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 $12.4 million to more than 299 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 and search for project number FNE21-976.

SARE in Maine

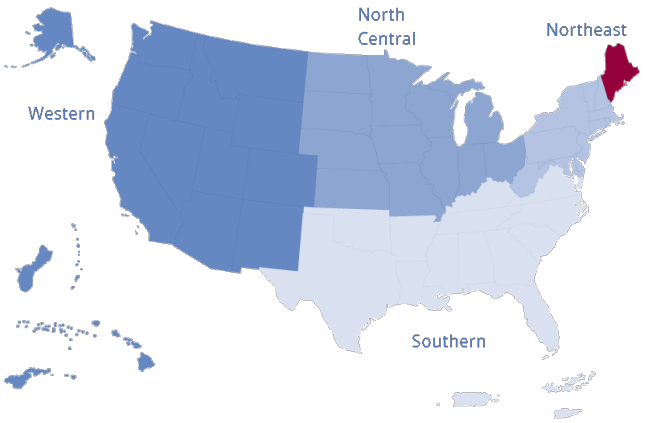
northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/maine/

$12,407,460 in total funding

299 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

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

Grants awarded

Total awards: **72 grants**

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

Total funding: **$5,553,959**

$813,668	Farmer/Rancher
$1,399,922	Research and Education
$963,558	Professional Development Program
$170,714	On Farm Research/Partnership
$70,038	Graduate Student
$1,456,046	Research Only
$280,987	PDP State Program [2]
$399,026	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 Maine awards, visit:
projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

3,605 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

290 farmers changed a practice

Learn about local impacts at:
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/ to learn more.

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SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education
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