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

$841,110 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
## SARE Grants in Alaska

### Total awards: **31 grants**
- 5 Research and Education
- 2 Professional Development Program
- 15 Farmer/Rancher
- 3 Graduate Student
- 6 On Farm Research/Partnership

### Total funding: **$841,110**
- $341,040 Research and Education
- $82,317 Professional Development Program
- $139,613 Farmer/Rancher
- $59,646 Graduate Student
- $218,494 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](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](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](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 $841,110 grants to support 30 projects, including but not limited to, 4 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>
| SW21-931   | TEST                                                                         | $10          | Dr. Western SARE  
Western Sare                                           |
| 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)                          |
Using high tunnels to provide peony with a longer growing season to increase productivity in northern latitudes and cold soils

Weed Management and Soil Fertility on a Sub-Arctic Farm

Kuskokwim Native Association Farm Vegetable Marketing Project

Sub-Arctic Top-Bar-Hive Beekeeping and Natural Honeycomb Production Combined with the Introduction of New Winter Hardy Red Raspberry Cultivars

Propagation of Alaska Native Plants for Landscape and Restoration Use

Propagation of Alaska Native Plants for Restoration and Landscape Use

Development of Late Blight Forecasting Model

Propagation of Indigenous Lingonberry Species for Sustainable Development

Growing American and Korean Ginseng in Alaska

Establish More Efficient and Biological Practice for Bringing Forest Land into Agricultural Use through Sustainable Development Using Indigenous Species for Alaska

Establish More Efficient and Biological Practice for Bringing Forest Land into Agricultural Use Through Sustainable Development Using Indigenous Species in Alaska

Sustainable Livestock Production on the Frontier: Plant and Soil Responses to Simulated Managed Grazing in Sub-Arctic Alaska

Exploring the Importance of Locally Sourced Food in Remote Regions: insights from community supported agriculture in the Tanana Valley of Alaska

Community Supported Gardening and Food Security in Rural Alaska

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS

Project #  Project Title  SARE Support  Project Leaders
GW15-005  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
GW15-015  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
GW07-013  Community Supported Gardening and Food Security in Rural Alaska  $10,347  S. Craig Gerlach  University of Alaska Fairbanks  Philip Loring  University of Alaska Fairbanks

ON FARM RESEARCH/PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Project #  Project Title  SARE Support  Project Leaders
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal Number</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>PI(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OW21-369</td>
<td>WESTERN SARE TEST Pro Plus PROPOSAL</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Dr. Western SARE Western Sare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OW18-031</td>
<td>The use of modified insect traps to attract essential native pollinators into greenhouses and increase pollination success</td>
<td>$49,177</td>
<td>Aleya Brinkman Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District</td>
</tr>
<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>OW16-031</td>
<td>Building Leadership Capacity with Rural Alaskan Youth</td>
<td>$49,355</td>
<td>Greg Finstad University of Alaska Fairbanks</td>
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<tr>
<td>OW15-030</td>
<td>Insect IPM Protocols for Fresh Cut Peonies: Protecting a New Alaskan Export Crop</td>
<td>$48,872</td>
<td>Gino Graziano University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OW14-040</td>
<td>Interior Alaska Hay Field Renovation Project</td>
<td>$49,449</td>
<td>Brian Atkinson Fairbanks Soil &amp; Water Conservation District Jessica Guritz Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Total funding from the USDA SARE program to Alaska**

$841,110

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).