

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: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

Washington, D.C.

Project Highlight: *Bringing fresh foods to low-income areas*

A city food bank used SARE funding to boost activity at its farmers' market—and the community's access to fresh, healthy foods—in a low-income neighborhood where one supermarket chain store serves about 200,000 people.

Capital Area Food Bank leaders attracted about 1,800 customers to their Anacostia Farmers Market in the 2004 season, a record number for the market, by creating incentives for farmers and consumers to participate.

To help ensure regular farmer involvement, organizers offered them from \$300 to \$750 per week, depending on the availability of funds.

To attract consumers, organizers advertised and held special events connected with the market, including sum-

mer celebrations, a chili cook-off, family days, cooking demonstrations and youth learning experiences. One activity involved taking urban youth on a field trip to an organic farm about 10 miles away in Maryland.

Project leaders expanded the market's offerings to include specialty items such as Amish cheeses, culinary herbs, homemade jams and mustards, mint tea, honey, pasta sauce and tomato soup.

Organizers also acquired a food stamp/Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) sales tool for the market, which was intended to allow them to serve the neighborhood's poorest residents.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number LNE01-149.

SARE in Washington, D.C.

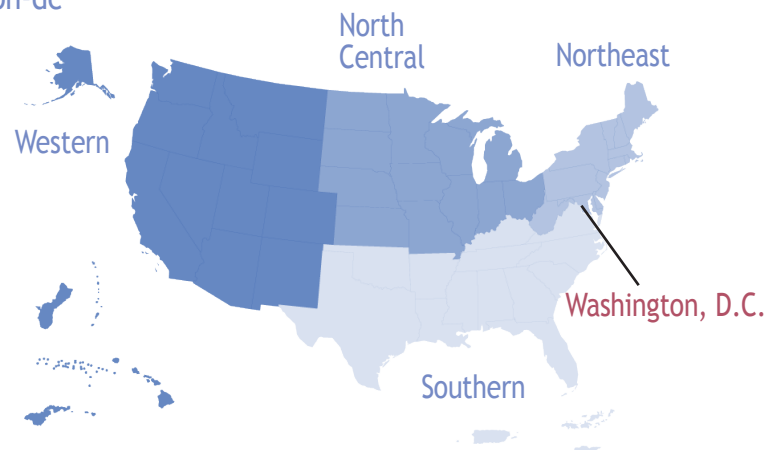
www.nesare.org/washington-dc

\$79,577 in total funding

1 grant project

(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 State Initiatives

Distinct from SARE's grants, state initiatives are competitively funded programs that promote the adoption of sustainable farming techniques and awareness of SARE funding, project results, training, and other opportunities. The content and direction of these programs can vary widely, as they are intended to address the challenges and needs unique to a given state.

Supporting sustainability in urban gardens

A three-year D.C. initiative is designed to help gardeners in the District—a jurisdiction where growing space is limited and not a single for-profit farm exists—get more from their urban gardens using sustainable methods. This ongoing project involves:

- Demonstration plots at the University of the District of Columbia's research farm
- Field days and workshops offering hands-on experience
- Partnering with the Master Gardeners program
- Distributing educational materials on sustainable ag



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/washington-dc to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to
www.SARE.org