

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

Connecticut

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

Project Highlight: *New leasing options when priced out of ownership*

The cost of farmland in the state has risen sharply in recent years, to an average of \$12,667 per acre in 2007, a prohibitive figure for many farmers. This has led to more reliance on leasing rather than ownership. Helping farmers adapt to this changing reality, American Farmland Trust and the University of Connecticut used a 2010 SARE grant to open the door to a newer leasing model: farming on lands owned by institutions, trusts and municipalities.

The result is Farmland Connections, an in-depth guide meant to introduce these landowners to the concept of agricultural leasing. The potential is considerable: In the state, there are 78,000 acres of open space owned by municipalities, 58,000 owned by land trusts, and 47,000 acres protected

through various kinds of easements.

Towns, land trusts and other institutions often are unfamiliar with how to structure a successful agricultural lease, and are unaware of the full range of economic, social and stewardship benefits such a lease could provide—objectives that are not met with unused land.

Likewise, such arrangements can benefit farmers, since they lower the price of admission and can be structured for long-term tenancy, an important consideration for organic farmers, who need long lead times preparing their land for certification.

The guide is available for free at www.sare.org/farmland-connections.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number CNE10-073.

SARE in Connecticut www.nesare.org/connecticut

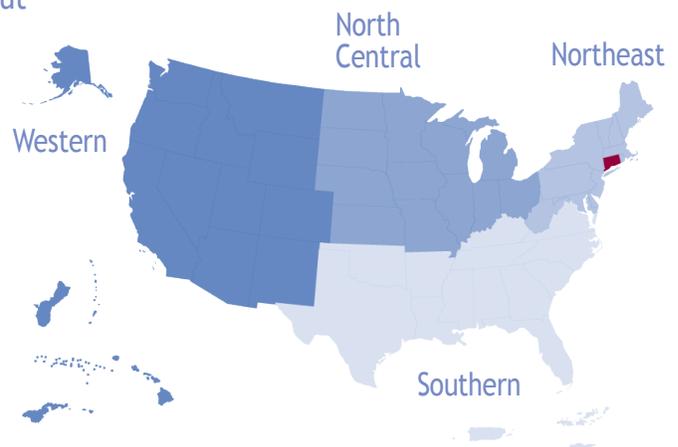
\$1.7 million in total funding

62 grant projects

(since 1988)

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

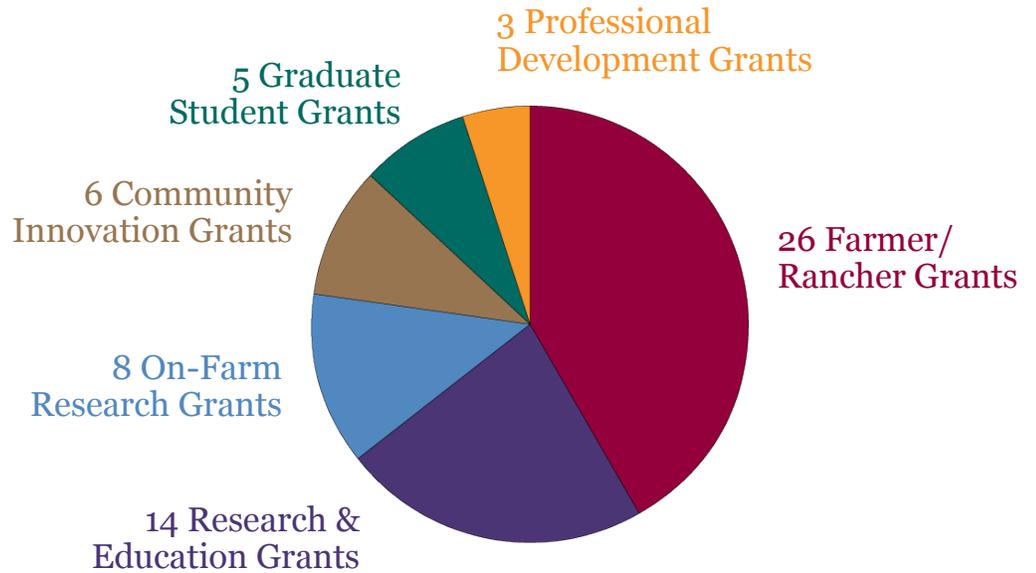
www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in Connecticut

SARE has awarded a total of **62 grants** in Connecticut 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.nesare.org/connecticut to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org