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 $309 million to more than 7,407 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, granteeproduced information products and other educational materials.

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, and search for project number EW15-022.

SARE in Alaska

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

www.sare.org
**SARE Grants in Alaska**

**Total awards:** 29 grants

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

**Total funding:** $841,090

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

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  
(907) 262-5824  
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.
AGRICULTURE PROJECTS FUNDED IN ALASKA
by USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program

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

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

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

### FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS

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

**GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GW15-005</td>
<td>Sustainable Livestock Production on the Frontier: Plant and Soil Responses to Simulated Managed Grazing in Sub-Arctic Alaska</td>
<td>$24,329</td>
<td>Dr. Janice Rowell University of Alaska Fairbanks Laura Starr SNRES - UAF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GW15-015</td>
<td>Exploring the Importance of Locally Sourced Food in Remote Regions: insights from community supported agriculture in the Tanana Valley of Alaska</td>
<td>$24,970</td>
<td>Joseph Little UAF Anastasia Thayer University of Alaska Fairbanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GW07-013</td>
<td>Community Supported Gardening and Food Security in Rural Alaska</td>
<td>$10,347</td>
<td>S. Craig Gerlach University of Alaska Fairbanks Philip Loring University of Alaska Fairbanks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ON FARM RESEARCH/PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OW18-029</td>
<td>Appropriate Technology and Cooperative Marketing to Increase Root Crop Production on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula</td>
<td>$21,631</td>
<td>Heidi Chay Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project ID</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Investigator(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| OW18-031   | The use of modified insect traps to attract essential native pollinators into greenhouses and increase pollination success | $49,177 | Brian Atkinson  
Fairbanks Soil & 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).