

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

Utah

Project Highlight: *Perennial forage revitalizes rangeland*

Pervasive cheatgrass has long posed a threat to ranchers and their communities in the Intermountain West. Edging out native perennials and taking over entire rangelands, the annual weed compromises forage value for livestock, destabilizes soil, increases risk of wildfire and diminishes wildlife habitat.

But there is new hope in forage kochia, a perennial shrub that USDA Agricultural Research Service plant geneticist Blair Waldron has demonstrated is a stiff competitor against cheatgrass in Utah's semi-arid environments and provides excellent, protein-rich forage for cattle. Another promising strategy lies in grass-legume mixes, also a subject of Waldron's research.

In four years of SARE-funded research, Waldron, Utah State University

Beef Extension Specialist Dale ZoBell and others demonstrated forage kochia's adaptability to semi-arid rangelands. They found pastures combining kochia and crested wheatgrass yielded six times more forage than comparison plots of crested wheatgrass alone, largely due to kochia's tolerance of drought.

In previous research, they showed the profitability of this nutritious blend: Grazing cattle on kochia and crested wheatgrass from November through January cost participating ranchers 25 percent less than feeding alfalfa hay, and resulted in similar body condition scores.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project numbers SW04-060 and SW10-088.

SARE in Utah

www.westernsare.org/utah

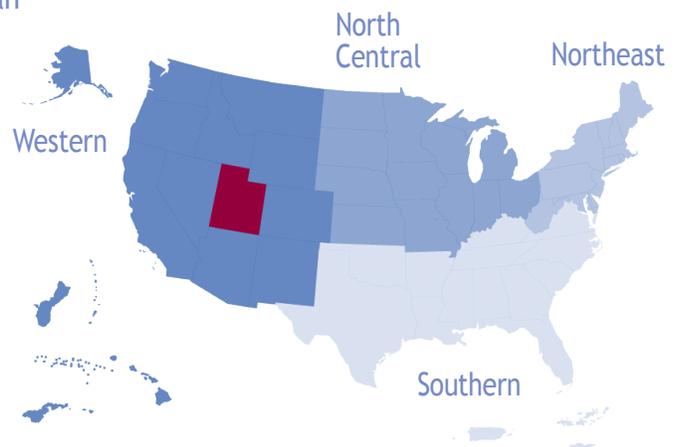
\$3.6 million in total funding

57 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

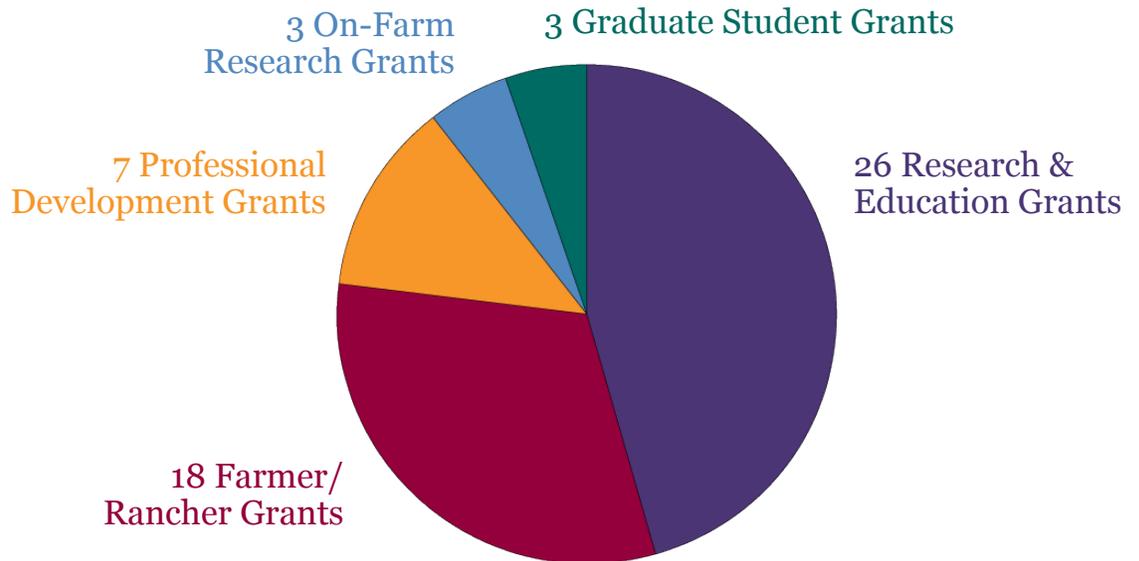
SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.



www.sare.org

SARE Grants in Utah

SARE has
awarded a
total of
57 grants
in Utah
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/utah to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org