

## 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 \$15.0 million to more than 193 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...

# Georgia

### Project Highlight: *Wildflower Plots Boost Yields and Pollinators*

The extensive loss in managed honeybee hives seen in recent years poses serious challenges to the farmers who grow crops that require pollination. Lower yields and higher pollination costs are the main threats to their businesses. Part of the solution is native bees. Across the country, far-sighted researchers and farmers are recognizing the importance of finding practices that increase native bee populations before a larger crisis hits.

In Georgia, one such farmer, Joe Dickey, has used two SARE grants to study the native bees present in his apple orchards and to establish wildflower plots that support their numbers. The effect on his apple crop was immediate: In 2016, apple production rose 30 percent from the previous two years when the wildflowers were absent from his orchard. Dickey's next step is to compare annual wildflowers to perennial wildflowers to see which type is best at recruiting native bees.

At the same time, Dickey has been collaborating with Georgia Gwinnett College researcher Mark Schlueter on a series of five SARE grants to identify which native bees are best at pollinating apples. After looking at dozens of species, Schlueter discovered a mining bee that outshines the rest as an apple pollinator which farmers should prioritize. For more information on these projects, see [sare.org/projects](http://sare.org/projects), and search for project numbers [FS16-290](#) and [FS17-296](#).

## SARE in Georgia

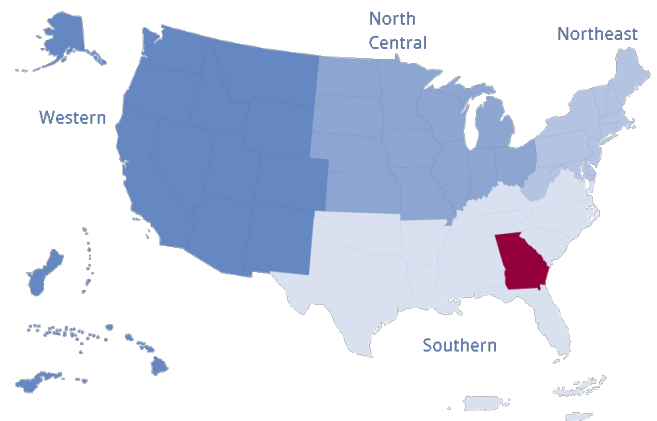
[southern.sare.org/state-profiles/georgia/](http://southern.sare.org/state-profiles/georgia/)

**\$14,975,233**  
**in total funding**

**193 grant projects**

(since 1988 [1])

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

## Grants awarded

Total awards: **59 grants**

- 11 Farmer/Rancher
- 10 Research and Education
- 3 Professional Development Program
- 5 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 10 Graduate Student
- 11 Education Only
- 8 PDP State Program [2]
- 1 Community Foods Project

Total funding: **\$5,133,896**

- \$181,104 Farmer/Rancher
- \$3,144,097 Research and Education
- \$176,970 Professional Development Program
- \$136,643 On Farm Research/Partnership
- \$175,481 Graduate Student
- \$510,443 Education Only
- \$163,103 PDP State Program [2]
- \$646,055 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 Georgia 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:

**2,725 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

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

**440 farmers changed a practice**



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

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

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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).