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 $333 million to more than 7,792 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 an online library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

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

**Alaska**

Project Highlight: *Training-the-Trainer on High Tunnel Production*

Farmers use high tunnels to extend the growing season for high-value crops by several weeks. The practice is especially beneficial in Alaska, a state with short and intense growing seasons. High tunnels are so popular that over 400 have been built in the state since 2010, and the Kenai Peninsula district has the most high tunnels per farmer in the nation.

To help farmers take full advantage of these season-extending structures they need access to well-trained agriculture agents, which is not so easy in a state so large. To increase capacity, University of Alaska’s Casey Matney used a SARE grant that provided training to 20 people, including all of the state’s Extension agriculture specialists and professionals from other organizations.

They participated in a workshop addressing nutrient management, integrated pest management, crop selection, irrigation, and construction and maintenance considerations in high tunnel production. More ag professionals and farmers have access to the information through a bulletin and video that Matney’s team produced. Each Extension agent who participated continues to offer high tunnel training in their district.

For more information on this project, see [sare.org/projects](http://sare.org/projects), and search for project number EW15-022.

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**SARE in Alaska**

[western.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/alaska](http://western.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/alaska)

$841,090 in total funding

29 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 Grants in Alaska

Total awards: 29 grants

- 4 Research and Education
- 2 Professional Development Program
- 15 Farmer/Rancher
- 3 Graduate Student
- 5 On Farm Research/Partnership

Total funding: $841,090

- $341,030 Research and Education
- $82,317 Professional Development Program
- $139,613 Farmer/Rancher
- $59,646 Graduate Student
- $218,484 On Farm Research/Partnership

Find a complete list of projects on page 3.

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.

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-pages/alaska to learn more.

Casey Matney
University of Alaska Fairbanks
9079072623443
camatney@alaska.edu

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

SARE is funded by the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

This report includes summaries of competitive grant programs only. Some competitive grant programs that are no longer offered may be included or excluded from the totals in this report depending on the grant program and SARE region.
Alaska has been awarded $841,090 grants to support 28 projects, including but not limited to, 3 research and/or education projects, 2 professional development projects and 15 producer-led projects. Alaska has also received additional SARE support through multi-state projects.

### RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| SW10-901  | Building Alaska Garden Soils from the Ground Up: Local Soils Research and Demonstration Projects | $48,497 | Dr. Stephen Sparrow  
University of Alaska Fairbanks |
| SW06-111  | Fruit and Berry Tree Crop Trial Program for Native Alaskan Rural Communities in Interior Alaska | $193,324 | Kendra Calhoun  
Cooperative Extension Service, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Robert Wheeler  
Alaska Cooperative Extension Service  
Dr. Meriam Karlsson  
University of Alaska |
| SW97-012  | No-till Forage Establishment to Improve Soil and Water Conservation and Reduce Associated Production Risks | $99,209 | Dr. Stephen Sparrow  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Raymond Gavlak  
University of Alaska Fairbanks |

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| EW15-022  | High tunnels at High Latitudes: Sustainable Crop Production for Alaska | $32,315 | Dr. Casey Matney  
University of Alaska Fairbanks |
| EW10-024  | Educating Alaska Agriculture Professionals on Sustainable High Latitude Horticulture Production Practices | $50,002 | Jeff Smeenk  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Dr. Milan Shipka  
University of Alaska Fairbanks |

### FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| FW20-361  | Alaska vegetable production using a high residue cover crop system to reduce erosion and decrease weeds | $12,300 | Jeff Smeenk  
Alaska Specialty Crops |
| FW17-026  | Grafted Watermelon Production in Southcentral Alaska | $19,999 | Robert Brown  
Robert Brown |
| FW13-149  | Selection and Propagation of Bog Blueberry Plants for Alaskan Food Security | $14,688 | Charles Knight  
Knight Farms |
| FW12-046  | Monitoring Impacts of High Tunnels on Growing Conditions and Season Extension in Southcentral Alaska | $19,615 | Rachel Lord  
Alaska Stems (formerly Harambee Gardens) |
| FW10-007  | Using high tunnels to provide peony with a longer growing season to increase productivity in northern latitudes and cold soils | $14,751 | Jan Hanscom  
Polar Peonies, LLC |
Weed Management and Soil Fertility on a Sub-Arctic Farm $14,803 Michael Emers Rosie Creek Farm

Kuskokwim Native Association Farm Vegetable Marketing Project $3,750 Diana Lehman Kuskokwim Native Association

Sub-Arctic Top-Bar-Hive Beekeeping and Natural Honeycomb Production Combined with the Introduction of New Winter Hardy Red Raspberry Cultivars $3,129 Lance Gillette

Propagation of Alaska Native Plants for Landscape and Restoration Use $7,500 Michael Emers Rosie Creek Farm

Propagation of Alaska Native Plants for Restoration and Landscape Use $5,000 Michael Emers Rosie Creek Farm

Development of Late Blight Forecasting Model $6,078 Bob Boyd

Propagation of Indigenous Lingonberry Species for Sustainable Development $5,000 Vickie Talbot

Growing American and Korean Ginseng in Alaska $5,000 David C. Smith

Establish More Efficient and Biological Practice for Bringing Forest Land into Agricultural Use through Sustainable Development Using Indigenous Species for Alaska $3,000 Vickie Talbot

Establish More Efficient and Biological Practice for Bringing Forest Land into Agricultural Use Through Sustainable Development Using Indigenous Species in Alaska $5,000 Vickie Talbot

Sustainable Livestock Production on the Frontier: Plant and Soil Responses to Simulated Managed Grazing in Sub-Arctic Alaska $24,329 Dr. Janice Rowell University of Alaska Fairbanks Laura Starr SNRES - UAF

Exploring the Importance of Locally Sourced Food in Remote Regions: insights from community supported agriculture in the Tanana Valley of Alaska $24,970 Joseph Little UAF Anastasia Thayer University of Alaska Fairbanks

Community Supported Gardening and Food Security in Rural Alaska $10,347 S. Craig Gerlach University of Alaska Fairbanks Philip Loring University of Alaska Fairbanks

The use of modified insect traps to attract essential native pollinators into greenhouses and increase pollination success $49,177 Aleya Brinkman Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Principal Investigator(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| OW18-029   | Appropriate Technology and Cooperative Marketing to Increase Root Crop Production on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula | $21,631 | Heidi Chay  
Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District |
| OW16-031   | Building Leadership Capacity with Rural Alaskan Youth                           | $49,355 | Greg Finstad  
University of Alaska Fairbanks |
| OW15-030   | Insect IPM Protocols for Fresh Cut Peonies: Protecting a New Alaskan Export Crop | $48,872 | Gino Graziano  
University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service |
| OW14-040   | Interior Alaska Hay Field Renovation Project                                   | $49,449 | Brian Atkinson  
Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District  
Jessica Guritz  
Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District |

**Total funding from the USDA SARE program to Alaska**

$841,090

For further information on projects, contact Western SARE at (435) 797-2257 or wsare@usu.edu.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) is funded by USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).