

## 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 \$406 million to more than 8,803 initiatives.

### 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.



[www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)

# SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in... Mississippi

## Project Highlight: *Advancing Opportunities for Women Farmers*

Women farmers accounted for 30 percent of farmers nationwide in 2012, according to the Census of Agriculture, and 14 percent of them were principal operators. But while those numbers are encouraging, support and outreach is needed to increase those numbers and to sustain the women already involved in agriculture.

That is why organizations like Annie's Project, a national risk-management education program for women launched in 2003, is so needed. Its 2012 SARE grant allowed the program to expand its reach by conducting two training events in Mississippi where Extension educators from across the South gathered to learn how to conduct Annie's Project workshops. A typical Annie's Project workshop brings in guest speakers from local agricultural businesses to discuss topics such as finances, human resources and marketing with local women farmers. The SARE-funded trainings drew 63 Extension educators from 12 universities—including three historically black universities—and many went on to conduct workshops in their communities. In Mississippi alone, more than 16 educators went on to hold local Annie's Project workshops.

For more information on this project, see [sare.org/projects](http://sare.org/projects), and search for project number [ES12-113](#).

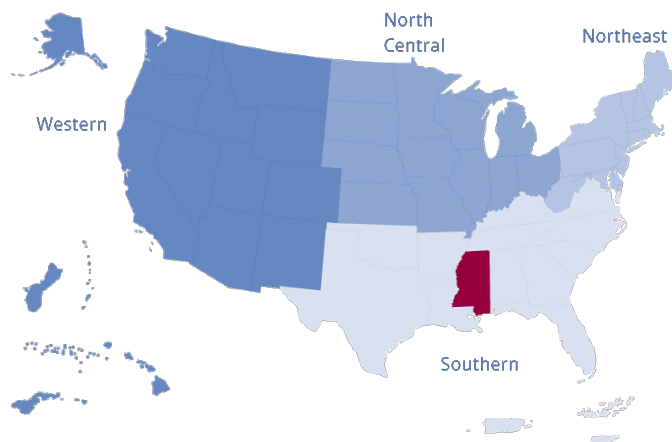
## SARE in Mississippi

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

**\$1,750,654**  
in total funding

**15 grant project**  
(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to [www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://www.sare.org/state-summaries)



# SARE in Mississippi

## Grants awarded 2019-2024

Total awards: **15 grants**

- 1 Farmer/Rancher
- 3 Research and Education
- 5 Professional Development Program
- 2 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 1 Graduate Student
- 3 Education Only

Total funding: **\$1,750,654**

\$14,909	Farmer/Rancher
\$1,171,925	Research and Education
\$380,582	Professional Development Program
\$49,778	On Farm Research/Partnership
\$10,845	Graduate Student
\$122,615	Education Only

Find a complete list of projects on page 3.

## Farmer and rancher impacts 2019-2024

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

**1,355 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

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

**10 farmers changed a practice**



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

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

Franklin Chukwuma  
Alcorn State University  
(601) 877-2312  
[franklinc@alcorn.edu](mailto:franklinc@alcorn.edu)

Leyla Rios de Alvarez  
Mississippi State University  
(662) 325-0123  
[leyla.rios@msstate.edu](mailto:leyla.rios@msstate.edu)



SARE is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

This report includes summaries of competitive grant programs only. Some competitive grant programs that are no longer offered may be included or excluded from the totals in this report depending on the grant program and SARE region.

For detailed information on SARE projects, go to  
**[www.SARE.org](https://www.SARE.org)**



# AGRICULTURE PROJECTS FUNDED IN MISSISSIPPI

by USDA's  
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program

Mississippi has been awarded \$3,834,944 grants to support 52 projects, including but not limited to, 12 research and/or education projects, 15 professional development projects and 11 producer-led projects. Mississippi has also received additional SARE support through multi-state projects.

## RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
LS24-393	Northern Mississippi FoodRx	\$399,969	Natalie Minton The University of Mississippi Dr.Casandra Banks Creative Minds Academy Jillian Morrison, J.D. The University of Mississippi Robbie Pollard Happy Foods Project Dr.Meagen Rosenthal University of Mississippi
LS24-396	Allelopathic cover crops, roller crimping, and soil steaming as an integrated non-chemical weed management strategy in tomato	\$399,956	Dr.Te Ming Tseng Mississippi State University Bharat Acharya Rodale Institute Southeast Organic Center Dr.Shaun Broderick Mississippi State University Dr.Nilda Burgos University of Arkansas Dr.Shankar Shanmugam Mississippi State University Dr.Shandrea Stallworth Rodale Institute Southeast Organic Center
LS23-377	Characterizing the myology (muscle profile) of meat goat carcasses to improve value-added processing and retail consumption in farm-to-fork marketing	\$372,000	Dr.Derris Burnett, PHD Animal and Dairy Sciences Mississippi State Univer Dr.Clarissa Harris Tuskegee University Dr.Leyla Rios Department of Animal & Dairy Sciences at Mississippi State University
LS09-215	Developing low-cost sustainable sweet potato production strategies to facilitate adoption in the mid-south	\$185,000	Dr.Ramon Arancibia University of Missouri Extension

