SARE
Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

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 $1.5 million to more than 42 initiatives [1].

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 an online library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

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

Alaska

Project Highlight: *Appropriate Technology and Cooperative Marketing to Increase Root Crop Production on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula*

The Kenai Peninsula is the fastest-growing agricultural region in Alaska, with the number of farms increasing at nearly three times the rate of the rest of the state. But most of those farms are small – less than five acres – and selling direct to consumers at farmers markets or to local restaurants.

The Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District commissioned a study, completed in early 2017, that found for growers there to expand their distribution, they need to increase their production and look at coordinating marketing and distribution. The study also looked at potential cash crops. Potatoes were one of the crops identified.

The problem for small growers, however, isn't how well potatoes grow. It's how much work they are to harvest when you're digging them up by hand with a pitchfork.

So, as a first step to expanding production and exploring cooperative marketing and distribution on the Kenai, the conservation district tested – and now rents out – a single-row potato digger and tub washer at a very reasonable rate.

It's already paying off for the Alaskan farmers, where labor is always in short supply. One grower reduced his harvest and processing time from seven days to less than two. There is a four- to six-week window for harvest that allow the region's growers to share the single machine.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects, and search for project number OW18-029.

SARE in Alaska

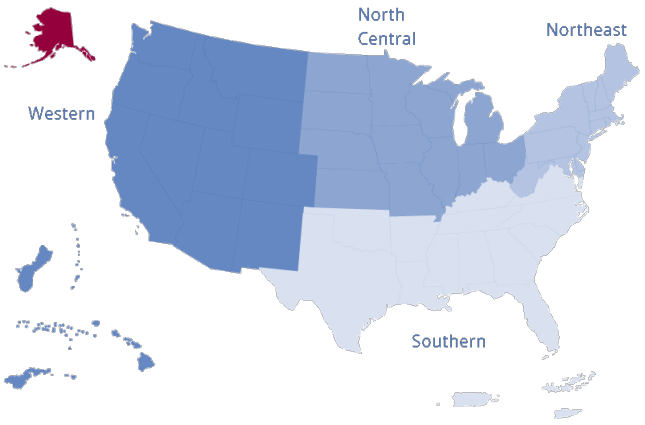
western.sare.org/state-profiles/alaska/

$1,526,494 in total funding

42 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of Alaska grant projects, go to projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/



[1] These totals reflect available data; complete information may not be available for all grant programs prior to 2016.

SARE in Alaska, 2021–2026

This is a summary of recent SARE-funded activities and impacts in the state. To search all SARE projects visit projects.sare.org. For a list of all projects in Alaska visit projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/.

Grants awarded

Total awards: **10 grants**

5	Farmer/Rancher
1	Research and Education
1	Professional Development Program
2	PDP State Program [2]
1	Local Ed & Demo (formerly RGR)

Total funding: **$586,404**

$124,280	Farmer/Rancher
$75,000	Research and Education
$99,875	Professional Development Program
$227,250	PDP State Program [2]
$59,999	Local Ed & Demo (formerly RGR)

[2] The Professional Development Program (PDP) State Program is a non-competitive award that funds the activities of the state coordinator(s). See more below.

For a complete list of Alaska awards, visit:
projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

1,025 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

15 farmers changed a practice



Photo credit: Louise Heite

Learn about local impacts at:
western.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/alaska/

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 western.sare.org/state-profiles/alaska/ to learn more.

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