

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 \$406 million to more than 8,803 initiatives.

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.



www.sare.org

SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in... Rhode Island

Project Highlight: Evaluation of Microclover Black Beauty as a Semi-Permanent Cover Crop and Living Mulch in Organic Tomato Production

Sodco, a Rhode Island turf farm, is making strides towards improving productivity on their farm by testing the effects of using Microclover Black Beauty sod as a living mulch and cover crop. Many farmers use cover crops between production crops to replenish soil nutrients and biological activity. However, this can be challenging on small-scale farms like Sodco where land is scarce, making it difficult to fit cover crops into profitable vegetable crop rotation. To address this, John Eidson, the farm manager at Sodco, led a research project to see if planting Microclover Black Beauty could increase crop productivity while improving soil health.

With the help of a SARE grant, Eidson and his team planted organic tomato crops in three Microclover Black Beauty treatment areas to see how it would impact fruit yield and soil nutrient status. The results did not show a noticeable difference in nutrient status or yield between experiment and control groups; however, the use of the treatment had multiple other benefits. The research showed that Microclover Black Beauty promotes better rainfall filtration, soil structure and organic matter accumulation. Microclover Black Beauty is also a more cost effective fertilizer option that naturally suppresses weeds between the rows, sparing farmers the labor and cost to mulch or cultivate the weeds by other means. Overall, the use of Microclover Black Beauty has potential to improve soil health and reduce input costs, making it a potentially viable option for improving profitability.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects and search for project number FNE19-927.

SARE in Rhode Island

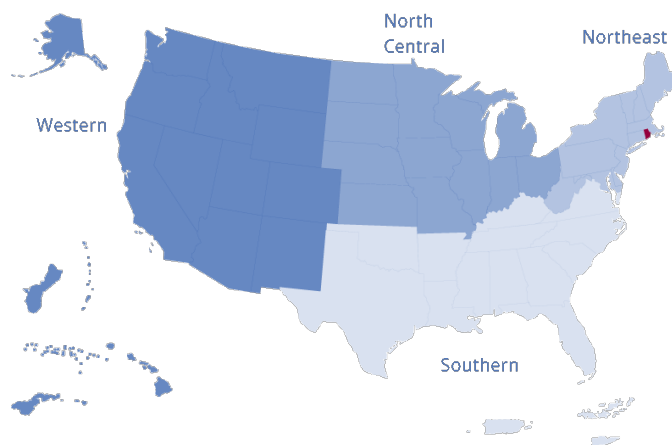
northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/rhode-island/

\$666,157
in total funding

10 grant project

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to www.sare.org/state-summaries



SARE in Rhode Island

Grants awarded 2019-2024

Total awards: **10 grants**

- 5 Farmer/Rancher
- 2 Research and Education
- 1 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 2 Graduate Student

Total funding: **\$666,157**

\$45,825	Farmer/Rancher
\$560,945	Research and Education
\$29,496	On Farm Research/Partnership
\$29,891	Graduate Student

Find a complete list of projects on page 3.

Farmer and rancher impacts 2019-2024

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

2,424 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

702 farmers reported a change in knowledge, awareness, skills or attitude

621 farmers changed a practice



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

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/rhode-island/ to learn more.

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

This report includes summaries of competitive grant programs only. Some competitive grant programs that are no longer offered may be included or excluded from the totals in this report depending on the grant program and SARE region.

For detailed information on SARE projects, go to
www.SARE.org



AGRICULTURE PROJECTS FUNDED IN RHODE ISLAND

by USDA's
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program

Rhode Island has been awarded \$2,232,960 grants to support 41 projects, including but not limited to, 11 research and/or education projects, 1 professional development project and 17 producer-led projects. Rhode Island has also received additional SARE support through multi-state projects.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
LNE23-464	Got Worms? Breeding for Parasite Resistance to Ensure the Sustainability and Resilience of Small Ruminant Operations	\$318,874	Katherine Petersson University of Rhode Island
LNE19-381	Expanding Opportunities for Sustainable Management of Small Ruminant Gastrointestinal Parasites	\$242,071	Katherine Petersson University of Rhode Island
LNE15-342	New approaches for improving integrated parasite control strategies in the Northeast	\$236,815	Katherine Petersson University of Rhode Island
LNE11-311	Rhody Native: Propagation for Sustainable Landscapes	\$122,333	Vanessa Venturini URI Outreach Center
LNE10-300	Improving small ruminant parasite control in New England	\$179,205	Katherine Petersson University of Rhode Island
LNE10-293	Cover cropping strategies for year-round weed control on mixed vegetable farms in southern New England	\$117,360	Dr.Rebecca Brown University of Rhode Island
LNE07-256	Improving Oyster Aquaculture in Rhode Island: Development and Testing of the "Rhodoyster"	\$127,254	Dr.Marta Gomez-Chiarri University of Rhode Island
LNE05-225	Creating a technical support system for Rhode Island small-scale farms	\$149,990	Ernest Morreira URI Cooperative Extension Kristen Castrataro University of Rhode Island
LNE04-208	Rhode Island Agricultural Tourism Project	\$84,980	Stuart Nunnery RI Center for Agricultural Promotion and Education

LNE98-100	Producing Native & Ornamental Wetland Plants in Constructed Wetlands Designed to Reduce Pollution from Agricultural Sources	\$72,840	Brian Maynard University of Rhode Island
LNE90-024	Sustainable SOD Production for the Northeast	\$161,848	Richard A. Casagrande University of Rhode Island

