

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 \$4.4 million to more than 98 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...

New Mexico

Project Highlight: *Initiation of a New Mexico Participatory Vegetable Breeding Program*

Landrace varieties of vegetable seeds develop from farmers saving their own seed. These crops, due to selections made by the farmer, are more tolerant to stresses faced in a specific region. This contrasts with institutional breeding programs that may focus on larger farms and ignore diverse landscapes and climates. These programs may not assist the small farmers, who grow for local markets and small food distributors. Raising crops that are adapted to their region allows farmers to use less inputs and be more productive. Researchers at New Mexico State University wanted to help increase and preserve diversity of crops grown in their state, as well as breed for hardiness in locally adapted vegetables. Their project aimed to promote cultural heritage and local food economies through an innovative approach to plant breeding by creating the New Mexico Participatory Vegetable Breeding Program.

Breeding trials and plans were located at five geographically dispersed farms, as well as at three New Mexico State University locations. Each farmer chose the type of trial they wanted to conduct. In addition, field days, trainings, and webinars were conducted to inform other New Mexico farmers what each of the project farmers learned during the time of the project. The project farmers also provided consultations to their neighboring farmers.

For more information on these projects, see sare.org/projects, and search for project number OW20-353.

SARE in New Mexico

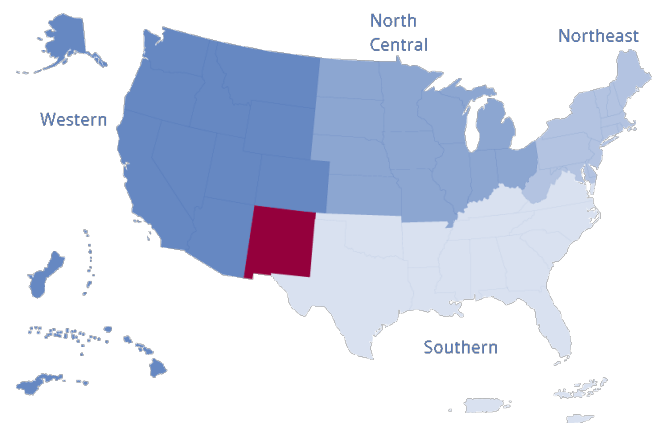
western.sare.org/state-profiles/new-mexico/

\$4,388,456
in total funding

98 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, 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 New Mexico, 2020–2025

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 this state visit projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/.

Grants awarded

Total awards: **26 grants**

- 13 Farmer/Rancher
 - 1 Research and Education
 - 3 On Farm Research/Partnership
 - 3 Graduate Student
 - 3 PDP State Program [2]
 - 2 Local Ed & Demo (formerly RGR)
 - 1 Community Foods Project

Total funding: **\$1,820,218**

- \$319,069 Farmer/Rancher
- \$273,591 Research and Education
- \$199,361 On Farm Research/Partnership
- \$80,076 Graduate Student
- \$255,886 PDP State Program [2]
- \$191,533 Local Ed & Demo (formerly RGR)
- \$500,702 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.

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

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

1,429 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

537 farmers reported a change in knowledge, awareness, skills or attitude

21 farmers changed a practice



Photo credit: Vo von Sehlen

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

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/new-mexico/ to learn more.

Leslie Beck
New Mexico State University
(575) 646-2888
lebeck@nmsu.edu

Phillip Lujan
New Mexico State University
(575) 646-1822
pl11@nmsu.edu



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SARE is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).