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 $17.2 million to more than 254 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...

Oregon

Project Highlight: *No/Low-till Practices as a Water Conservation tool on Small-scale Vegetable Farms East of the Cascades*

Farmers in Oregon's drier areas have been impacted by drought. Many work creatively to conserve water, and for some, it's a mandate when irrigation is cut off. Katie Swanson, Sweet Union Farm which grows vegetables on seven acres in Klamath Falls in south central Oregon, explored with five other farmers how no or low-till practices can increase drought resilience on small-scale farms east of the Cascades.

Each farmer prepared one control plot and two test plots using the low-till or no-till practices of their choice. Farmers selected which annual vegetable or herb they wanted to study, but each of their plots had to contain the same crop and receive the same amount of water. Throughout the season they measured how much water was available to their crops using water-tension sensors installed at different depths in the soil.

In general, plots prepared without tilling held the most moisture. The study also suggested that no-till farming is more feasible for single-season crops rather than those that require many quick successions. One finding was especially surprising: Water tension readings were remarkably low across the board until August. This provided a realization that crops don't need as much irrigation earlier in the season as the farmers thought.

Water sensors can also provide farmers more peace of mind late in the season when irrigation is limited or completely shut off. Katie is hopeful this new network of small farmers can support each other as well as farmers throughout the West.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects, and search for project number FW22-405.

SARE in Oregon

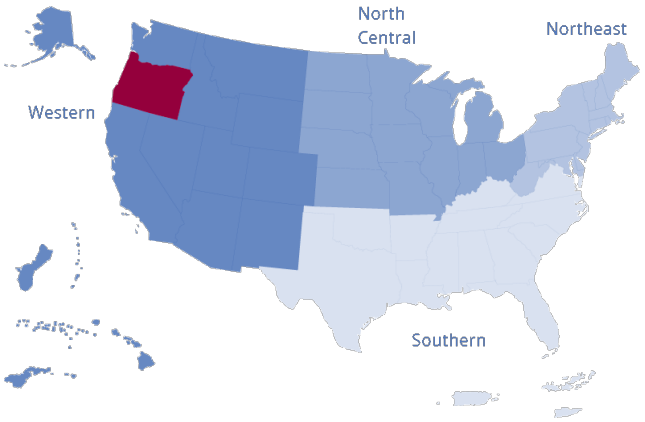
western.sare.org/state-profiles/oregon/

$17,192,504 in total funding

254 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

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

Grants awarded

Total awards: **78 grants**

20	Farmer/Rancher
7	Research and Education
12	Professional Development Program
16	On Farm Research/Partnership
15	Graduate Student
3	PDP State Program [2]
5	Local Ed & Demo (formerly RGR)

Total funding: **$6,330,865**

$512,084	Farmer/Rancher
$2,409,671	Research and Education
$1,183,844	Professional Development Program
$1,195,374	On Farm Research/Partnership
$442,189	Graduate Student
$255,886	PDP State Program [2]
$331,817	Local Ed & Demo (formerly RGR)

[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 Oregon awards, visit:
projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

8,932 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

474 farmers changed a practice



Photo credit: Lucas Nebert

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

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/oregon/ to learn more.

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SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

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