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 $404 million to more than 8,774 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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kurrea-morawick@uri.edu

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

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.
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ENE10-117 | Northeast Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Course                       | $104,400     | Eric Mader  
The Xerces Society |

**FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 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


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

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GNE22-283</td>
<td>Cultivation of Native Productive Plants in Urban Agroforestry Systems in the U.S. Northeast: Perceptions and Barriers</td>
<td>$14,990</td>
<td>Dr. John Taylor, University of Rhode Island, Nicole Hagan, University of Rhode Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNE19-192</td>
<td>Best Management Practices for Small-scale Egg Producers</td>
<td>$14,901</td>
<td>Becky Sartini, PhD, University of Rhode Island, Julie Bosland, University of Rhode Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNE17-145</td>
<td>The effect of season upon the life cycle and development of Haemonchus contortus in experimentally infected lambs</td>
<td>$14,640</td>
<td>Katherine Petersson, University of Rhode Island, Marissa Brummett, University of Rhode Island</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GNE16-136 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

GNE14-071 Anthelmintic efficacy of pelleted cranberry leaf powder against experimental Haemonchus contortus infection in lambs $14,488 Katherine Petersson University of Rhode Island Carly Barone University of Rhode Island

GNE11-026 Using green seaweed (Ulva spp.) as a soil amendment: Effects on soil quality and yield of sweet corn (Zea mays 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

GNE10-013 Inclusion of soybean meal into summer flounder (Paralichthys dentatus) 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

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INNOVATION GRANTS

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<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNE09-058</td>
<td>The Rhode Island “Market Mobile”: Easing channels for distribution for farmers and food buyers</td>
<td>$21,777</td>
<td>Sheri Griffin Farm Fresh Rhode Island</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).