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 $245 million for more than 6,100 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 the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

SARE
Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in…

New Jersey

Project Highlight: *Cutting pesticide use in highbush blueberries*

Highbush blueberry farmers in New Jersey's Pineland region—a freshwater resource for 2.6 million people—often spray insecticides on the entire farm to avoid crop failure caused by their most threatening pest, the blueberry maggot.

Blueberry farmers can now protect their crop with less pesticide use, thanks to a SARE-funded project comparing whole-farm integrated crop management (ICM) with standard treatment practices.

Eight farms involved in the study, covering 1,200 acres of blueberry production, or 16 percent of New Jersey's total acreage, each saved from $75 to $118 per acre annually because they reduced labor, gas and insecticide costs by adopting whole-farm ICM. The environmental benefit of reduced pesticide use and fuel emissions was an added bonus.

Blueberries are vital to the state's agriculture, cultivated on 7,500 acres of land at a value of over $80 million.

Employing spatially-based ICM techniques, Rutgers University researchers used large-scale monitoring to find hot spots for maggot populations and encouraged farmers to target sprayings to those areas.

Throughout the project, more than 130 blueberry growers were trained on the new ICM guidelines. Beyond New Jersey, project results reached over 300 growers, and researchers found ICM adoption rates among blueberry farmers increased by 39 percent in mid-Atlantic states and 57 percent in New Jersey.

For more information on this project, see **www.sare.org/projects**, and search for project number LNE08-273.
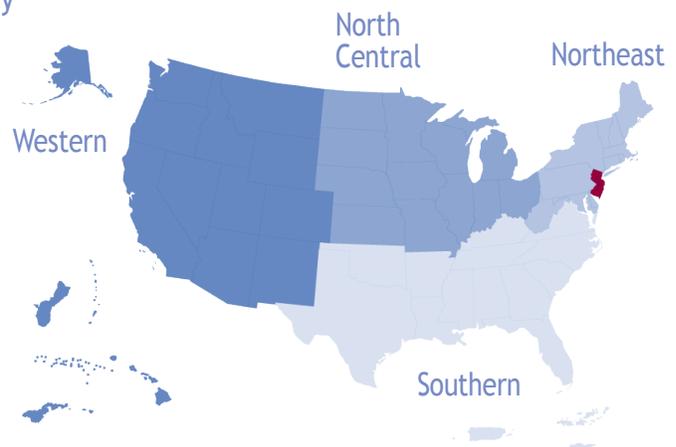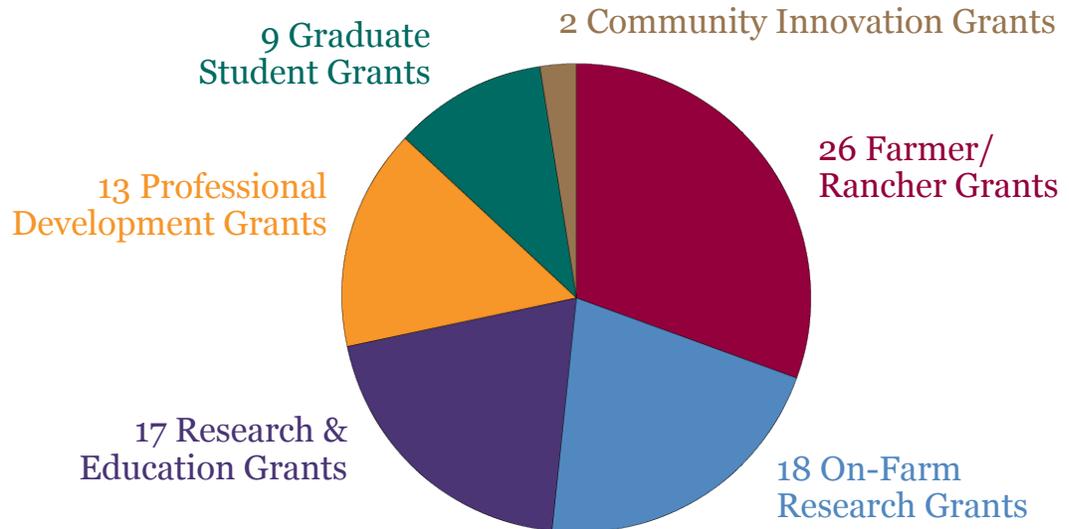
SARE in New Jersey

www.nesare.org/new-jersey

$2.8 million in total funding

85 grant projects

(since 1988)

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

North Central

Northeast

Western

Southern

SARE's four regional programs and outreach office work to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

SARE Grants in New Jersey

SARE has awarded a total of **85 grants** in New Jersey since 1988

9 Graduate Student Grants

2 Community Innovation Grants

13 Professional Development Grants

26 Farmer/ Rancher Grants

17 Research & Education Grants

18 On-Farm Research Grants

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.

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 www.nesare.org/new-jersey to learn more.

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USDA

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Research & Education

For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org