

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

California

Project Highlight: *Low-till saves money, improves air quality*

Strip-tillage is gaining momentum among dairy farmers in California's Central Valley as a strategy with many benefits: It can save up to \$50 per acre in fuel, labor and equipment costs; reduces soil disturbance and dust; and opens the door to improved manure nitrogen management.

Leading the way is University of California, Davis Crop Specialist Jeff Mitchell, who has received two SARE grants to conduct research on Central Valley dairies evaluating strip-till and no-till planting systems for corn and winter forage production.

In addition, Mitchell coordinates the Conservation Tillage and Cropping Systems Workgroup, a 1,500-member group of California researchers, farm-

ers, industry representatives and others interested in the practice, which is well-established in other parts of the country but relatively new to California.

By converting to strip-tillage, a typical dairy producer could eliminate four to five tractor passes. With high fuel costs, fewer passes across the field are better not only for the field but also for the dairy producer's bottom line. It has also been shown that strip-tillage and no-tillage for forage production can reduce particulate matter emissions by 50-90 percent compared with traditional tillage.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project numbers FW06-308 and SW08-060.

SARE in California

www.westernsare.org/california

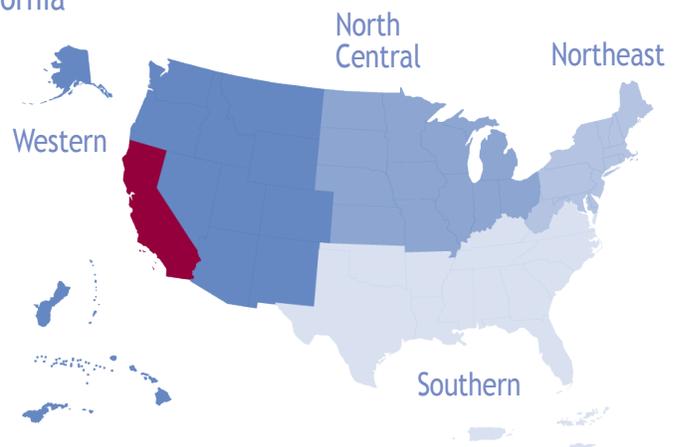
\$9.2 million in total funding

154 grant projects

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to

www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

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.

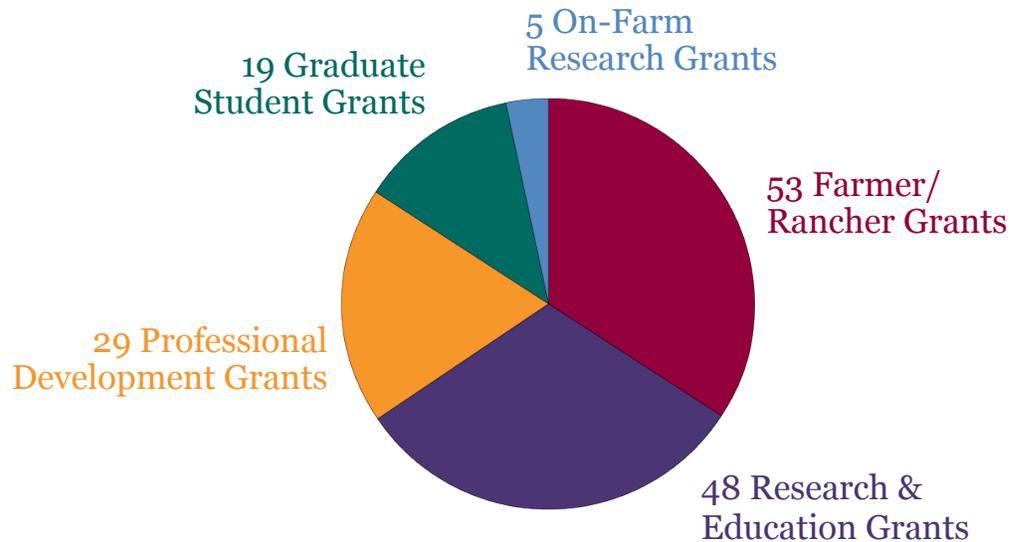


Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

SARE Grants in California

SARE has awarded a total of **154 grants** in California since 1988



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.westernsare.org/california to learn more.

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

For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org