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 $389 million to more than 8,542 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/sare-in-your-state/rhode-island

$2,225,401 in total funding

42 grant projects
(since 1988)

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

www.sare.org
SARE Grants in Rhode Island

Total awards: 42 grants
13 Research and Education
1 Sustainable Community Innovation
1 Professional Development Program
16 Farmer/Rancher
7 Graduate Student
4 On Farm Research/Partnership

Total funding: $2,225,401

$1,813,570
Research and Education
$21,777
Sustainable Community Innovation
$104,400
Professional Development Program
$109,016
Farmer/Rancher
$102,258
Graduate Student
$74,380
On Farm Research/Partnership

Find a complete list of projects on page 3.

SARE's Impact

53 percent of producers report using a new production technique after reading a SARE publication.

79 percent of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project.

64 percent of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales.

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-pages/rhode-island to learn more.

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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 $2,225,401 grants to support 40 projects, including but not limited to, 11 research and/or education projects, 1 professional development project and 16 producer-led projects. Rhode Island has also received additional SARE support through multi-state projects.

### RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

<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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>LNE11-311</td>
<td>Rhody Native: Propagation for Sustainable Landscapes</td>
<td>$122,333</td>
<td>Vanessa Venturini URI Outreach Center</td>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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 Kristen Castrataro University of Rhode Island</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>LNE98-100</td>
<td>Producing Native &amp; Ornamental Wetland Plants in Constructed Wetlands Designed to Reduce Pollution from Agricultural Sources</td>
<td>$72,840</td>
<td>Brian Maynard University of Rhode Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNE90-024</td>
<td>Sustainable SOD Production for the Northeast</td>
<td>$161,848</td>
<td>Richard A. Casagrande University of Rhode Island</td>
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### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENE10-117</td>
<td>Northeast Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Course</td>
<td>$104,400</td>
<td>Eric Mader The Xerces Society</td>
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</table>
# FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
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<th>Project Leaders</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 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                                         |
Wishing Stone Farm                                        |
| FNE05-555 | Rhode Island pastured poultry association                                      | $5,250       | Patrick McNiff
Southside Community Land Trust                          |
| FNE05-556 | A feasible method for organic fertilization of greenhouse tomatoes through drip irrigation | $3,430       | Arthur Mello                                          |
| 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                                     |
| FNE93-008 | Flame Weed Control in Cut Flower Production                                   | $1,350       | Paul Pieri
Maurolo Farm                                              |
| FNE93-006 | Development and Evaluation of an Alternative Ice House Refrigeration System    | $1,500       | Charles Chase
Charlie's Sugarhouse                                     |

# GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS

<table>
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Cultivation of Native Productive Plants in Urban Agroforestry Systems in the U.S. Northeast: Perceptions and Barriers

Best Management Practices for Small-scale Egg Producers

The effect of season upon the life cycle and development of Haemonchus contortus in experimentally infected lambs

Developing production protocols and connecting producers to consumers of vegetable amaranth

Anthelmintic efficacy of pelleted cranberry leaf powder against experimental Haemonchus contortus infection in lambs

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

Inclusion of soybean meal into summer flounder (Paralichthys dentatus) feeds: An environmentally-friendly protein alternative to fish meal and a potential immunostimulant

A Partnership for Innovative Use of Emerging Species in Aquaculture

Testing laser scarecrows for neighbor-friendly bird damage reduction in sweet corn on periurban farms

Efficacy and cost effectiveness of foliar nutrient applications to vegetable crops on a large Rhode Island farm

Realizing the potential of high tunnel tomato production and income in southern New England

The Rhode Island “Market Mobile”: Easing channels for distribution for farmers and food buyers

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<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</td>
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<td>University of Rhode Island</td>
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<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</td>
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<td>University of Rhode Island</td>
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<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</td>
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<td>University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension</td>
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<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</td>
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<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</td>
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<td>Farm Fresh Rhode Island</td>
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Total funding from the USDA SARE program to Rhode Island
$2,225,401

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).