

## 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 \$8.6 million to more than 112 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 York

Project Highlight: *To Improve the Soil, First to Know the Soil*

The importance of soil health cannot be overstated. It supports vigorous plant growth by promoting the efficient use of nutrients and water, protecting against erosion and compaction, and aiding in disease and pest management. Soil health drives farm productivity and resilience against weather extremes. But the soil is an incredibly complex environment, and for farmers to improve their ground, they first need to learn about its condition.

That is why, with SARE funding, a multidisciplinary team from Cornell University created a new kind of soil assessment. Traditional soil tests, which are also important management tools, are typically limited to measuring nutrient levels and pH. They do not reveal anything about the physical structure or microbial life present in the soil, yet such characteristics strongly influence crop yields as well as the efficiency of inputs such as water and fertilizer. In contrast, Cornell's soil health assessment reports typically include management recommendations to address specifically identified constraints and promote soil-building practices such as cover cropping, reduced tillage, the use of compost or manure, and diversified rotations that include perennial crops.

The Cornell lab handles about 2,000 samples a year and is expanding in use.

For more information, see [sare.org/projects](http://sare.org/projects), and search for project numbers [LNE03-175](#), [LNE06-235](#) and [ENE09-110](#).

## SARE in New York

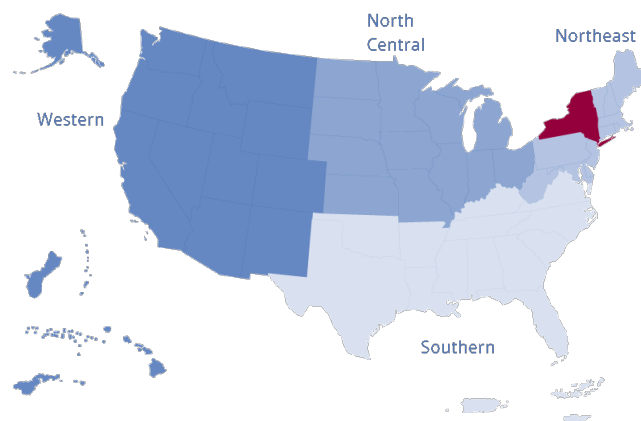
[northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/new-york/](http://northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/new-york/)

**\$8,560,731**  
**in total funding**

**112 grant projects**

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of New York grant projects, 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 New York, 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 New York visit [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](https://projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/).

## Grants awarded

Total awards: **112 grants**

- 44 Farmer/Rancher
- 10 Research and Education
- 8 Professional Development Program
- 22 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 16 Graduate Student
- 4 Research Only
- 2 PDP State Program [2]
- 2 Community Foods Project
- 4 Farming Community

Total funding: **\$8,560,731**

- \$898,221 Farmer/Rancher
- \$1,991,137 Research and Education
- \$1,253,397 Professional Development Program
- \$587,160 On Farm Research/Partnership
- \$236,382 Graduate Student
- \$731,795 Research Only
- \$332,665 PDP State Program [2]
- \$1,578,990 Community Foods Project
- \$950,984 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 York awards, 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:

**13,970** farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

**452** farmers changed a practice



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

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

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