

## 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 \$6.1 million to more than 123 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...

# Kentucky

Project Highlight: *Training Ag Professionals on Sustainable Vegetable Production Methods*

Kentucky is home to numerous small, limited-resource farms. More than 75 percent of the state's 85,000 farms are smaller than 180 acres and 80 percent have an annual income under \$25,000, according to the USDA Census of Agriculture. Tobacco used to be an attractive option for these growers because it was highly profitable at small acreages compared to other crops, but that has changed with the elimination of price supports and marketing quotas.

Extension professionals at state universities in Kentucky and Tennessee are working to fill the void left by tobacco by increasing the acreage of sustainably farmed and certified organic vegetables. For this to happen, training in sustainable and organic vegetable farming for agricultural professionals who work closely with small-scale farmers is critical. With a SARE grant, a team led by the University of Kentucky collaboratively sponsored hands-on workshops, regional farm tours, training materials, videos and websites for farm educators.

The team trained 150 ag professionals and 150 growers. Prior to the training, many of the participants expressed their discomfort with organic vegetable production. Yet nearly 200 attended a field day heavily featuring organic production just a few years later, indicating a growing interest on their part.

For more information on this project, see [sare.org/projects](http://sare.org/projects), and search for project number ES10-101.

## SARE in Kentucky

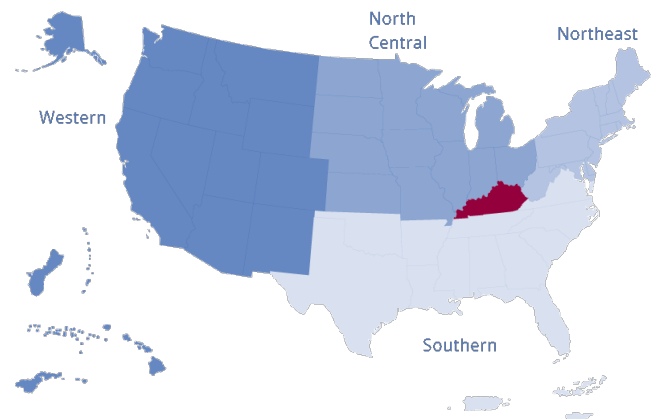
[southern.sare.org/state-profiles/kentucky/](http://southern.sare.org/state-profiles/kentucky/)

**\$6,059,687**  
in total funding

**123 grant projects**

(since 1988 [1])

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

## Grants awarded

Total awards: **27 grants**

- 3 Farmer/Rancher
- 1 Research and Education
- 3 Professional Development Program
- 2 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 15 PDP State Program [2]
- 2 Education Only
- 1 Community Foods Project

Total funding: **\$1,621,275**

- \$44,698 Farmer/Rancher
- \$383,000 Research and Education
- \$237,733 Professional Development Program
- \$49,940 On Farm Research/Partnership
- \$316,777 PDP State Program [2]
- \$89,000 Education Only
- \$500,127 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 awards by state, 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:

**12,775 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

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

**8,215 farmers changed a practice**



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

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

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