

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 \$9.5 million to more than 144 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...

Arkansas

Project Highlight: *Maximizing Cover Crop Use in High Tunnels*

Cover crops are becoming a vital tool in soil management, yet vegetable growers who use high tunnels may decline to plant them inside structures due to a variety of factors. In the warm indoor environment, cover crops could potentially provide habitat for overwintering pests. Economically, the benefits may not seem clear since there are fewer off-season periods for a cover crop to fill and growers in such a capital-intensive system may not want to use valuable ground for a crop that has no immediate return.

Funded by a SARE grant, University of Arkansas graduate student Luke Freeman sought to determine the optimum timing for planting cover crops in Southern high tunnels to minimize the negatives and maximize the benefits. Cover crops can be beneficial in high tunnels for reducing nitrogen fertilizer use and improving soil quality. Since local growers stated that mid-November through mid-February was the least productive season, Freeman researched four winter cover crops, followed by summer tomatoes and fall broccoli, during that time period.

He found that winter peas contributed a greater amount of biomass nitrogen than all other treatments. This led to a 48 percent increase in mean tomato yield compared to the control. Sharing these results gives Southern high tunnel vegetable growers a better understanding of the benefits of cover crops.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects, and search for project number [GS14-136](#).

SARE in Arkansas

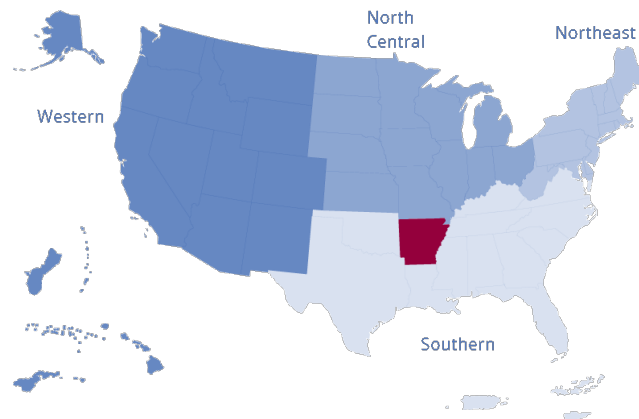
southern.sare.org/state-profiles/arkansas/

\$9,542,728
in total funding

144 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

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

Grants awarded

Total awards: **34 grants**

- 2 Farmer/Rancher
- 4 Research and Education
- 2 Professional Development Program
- 2 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 4 Graduate Student
- 5 Education Only
- 15 PDP State Program [2]

Total funding: **\$2,439,995**

- \$28,413 Farmer/Rancher
- \$1,533,818 Research and Education
- \$151,295 Professional Development Program
- \$59,080 On Farm Research/Partnership
- \$75,285 Graduate Student
- \$241,967 Education Only
- \$350,137 PDP State Program [2]

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

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

7,525 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

564 farmers changed a practice



Learn about local impacts at: southern.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/arkansas/

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/arkansas/ to learn more.

Lesley Carr
University of Arkansas
lcarr@uada.edu

Henry English
University of Arkansas- Pine Bluff
(870) 575-7246
englishh@uapb.edu

Karen Lee
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
(870) 575-7225
leek@uapb.edu

Amanda McWhirt
University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension
(501) 671-2229
amcwhirt@uada.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).