

## 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 \$11.4 million to more than 235 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...

# Florida

### Project Highlight: *Grafted Specialty Tomatoes More Resilient*

Demand for organic heirloom and specialty tomatoes grown in high tunnels is rising, making them high-value crops. Unfortunately, growers of such tomatoes in Florida face challenges in managing soil-borne diseases. Due to Fusarium wilt, one farm faced the complete crop failure of a tomato popular in the local market. University of Florida researcher Xin Zhao partnered with the farm, Frog Song Organics, to see if grafting with resistant rootstocks would control soil-borne diseases in organic high tunnel production systems.

Their experiment compared grafted and non-grafted specialty tomatoes for soil-borne disease resistance, yield and fruit quality. They found that grafting was an effective tool for managing Fusarium wilt and improving the overall health of tomato plants. Yields significantly improved in grafted tomato production compared with non-grafted controls. Even with higher production costs associated with the grafting, the grafted plants resulted in increased net profits.

One hundred professionals and 450 farmers learned of the rewarding research findings at workshops and presentations. Zhao views this on-farm research project as a successful demonstration of technology transfer through a collaborative and productive partnership with local growers to address production issues.

For more information on this project, see [sare.org/projects](http://sare.org/projects), and search for project number OS13-083.

## SARE in Florida

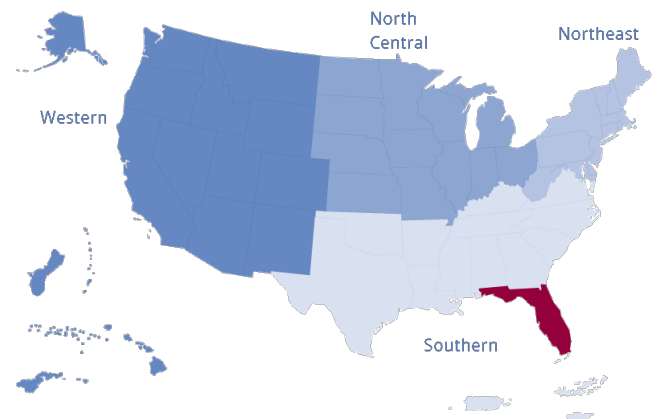
[southern.sare.org/state-profiles/florida/](http://southern.sare.org/state-profiles/florida/)

**\$11,358,883**  
in total funding

**235 grant projects**

(since 1988 [1])

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

## Grants awarded

Total awards: **86 grants**

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

Total funding: **\$5,645,071**

- \$83,555 Farmer/Rancher
- \$3,983,797 Research and Education
- \$237,599 Professional Development Program
- \$306,782 On Farm Research/Partnership
- \$587,497 Graduate Student
- \$255,119 PDP State Program [2]
- \$190,722 Education Only

[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 Florida 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:

**4,339 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

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

**260 farmers changed a practice**



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

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

Tierra Bartolotti  
University of Florida  
(808) 205-0238  
[t.bartolotti@ufl.edu](mailto:t.bartolotti@ufl.edu)

Gilbert Queeley  
Florida A&M University  
(850) 412-5255  
[gilbert.queeley@fam.u.edu](mailto:gilbert.queeley@fam.u.edu)

Marilyn (Mickie) Swisher  
University of Florida  
(352) 273-3538  
[mesw@ufl.edu](mailto:mesw@ufl.edu)



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