

## 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 \$311 million to more than 7,449 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.



[www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)

## 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](#).

## SARE in Alaska

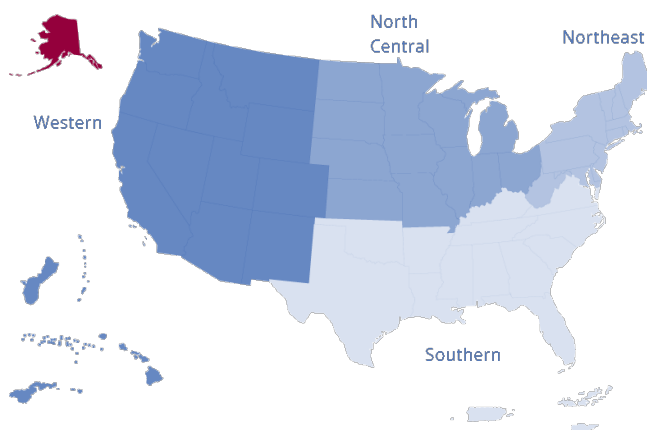
[western.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/alaska](http://western.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/alaska)

**\$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**



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](http://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](http://western.sare.org/state-pages/alaska) to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to  
**[www.SARE.org](http://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

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
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

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
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

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
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

FW08-017	Weed Management and Soil Fertility on a Sub-Arctic Farm	\$14,803	Michael Emers Rosie Creek Farm
FW04-103	Kuskokwim Native Association Farm Vegetable Marketing Project	\$3,750	Diana Lehman Kuskokwim Native Association
FW02-004	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
FW02-045	Propagation of Alaska Native Plants for Landscape and Restoration Use	\$7,500	Michael Emers Rosie Creek Farm
FW00-050	Propagation of Alaska Native Plants for Restoration and Landscape Use	\$5,000	Michael Emers Rosie Creek Farm
FW99-021	Development of Late Blight Forecasting Model	\$6,078	Bob Boyd
FW98-064	Propagation of Indigenous Lingonberry Species for Sustainable Development	\$5,000	Vickie Talbot
FW97-026	Growing American and Korean Ginseng in Alaska	\$5,000	David C. Smith
FW96-082	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
FW95-111	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

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
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

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

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**Total funding from the USDA SARE program to  
Alaska  
\$841,090**

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For further information on projects, contact Western SARE at (435) 797-2257 or [wsare@usu.edu](mailto:wsare@usu.edu).  
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) is funded by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).