

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 \$0.6 million to more than 21 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...

Louisiana

Project Highlight: *Summer Cover Crops Can Boost Fall Sales*

Using summer cover crops to improve soil health on farms in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama has the potential to boost production of organic vegetable crops grown for local sale. Enhanced production would help meet the large increase in demand for local produce, especially in direct markets. In these states, fall through spring is the chief growing time, with summer fields typically left fallow. However, very few studies on the use of cover crops in Gulf Coast states exist. Carl Motsenbocker aimed to fill the gap in knowledge by using a SARE grant to study the influence of summer cover crop systems on fall organic vegetable crops in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Through replicated cover crop studies—some conducted on cooperating farms—Motsenbocker did, in fact, find that several summer cover crops bode well for use in organic vegetable production.

Field days and demonstrations held over the course of the project provided information to more than 150 vegetable growers about the potential of these cover crops. At these events, the project team answered frequent questions about summer crops and vegetables from other interested parties. Importantly, Motsenbocker reported relationships being developed among Alcorn State University, Alabama A&M University, Mississippi State University, and the Louisiana State University Ag Center scientists.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects and search for project number [LS10-230](#).

SARE in Louisiana

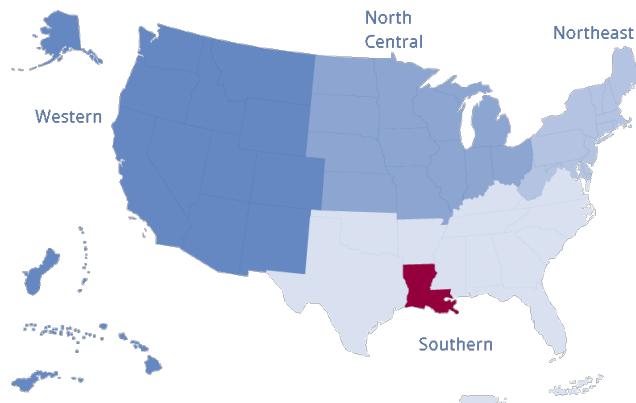
southern.sare.org/state-profiles/louisiana/

**\$552,480
in total funding**

21 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

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

Grants awarded

Total awards: **21 grants**

- 2 Farmer/Rancher
- 1 Research and Education
- 1 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 2 Graduate Student
- 14 PDP State Program [2]
- 1 Education Only

Total funding: **\$552,480**

- \$19,824 Farmer/Rancher
- \$75,000 Research and Education
- \$29,869 On Farm Research/Partnership
- \$36,232 Graduate Student
- \$341,555 PDP State Program [2]
- \$50,000 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 Louisiana awards, visit:
projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

1,436 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

12 farmers changed a practice



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

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/louisiana/ to learn more.

Stephanie Elwood
Southern University
Agricultural Research and
Extension Center
(225) 771-2134
stephanie_elwood@suagcenter.com

Catherine Hirschak
Louisiana State University
(318) 730-3046
chirchak@agcenter.lsu.edu

Desiree James
Southern University
Agricultural Research and
Extension Cent
desiree_james@suagcenter.co
m

Carl Motsenbocker
Louisiana State University
Agricultural Center
(225) 578-1036
cmotsenbocker@agcenter.lsu.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).