/projects](http://sare.org/projects) and search for project number FNE21-976.

## SARE in Maine

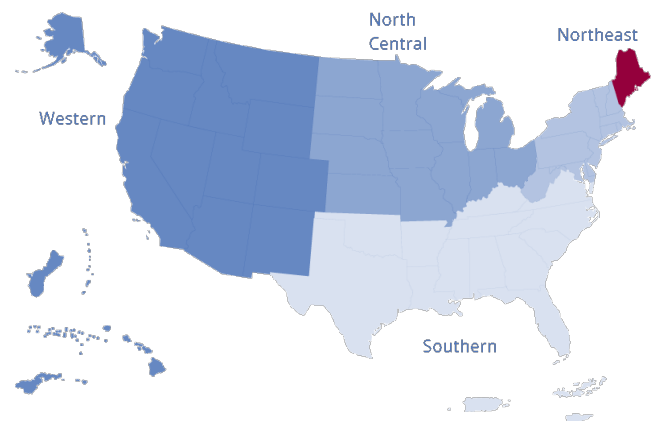
[northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/maine/](http://northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/maine/)

**\$9,897,113**  
**in total funding**

**279 grant projects**

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](http://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 Maine, 2020–2025

This is a summary of recent SARE-funded activities and impacts in the state. To search all SARE projects visit [projects.sare.org](https://projects.sare.org). For a list of all projects in this state visit [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](https://projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/).

## Grants awarded

Total awards: **59 grants**

- 28 Farmer/Rancher
- 2 Research and Education
- 5 Professional Development Program
- 8 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 6 Graduate Student
- 3 PDP State Program [2]
- 7 Research Only

Total funding: **\$3,425,205**

- \$552,667 Farmer/Rancher
- \$313,489 Research and Education
- \$675,197 Professional Development Program
- \$228,285 On Farm Research/Partnership
- \$84,945 Graduate Student
- \$327,649 PDP State Program [2]
- \$1,242,973 Research Only

[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 awards by state, visit: [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](https://projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/)

## Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

**4,126 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

**1,181 farmers reported a change in knowledge, awareness, skills or attitude**

**263 farmers changed a practice**



Learn about local impacts at: [northeast.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/maine/](https://northeast.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/maine/)

## 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/maine/](https://northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/maine/) to learn more.

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