

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

South Dakota

Project Highlight: *Dung Beetles Beneficial to Rangelands*

The flies and parasites that inhabit the native rangeland in northeastern South Dakota cause millions of dollars of damage to the ranchers who use that land to graze cattle and sheep. Ranchers stem their losses using pesticides but one producer, Linda Simmons, was concerned about pesticide resistance after she faced a sudden failure of insect control. She was also concerned that pesticides were reducing numbers of beneficial insects such as dung beetles that were her ally in controlling these pests.

In response, she designed a SARE-funded project to find ways that preserves the functions of the rangeland ecosystem and would lead to efficient and profitable livestock production. The project demonstrated the efficacy of reducing pesticide use through non-chemical

controls, integrated pest management and rotational grazing. Simmons worked with her neighbors, since fly control is more effective when bordering pastures and feedlots are included.

She discovered that dung beetles are especially helpful as they consume manure, making it less available to flies and parasites. Simmons developed many documents about dung beetles and non-chemical fly control that are free to producers. Thirty producers and land managers attended a field day, demonstrating great interest in the value of encouraging dung beetles

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number FNC14-977.

SARE in South Dakota

www.northcentralsare.org/south-dakota

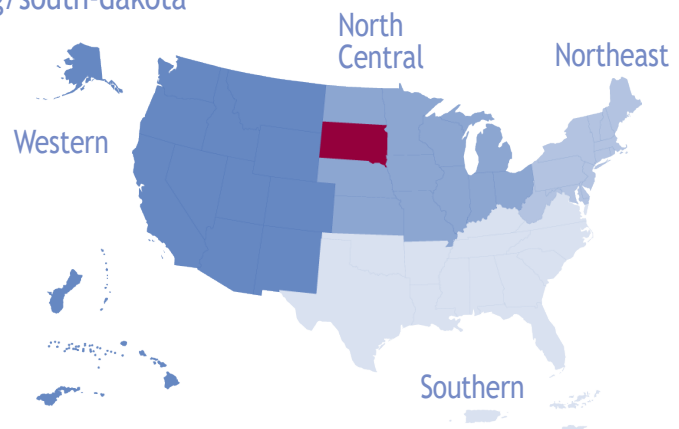
\$3.3 million in total funding

105 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 over \$273 million to more than 6,800 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

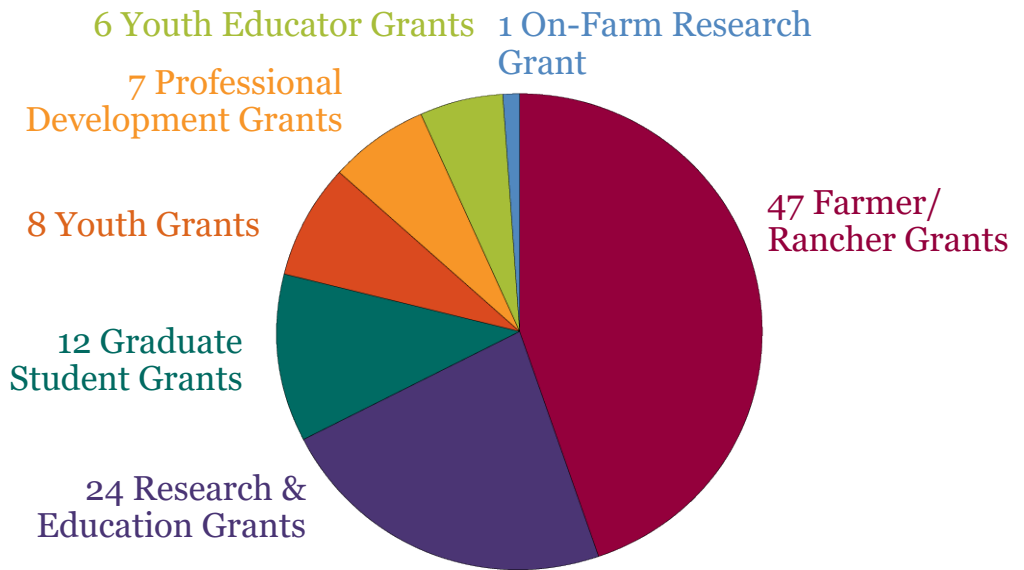
SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.



www.sare.org

SARE Grants in South Dakota

SARE has awarded a total of **105 grants** in South Dakota 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.northcentralsare.org/south-dakota to learn more.

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