

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

# Louisiana

## Project Highlight: *Study finds forage-fed beef is competitive*

Louisiana has a \$500 million cattle industry that grew by 20 percent from 2012 to 2013. And SARE-funded research in the state has found that grass-fed beef is a lucrative and viable segment of this growing industry.

The research, completed by University of Louisiana Extension, revealed that ranchers earned up to \$678 per head of cattle raised on a no-till forage diet. They found that a forage-fed diet is competitive economically with a conventional grain diet. Plus, grass-fed is an excellent way to meet local demand for beef—69 percent of meat sales go to local individuals and 24 percent to independent grocers.

The four-year experiment also investigated the potential profitability of three forage systems within a hypothetical carbon market. Researchers found

that factoring in economic benefits from carbon credits—a potential way of offsetting the atmospheric carbon emitted from an individual farm—would provide additional income for ranchers who raise cattle on forage.

Researchers proved that this forage-based production model helps remove carbon from the air, and with a carbon credit market in place, could make different plant varieties worth farmers' time and money. While a lengthier research project would be necessary to truly assess the carbon sequestration potential of different forages, they did find that pastures with dallisgrass and clovers had the greatest ability to sequester carbon dioxide and methane emissions.

For more information on this project, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects) and search for project number LS09-221.

## SARE in Louisiana

[www.southernsare.org/louisiana](http://www.southernsare.org/louisiana)

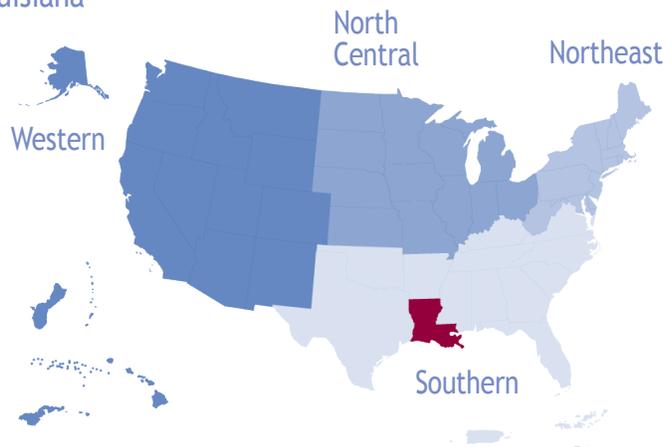
**\$1.6 million in total funding**

**31 grant projects**

(since 1988)

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

[www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://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

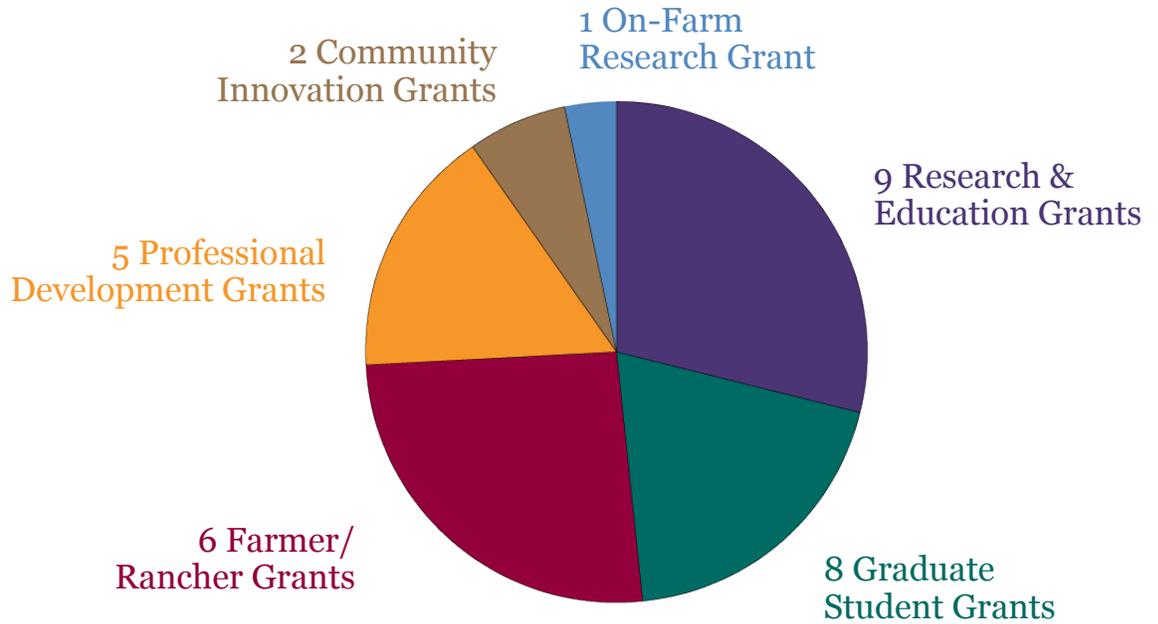
SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.



[www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)

# SARE Grants in Louisiana

SARE has  
awarded a  
total of  
**31 grants**  
in Louisiana  
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/louisiana](http://www.southernsare.org/louisiana) to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to  
[www.SARE.org](http://www.SARE.org)