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 $21.2 million to more than 304 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...

# California

Project Highlight: *Potter Valley Tribe's Native Mushroom Cultivation from Waste Byproduct Substrate for Food Sovereignty*

The Potter Valley Tribe in Ft. Bragg, California, began a small operation prior to their SARE project growing various mushrooms with the objectives of food sovereignty, sustainable agriculture, income, and education. Food sovereignty for Native Americans acts as a resurgence of culture, bolstering health, economic development, and native nationhood. The Tribe notes that mushrooms have long been an important feature in Northern Californian diets but are rarely cultivated on Tribal lands.

This Western SARE project experimented with growing on spent coffee grounds, hardwood sawdust from sawmills, and other less frequently utilized local 'waste' byproducts such as hemp production. The Tribe aimed to develop their own methodology for production rather than purchasing spawn from other growers. This would increase food sovereignty and diversify the Tribe's revenue.

Their outreach and education brought in over 40 new participants in the project, including elders and youth, representing eight different tribes. They came together to continue educating tribal youth in mushroom cultivation, cooking, and gathering. The Potter Valley Tribe also created five instructional videos and Mushroom Manual with step-by-step instructions, as well as developed a mushroom cultivation lab.

Three additional tribes will begin their own mushroom operations after becoming inspired by the success of the Potter Valley Tribe project.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects, and search for project number RGR20-010.

## SARE in California

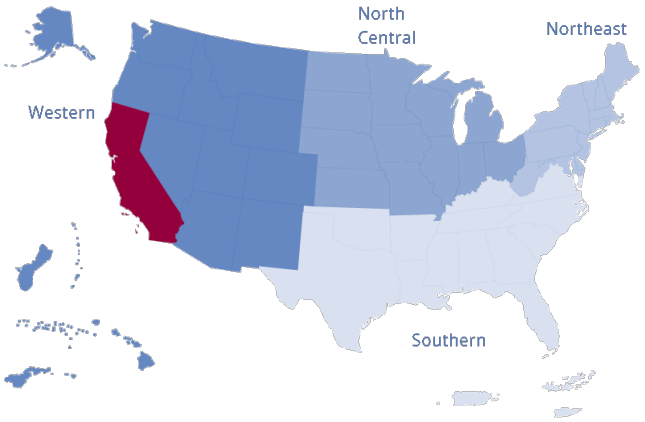
western.sare.org/state-profiles/california/

**$21,181,479 in total funding**

**304 grant projects**

(since 1988 [1])

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

## Grants awarded

### Total awards: **92 grants**

| | |
|---|---|
| 35 | Farmer/Rancher |
| 10 | Research and Education |
| 19 | Professional Development Program |
| 8 | On Farm Research/Partnership |
| 14 | Graduate Student |
| 4 | Local Ed & Demo (formerly RGR) |
| 1 | PDP State Program [2] |
| 1 | Community Foods Project |

### Total funding: **$8,212,322**

| | |
|---|---|
| $890,331 | Farmer/Rancher |
| $3,421,458 | Research and Education |
| $1,742,989 | Professional Development Program |
| $616,792 | On Farm Research/Partnership |
| $413,077 | Graduate Student |
| $249,238 | Local Ed & Demo (formerly RGR) |
| $120,000 | PDP State Program [2] |
| $758,437 | Community Foods Project |

[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.

## Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

**8,488 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

**194 farmers changed a practice**

Photo credit: Red H Farm

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

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

## 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/california/ to learn more.

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