

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

Texas

Project Highlight: *Protecting water by controlling invasive shrub*

The invasive saltcedar causes many problems for Texas farmers and ranchers: Growing densely near streams, the bush consumes large amounts of ground and surface water. As its name suggests, it also increases soil salinity, and it is creeping into crop and rangeland.

Saltcedar might be meeting its match, thanks to a team of Texas AgriLife Extension and USDA researchers, and to the saltcedar leaf beetle. During a two-year project funded by SARE, the team released leaf beetles in areas heavily populated with saltcedars and monitored the result.

In monitored areas, leaf beetles became established—meaning they survived the winter—and managed to extensively defoliate saltcedars. Four

to five years of defoliation will kill a tree; at one site, 75 percent of saltcedars had died. Along with eventual tree death, researchers observed immediate benefits: More native grasses began to grow in saltcedar areas due to increased availability of sunlight after defoliation.

This research has the potential to offer a low-cost, sustainable solution to an extensive problem. Saltcedar has spread across 500,000 acres of mostly riparian land in Texas, and the state's main effort to control the shrub has been to apply herbicides along the Pecos and Colorado rivers, at a cost of \$5.7 million.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number OS10-053.

SARE in Texas

www.southernsare.org/texas

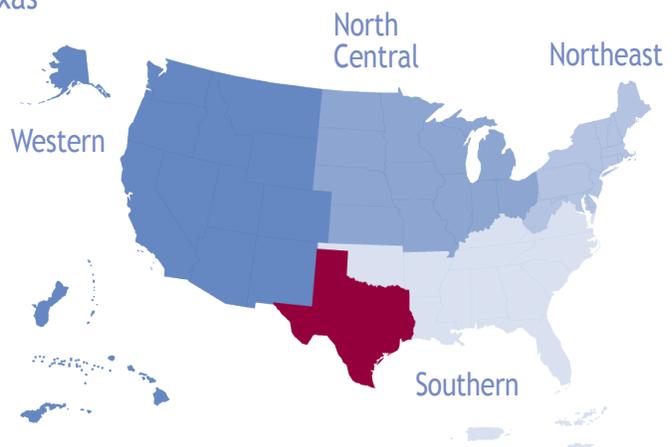
\$4.9 million in total funding

80 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

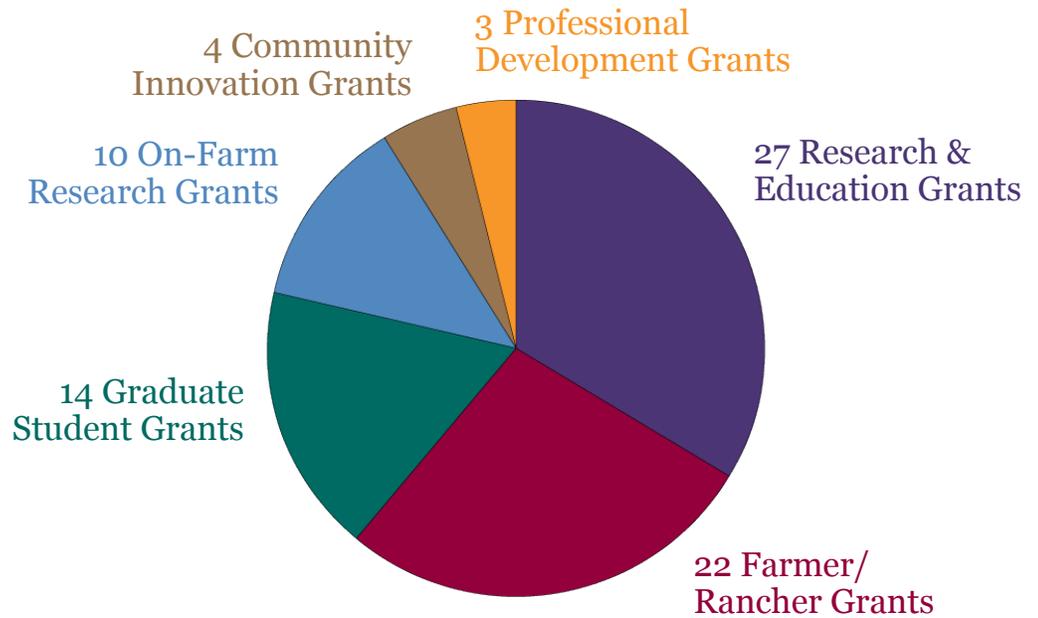
SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.



www.sare.org

SARE Grants in Texas

SARE has
awarded a
total of
80 grants
in Texas
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.southernsare.org/texas 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