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 $19.2 million to more than 422 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...

Pennsylvania

Project Highlight: On-Farm Demonstration and Evaluation on the Use of Landscape Fabric in Mixed Produce and Cut Flower Production

At Full Circle Farms in Spring Mills, Pennsylvania, a group of researchers conducted an experiment to explore how landscape fabric can impact crop productivity and weed management. Many farmers use black plastic mulch to manage weeds and mitigate soil erosion; however, this method has the potential to damage the health of the soil and the environment. To combat this, Sabine Carey from Full Circle Farms obtained a SARE grant to fund a project that demonstrated the effectiveness of using landscape fabric for supporting healthy soil while creating less plastic waste, requiring less tillage and reducing soil erosion.

To accomplish this, Ms. Carey and her team tested the use of landscape fabric in mixed produce and cut flower production on three Pennsylvania farms. The researchers measured a variety of factors including soil pH, overall cost and time spent weeding. These measurements were then compared to black mulch and typical straw/hay mulch in order to demonstrate that the use of landscape fabric is beneficial for developing a sound production system. The results from this project will allow farmers to make a more informed decision on the use of landscape fabric as they evaluate methods to reduce weeds, tillage and use of non-renewable resources such as black plastic.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects and search for project number FNE20-949.

SARE in Pennsylvania

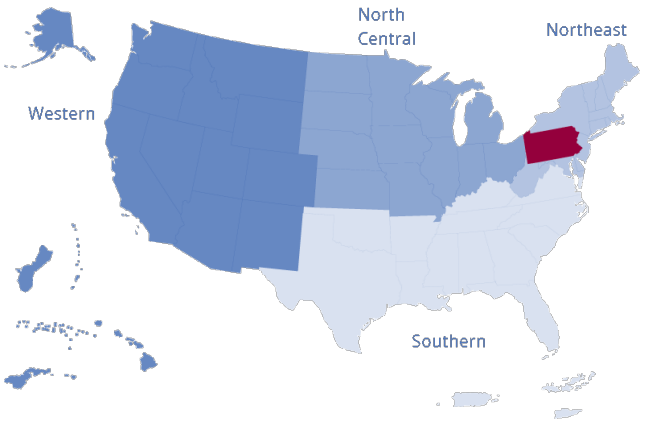
northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/pennsylvania/

$19,153,572 in total funding

422 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

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

Grants awarded

Total awards: **92 grants**

18	Farmer/Rancher
6	Research and Education
6	Professional Development Program
19	On Farm Research/Partnership
33	Graduate Student
5	Research Only
2	PDP State Program [2]
3	Farming Community

Total funding: **$5,030,906**

$423,948	Farmer/Rancher
$1,205,812	Research and Education
$712,157	Professional Development Program
$515,526	On Farm Research/Partnership
$488,407	Graduate Student
$996,041	Research Only
$306,860	PDP State Program [2]
$382,154	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 Pennsylvania awards, visit: projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

16,919 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

327 farmers changed a practice



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

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/pennsylvania/ to learn more.

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SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education
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