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 $6.7 million to more than 147 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...

New Jersey

Project Highlight: Reduced-Tillage and Tarping for Small Scale Commercial Potato Growing in New York

Nook & Cranny Farm in Brooktondale, New York, participated in a research project to assess the effects of reduced tillage, tarping and mulching on potato production. To grow potatoes, most farmers depend heavily on tillage for soil preparation and weed management despite the potential negative impacts that deep tillage can have on soil health. Recently, a new method called tarping has gained a lot of attention from potato farmers due to its potential to improve soil health, reduce labor costs and increase productivity. Since tarping is a relatively new method, many farmers do not know how to successfully integrate it into their crop rotation. This inspired Dr. Tuori, the head of Nook & Cranny Farm, to conduct a series of experiments that explore the short- and long-term benefits of tarping on small-scale commercial farms.

Dr. Tuori and his team planted potatoes in a reduced-tillage strip and compared three experimental growing methods: tarping with mulching, tarping without mulching and no tarping with mulching. The researchers analyzed the effects of the different growing methods by measuring biological indicators of the soil. Ultimately, the experiments indicated that the tarping method offers a more environmentally sustainable approach to small-scale potato production than conventional tillage and hilling methods. This research shows that when done correctly, tarping is an accessible and versatile tool that small-scale farmers can use to produce a marketable potato yield while also fostering healthy soils.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects and search for project number FNE21-995.

SARE in New Jersey

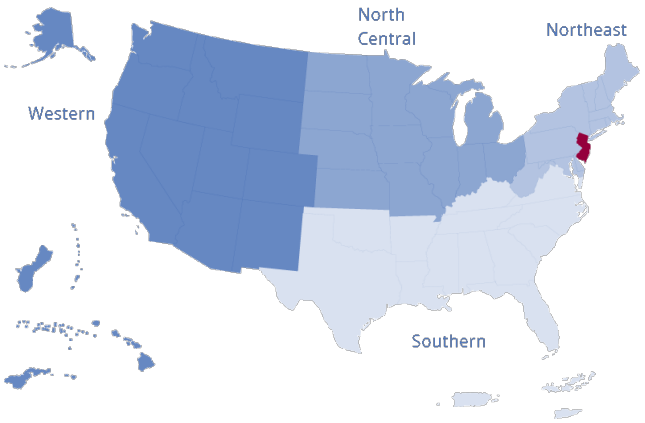
northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/new-jersey/

$6,744,653 in total funding

147 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

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

Grants awarded

Total awards: **35 grants**

16	Farmer/Rancher
2	Research and Education
1	Professional Development Program
1	On Farm Research/Partnership
7	Graduate Student
2	PDP State Program [2]
3	Research Only
3	Farming Community

Total funding: **$2,589,159**

$356,022	Farmer/Rancher
$498,422	Research and Education
$135,459	Professional Development Program
$29,999	On Farm Research/Partnership
$104,492	Graduate Student
$258,074	PDP State Program [2]
$541,858	Research Only
$664,833	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 New Jersey awards, visit:
projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

4,523 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

89 farmers changed a practice



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

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/new-jersey/ to learn more.

Michelle Infante-Casella
Rutgers Universty of New Jersey
(856) 224-1036 Ext: 1
minfante@njaes.rutgers.edu

Stephen John Komar
Rutgers Universty of New Jersey
(973) 948-3040
komar@njaes.rutgers.edu

SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education
USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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