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
ENE10-117	Northeast Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Course	\$104,400	Eric Mader The Xerces Society

FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
FNE24-095	Effect of Row Spacing on Garlic Yield, Quality and Net Returns	\$7,559	Aaron Rome Rome Specialties, Inc. (DBA: "Saunderstown Garlic Farm")
FNE23-070	Diversified & Profitable: Overcoming Challenges of Winter Mortality in Bay Scallop Culturing to Meet Increasing Demand Left by Wild Fishery Decline	\$12,042	Dan Torre Aquidneck Island Oyster Company
FNE19-923	Viability of Hogging Down Corn and Peas as Swine Feedstock	\$9,673	Ben Coerper Wild Harmony Farm
FNE19-927	Evaluation of Microclover Black Beauty as a Semi-Permanent Cover Crop and Living Mulch in Organic Tomato Production	\$4,228	John Eidson Sodco, Inc.
FNE19-943	Effect of an Indigenous Soil Microbial Inoculant on Soil, Soil Microbial Community and Leaf Nutrient Density	\$12,323	Rebecca Roberts Endless Farm LLC
FNE15-823	Comparing a centrifuge to a maple syrup filter press	\$2,600	Charles Chase Charlie's Sugarhouse
FNE11-726	Hop Trellis Systems Comparison: High versus Low	\$14,077	Matt Richardson Ocean State Hops
FNE10-683	Marketing Analysis of New State Shaped Maple Candies	\$7,000	Charles Chase Charlie's Sugarhouse

FNE09-675	Compost Windrow as Greenhouse Heat Source	\$9,998	Bruce Vanicek The Rhode Island Nurseries
FNE07-619	A method for overwintering and propagating honeybees in the Northeast	\$10,000	Mark Robar Trail's End Farm
FNE06-586	Problems with sudden-rot syndrome in garlic seed in New England.	\$8,257	Norman S. (Skip) Paul, Jr. Wishing Stone Farm
FNE05-556	A feasible method for organic fertilization of greenhouse tomatoes through drip irrigation	\$3,430	Arthur Mello
FNE05-555	Rhode Island pastured poultry association	\$5,250	Patrick McNiff Southside Community Land Trust
FNE03-470	Grow Organic Vegetables From Western Nigeria	\$4,288	John Kamson Koka Farms
FNE99-237	High Density Maple Sugar Orchard and Tapping of Immature Trees	\$3,000	Charles Chase Charlie's Sugarhouse
FNE93-006	Development and Evaluation of an Alternative Ice House Refrigeration System	\$1,500	Charles Chase Charlie's Sugarhouse
FNE93-008	Flame Weed Control in Cut Flower Production	\$1,350	Paul Pieri Maurolou Farm

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
GNE22-283	Cultivation of Native Productive Plants in Urban Agroforestry Systems in the U.S. Northeast: Perceptions and Barriers	\$14,990	Dr. John Taylor University of Rhode Island Nicole Hagan University of Rhode Island
GNE19-192	Best Management Practices for Small-scale Egg Producers	\$14,901	Becky Sartini, PhD University of Rhode Island Julie Bosland University of Rhode Island
GNE17-145	The effect of season upon the life cycle and development of <i>Haemonchus contortus</i> in experimentally infected lambs	\$14,640	Katherine Petersson University of Rhode Island Marissa Brummett University of Rhode Island

ONE16-136	Developing production protocols and connecting producers to consumers of vegetable amaranth	\$14,638	Dr.Rebecca Brown University of Rhode Island Sarah Schweig University of Rhode Island
ONE14-071	Anthelmintic efficacy of pelleted cranberry leaf powder against experimental <i>Haemonchus contortus</i> infection in lambs	\$14,488	Katherine Petersson University of Rhode Island Carly Barone University of Rhode Island
ONE11-026	Using green seaweed (<i>Ulva</i> spp.) as a soil amendment: Effects on soil quality and yield of sweet corn (<i>Zea mays</i> L.)	\$13,853	Dr.Steven Alm University of Rhode Island Dr.Jose Amador University of Rhode Island Dr.Rebecca Brown University of Rhode Island Angela Possinger University of Rhode Island
ONE10-013	Inclusion of soybean meal into summer flounder (<i>Paralichthys dentatus</i>) feeds: An environmentally-friendly protein alternative to fish meal and a potential immunostimulant	\$14,748	Dr.David Bengtson University of Rhode Island Dr.Marta Gomez-Chiarri University of Rhode Island Dr.Daniel Ward Ward Aquafarms, LLC

ON FARM RESEARCH/PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
ONE22-430	A Partnership for Innovative Use of Emerging Species in Aquaculture	\$29,496	Dr.Coleen Suckling University of Rhode Island
ONE17-291	Testing laser scarecrows for neighbor-friendly bird damage reduction in sweet corn on periurban farms	\$14,925	Dr.Rebecca Brown University of Rhode Island
ONE17-304	Efficacy and cost effectiveness of foliar nutrient applications to vegetable crops on a large Rhode Island farm	\$14,963	Andy Radin University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension
ONE13-191	Realizing the potential of high tunnel tomato production and income in southern New England	\$14,996	Andy Radin University of Rhode Island

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INNOVATION GRANTS

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
CNE09-058	The Rhode Island "Market Mobile": Easing channels for distribution for farmers and food buyers	\$21,777	Sheri Griffin Farm Fresh Rhode Island

Total funding from the USDA SARE program to

Rhode Island

\$2,232,960



For further information on projects, contact 802-651-8335 or nesare@uvm.edu.

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