LS05-171	Certified Forests: preparing private landowners for the future	\$102,000	Glenn Hughes Mississippi State University Extension Service
LS02-135	Values, Attitudes and Perceptions of Forestry Constituency Groups Relative to Sustainable Forestry in the South	\$17,969	Stephen Grado Mississippi State University
LS01-129	Developing Strategies for Education of Underserved Forest Landowners	\$169,875	Glenn Hughes Mississippi State University Extension Service
LS01-125	Sustainable Vegetable Production in Rural Mississippi	\$133,187	Dr.Franklin Chukwuma Alcorn State University
LS96-073	Soil Conservation and Pest Management Impacts of Grass Hedges	\$137,352	Seth M. Dabney USDA-ARS National Sedimentation Laboratory
LS93-055	Cover Crop Integration Into Conservation Production Systems For Cotton and Sorghum	\$135,540	Seth M. Dabney USDA-ARS National Sedimentation Laboratory
LS91-041	Uniform Spray Deposits for Reduced Pesticide Use in Weed and Insect Control Operations	\$43,500	David R. Shaw Mississippi State University
LS89-012	Enhancing Farmer Adoption and Refining of a Low-input Soybean-Wheat System	\$120,000	Normie W. Buehring Mississippi State University

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
SPDP24-028	Farm to Freezer: An immersive train-the-trainer program for extension agents, producers, and processors in the SE farm-direct beef and goat industries	\$79,820	Dr.Derris Burnett, PHD Animal and Dairy Sciences Mississippi State Univer Dr.Clarissa Harris Tuskegee University Dr.Brandi Karisch Mississippi State University Dr.Leyla Rios Department of Animal & Dairy Sciences at Mississippi State University
SPDP22-16	Training Agriculture Professionals and Educators to Support Diversified Vegetable Farmers with Cost Analysis	\$75,000	Tanya Murray Oregon Tilth

SPDP21-07	Profitability, Viability, and Sustainability of Pasture-Based Dairy Farms: The Southern Dairy Sustainability Network	\$79,737	Jamie Larson Mississippi State University
ES20-156	Meat Chemistry and Cuisine: Using a proven method to train extension agents and other professionals serving small-scale and limited resource producers	\$80,805	Dr.Derris Burnett, PHD Animal and Dairy Sciences Mississippi State Univer
ES20-153	Improving Conservation Practices and Soil Health in Sweet Potato through Cover-It-Up	\$65,220	Dr.Bill Burdine Mississippi State University Extension
ES18-138	Growing Your Local Food System and Its Brands	\$79,999	James Barnes Mississippi State University
ES17-131	Transition to Sustainability in Small-Scale Vegetable Production: Hands-on training for agriculture professionals and educators	\$79,520	Keith Benson Alliance of Sustainable Farms
ES17-132	Cover It Up: Train-the-trainer program to expand knowledge and utilization of cover crops in Mississippi	\$65,222	Dr.Bill Burdine Mississippi State University Extension
ES16-127	Reducing Water Usage and Energy Costs Through Improved Irrigation Management	\$76,656	Dr.R. Curt Lacy Mississippi State University
ES16-125	Sustainability Training in Agricultural Resources Systems (STARS): A Train-the-Trainer Model for Agriculture and Natural Resources Professionals	\$78,269	Leslie Burger Mississippi State University
ES16-126	Grass-Fed Beef in the Southeast: from Seed to Plate	\$83,185	Dr.Brandi Karisch Mississippi State University
ES12-113	Building the Capacity of Educators to Help Women Farmers and Ranchers in Southern States Improve Agricultural Sustainability Using ANNIES Methodologies	\$79,100	Dr.Bobbie Shaffett Mississippi State University
ES09-098	Strengthening the Goat Industry: A National Goat Conference	\$80,000	Angela McKenzie-Jakes Florida A&M University

ES04-073	Train the Trainer: a holistic approach to Integrated Resource Management and Grassland Revitalization	\$93,908	Charles Flowers Mississippi State University Extension Service Jane Parish Mississippi State University Extension Service
ES98-041	Training in Sustainable Systems Approach to Production, Harvesting, Processing and Marketing of Value Added Syrup Crops in MS and Surrounding States	\$99,912	William Patton Alcorn Cooperative Extension Program

**FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS**

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>SARE Support</b>	<b>Project Leaders</b>
FS21-329	Enhancing Strawberry Production by Integrating Rabbit Production to Decrease Fertilizer Use, increase Sustainability and Profit	\$14,909	Stephen Wyatt SLEWZ LLC
FS13-269	From the Ground to Town	\$14,965	Joe Barnes Indian Springs Farmers Association
FS11-256	Comparing Native Grass Species to Bahiagrass as a Forage Hay Crop	\$9,982	Tulon McKee, Jr. McKee Farm
FS10-242	Late Summer Crop Development Project	\$8,350	Rickey Cole
FS09-236	Building a Market for Local Produce in the Foodservice Industry	\$14,965	Andre Mathews Family Farmers Cooperative
FS05-191	Silvopasture for forage, cattle and trees	\$9,995	John Keeler
FS01-134	Soil nutrient and organic matter improvement and maintenance in a crop rotation system	\$6,422	Hilbert W. Gramelspacher
FS00-113	Developing IPM Practices for Sweet Potatoes in Mississippi	\$10,000	Allen Crostwait
FS00-118	Developing Marketing Strategies For Culinary and Medicinal Herbs	\$15,000	Ben Burkett Indian Springs Farmers Association

FS96-041	Grasslands Matua and Grassland Gala in the Tennessee Valley as an Alternative to Fescue and Ryegrass	\$9,900	Tulon McKee, Jr. McKee Farm
FS95-023	Demonstration of No-Till Cotton Production Using Best Management Practices	\$8,295	Charles Donald Donald Farms

#### GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
GS19-214	Factors Affecting In-field Soil Moisture Variability and Its Effect on Irrigation	\$10,845	Dr.Mary Love Tagert Mississippi State University Blade Hodges Mississippi State University
GS17-166	Investigation of a Low-external-input Sustainable Rice Production System to Identify Ecosystem Services Towards Adoption Costs and Benefits	\$16,476	Dr.Beth Baker Mississippi State University Alexandra Firth Mississippi State University
GS12-116	Evaluating Conversion of Exotic Grass Pastures to Native Warm-Season Grass: Profitability Analysis and Response of Wildlife and Imported Fire Ants	\$10,467	Dr.Sam Riffell Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Aquaculture Adrian Monroe Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Aquaculture
GS01-007	Economic, agronomic, and ecological costs/benefits of field border management practices in agricultural systems of Mississippi	\$9,934	L. Wes Burger, Jr. Mississippi State University, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

#### ON FARM RESEARCH/PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
OS24-180	Kiko Buck Test in the Southeast. Helping farmers to have a sustainable meat goat business.	\$29,999	Dr.Leyla Rios Department of Animal & Dairy Sciences at Mississippi State University
OS22-155	Enhancing Soil Organic Carbon Storage using Cover Crops in the Mississippi Delta	\$19,779	Varun Paul Mississippi State University
OS12-068	Biological Control of Proliferative Gill Disease in Farm-Raised Catfish	\$14,997	David Wise MSU-NWAC

#### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INNOVATION GRANTS

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
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CS15-093	Sustaining Communities With Local Food: A Survey of Potential in Mississippi	\$35,000	Shelly Johnstone Mississippi Food Policy Council Nancy Woodruff Mississippi Food Policy Council
CS09-071	The East Hattiesburg Fresh Food on the Block Program	\$10,000	Sylvia Forster Pinebelt Association for Families
CS08-061	Mentoring Today for Tomorrow	\$9,348	Ben Burkett Indian Springs Farmers Association
CS04-026	Four County Farmers Market	\$10,000	Cynthia Wilson Webster Co. Development Council, Inc.

#### EDUCATION ONLY GRANTS

Project #	Project Title	SARE Support	Project Leaders
EDS22-35	Small Farm IPM Training Workshop For Underserved Communities	\$22,838	Dr.Daniel Collins Alcorn State University Dr.Tahir Rashid Alcorn State Universit
EDS21-31	Training MS Farmers and Producers with Alternative Farming Practices Including Intercropping	\$50,000	Calvin Head Mileston Cooperative Association Tom Collins West Holmes Community Development Organization (WHCDO)
EDS20-18	Scaling Up Production and Local Marketing for Minority and Limited Resource Farmers	\$49,777	Felicia Bell NCAT Gulf States, Jackson

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**Total funding from the USDA SARE program to  
Mississippi  
\$3,834,944**

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For further information on projects, contact 770-412-4787 or [ssare@uga.edu](mailto:ssare@uga.edu).  
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) is funded by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).