

## 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 \$6.7 million to more than 124 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...

# Alabama

Project Highlight: Alabama Farmer Helping to Diversify State's Aquaculture Production with Crawfish

David Coddington has successfully owned and operated Greene Prairie Aquafarms in Boligee, Alabama, for twenty one years. Coddington has done so with the help of the Southern SARE Producer grant that he used to study what proper pond salinity acclimation for shrimp is best to protect them from insect predation. This research allowed Coddington's shrimp farm to thrive for years until a sharp decrease in demand for shrimp had significantly cut Coddington's profits. The statewide shift in the aquaculture industry motivated him to raise crawfish to see if they could potentially be a more profitable alternative to shrimp.

To answer this question, Coddington obtained another SARE grant to begin a new study, "Increasing Sustainability of Crawfish and Low Salinity Shrimp Production in West Alabama." This grant helped Coddington analyze how pond depth, salinity and various feeding methods impact the yield of crawfish. In this project, Coddington worked alongside Auburn Alabama Fish Farming Center Extension specialist Luke Roy and farmer Jesse James. Together, they developed an enterprise budget between traditional and deep-water crawfish systems and determined the best feeding methods. In addition, they analyzed the use of short-neck and long-neck traps for harvesting efficacy and impacts on yield to create the best practices that create the most sustainable and profitable aquaculture farm possible.

For more information on this project, see [projects.sare.org](http://projects.sare.org) and search for project number FS20-322.

## SARE in Alabama

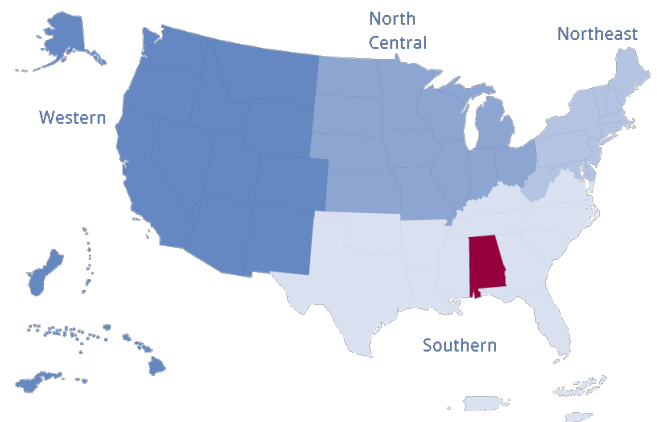
[southern.sare.org/state-profiles/alabama/](http://southern.sare.org/state-profiles/alabama/)

**\$6,687,884**  
in total funding

**124 grant projects**

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of Alabama grant projects, go to [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](http://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 Alabama, 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](https://projects.sare.org). For a list of all projects in Alabama visit [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](https://projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/).

## Grants awarded

Total awards: **37 grants**

- 6 Farmer/Rancher
- 4 Research and Education
- 3 Professional Development Program
- 3 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 7 Graduate Student
- 2 Education Only
- 11 PDP State Program [2]
- 1 Meat and Poultry Processing

Total funding: **\$2,729,785**

\$85,122	Farmer/Rancher
\$1,532,632	Research and Education
\$236,436	Professional Development Program
\$66,545	On Farm Research/Partnership
\$125,326	Graduate Student
\$99,759	Education Only
\$173,965	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.

For a complete list of Alabama awards, visit: [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](https://projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/)

## Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

**4,968 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

**1,461 farmers reported a change in knowledge, awareness, skills or attitude**

**623 farmers changed a practice**



Learn about local impacts at: [southern.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/alabama/](https://southern.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/alabama/)

## 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 [southern.sare.org/state-profiles/alabama/](https://southern.sare.org/state-profiles/alabama/) to learn more.

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