

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...

Oklahoma

Project Highlight: *Capturing new markets with teff, an ethnic grain*

Farmers are often on the lookout for niche crops they can grow in order to diversify production and cash in on new, high-value markets. Teff could be just such an option, according to SARE-funded research at Oklahoma State University (OSU).

Teff is an annual grass native to Ethiopia and is a staple grain in East African cuisines. It can also serve as hay. In a two-year trial evaluating different teff varieties in Oklahoma's growing conditions, the OSU team found it can be grown profitably and easily for both purposes.

The team determined a farmer could net approximately \$740 per acre when growing teff for grain and hay. Additionally, teff is an easy, low-risk crop to grow. It matures quickly in normal conditions—about 90 to 100 days after

emergence—and it yields well compared to other cereals when moisture is extremely low or high. In addition, teff experiences relatively few pest problems in its native Ethiopia, and the researchers found the same to be true here.

Aside from animal feed, teff offers a number of high-value marketing options. Along with its demand among growing populations of East Africans in the United States, it is high in protein and rich in many minerals, and can be marketed as a healthy grain.

This research motivated 10 area farmers to try growing teff, and the project team began exploring areas of collaboration with teff networks in Kansas and Texas.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number OS09-048.

SARE in Oklahoma

www.southernsare.org/oklahoma

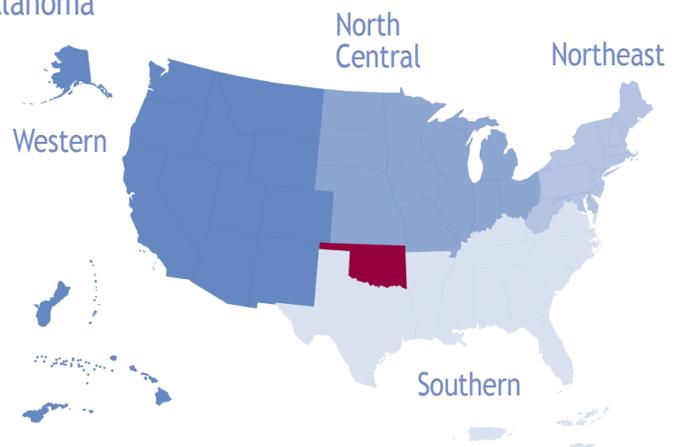
**\$2.4 million in
total funding**

**41 grant
projects**

(since 1988)

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

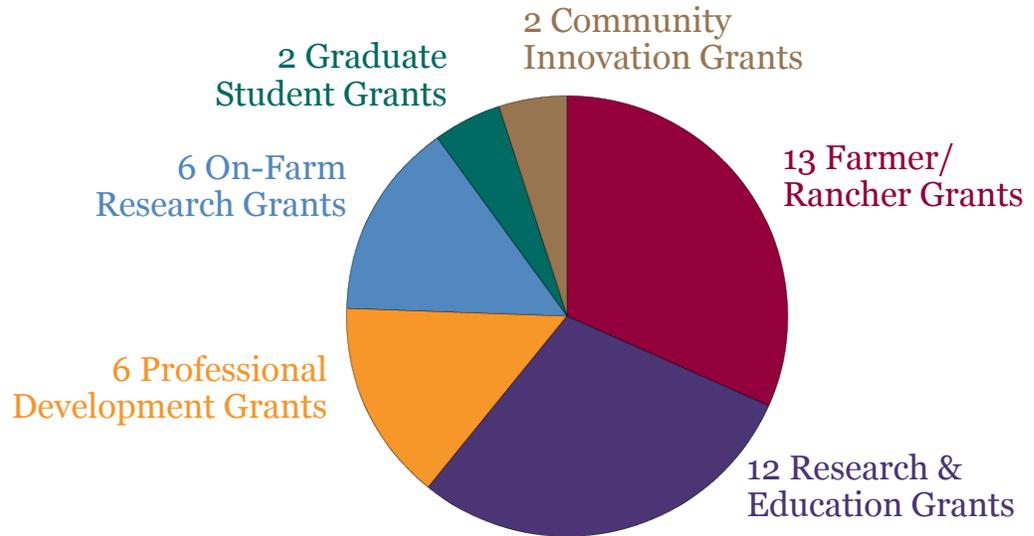
www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in Oklahoma

SARE has awarded a total of **41 grants** in Oklahoma 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/oklahoma to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org