SARE
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 $12.4 million to more than 167 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...

Montana

Project Highlight: *Montana Food Economy Initiative*

The Montana Food Economy Initiative (MFEI), a project of the nonprofit organization AERO, works to strengthen the network of Montana community food systems to ensure producer sustainability and resilience. MFEI cohorts, AERO members, and the 2016 Governors' Food and Agriculture Summit highlighted a lack of coordinated efforts between producers and the other sectors of the food system, which diminished producer viability.

Building on the data gathered in its regional food system development, AERO led this project as a two-prong approach to community food system development that is best suited to accommodate the range of capacity in Montana's rural, often isolated, communities. Their MFEI program accomplishes its goal by training producers and ag professionals in collaborative leadership to strengthen cross-sector relationships. The two prongs were: (1) an "intensive coaching" program designed to engage community stakeholders to self-identify and support change makers in building a community's capacity to focus on food system development and cross-sector engagement, and (2) a "grassroots to systems" pick list of discrete, short-term projects for producers in more established food system communities to lead and which enhance on-farm resilience and cross-sector engagement. These two strategies aimed to build farmers' collaborative leadership capacity to implement projects at the community level.

Upon completion of a wide-variety of initiatives, AERO reported increased producers' knowledge and skills in collaborative leadership and cross-sector community project facilitation to advance on-farm resilience/climate adaptation, community food system development, and/or food equity. A producer-led Advisory Board supported the effort at all levels, helping design shovel-ready mini-grant projects and support tools, and mentoring grantees.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects, and search for project number RGR20-009.

SARE in Montana

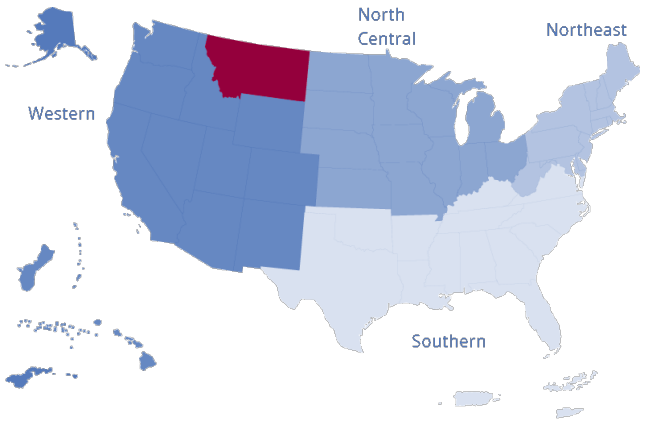
western.sare.org/state-profiles/montana/

$12,360,756 in total funding

167 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

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

Grants awarded

Total awards: **40 grants**

5	Farmer/Rancher
7	Research and Education
4	Professional Development Program
4	On Farm Research/Partnership
13	Graduate Student
4	Local Ed & Demo (formerly RGR)
2	PDP State Program [2]
1	Meat and Poultry Processing

Total funding: **$4,099,663**

$122,852	Farmer/Rancher
$1,967,232	Research and Education
$398,386	Professional Development Program
$299,062	On Farm Research/Partnership
$389,295	Graduate Student
$302,836	Local Ed & Demo (formerly RGR)
$210,000	PDP State Program [2]
$410,000	Meat and Poultry Processing

[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:

4,755 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

203 farmers changed a practice



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

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

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/montana/ to learn more.

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SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education
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